

# Screaming Jets trial new EV PA

**T**he long hot afternoons just before Christmas are murder when you're setting up equipment, especially out on the western fringes of Sydney. The mountains to the West trap the air, with a smog and humidity buildup far greater than in town or on the coast. This is where they liked their music loud and hard, and this is where the Screaming Jets rule.

I'm inside Temptations at Mount Druitt, where the floor might be carpeted, but then again it might also be astroturf. The colour is black, with thousands of little craters where cigarettes have burnt through the first layer. The odour is that classic perfume, the decor is tacky. Familiar territory!

The sound department from the Screaming Jets is Pat Pickett (Foldback) and Colin Padler (FOH), who are road testing a new E.V. PA system, probably the only fully blown touring system introduced in this country during the past year. The system is owned by Vic Leto, who runs Music Box in Sydney with his brother Greg. Music Box is a diverse collection of rehearsal studios, with a repair business called The Speaker Hospital. Driveway hire makes up the third part of the business.

The system is based on the EVX, a new two way speaker box loaded with two of E.V.'s EVX 1,000 watt 15" woofers, and a DH-1 2" compression driver on a HP-904 constant beamwidth horn flair. A trapezoidal box, the EVX follows a tradition that EV have done well with, that being the front loaded 2 way PA box. The Cobra started this trend, taking off where boxes of that particular generation, like Etone's 1507, stopped. The key in the case of Cobra was a well thought out internal crossover network design.

EVX will end up run active more often than not, which is how the Jet's system is run. In fact this is a three way system, with a new

subwoofer from EV, the EVX Sub-loaded with 2 x 18" woofers. The subs operate at 125Hz and below, and are built as two sealed chambers in one dual driver cabinet. Up top the EVX horn crosses in at 1k6.

Vic's amplifier collection is based on Australian Monitor AM-1600's driving the 15" and 18" speakers, with Perreaux 3000's for horns. Based on the whole roll call of 12 x EVX and 6 x Subs, the amp count equals 9 AM-1600 and 3 Perreaux, for a total wattage of around 16,000 watts - a lot of horsepower! The way the system runs is neat, with two EV active crossovers in the main amp rack. This rack has two AM's and a Perreaux, and will run two stereo pairs of EVX's. Slave racks minus the crossovers will likewise drive 2 x 2 EVX, so for smaller gigs you just leave the boxes and racks in the truck.

The sub collection is run from one rack of three AM 1600's, all the signal connections come and go with multipin connectors, so it's pretty easy to patch.

Out from the console is new, it's an E.V. Interface 32:4:2, which boasts dual sweep four band EQ and six auxiliary sends, one of which is a direct send. "The best thing about it so far is the input metering", said soundman Colin Padler. "It's got multiple LED's on each channel".

Back at the difficult end of the electronic chain was Pat Pickett, having a few patching hassles between the ageing but effective TAC 16:8 console and the equaliser rack. A few grunts were all I got for a while, I stood back because signal patching dilemmas are perplexing to all and sundry. Eventually the lanky Pickett emerged with a suspect XLR patch lead, which he handed directly to an embarrassed Vic Leto.

The wedges are all EV, the 1502ER, and there are 8 in this PA. Then there are the Manifold sidefill boxes, a top box on a dual

subwoofer that carry a band mix capable of penetrating the guitar attack that characterises this loud band. Drumfill is a Cobra box, the drummer having forgone a second Cobra Vic supplied.

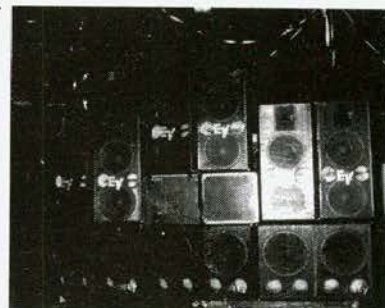
Settling down to talk about the system, Pat commented on the tribulations of mixing foldback. "They're not THAT demanding, I've done his voice three tours doing foldback for them. All the wedge mixes have just got their vocal in them, except one guitarist has a bit of high hat to keep time off. The drummer has a bit of bass with his drumfill."

At this stage the singer is happy, according to Pat, "but when he gets a few more gigs in and starts losing his voice he'll probably start kicking up". This tour is an easy one compared to the last, which was a triple bill with "guitars from hell - everywhere!" Guitar tech Ward had 15 guitars everywhere, today we find an uncluttered side stage and a no hassle air to the proceedings.

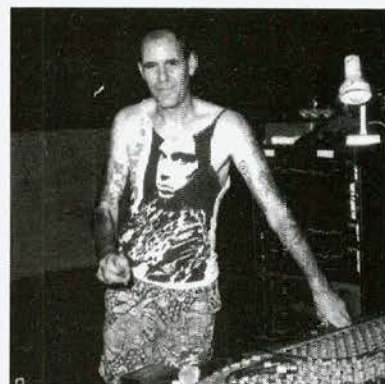
"All I've got to do is get Dave (vocalist) above the other guy - Paul - who redlines. His voice is full on, he had choir training. The band are used to a lot more amperage on stage, this stuff is cutting it at the moment. There's less than half what we were carrying, and it all goes in an 8 tonner."

The crew were still testing all the perambulations of this system when I visited, having only had the rig for a few days. Colin (FOH) was cautiously enthusiastic, obviously things worked out well because this first single week run was extended into a full tour with the system during January!

Vic Leto is not phased that the touring industry is suffering tough times. "I'm prepared to have a go. Other people are getting out, so I'm getting in! I'm



*EVX 2 way boxes atop EVX Subs*



*Pat Pickett, looking relaxed*



*Vic Leto and Colin Padler (right)*

a Chocko, Italian born, and I get Ethnic concert work too, so that helps". The preponderance of Electrovoice product here is testimony to a relationship Vic says works well, "EV look after me, so I spend money with them." Simple logic. N-Dym microphones feature heavily in this system too.

As I prepare to leave, two local lads advance upon Pat with trepidation, asking to help load out in exchange for tickets. He takes their names down, and as they turn to leave he gives them the standard motivational talk. "You'd better not fuck me around", he growls, "because if you do, I'll stick something up your arses!"

*Music Box can be reached on (02) 550-6522. They also hire lighting.*