

THE ADAMSON SOLUTION

LINKIN PARK ENGINEER 'POOCH' WAXES LYRICAL AS HE TAKES Y-AXIS LINE ARRAY ON EUROPEAN TOUR

Formed in 1996, Californian rockers Linkin Park continue to increase their global profile with every album and tour. To date, they have sold more than 50 million albums worldwide and won two Grammy Awards. Their latest album — *Minutes To Midnight* — topped the Billboard chart upon release in May and saw the band experiment with other musical genres to inject into their classic 'nu-metal' style.

Prior to their appearance at Live Earth Japan and a summer North American tour, Linkin Park embarked on their late spring *Projekt Revolution 2007* tour of Europe, taking with them lighting and video from PRG, and Adamson Y-Axis line array systems supplied by Concert Sound for a warm-up date in Berlin, then MPM in Copenhagen, Stockholm, Paris and Hamburg, and Live Sound for the Zurich show.

It was at the Palais Omnisports de Bercy in Paris

that we caught up with FOH engineer Kenneth 'Pooch' Van Druten who discussed the system designed by Adamson's Jochen Sommer and Didier Dal Fitto of DV2-Adamson Europe.

Top of the band's priority list was to achieve a calibre of live sound comparable with their studio output. "We found that the easiest and the best way to do that is with the Adamson stuff right now. It really sounds phenomenal," said Pooch, whose previous clients have included Kiss, Limp Bizkit, Whitney Houston and System Of A Down.

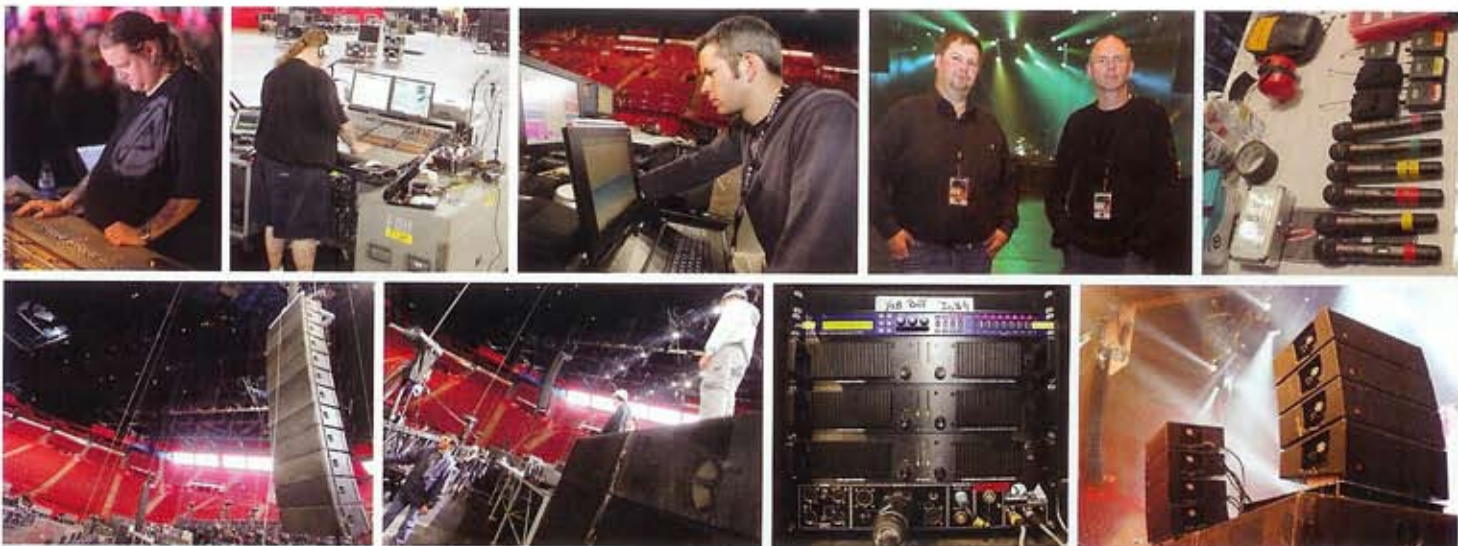
"At FOH, I'm using a Digidesign D-Show Profile console, that has a virtual soundcheck feature hooked to a Pro-Tools rig, allowing us to record a soundcheck and then have the band come out and listen, and pass comment."

In general, the Adamson system in use comprised

of main hangs of Y18 cabinets, Y10 side hangs, SpekTrix Series loudspeakers for infills, centre and outfills, and delays, plus T21 subs — all XTA-processed and powered by Lab.Gruppen amps. Monitor engineer Kevin McCarthy used a Yamaha PM5D-RH console, mixing to Audio-Technica IEM systems, six M15 wedges and four SX18 sidefills.

The system was set up on a daily basis using the latest generation of Adamson's proprietary venue design software: the Y-Axis Shooter Version 2.5.5. This easily interpreted package is extremely precise in providing computer-generated predictions of Adamson line arrays in all types of venue. Along with the original architecture and the ability to create complex listening areas in multiple floor designs, Adamson software engineers have added useful configuration elements.

One such addition is the rigging plot window, for



Above, top row: FOH engineer Kenneth 'Pooch' Van Druten; Jochen Sommer tunes the Adamson system with the dedicated Shooter software; Marc Morosini of MPM and DV2's Didier Dal Fitto; Audio-Technica mics at the ready. Bottom row: System elements before and during showtime.

Below right: A screen shot from the Y-Axis Shooter analysis in Paris

specific horizontal or vertical views of the load points and alternate reference locations. Originally conceived with the intention to further the schematic ability of the user to implement Adamson arrays effectively, Shooter 2.5.5 is now more versatile, offering the capability to include both Y-Axis and Spektrix subwoofer capacity in the vertical window illustration of the array, and apply it to the overall design element.

Asked which aspects of Adamson's Y-Axis impressed him the most, Pouch replied: "There are several things — the most important is the mid and high range. From the little lip-fill box, the SpekTrix, all the way to the Y18 and Y10, the mids and highs are the same, so there's a really seamless integration as you walk around the room. I feel that everyone in the room

should enjoy a good sounding show and it makes me happy that I can provide that.

"With the addition of the T21 subs, whose efficiency is unlike any other, it is a complete package. To get the same kind of low end in a room situation with anything else, you'd need a lot more subs than we have. It's less gear and better sounding."

Pouch has mixed on a variety of PA systems over the years and continues to rate Showco's classic Prism system highly. "It has a place in the world," he said, adding, "but right now for Linkin Park, Adamson is perfect."

TPI

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