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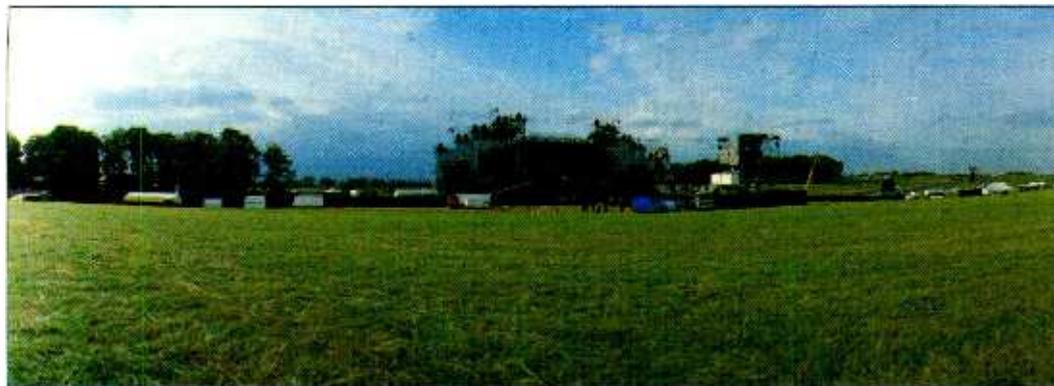
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STUDIO SOUND

AND BROADCAST ENGINEERING

**AES NEW YORK
PREVIEW**





This year's Monsters of Rock concert at Castle Donington in the UK saw the largest Electro-Voice MT-4 SR system ever assembled for one show. Monsters of Rock is now a touring institution with 19 dates scheduled in Europe during August and September

On tour

● **Britannia Row Productions** ended their summer season with the annual Reading Festival, a contract won from the Mean Fiddler Organisation after a successful performance at the Fleadh Irish rock festival earlier this year. *TMS-3s* were used for the SRS at the flat site, which is notorious for its noise spillage problems. And BRP gave their *Flashlight* system its last outing before the Dire Straits two year bash with a sunny afternoon's music at Crystal Palace Bowl, headlined by Level 42 with John Lemmon at the controls. The company's autumn tours include Whitney Houston, the aforementioned Dire Straits, Cliff Richard in rehearsals, Marillion and a to-be-confirmed Frank Sinatra/Liza Minelli tour.

● **Canegreen** are out until the New Year with Nigel Kennedy. They also have a number of 'raves' using 20 to 30 Meyer *MSL-3s* apiece, in barns, gyms and other suitably cavernous (and cheap) venues. Raves are attracting more SR companies as local councils realise there's money to be made from the parties they once tried hard to ban. In a more highbrow vein, Canegreen had Placido Domingo's open-air concert in Windsor Great Park, the Beverly Craven tour, subrentals on Deacon Blue and a UK tour with hard rock act The Black Crowes.

● **Capital Sound Hire** are fully occupied with the Simple Minds arena tour, using their Martin *F2* system under the eagle eye of FOH engineer Gary Bradshaw. The latest Martin *LE-700* wedge monitors are being used on stage. Martin Audio's David Bearman says the variable stacking configuration that's crucial

to the *F2's* performance in large arrays has been refined even further for this tour to realise the system's full potential.

● **Clair Brothers'** have European tours by Roxette and diminutive Australian multi-media star Kylie Minogue. Troy Clair says they are also scheduled for dates with Sting later this year. In the US, the company is much busier with Sting, Paul Simon, Yes, Prince, Don Henley, Stevie Nicks and Lynyrd Skynyrd.

● **Electrotec**, who have been touring the globe with Rod Stewart since last year, have their hands more than full with a return to the '70s heyday of rock'n'roll mythology — Gun'n'Roses' incident-ridden tour. As we went to press, singer Axl was facing charges arising from a widely-publicised fracas involving fans at a US show; during the riot that ensued a considerable amount of equipment was damaged. No cars have yet been reported driven into swimming pools by the band, but presumably that will all come in due course.

● **Encore's** John Tinline reports ongoing dates with The Chippendales, many big 'raves', a 'punk revival' with X-Ray Spex at Brixton Academy, and one leg of Status Quo's Rock Till You Drop charity dash around the UK featuring four shows in one day. For the record, the SR participants were Encore Scotland (SECC), Roadstar (Sheffield Arena), SSE Hire (NEC) and Malcolm Hill (Wembley).

● **Entec** had an active late summer with a Clannad tour (using JBL *Concert* series SRS, the new *Accord* monitors and a *PM3000*). A highlight was the group's show at Birmingham's new Symphony Hall at the ICC complex, where Entec's SRS was used in conjunction with the hall's in-house JBL array.

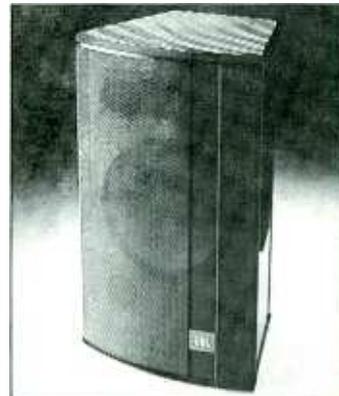
● **SSE** made the most of their relationship with fellow E-V *MT-4* owners **dB Sound** of Illinois, USA, to assemble the largest *MT-4* SR system ever, for this August 17th Donington show on the 19-date Monsters of Rock tour, which was AC/DC headlined and mixed by Robbie McGrath. 140 *MT-4* systems provided around 500 kW and 118 dB, A-weighted, at the desk, said SSE's John Penn. Consoles included TAC *SR9000s* and Yamaha *PM3000s* for FOH and three Midas *XL-3s* for monitors. The SRS was set up and soundchecked in just two days.

● **Wigwam** provided a Meyer SRS for the Symphony of the Spire concert at Salisbury Cathedral, UK, on September 6th. Staged in aid of an appeal (organised by HRH The Prince of Wales) to save the medieval spire, Placido Domingo, Kenneth Brannagh and Phil Collins headed a multi-cultural evening for an 11,500 live audience and a TVS broadcast. Wigwam's Chris Hill explained the site posed major difficulties, being very wide to one side of the stage and dotted with trees, while low arches on the access gates prevented the use of cranes as SR flying platforms. Eventually, Wigwam opted to place the Meyer *MSL-3/UPA-1* system on small left and right towers with further delay towers facing outwards at 40°. "Not ideal," Hill said, "but we had no alternative." Hill says he will realise an ambition when he makes out the invoice — to Prince Charles at Kensington Palace. Wigwam have also been active in rock'n'roll of late with the Chris Rea tour and the Cities in the Park festival in Manchester, headlined by Happy Mondays and featuring pre-production models of the new Meyer *DS-2* low-mid enclosure ("Sound-wise it sits between the *MSL-3* and the *650* sub-bass," explained Hill).

JBL launch Sound Power M series

JBL chose London's International Music Show in July to launch their *Sound Power M* series. Aimed at touring musicians, the *M* series includes three full-range systems: *M360* 3-way with 15 inch cone driver, 8 inch midrange transducer and horn loaded tweeter; *M350* 2-way with 15 inch cone, 1 inch titanium diaphragm compression driver mounted on a biradial horn; and *M330* 2-way with 12 inch cone and 1 inch titanium diaphragm compression driver on a biradial horn. According to JBL, the most popular system is the smallest in the range: the *M330*.

The cabinets are finished in heavy duty grey vinyl wrap with moulded end caps for corner protection. Ribs in the end caps allow secure stacking with other similar units.



Meyer upgrade

Meyer have announced upgraded versions of two of their speakers. The new products, the *UPA-1B* and the *UM-1B*, incorporate a new HF driver and passive network. The sonic results, state UK distributors Autograph Sales, include higher peak and continuous power handling, reduced upper-midrange distortion and an amplitude and phase response flat to 20 kHz.

In upgrading the widely-used *UPA-1* and *UM-1* designs, Meyer have also allowed purchasers of the new boxes to emulate the sound of their predecessors, using an internal jumper.

Studio Sound's Live Sound News is compiled by Mike Lethby