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Sensaphonics Ear Candy

An occasional newsletter from...The Experts in Safe Sound

All of us at Sensaphonics would like to thank you for your continued friendship and support. We wish you a joyous holiday season and a fantastic 2011.

Clay Hutson rocks the Sensaphonics 2MAX in Guns N' Roses monitor world

Monitor engineer Clay Hutson has seen his share of high profile gigs and, since 2000, has been a loyal user of Sensaphonics custom earphones. "The first time I used them was with Garbage. It was right after the 2X-S came out," he recalls. "I knew right away that I had finally found my reference point for in-ears."

Over the past decade, Hutson's clients have included artists like Maxwell, STAIN'D, Alice In Chains, Gwen Stefani, Kelly Clarkson, Pink, Marilyn Manson, Velvet Revolver and Prince. His current gig is with Guns N' Roses as Axl Rose's personal monitor engineer.

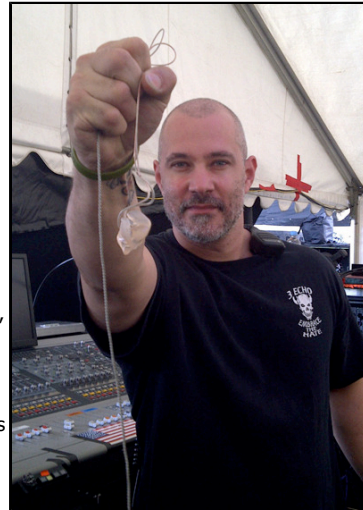
Hutson breaks down the differences between Sensaphonics and other brands into two areas: sound quality and earpiece construction, with a heavy emphasis on the former. "I can't mix consistently if I don't have a reference point, and these are absolutely the most flat, natural sounding earphone monitors out there. Every mix that I set up, Sensaphonics is my reference point. Even when the artist is on other ears, the only thing I use is Sensaphonics. That's the way it's been for ten years now."

Most of those years were spent using the ProPhonic 2X-S, but Hutson recently switched to the 2MAX, which has the same sound signature, but offers a higher sensitivity. "I get approached all the time about using other brands, and I've done due diligence," Clay admits. "A lot of those products are louder, but louder isn't necessarily better. It seems like every other product is colored in its own way. I need to hear an accurate representation of what's coming off the stage. I can't give the artists what they want by listening to someone else's interpretation of what I should be hearing. Sensaphonics gives me exactly what I need to hear: crystal clear source material with no distortion or coloration."

Another big plus for Hutson is the soft-gel silicone construction of Sensaphonics earpieces. "There's two things about that," he notes. "First, the comfort is unprecedented. Engineers wear their ears even more than the artists – basically all day. These are so comfortable, I put them in and really kind of forget they're even there."

"But the other thing is the sound," he continues. "In other earphones, the drivers are mounted in hard plastic shells, and they resonate. I can hear it, and it sounds different. The Sensaphonics earpieces are solid silicone, so not only do they isolate better, but you're only hearing the speakers themselves. It's just a night-and-day difference."

Of course, hearing conservation is a concern for every engineer, and Clay Hutson is no different. "This is how I make my living, man, so it's always at the forefront of my mind," he states. "If I'm starting to get a little tinnitus after shows, I know I have to dial it back and be more careful. I'm an ex-military guy and I still shoot a lot, so I have Michael (Santucci) check my hearing at least once a year or whenever I'm in town. Plus, I like coming into the office. Everyone is like family, and they take great care of me there."



Calling All Artists: Donate autographed items for AAAF hearing research auction!

Sensaphonics President, Dr. Michael Santucci, is urging artists to donate signed items to help further the research of hearing health among musicians. The items collected will be placed in an online auction in April 2011, and all funds will go directly to research. The auction will be held by the American Academy of Audiology Foundation (AAAF), a 501(c)(3) non-profit



organization, so donated items are fully tax deductible.

Ever the tireless crusader for hearing conservation, especially for musicians, Santucci serves as a member of the AAAF board of trustees. "The foundation has agreed to earmark all the money we raise from musical items to research efforts that are relevant to musicians," says Dr. Santucci. "We've already gotten some really cool signed items, especially the guitars, but we're really hoping to collect a lot more."



To date, participating artists include Dave Matthews, Coldplay, Steve Winwood, Jewel, REO Speedwagon, Styx, Bob Weir and others. Among the autographed items already collected are guitars, cymbals, and a framed Gold Record award.

"Obviously, items like guitars and gold records are fantastic, but really, any autographed item is a big help," notes Santucci. "An autographed CD or T-shirt could have real appeal, and every little bit adds up." For its part, Sensaphonics has donated several of the instruments that have been signed.

To donate an item to the AAAF auction supporting research on musicians' hearing health, please [contact Sensaphonics](#) directly. You'll be helping musicians and engineers lead longer, more productive careers, and it's all tax deductible! Donate an item today!

Sensaphonics Contact Info

Upcoming Event

Winter NAMM
Booth 6950 -- Hall A
Anaheim Convention Center
January 13-16, 2011

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