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keeping the Junior DJ spins GOING his way into 2 gigs

story by s. smith

T e was spinning great tracks and the crowd was loving it. Although he was fairly new at DJ-ing, he was pretty good and getting better. Barick Werner [11] picked up disc jockeying in the spring of 2014 and he hasn't let it go since.

"If I remember correctly, I bought my D] controller at the end of the 2013-2014 school year and D]-ing," Werner said. "A little before this time I had discovered a fairly new genre of music called Trap, which originated from the original Trap or Hard Rap. Some of the artists or groups include Flosstradamus, Yellow Claw, and Carnage. They had a huge influence on me and my desire to do something with music."

Werner purchased his controller online for a total of about \$320. Because he didn't have speakers and other equipment, he used Luis Hernandez's [12] and has been splitting the profit from his gigs. Through the two gigs he's worked so far, he's split \$190 with Hernandez total. Even without the money, he enjoys what he's doing.

"The thing I like most about D]-ing is being able to take a song and add your own spin to it and making it to where it sounds really cool," Werner said. "The best way to describe D]-ing is the switch from one song to another simple what they just heard was." in a rhythmical form and adding a few effects and samples here and there."

In music, samples are recordings of sounds that are used repeatedly to add to the song that the DJ is currently playing. Although, as simple as DJ-ing sounds, it's more difficult than most people let on.

"There are many challenges that go along with DJ-ing," Werner said. "One of the most difficult things is beat matching, which is

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matching the BPM [beats per minute] of one song to another using your ears. Most controllers, or the hardware used to control the music, have a sync button to automatically do this task but a lot of DJs look down on you if you use this because it's not considered "true DJ-ing." Beat matching is a great skill to have to be a D) but it take a lot of practice."

Even though D]-ing has its difficulties, a lot of what goes on behind the DJ's booth isn't as hard as it's made out to be.

"Most of the time the crowd has no idea what is happening behind the booth, but you don't have to be a rocket scientist to know what sounds good," Werner said. "If you play a popular song but cut it up and add some samples with maybe some scratching, it sounds really good and the crowd will probably enjoy it. Unless the crowd really stops and thinks about what you just did and knows what goes into D)-ing, they probably won't realize how

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