

NOVOPRO PS1 PODIUM STAND

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SSP: £129.95

WWW.NOVOPRO.CO.UK

We all know just how stylish truss pillars can look as part of a mobile DJ setup; with some effective up-lighting and moving heads mounted on top, the industrial-style silver metal can work wonders on either side of your DJ booth.



The only problem with truss is that it's notoriously bulky and, unless you have a transit van or other spacious mode of transport available, it's almost certainly going to cause you trouble when it comes to moving it about. Here's where this latest, unique product from Novopro comes in.

The company was launched by sound and lighting industry veteran Gerry Frost back in 2012 and seeks to offer unique products within the professional audio, visual and lighting marketplaces. With the company's range of products having been created with the working professional in mind after recognising the demand for affordable and practical accessories, Novopro offers mobile DJs a number of nifty solutions – like the PS1 Podium Stand.

This stand is different to anything you'll have seen before, and can act as a portable and (comparatively) lightweight alternative to truss plinths. It fits in the back car, it packs away flat, and - when the stand is setup - it's easy to adjust the height and position (offering a variable height of between 79



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and 146cm. This flexibility means that if you have multiple stands you could set them at different heights around your rig – whether it's two small and two tall either side, or two small and one standing tall in the centre, behind your booth. You can experiment with these adjustments until you get the result you want; repositioning is something you'd be much less-inclined to do with full-on truss.

This flexibility is possible thanks to the stand's innovative design, which sounds questionable on paper but works very well in practice. Novopro has taken a solid steel base plate (measuring 50x50cm) and a smaller square top plate (28x28cm) – both with a sleek black power coat finish – and connected them using four thin black pillars. Each of these has the same hand-tightening clamps and secure height lock found on microphone stands, which allow for the variable height of the podium. The pillars are fitted with a screw in either end and these are released using an Allen key and reattached through the base plate at one end and the top plate at the other in order to erect the completed stand. The screw holes in the top and bottom plates are recessed for a smooth, flush finish.

While this is a fairly simple set-up, it takes a while to do and although it isn't exclusively a two man job, it certainly helps having two pairs of hands – one to hold the plates and one to attach the pillars.



However, while it may take some time to construct, if you really are limited when it comes to car or van space the Novopro PS1 is a godsend. Besides, after a few practice runs you'll undoubtedly find some sneaky shortcuts to speed up the process.

Once the PS1 is erected, an included PVA anti-slip foam mat can be stuck onto the top plate so that any fixtures you mount on will have grip and stability. The podium plate is reversible, with lipped support edges on one side and a flat surface on the other to accommodate products that are larger than 28cm. The mat therefore sits perfectly when the plate is reversed, offering stability and grip to the fixtures bigger than 28x28cm, which won't fit comfortably on the 'lipped' side. With the foam mat or safety rims in use, the top podium offers a secure place to mount various types of gear, whether it's your moving heads, spots, scans, flame effects or even fog machines. In fact, you can use the podium to lift up almost anything; it could be used as a cake stand, for instance. (Novopro does however state a maximum loading weight of 50kg.) The centre of



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the podium plate also has a hole for bolting fixtures into place, so you can ensure that your equipment doesn't fall off should an unwitting drunken dancer knock the stand. If this does happen, you can also rest assured that the stand would take some real effort to knock it over – however, it's still light enough to lift and transport.

In order to rival the aesthetic appeal of truss, it seems that Novopro has tried to keep the stand looking as professional as possible, with an access point through the top plate allowing you to run wires up through the inside, rather than around the outside of the plate (which can look messy). The product also comes with plastic cable clips, which tightly attach your cables to the upright pillars, which looks professional and saves you using up tape or zip ties at each gig. The final touch is the included white truss sock, which can be placed over the pillar for a stylish cubed finish – looking especially sleek with a par can inside to create an illuminated, colour changing podium. The only downside to the scrim is that its length covers the stand's maximum height, understandably, and so when adjusted to a shorter height the excess scrim crumples up. Although, after giving it some thought (and you can see this on Novopro's website), the

crinkled scrim actually looks quite effective when lit from inside by a coloured par can.

While there are a few minor niggles, I think that overall Novopro has delivered a unique and smart alternative to bulky truss; one which weighs less, can be taken down and stored compactly, and, although looking a little flimsy, when bolted together is sturdy and weighty enough to endure knocks and bumps. Novopro also mentions on its website that there will be more accessories for the PS1 in the not-so-distant future – so it may just have a few more tricks up its sleeve!

The clinching factor here though is that the stand fits in your car; you could easily transport four, five, six ... maybe even a few more. With a single stand costing approximately £130 and two costing roughly £250, I'm tempted to say you can't really go wrong. The Novopro PS1 is unique, nifty, and compact; a great addition to any mobile DJ setup, one which will save you money and space but could also help you do something interesting with your rig to stand out from the crowd.

