

# A VULGAR DISPLAY OF POWER

THE GUITAR RIGS OF THE STARS

## CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARDS

311's Tim Mahoney tells how he runs one of the most complex rigs we've ever seen.



By NICK BOWCOTT

**>>DESIGN PHILOSOPHY** Eight 4x12 cabs, four heads, four rack effect processors, two pedal boards, 18 loops and 20 stomp boxes—and all of them in use. “I have two pedal boards,” 311's Tim Mahoney says. “One is the main pedal board and the other is in a loop on the main board. We call that ‘the Party Board,’ because it has all the fun soundscape stuff on it.”

Mahoney's main board contains a mind-boggling 15 stomp boxes, 12 of which are split between two Loop-Master strips. If you trace the signal path you'll see that, while the seven

pedals in his first Loop-Master strip feed both his dirty and clean amps, the five in his second Loop-Master strip go to his clean amps only.

Mahoney says, “After 19 years we have well over 100 songs, and I need a lot of pedals to cover all the sounds.”

**>>CONTROL ISSUES** “I have to do a lot of changes,” Mahoney says. “That's one of the reasons the rig has evolved the way it has, with the clean side having its own set of effects. That way I can set up my clean effects ahead of time, which cuts down on the tap dancing.”

**>>FAVORITE PIECE OF GEAR** “That would be my Diamond Phantom amps. They fit

**“THE DIAMOND PHANTOM IS A HUGE PART OF MY TONAL VOICE.”**

my style perfectly in terms of flexibility, tone and playability. A lot of times an amp that sounds great clean isn't so great dirty, and vice versa. The Phantom does both really well and is a huge part of my tonal voice.”

**>>SECRET WEAPON** “Soundcheck. We're using in-ear monitors, but due to different venues and different stages, things change every day. It's vital that I have the time to tweak my rig and acclimate myself to the room so I'm completely comfortable when we perform.”

Special thanks to Tim's guitar tech, Andres Torres, for his invaluable help unraveling Tim's rig. □

