

Prime 2 vs Prime 4

Similarities

Both run Engine OS - most powerful standalone operating system there is

Same build quality, same sound quality, same tech (so for instance WiFi streaming works exactly the same on both)

Both have exactly the same sized jogwheels

Both have two mic channels

Similar feel when DJing

Same two FX engines effects available

Both got full RGB performance pads

Almost exactly the same features on the mixers

Both let you fit internal hard drives

Overall, they are more similar than they are different

If one of the big differences (Serato compatibility, standalone mixer, zone output) isn't a dealbreaker for you, and you're a two-channel DJ, Prime 2 is probably better

Bear in mind that no Engine gear has a sampler, so you may want the extra decks of the Prime 4 to use for things you'd normally use a sampler for

Prime 2 is just about transportable without a vehicle - Prime 4, no way

Most of the compromises on the Prime 2 are down to size - the majority of "missing" features over the Prime 4 are available in software anyway

Prime 2 has great features for playing out, and would be fine for a mobile DJ - but if you're a pro mobile DJ, you'd probably want the Prime 4 for its better mic channels & features - plus it looks better!

Which to go for?

Big differences

Prime 4 has four channels against the Prime 2's two

Prime 4 is a standalone mixer - four line/phone inputs are available, there's only a single Aux input on the Prime 2

Prime 4 is bigger and heavier, so is harder to transport than the Prime 2

Prime 4 works with Serato, Prime 2 doesn't

Prime 4 has four sweep FX, Prime 2 only has filters (even the Prime GO has two choices here)

Prime 4 has a Zone out so you can play different music somewhere else using the fourth channel - good for mobile DJs

Price - £400 more

Prime 4 screen can be angled, Prime 2 is fixed. Prime 4's screen is also bigger

Prime 2 has a stop time adjust knob, prime 4 doesn't (it is in the menu)

Prime 4 has larger, better spaced out performance pads

Prime 4 has better hardware beatgrid controls

Prime 4 has an extra USB socket on the top

Prime 4 has 2-band EQ on the booth output

Better mic controls and features on Prime 4 - individual EQs (Prime 2 only has one set of mic EQs) and an echo effect

FX easier to control and with more features on the Prime 4, as each Fx engine has its own mini-screen and more controls meaning you rely on the touchscreen less. Only the Prime 4 has "FX frequency"

Other differences