

Season's Greetings

Great Holiday Gift Ideas for the FOH Reader

By George Petersen

Okay, so you might not get that Tesla P90D this year, but here are some essential — and highly useful — items that any sound reinforcement pro could use. These are perfect for anyone your gift list, or even yourself. In that case, just tear out this page, grab a Sharpie and circle what you want. Then leave this lying around where the right person can find it. So in order on increasing prices, here are the 2016 *FRONT of HOUSE* selections for the well-accessorized sound pro — whether yourself or someone on your crew.



Goby Labs GLS104 Mic Sanitizer (\$8)



Let's face it — there's nothing more disgusting than a vocal mic windscreen that smells like stale cigarette smoke, garlic or rotted bits of brie from last night's catering. Do your artists a favor with the Goby Microphone Sanitizer spray, an anti-bacterial formula that kills 99.99 percent of germ-caused odors and leaves a fresh "apple pie" scent. It's safe on impermeable surfaces, and the four-ounce atomizer has hundreds of applications.

gobylabs.com

Sweetwater Live Sound Tool Kit (\$85/\$150)



Sweetwater Sound has assembled two useful all-in-one bundles of essentials that are ideal for any sound tech or as a fix-it solution to have on hand at your church or venue. It's offered in a standard \$150 version (including a Galaxy Audio CM-130 SPL meter) or as an \$85 basic kit without the sound meter. Both include a cable tester, battery tester, AC outlet polarity

tester and LED work light — all packaged in a padded nylon Gator Case for convenience. Add some Sharpie pens and a lanyard and you're ready to go!

sweetwater.com

König & Meyer Mic Stand Drink Holder (\$15)



This might seem to be an odd gift for the sound tech, but anything that keeps beers, lattes, smoothies, frappuccinos and other sticky refreshments from spilling on the stage (and onto *your* cables, direct boxes, mic stands, etc.) is a gift *you* will appreciate. Best of all, the artist will think you are doing *them* a favor when you attach this tough steel, non-reflective black accessory to your mic stand.

k-m.de

Whirlwind Cab Driver (\$223)



This indispensable test device is designed to check the operation of the speaker components within enclosures. An onboard level-adjustable pink noise signal is sent through to an assortment of speaker connectors (Speakon NL8/NL4, 1/4" TS and banana jacks) and an XLR line output to feed pink noise to self-powered speakers. A DC Ohms Test button applies 5 VDC to its speaker output terminals for observing cone movement to identify speaker/cabling polarity errors, while performing a DC ohms test to indicate 4, 8, or 16 ohms and identifying blown drivers.

whirlwindusa.com

CAIG Technicians' Survival Kit (\$32)

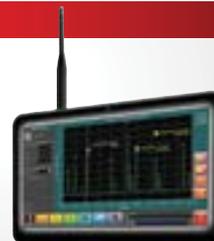


With audio/video signal and data connections, cleanliness is next to godliness — or at least distortion-free communications. With that in mind, Caig Labs offers this sampler selection of its famed, industry-standard DeoxIT cleaning/contact enhancement products that can decrackle a pesky pot or demystify an intermittent edge connector. Beside the mini spray cans and bottle applicators, the kit

also includes cloth wipes, lint-free swabs, brushes and a handy case to keep it all together.

caig.com

Kaltman Creations RF-Vue (from \$998)



With all the ongoing FCC frequency re-allotment activity, the world of wireless is more crowded and more complex. Designed to offer simple to use and accurate RF analysis in a portable, 10-inch Windows touch tablet system is the RF-Vue, with variants for the 470 MHz to 700 MHz range for most wireless mics and IEMs (\$1,750) and an expanded 50 MHz to 2.5 GHz range model that's \$1,995. For those who already have a PC tablet, software-only versions are \$998 and \$1,350, respectively. Options include a hard case, mic stand mount and Kaltman's RF-intermodPRO software.

kaltmancreationsllc.com

Tripp Lite Network Cable Tester (\$35)



With the growing importance of Ethernet and RJ-45 audio/data communications, it might be handy to be able to check your Cat-5e and Cat-6 cabling for faults in case something goes amiss. Tripp Lite's N044-000-R network cable tester has RJ-45, RJ-11 (6P6C) and BNC coaxial connections for checking cables for mis-wires and short- or open-circuits. The two-piece unit has a send and a receive side

that can be used side by side or with one on the stage and the other at FOH.

tripplite.com

FOH T-Shirt (priceless)



Say it loud, say it proud! Offered in always-fashionable basic black, the shirt front tells who you are, while the back is emblazoned with answers to 10 of the stupid questions you're bombarded with at shows. These range from "No, I can't get anything signed for you" to "Yes, I know what all these knobs and buttons do" and eight more tired old queries you've heard 1,000 times. This *audio fashionista* must is priced at only \$20 — or \$25 in "husky" sizes. plsnbookshelf.com/t-shirts.html