

Speaking of EV...

The Newsletter for EV Speaker Users

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X-Array™ rocks Taste of Minnesota



X-Array™ Shines at Minnesota's Biggest Festival

Five live music stages graced the 2001 Taste of Minnesota, Minnesota's largest free festival held around each Fourth of July on the State Capitol Grounds in St. Paul. And this year, Milwaukee's Penetrator Sound and Lighting set off the fireworks with its new EV X-Array rig.

The X-Arrays supplied a voice for the music of Leon Russell, the Honeydogs, and Darryl Struemer of Genesis, as well as many local and regional acts, at the stage sponsored by local radio station KQRS. Gordon Miles, co-owner of Penetrator with his brother Michael, waxed enthusiastic about the capabilities of the X-Array, sonic and otherwise. "We were looking at the flying market, but we still wanted to be able to stack," Miles said. "The X-Array gave us that versatility. The boxes are lightweight and easy to fly, they're very reliable, and they can be added or subtracted depending on the requirements of the event. The stereo imaging is excellent! And the throw is amazing. It was a good 400 yards to FOH at the main stage, with some trailers between us and them, but you could still hear our rig over there. And this was a stacked rig! The other engineers were checking our system out and commenting really positively on how it sounded. I'd have to say we ripped the other stages apart!"

The Miles brothers stacked three rows of X-Array boxes at each end of the stage. From stage-side moving outward, the bottom row included two Xds subwoofers, the middle row three Xcn MB/HF boxes with one Xcb LF cabinet, and the top row two Xf two-way MB/HF alternated with two Xb dual LF boxes. (As the cover picture shows, the resulting curved monoliths fit right in with the St. Paul skyline.) Four new P3000 amps drove each side, with two Dx38 speaker processors assigned to each rack. The complement of EV equipment rounded out with X-Array Xw12 monitor wedges, which, as Gordon put it, "rocked the stage."

Gordon was also happy about the quality of service and commitment he received from EV. Penetrator has used EV speakers since the Miles brothers first started doing disco installations in 1979. As Gordon said, "EV took care of us really well in putting this rig together. The promise of company support was a big selling point for us, and two of the staff even came out and helped us set it up the first time!"^{EV}

Special thanks to Gordon Miles for assistance with this article.



The rig that disco built: Gordon and Michael Miles proudly show off their new X-Array.

X-Line™ Rocks the Hills in Bottineau

For the past five years, crowds of 35,000 to 40,000 fans have flocked to the Turtle Mountains of northern North Dakota for the annual Rockin' the Hills music festival in Bottineau. The festival, which ran from June 28 to July 1, hosted more than forty bands, with appearances by high-profile acts like David Lee Roth, Ted Nugent, Poison, Warrant, Quiet Riot, Slaughter, Kansas, Asia, Steppenwolf, and more. And once again, Eternal Systems of St. Paul, Minnesota provided roofing, staging, lighting, and state-of-the-art sound, in the form of their new EV® X-Line speaker array.

Eternal's Steve Winge used two speaker hangs—six Xvls and two Xvlt cabinets each—to flank the stage, and stacked eight Xsubs per side to take care of the low end. The system was powered by 12 P3000 power amps per side. Electronics included a Klark Teknik DN360 equaliser and a KT DN3600 analyzer. Winge commented to SOEV that the EV system was more than adequate to the festival's sonic needs. "The X-Lines could easily have covered a wider audience area," he said. "It has long projection and really good headroom that seemed like it could go on forever. The mids and highs were very smooth and sounded clear as a bell to the back of the field. You could hear the low end all over, with no loss of the very high fidelity. And the PA flies very quickly."^{EV}

Special thanks to Steve Winge and Jay Easley for assistance with this article.



X-Lines flank the stage at Rockin' the Hills.



The left-hand hang with stage-stacked Xsubs.

X-Line Puts on Business Suit and Goes to Work With On Stage Audio

EV's X-Line™ is going to work in the corporate world. On Stage Audio, a nationwide production company with offices in Chicago, Detroit, Las Vegas, and Orlando, recently designed and flew X-Line systems for two major corporate events: the 2001 franchise ownership meeting for Choice Hotels; and the keynote address by Steve Jobs of Apple Computer at NECC's Computers in Education conference. The Choice Hotels event ran from April 28 through May 7 at the MGM Hotel in Las Vegas. Highlights of the event included a motivational speech by Erving "Magic" Johnson and comedy entertainment by Dana Carvey. Tom Nicks of OSA designed the PA for events held in the 10,000-seat Grand Arena of the hotel. Employing two X-Line hangs of four Xvls and two Xvlt cabinets each, Nicks also used a center hang of two X-Array™ Xn speakers, a delay row of 12 Xi-1152 speakers, and two Xn cabinets for offstage left and right fill. Nicks commented, "I was amazed by the sound level rejection beneath and behind the PA. It was literally -60 to -70 dB quieter. This was really helpful for using lavalieres in such a big venue. Once the system was adjusted to the room, lavalier level and quality were surprisingly easy to achieve from the start. We got a big lavalier sound with little effort. And the X-Line was accurate in every aspect of the design. The top two Xvls cabinets easily threw a distance of 160' before hitting the only delay line. Remarkable!"

Apple Computer's President and CEO Steve Jobs delivered his address to the NECC attendees in Hall B of Chicago's McCormick Place, a 200' × 500' seating area. Audio designer Rich Halverson met the challenges of a tight load-in schedule and the highly reverberant space by using X-Line hangs not only for the main PA but also for the delays. Four Xvls and one Xvlt each comprised the left and right main hangs, while nine delay hangs (three hangs in three rows), each included three Xvls, one Xvlt, and two Xsub cabinets. Halverson also employed 12 Deltamax™ 1152s as front fill. Seventy-two P3000 power amps drove the entire system.

OSA's Kelly Epperson explained to SOEV the reason for using X-Lines. He said that the trend in corporate events and other large meetings is to have more and more people in larger and larger spaces. Meeting sites are shifting from ballrooms to arenas. The PA must cover the entire audience, but cannot sacrifice sound quality and intelligibility for sheer SPL. Epperson said, "X-Line's clarity and long-throw capabilities allow us to have our big PA work well with our delay rings in the audience, blending with them while still focusing attention up front. We still use delay rings, but the X-Line lets us meet the challenge of covering the room while keeping the focus on the front stage. It's a great PA!"**EV**

Special thanks to Kelly Epperson for assistance with this article.

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X-Line soars above the stage at NECC's Computers in Education conference, June 20-27.



Hall B, ready for Steve Jobs's keynote speech.