

# For DJ Eddie Black, it's all about having fun

■ Long after dark, he makes music at Jet Ultra Lounge

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The bride-to-be in the corner of the club strutting around in a veil and garter is here to have one last wild night of singlehood.

Tonight it's all about fun.

The guy at the bar offering to buy a cosmopolitan for the tall, dark-haired stranger at the next stool is here to meet new people.

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And the group of girlfriends on the dance floor rocking out together to tunes of Nine Inch Nails, 50 Cent Mash-Up, Christina Aguilera, Destiny's Child, Josh Wink, Shakira, Terror Squad and Royal Gigolos obviously doesn't need a guy to lead their dance moves.

Tonight it's all about fun.

It's just another night on the job for DJ Eddie Black at Jet Ultra Lounge. And it's his mission to make sure the patrons are having all the fun they came to have.

"It's Saturday night at Jet, everybody. We're drinking and dancing 'til 4 in the morning," he shouts over his microphone to the cheering crowd. "\$3 Jagermeisters at all bars. Let's go. You've got five minutes."

A crowd of more than 100 adults — all had to prove they were 21 or older before they got through the door — are partying on the dance floor, at the bars, inside the "quiet room" or on the Jet's party barge on Destin's harbor.



Log photo by KERI HOLT

**SPINNING THE HITS:** With the help of his high-tech software, Eddie Black, DJ at Jet Ultra Lounge, keeps his crowd entertained.

Set up in the center of the excitement is the 36-year-old Black, with his music and lighting equipment. From his slightly elevated area, he watches the crowd.

"My job is to know what people want before they ask for it," he said.

Reading people is the key, he said. If his partiers are feeling the music, it's his job to keep the beat up and let them continue dancing. For the most part, it's hard to

tell when one song stops and another starts.

Of course, if he keeps the dancers going too long, they get tired. Black has to know when it's time for a break to the bar.

Yet, keep them at the bar too long and they'll drink too much and want to go home. After DJing professionally for 18 years, Black has the rotation down to a science.

"I love entertaining people," he said. "I could never

sit behind a desk and work after doing this."

The owners of Jet Ultra Lounge brought Black to Destin three months ago from Dallas to be their sole DJ. Jet Manager Jerry Hunt used to work with Black in Dallas and knew of his potential and experience.

When Hunt heard that Black's new Dallas nightclub burned down, he offered him the DJ's job at Jet. After visiting over the Fourth of

July to check out Destin and check out Jet Ultra Lounge, Black was ready to move.

"I thought, 'What the hell? I'm not doing anything,'" Black said. "I really like the club, and I was in love with Destin as soon as I saw it."

Now, Black is negotiating a long-term contract with Jet Ultra Lounge. What he thought would be a temporary job has become one he loves. And as the possibili-

ties of Destin grow, such as the construction of HarborWalk Village, Black is excited about his possibilities as well.

"I hope to stick around here for a while," he said. "I've got a lot to learn about the city and it's got a lot to learn about me."

Originally, Jet was to feature live bands. But when the endless possibilities of a DJ were discovered, the bar changed.

"Cover bands are limited to what they can do," Black said. "DJs are able to be much more versatile. I can play different types of music all night long. I always play something for everybody."

The high-tech equipment and software Black uses at Jet make all the difference. He can carry about 10,000 songs on one laptop. With his computer and a special type of vinyl record, he can transfer any song onto a record and play it on his turntables. From there, the needle talks to the computer and allows Black to spin and scratch all he'd like.

"Every month, technology just gets better and better," he said. "The special effects I can do are amazing. It's like I have an entire recording studio at my fingertips. I can do anything and everything live in front of a crowd."

Another computer controls the intelligent lighting, such as where it goes, what color it takes and its shape. Black has it all color-coordinated and programmed to fit the beat of the music.

Combine all Black's talents and possibilities and it's enough to prompt the women on the barge to start dancing on the tables. That's never an uncommon sight, he said. It's just all about having fun.