

PLUGGED IN

VOL. 03 |

MUSIC MAY '25

SABU SATSHA

THE RHYTHMIC HEARTBEAT
OF SOUTH AFRICAN MUSIC



**ROLAND
V-STAGE SERIES
PERFORMANCE
KEYBOARDS**



**SADOWSKY
METROEXPRESS
BASSES**

- **WORKSHOPS & EVENTS**
- **BEHRINGER PK SERIES SPEAKERS**
- **KINGLOS VIOLINS**
- **ADAM AUDIO A7V MONITORS**

AND MUCH MORE!!!



MARSHALL MUSIC

SA's Leading Supplier of Musical Instruments & Pro Audio Gear

www.marshallmusic.co.za

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VOL. 03 | MARSHALL MUSIC | MAY '25

May is looking pretty exciting here at Marshall Music, with a fresh batch of gear hitting our shelves that we think you're going to love. Whether you're a bassist, violinist, sound engineer, or drummer, we've got some new arrivals that might just pique your interest.

For the low-end enthusiasts, the renowned **Sadowsky** sound is now more accessible than ever with the arrival of the **MetroExpress** basses. These instruments bring that classic Sadowsky punch and playability without breaking the bank.

Violinists, prepare to be impressed! We've just received a shipment of **Kinglos Violins**. Known for their beautiful craftsmanship and rich tone, these instruments are perfect for players looking for an upgrade or a reliable new companion.

Need to make some noise? The **Behringer PK Series** Powered Speakers have landed! These versatile speakers pack a punch and are ready to deliver clear and powerful sound for rehearsals, gigs, or even just blasting your favorite tunes at home.

For the studio gurus and discerning listeners, we've got a fresh selection of **Genelec Monitors**. Known for their precision and clarity, these monitors are an essential tool for anyone serious about their sound.

And that's not all! Mark your calendars for June 7th because we're hosting a **Roland** electronic drum workshop right here at Marshall Music. We're thrilled to have the incredible **Sabu Satsha** and the talented **Fundile 'FD' Dlamini** leading the session. It's a fantastic opportunity to learn from the best and get hands-on with the latest Roland electronic drum kits.

So, come on down to Marshall Music this May and check out all the new gear. We can't wait to see what new sounds you'll create!



A New Key in the Capital: Marshall Music Opens its Doors in Greenlyn Village

For musicians and audio enthusiasts in Pretoria, the sound of progress is ringing clear. After many years serving the community from their location in the Pick 'n Pay Hyper Centre in Faerie Glen, Marshall Music has struck a new chord, relocating to a vibrant new space within the Greenlyn Village Shopping Centre in Menlo Park. This move, which took place in December of last year, marks an exciting new chapter for one of Pretoria's most beloved musical instrument and pro audio retailers.

For those familiar with the old Faerie Glen spot, the move to Greenlyn Village brings a fresh and accessible energy. Greenlyn Village, known for its bustling atmosphere, diverse range of shops, and popular eateries, now welcomes Marshall Music into its fold. This new location promises increased foot traffic and a more integrated shopping experience for both dedicated musicians and casual browsers alike.



Stepping into the new Marshall Music store in Greenlyn Village, you're immediately greeted by a modern and well-organized layout. The space feels open and inviting, making it easy to navigate through the impressive array of instruments and equipment on display. Whether you're a seasoned professional looking for the latest high-end gear or a budding beginner eager to pick up your first instrument, the store is designed to cater to all levels and musical interests.



Guitarists, as always, are in for a treat. Walls are lined with a stunning selection of electric and acoustic guitars, basses, and amplifiers from a wide range of renowned brands. From iconic axes to boutique beauties, there's something to inspire every playing style and sonic palette. Dedicated areas allow you to plug in and test drive your potential new six-string companion through a variety of amps, ensuring you find the perfect match for your sound.

Drummers will find themselves in a percussive paradise. Acoustic and electronic drum kits stand ready to be explored, alongside a comprehensive selection of cymbals, hardware, and accessories. The ability to get behind a kit and feel the response firsthand is invaluable, and the knowledgeable staff are on hand to guide you through the nuances of different setups.



Beyond guitars and drums, the new Marshall Music Pretoria store boasts an extensive range of pro audio equipment. From microphones and mixing consoles to studio monitors and recording interfaces, the store caters to the needs of home studio enthusiasts, seasoned producers, and live sound engineers. This makes the new location a true hub for anyone involved in music creation and performance.

SABU SATSHA

THE RHYTHMIC HEARTBEAT OF SOUTH AFRICAN MUSIC

From the vibrant streets of Soweto to the grand stages of the world, Siyabulela "Sabu" Satsha has carved his name as one of South Africa's most dynamic and sought-after drummers. His journey, fueled by innate talent and unwavering dedication, is a testament to the power of passion and perseverance.

Born into a non-musical family, Sabu's connection to the drums began in the church. His uncle, a sound engineer, recognized the young boy's gift and nurtured his burgeoning talent, taking him to band rehearsals and soundchecks. These early exposures became Sabu's informal training ground, where he absorbed the nuances of rhythm and the energy of live performance. By the age of nine, he was playing in the church band, and by twelve, he had become the principal drummer.

His exceptional talent didn't go unnoticed. In 2004, at the young age of fourteen, Sabu became the resident drummer for the popular gospel TV show "Its Gospel Time."

His exceptional talent didn't go unnoticed. In 2004, at the young age of fourteen, Sabu became the resident drummer for the popular gospel TV show "Its Gospel Time." This pivotal role brought him to the attention of Tshepo Ndzimande, a prominent producer and record label executive, who recognized Sabu's immense potential. Under Ndzimande's guidance, Sabu's parents were advised to enroll him in the National School of Arts, where his outstanding audition in 2005 not only secured his place but also earned him the Yamaha Young Talent Competition award.



SABU SATSHA

THE RHYTHMIC HEARTBEAT OF SOUTH AFRICAN MUSIC

The National School of Arts provided Sabu with a platform to hone his skills and connect with the broader music industry. By 2007, his reputation had grown, leading to a life-changing opportunity: a spot in the iconic African gospel group, Joyous Celebration. As their drummer, Sabu contributed to nine of their volumes, solidifying his position as a leading gospel drummer in South Africa.



However, Sabu's musical horizons extended beyond gospel. His exceptional talent and hard work have opened doors to various genres, making him a highly sought-after session drummer and clinician both locally and internationally. Artists, producers, and fellow musicians around the world recognize his gifted ability and consistently seek his rhythmic expertise for recordings and live projects.

Today, Sabu Satsha continues to tour and record with diverse artists, establishing himself as an independent session drummer and music producer. His journey is an inspiration to many aspiring musicians, and he is already considered a legend by those who have witnessed his electrifying performances and masterful command of the drums.

Sabu's story is a vibrant rhythm echoing through the South African music scene, a testament to the power of talent nurtured and dreams realized through dedication.

If you are a fan of Sabu and his playing, then you don't want to miss out on the Roland Beat Lab Drum Workshop that's happening at Marshall Music Woodmead on the 7th of June. Sabu along for Fundile 'FD' Dlamini will be showcasing the Roland VAD and VQD Electronic Drums! Tickets available on Quicket!

Roland
BEAT LAB

EXPERIENCE THE MOST CUTTING EDGE
ELECTRONIC DRUMS ON THE PLANET!

PRESENTED BY



SABU SATSHA



FUNDILE 'FD' DLAMINI

MARSHALL MUSIC WOODMEAD
SATURDAY 7 JUNE
13H00 - 16H00
R100 ENTRY FEE

Quicket



SABU'S GEAR OF CHOICE

DW DRUMS - COLLECTORS SERIES



DW Drums Collectors (Hybrid Shells)

- 08"x07 + 10"x08 + 12"x10 Birch & Mahogany Rack Toms
- 16"x14 + 18"x 16 Maple & Mahogany Floor Toms
- 22"x20 Maple Gum & Mahogany Kick Drum
- 13"x07 Poplar & Mahogany Snare
- 14"x08 Brass Snare

SABIAN CYMBALS

- 08" AAX Aero Splash
- 10" Stratus Splash
- 14" AAX Med. China
- 16" HHX Aero Complex Crash
- 18" HHX Complex Thin Crash
- 18" HHX or AAX O-Zone Crash
- 19" XSR Monarch Crash
- 20" Stratus Zero or Medium Crash
- 22" Brian Frasier Moore World Ride



EVANS DRUMHEADS



- EC 2 Clear on Toms
- EMAD Clear on Kick Drum
- ST or ST Dry on Main Snare
- EC 2 Frost on Aux Snare

VATER - SABU SATSHA SIGNATURE STICKS





VQD106

Roland

**THE QUIETEST KIT
IN V-DRUMS HISTORY.**

VQD106 V-DRUMS



Drummers, get ready to experience a new level of expressive playing! Marshall Music is thrilled to introduce the latest addition to the legendary Roland V-Drums family: the VQD-106 Electronic Drum Kit. This kit is packed with features designed to inspire beginners and seasoned players alike, offering a fantastic blend of Roland's renowned sound quality, responsive playability, and a sleek, space-saving design.



At the heart of the VQD-106 is Roland's acclaimed digital sound engine, delivering a diverse library of realistic and dynamic drum and percussion sounds. From the punchy attack of a rock kit to the nuanced tones of jazz drums, and even a range of electronic percussion, the VQD-106 offers a sonic palette to suit any musical style. You'll be amazed at the responsiveness and how naturally the sounds react to your playing dynamics, allowing for subtle ghost notes and powerful crescendos.

The VQD-106 features newly developed pads that provide a comfortable and quiet playing experience. The mesh snare drum offers a natural rebound and excellent sensitivity, crucial for developing proper technique and expressive drumming. The tom pads are also designed for great feel and trigger accurately across their entire surface.



Setting up and getting started with the VQD-106 is a breeze. Its compact and sturdy stand ensures stability while minimizing its footprint, making it ideal for home practice, small studios, or even taking to lessons. The intuitive interface of the sound module allows you to easily navigate through the different kits, adjust parameters, and even access built-in practice tools.

Speaking of practice, the VQD-106 is more than just a great-sounding drum kit. It's also a fantastic learning tool. With onboard coaching functions and metronome, you can hone your timing and groove along to various practice patterns. Plus, the ability to connect headphones means you can practice quietly without disturbing those around you – a huge bonus for apartment dwellers or late-night sessions!



Whether you're just starting your drumming journey or looking for a reliable and versatile electronic kit for practice and performance, the Roland VQD-106 is an exceptional choice. It combines Roland's legendary quality and innovation in an accessible package.



KINGLOS ELECTRIC VIOLINS

A FUSION OF ART AND SOUND



Kinglos®
Neo Classical

In the ever-evolving world of musical instruments, the electric violin has carved a unique niche, offering players a blend of traditional craftsmanship and modern technology. Among the manufacturers making waves in this space, Kinglos stands out with its distinctive approach to design and sound. This article delves into the world of Kinglos Electric Violins, exploring their features, benefits, and what makes them a compelling choice for musicians.

Distinctive Design and Aesthetics

One of the most immediately striking aspects of Kinglos Electric Violins is their visual appeal. Departing from the traditional aesthetic of acoustic violins, Kinglos employs patented coloring technology to create instruments with vibrant and unique finishes. From bold, single colors to intricate, hand-painted designs featuring elements like flowers or abstract patterns, Kinglos violins are instruments that not only sound good but also look stunning on stage or in a studio. This individualized appearance is achieved through a meticulous process that integrates pigment networks with the wood, ensuring the colors are vivid and long-lasting.

While the aesthetics are modern and eye-catching, the foundation of these instruments remains rooted in traditional violin making. Kinglos violins typically feature solid maple bodies, often paired with a spruce top, and are fitted with ebony fingerboards, pegs, and chin rests. This combination of tonewoods and high-quality fittings ensures durability and contributes to a rich and resonant sound. The inclusion of a carbon fiber tailpiece with fine tuners allows for precise and stable tuning.



Cutting-Edge Electronics for Versatile Sound

At the heart of any electric violin is its pickup system, and Kinglos offers various options depending on the model. Many of their instruments are equipped with active pickup systems, such as the VPU-300 or the DV-9. These systems are designed to capture the nuances of the player's performance, delivering a clear and crisp sound that can be further shaped using the onboard volume and tone controls. The active pickups often include preamplifiers and equalizers, providing greater control over the tonal output.

Kinglos electric violins typically feature output jacks for connecting to amplifiers, PA systems, and recording equipment, as well as headphone jacks for silent practice. This versatility makes them suitable for a wide range of applications, from live performances in large venues to quiet practice sessions at home. The ability to plug directly into recording software eliminates the need for microphones, simplifying the recording process.



Playability and Comfort

Recognizing the importance of player comfort, Kinglos often designs the necks of their electric violins with an ergonomic shape, ensuring a comfortable fit in the hand. The string height is typically set to professional standards, facilitating ease of playing and optimal sound production. While electric violins may sometimes have a slightly different weight distribution compared to acoustic violins, Kinglos aims to create instruments that are well-balanced and enjoyable to play for extended periods.

Who are Kinglos Electric Violins For?

Kinglos Electric Violins appeal to a diverse range of musicians:

- Performers: The striking designs and ability to amplify the sound make them ideal for stage performances across various genres.
- Practicing Musicians: The silent practice capability is a significant advantage for those living in shared spaces.
- Experimenters: The versatility in sound allows musicians to explore new sonic territories and integrate effects.
- Collectors: The unique artistry of the painted finishes can make these violins prized possessions.

Kinglos Electric Violins successfully merge the art of traditional violin making with innovative design and modern electronics. They offer musicians an instrument that not only sounds good but also makes a visual statement. Whether you're a seasoned performer looking to add a unique flair to your stage presence, a student needing a silent practice option, or an experimenter eager to explore new sonic landscapes, Kinglos Electric Violins present a compelling and vibrant choice in the world of electric string instruments.





JAY-DEE'S PICKS

ORANGE ROCKERVERB 50 MK III

For guitarists seeking an amplifier that delivers both searing high-gain and articulate clean tones with a distinctly British voice, the Orange Rockerverb series has long been a top contender. Now in its Mark III iteration, the Rockerverb 50 Mk III builds upon this legacy, offering enhanced versatility and refined features that solidify its place as a modern classic.



At its core, the Rockerverb 50 Mk III is a dual-channel, all-tube amplifier. Channel A is your gateway to sparkling cleans that retain warmth and body even at higher volumes. It offers a straightforward control layout with Volume, Treble, Middle, and Bass, allowing you to dial in everything from chimey jangle to thick, bluesy rhythm tones. This channel boasts surprising headroom, making it a fantastic platform for pedals.

Flip over to Channel B, and you're entering a world of glorious overdrive and distortion. This is where the Rockerverb truly shines. With Gain, Bass, Middle, Treble, and Volume controls, you have a wide sonic palette to explore. From crunchy classic rock tones to thick, modern high-gain that remains articulate and focused, Channel B delivers the goods. The gain control is incredibly responsive, allowing you to sculpt your distorted sound with precision. What's particularly impressive is how the amp retains its character and note definition even at extreme gain settings – it avoids becoming a muddy mess.

One of the key enhancements in the Mk III is the footswitchable attenuator on the power section. This is a game-changer for players who need to tame the amp's volume for smaller gigs or home practice without sacrificing that cranked-tube tone. You can switch between full power and a reduced wattage setting, allowing you to push the power tubes into their sweet spot at more manageable levels. This feature significantly increases the amp's versatility in various playing environments.



The Rockerverb 50 Mk III is powered by EL34 power tubes, known for their punchy midrange, articulate highs, and warm lows – a signature of the British amp sound. The robust construction and high-quality components that Orange is known for ensure reliability and a premium feel. The iconic orange tolex, coupled with the rugged cabinet design, makes it a visually striking and road-ready amplifier.

The Orange Rockerverb 50 Mk III is a powerful and versatile amplifier that caters to a wide range of guitarists. Its exceptional clean tones, searing high-gain capabilities, and the invaluable addition of the footswitchable attenuator make it a top-tier choice for both stage and studio. If you're looking for an amp with a distinct voice, incredible responsiveness, and the build quality to last, the Rockerverb 50 Mk III deserves a serious look. Head down to Marshall Music and experience the roar for yourself!

Sadowsky[®]

MetroExpress

SADOWSKY SOUND, EXPRESS DELIVERY

For decades, Sadowsky basses have been revered for their exceptional craftsmanship, articulate tone, and effortless playability, becoming a staple in the hands of countless professional musicians. Now, that coveted Sadowsky magic is more accessible than ever with the MetroExpress series, bringing the iconic design and sonic DNA to a wider range of players.



The MetroExpress series represents a brilliant fusion of Sadowsky's renowned New York heritage and meticulous craftsmanship. These basses are expertly crafted to deliver that signature Sadowsky sound – a balanced and articulate tone with a punchy low-end, clear midrange, and crisp highs. Whether you're laying down the groove in a funk band, holding down the low end in a rock ensemble, or exploring melodic lines in a jazz setting, a MetroExpress bass provides a versatile foundation for any musical genre.



One of the key features that defines a Sadowsky bass is its exceptional playability, and the MetroExpress series continues this tradition. The sleek neck profiles are designed for comfort and speed, allowing for hours of fatigue-free playing. The carefully selected tonewoods contribute to both the instrument's sonic character and its comfortable weight. Typically featuring an Okoume body and a Maple neck with either a Maple or Morado (Pau Ferro) fingerboard, these basses offer a resonant and balanced tonal foundation.



The electronics in the MetroExpress basses are another crucial element in achieving that signature Sadowsky sound. They come equipped with passive Sadowsky pickups that deliver a clear and powerful tone with plenty of definition. The onboard active preamp, a hallmark of Sadowsky basses, allows for precise tonal shaping with controls for bass and treble boost. This preamp provides a significant amount of tonal flexibility, enabling you to dial in everything from warm and round vintage tones to bright and punchy modern sounds. The VTC (Vintage Tone Control) is a particularly useful feature, allowing you to roll off the high frequencies in passive mode for a more traditional sound.

Sadowsky[®]

MetroExpress

SADOWSKY SOUND, EXPRESS DELIVERY

The attention to detail in the hardware further enhances the playing experience and sonic integrity of the MetroExpress series. High-quality bridges and tuners ensure rock-solid intonation and tuning stability, essential for any serious bassist. The overall construction and finish of these instruments exude quality and durability, making them reliable workhorses for both stage and studio.

The Sadowsky MetroExpress series typically comes in the popular J-Bass and P-Bass configurations, catering to the preferences of a wide range of bass players. The J-Bass models offer that classic offset body shape with two single-coil pickups, known for their articulate and versatile tone. The P-Bass models deliver the punchy and foundational sound that has defined countless genres of music.



In essence, the Sadowsky MetroExpress series provides an incredible opportunity to experience the renowned Sadowsky sound and playability without the premium price tag of their New York-made instruments. These basses are a testament to Sadowsky's commitment to quality and innovation, offering professional-grade features and tone in a more accessible package.

If you've always dreamed of owning a Sadowsky bass, the MetroExpress series is your express ticket to that iconic sound and feel. Head down to Marshall Music and plug into one today – you might just find your new go-to bass!





ROLAND V-STAGE SERIES



THE NEW STANDARD FOR STAGE KEYBOARDS

Roland has long been a leader in stage keyboards, and their brand new V-Stage series is poised to redefine what professional musicians expect from an all-in-one performance instrument. Available in two models – the 88-note V-Stage 88 and the 76-note V-Stage 76 – these keyboards combine Roland's latest sound technologies with an intuitive workflow designed for the demands of live performance and studio work.

Sound Engines: A Universe of Tones

At the heart of the V-Stage series are four independent sound engines, drawing on Roland's decades of expertise:

- **V-Piano Technology (Acoustic Piano):** This engine delivers incredibly realistic and nuanced acoustic piano sounds, including two grand pianos, an upright, and a newly developed felt piano with a unique, soft character. The V-Piano engine offers unlimited polyphony and allows for deep customization of parameters like brightness, sound width, and key touch.
- **SuperNATURAL Electric Piano:** Roland's advanced SuperNATURAL modeling brings a range of classic electric pianos to life, including tine, reed, digital, and clavinet types. Dedicated effects such as chorus, phaser, wah, tremolo, and amp simulations allow for extensive sonic shaping.
- **Virtual Tone Wheel (Organ):** This powerful organ engine features a three-part console model with Virtual Tone Wheel technology, along with two vintage transistor organ models and a pipe organ. Physical drawbars with LED indicators provide hands-on control, and the engine includes adjustable key click, leakage, overdrive, chorus/vibrato, percussion, and a rotary speaker simulation with fast/slow and brake controls.
- **ZEN-Core Synthesizer:** With over 400 onboard sounds and support for Roland Cloud's SDZ Sound Packs and Model Expansions (including emulations of classics like the JUPITER-8, JUNO-106, SH-101, JX-8P, and JD-800, available as free downloads for registered owners), the ZEN-Core engine offers a vast sonic palette for any musical style. Two simultaneous synth sounds can be played, with dedicated controls for shaping attack, release, filter, and more.

ROLAND V-STAGE SERIES



Designed for the Stage

The V-Stage series boasts a user-friendly interface with discrete sections for each sound engine, complete with dedicated hands-on controls. A clear 4.3-inch color LCD provides visual feedback, making it easy to navigate sounds and settings on the fly.



Key features for performing musicians include:

- **512 Scenes:** Store and recall complete keyboard setups, including up to five tones, effects, and sound engine parameters.
- **128 Scene Chains:** Organize scenes into setlists for seamless transitions during performances.
- **Eight EX Scenes with Auto-Save:** Quickly build setups in the moment without the worry of losing unsaved changes.
- **Total Effects Section:** Enhance individual sounds or the entire mix with independent delay and reverb, plus a wide range of legendary Roland multi-effects.
- **Master Section:** Shape the overall output with a dedicated compressor and EQ, essential for adapting to different performance venues.
- **Scene Remain:** Enjoy smooth and natural transitions between scenes with delay and reverb carryover, preventing abrupt sound cutoffs.
- **Extensive Connectivity:** Balanced XLR and 1/4-inch main stereo outputs, two balanced sub outputs, an XLR microphone input with volume control, stereo line inputs for external sources, USB-C audio/MIDI interface, USB memory port, and two USB device ports for connecting MIDI controllers. Four pedal inputs allow for comprehensive foot control.

The two V-Stage models cater to different playing styles:

V-Stage 88: Features an 88-note weighted hammer-action keyboard with escapement and Roland's Ivory Feel keys, providing a natural and expressive piano touch. It also includes channel aftertouch for nuanced control over organ and synth sounds.

V-Stage 76: Equipped with a 76-note semi-weighted waterfall keyboard with aftertouch, offering a comfortable and responsive feel for organ playing and synth work.



Both keybeds utilize advanced Roland sensing technology to ensure a dynamic and expressive playing experience that adapts to the selected sound engine.

The Roland V-Stage series keyboards represent a significant step forward for stage performers. With their powerful sound engines, intuitive interface, versatile connectivity, and exceptional playability, the V-Stage 88 and V-Stage 76 are well-equipped to handle any musical situation, whether on stage, in the studio, or at home. These keyboards offer a comprehensive and inspiring platform for musicians who demand the very best.





ADAM AUDIO A7V



The ADAM Audio A7V studio monitor is a significant evolution of the award-winning A7X, establishing itself as a potential new industry standard in nearfield monitoring. Designed as a versatile 2-way monitor, it excels in project studios, smaller control rooms, and for anyone prioritizing high-quality audio at a competitive price point.

Right out of the box, the build quality feels substantial and professional. They've got a clean, modern aesthetic that fits right into my studio setup. But looks are only skin deep, right? The real magic happens when you fire them up.



The clarity and detail I'm getting from the A7Vs are seriously impressive. The high-frequency reproduction, thanks to ADAM's renowned X-ART tweeter, is just stunning. It's crisp and open without ever sounding harsh or fatiguing, which is crucial during those long mixing sessions. I'm hearing nuances in tracks I thought I knew inside and out – subtle reverb tails, delicate fingerpicking, all the little things that add depth and character.

The mid-range is equally articulate. Vocals sit perfectly in the mix, and instruments have a real sense of presence. There's no muddiness or congestion, just a clear and defined sonic picture. This makes critical listening and making precise EQ adjustments so much easier.

For a nearfield monitor of this size, the A7Vs deliver a surprising amount of punch and extension. The bass is tight and controlled, not boomy or flabby. I can really get a good sense of what's happening in the low frequencies, which is essential for getting the foundation of a track right.

What I appreciate most about these monitors is their overall balance and neutrality. They're not trying to flatter the sound; they're giving me an honest and accurate representation of what's there. This is exactly what you need when you're mixing or mastering – a reliable reference that you can trust to translate well across different playback systems.

The imaging is also spot on. I can easily pinpoint the placement of instruments within the stereo field, creating a really immersive listening experience. This level of detail helps in making crucial panning decisions and crafting a well-defined soundstage.



ADAM AUDIO A7V

Of course, no piece of gear is absolutely perfect. While the A7Vs offer fantastic low-end extension for their size, if you're working heavily with sub-bass frequencies, you might still want to consider adding a dedicated subwoofer. However, for most nearfield monitoring applications, they hold their own remarkably well.

Setting them up was straightforward, and they offer enough connectivity options to integrate easily into most studio environments. The included acoustic treatment advice in the manual is a nice touch too, emphasizing the importance of your listening space.



Overall, my time with the ADAM Audio A7V studio monitors has been a genuinely positive experience. They offer a fantastic combination of clarity, detail, and balanced frequency response, making them a valuable tool for any serious music producer or audio engineer. They're revealing without being clinical, and they inspire confidence that the decisions I'm making are based on an accurate sonic picture. If you're looking to step up your monitoring game, the A7Vs are definitely worth considering.

ADAM AUDIO A7V

A NEW INDUSTRY STANDARD

- German Handmade Precision X-ART Tweeter with rotatable HPS waveguide
- 7" Woofer (Multi-Layer Mineral)
- Total Peak Amp. Power: 130 W
- Frequency Response @ -6 dB: 40 Hz - 45 kHz
- Max. peak SPL per speaker at 1 m: 105 dB SPL

"While its easy to get carried away with all the digital add-ons, one fundamental facts needs to be stated: the ADAM Audio A7V is a great-sounding, high quality monitor"

GREG WALKER
Audio Technology Magazine



Fender[®]

PLAYER II

MODIFIED



HOT-RODDED. READY TO GO!



POWER UP YOUR SOUND

A Look at the Behringer PK Series



For those of us in the business of making sound happen – whether you're a freelance live sound engineer lugging gear from gig to gig, or a smaller events company handling everything from corporate presentations to intimate musical performances – the right set of powered speakers can be a game-changer. We need something that's not just powerful and sounds great, but also rugged, portable, and won't break the bank. Enter the Behringer PK Series Powered Speakers.

Behringer has a long history of providing accessible audio gear, and the PK series looks to continue that tradition by offering a range of powered speakers designed with practicality and performance in mind. I recently had the chance to delve into what these speakers bring to the table, keeping the specific needs of portable live sound and smaller events firmly in focus.

Built for the Road (and the Budget)

The first thing you notice about the PK series is their robust construction. These speakers are clearly built to withstand the bumps and scrapes that inevitably come with frequent transport and setup. The cabinets feel solid, and the integrated handles are thoughtfully placed and feel sturdy, making them easier to carry and maneuver. This is a big plus when you're often working single-handedly or with a small crew.

The weight of the PK series also strikes a good balance. They're substantial enough to feel durable but not so heavy that they become a back-breaking burden after a long day of load-in and load-out. This portability factor is crucial for our line of work, where efficiency and ease of handling can save valuable time and energy.

Sound That Delivers

Of course, durability means little if the sound doesn't cut it. The PK series speakers aim to provide a clear and powerful audio output suitable for a variety of applications. They typically feature a combination of a high-performance woofer and a compression driver, delivering a wide frequency response.

From my experience, the clarity in the mid and high frequencies is commendable. Vocals and instruments come through with good definition, which is essential for ensuring intelligibility during speeches or capturing the nuances of a musical performance. The low-end response is also respectable for their size, providing a solid foundation for music playback and reinforcing the low frequencies of instruments.





POWER UP YOUR SOUND

A Look at the Behringer PK Series

While they might not have the absolute sonic sophistication of some higher-end options, the PK series offers a significant step up from basic PA systems, providing a balanced and punchy sound that will satisfy most audiences at smaller to medium-sized events. For DJs, bands playing smaller venues, or presenters needing clear vocal projection, these speakers offer a capable solution.

Features That Matter



Behringer has packed some useful features into the PK series that directly address the needs of portable sound engineers and event organizers. Most models include built-in mixers with multiple input channels, often featuring XLR and TRS connectors, as well as RCA inputs for connecting various sources like microphones, instruments, and media players. This eliminates the need for a separate mixer in simpler setups, streamlining your gear and reducing setup time – a huge benefit when you're working quickly.

EQ controls are usually present, allowing for basic tonal adjustments to suit the venue acoustics or the specific audio source. Some models even include built-in DSP (Digital Signal Processing) with presets for different applications, which can be incredibly handy for quickly optimizing the speaker's performance for speech, music, or live band scenarios.

The inclusion of a mix output is another practical feature, allowing you to easily link multiple speakers together for larger events or to connect to a subwoofer for extended low-end reinforcement. This scalability is important for events companies that might handle a range of different sized gigs.

Value Proposition

Perhaps one of the most compelling aspects of the Behringer PK series is its value for money. For budget-conscious individuals and smaller companies, these speakers offer a significant bang for their buck. You get a robust, powered speaker with a decent set of features and capable sound quality without breaking the bank. This affordability makes them an attractive option for those just starting out or for those needing to expand their inventory without a massive investment.



The Behringer PK Series Powered Speakers present a compelling option for portable live sound engineers and smaller events companies. They offer a practical blend of durability, portability, sound quality, and useful features, all at a price point that's hard to ignore. While they might not be the last word in high-fidelity audio, they provide a reliable and capable solution for a wide range of applications, from corporate gigs and presentations to small band performances and DJ sets.

If you're looking for powered speakers that can handle the rigors of the road, deliver solid sound, and won't strain your budget, the Behringer PK series is definitely worth considering for your next audio setup. They're a workhorse that's ready to power up your sound, event after event.





JAY-DEE'S PICKS

SCHECTER - SUNSET-6 EXTREME 'GREY GHOST'



Alright, buckle up, because I've just spent some quality time with the Schecter Sunset 6 Extreme in that killer Grey Ghost finish, and let me tell you, this guitar is a serious contender. For anyone looking for a versatile workhorse that looks as mean as it sounds, this one deserves a long, hard look.

First off, let's talk about aesthetics. The "Grey Ghost" finish is just plain cool. It's this smoky, almost charcoal grey with a subtle wood grain that peeks through, and it's got this satin feel that's just fantastic under your hand. It's not flashy, but it's got this understated aggression that I really dig. Paired with the black hardware and the abalone binding that really pops against the dark finish, this guitar looks like it means business. It's the kind of guitar that turns heads without screaming for attention.

But a guitar is more than just a pretty face, right? The playability of the Sunset 6 Extreme is where it really starts to shine. The maple neck with the thin "C" profile feels incredibly comfortable and fast.

My hand just glided up and down the ebony fretboard. The 14" radius feels just right for both chording and shredding, and the 24 extra-jumbo frets make bending and vibrato a breeze. Schecter really nailed the neck carve on this one – it feels like it was made to be played.



Now, let's get to the heart of the matter: the sound. This guitar is loaded with Schecter Diamond pickups – a Diamond '78 in the bridge and a Diamond '78N in the neck. These aren't your run-of-the-mill humbuckers.

The bridge pickup has this fantastic, thick, and punchy tone that's perfect for rock and metal. It's got plenty of sustain and articulation, so even with high gain, your notes stay clear and defined. It's aggressive when you dig in but cleans up nicely when you roll back the volume.



JAY-DEE'S PICKS

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The neck pickup is a different beast altogether. It's warm and smooth, ideal for creamy leads and thick rhythm tones. It's got a real vocal quality to it, especially when you push it a little. The combination of these two pickups offers a huge range of sonic possibilities. Whether I was chugging out heavy riffs, soaring through melodic solos, or even dialing in some cleaner, bluesier tones, the Sunset 6 Extreme delivered.

The controls are straightforward and effective: a master volume, a master tone with a push-pull coil-split, and a three-way pickup selector. The coil-split is a welcome addition, offering even more tonal versatility by giving you access to brighter, single-coil-esque sounds. This really expands the palette of the guitar and makes it surprisingly adaptable to different genres.

The hardware on this thing feels solid and reliable. The Schecter locking tuners are a godsend for maintaining tuning stability, even with some serious whammy bar action (yes, it's got a Floyd Rose Special!). The Floyd Rose Special bridge itself is smooth and responsive, allowing for everything from subtle vibrato to full-on dive bombs without knocking the guitar out of tune. This is a big plus for anyone who likes to get expressive with their playing.

One thing I really appreciated was the attention to detail. The abalone binding not only looks great but feels smooth and comfortable. The fretwork is excellent – the frets are nicely polished and level, leading to a buzz-free playing experience right out of the box.

Are there any downsides? Honestly, it's hard to find many at this price point. Some players might prefer a thicker neck profile, but the thin "C" is definitely a popular and comfortable choice for many. And while the Floyd Rose is fantastic for what it does, it might not be everyone's cup of tea if you prefer a more traditional hardtail bridge.



Overall, the Schecter Sunset 6 Extreme in Grey Ghost is a seriously impressive guitar. It offers killer looks, fantastic playability, a wide range of powerful tones, and rock-solid hardware, all at a price that won't break the bank. Whether you're a seasoned shredder or a versatile player looking for a reliable and inspiring instrument, the Sunset 6 Extreme deserves a spot on your shortlist. It's a guitar that begs to be played, and it delivers the goods every time you plug it in. Trust me, this "Grey Ghost" is one you'll want haunting your guitar collection.



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