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MORRIS LEASING, ELECTRO-VOICE RAISE THE BAR FOR LIVE SOUND ON KENNY CHESNEY TOUR

Country superstar Kenny Chesney's tours continue to break attendance records year after year. A sound and light spectacular enjoyed by well over a million fans, Chesney's tours repeatedly sell out NFL stadiums across the country. A critical element of Chesney's success in the live arena has been consistently high sound quality, thanks to an all-Electro-Voice sound system—the world's largest touring EV rig—from Morris Leasing, with system design by Phil Scobee (Morris Leasing). Upping the ante every year, Scobee's system design incorporated NetMax with FIR-Drive (FIR filter DSP) for the first time on the 2008 tour, delivering unprecedented audio performance, control and consistency.

Since Morris Leasing joined forces with Electro-Voice for Alabama's farewell tour in 2003, the partnership has continued to grow year after year, as Scobee explained: "Back when we were gearing up for the Alabama farewell tour, it was time to design and build a new PA system. That's when I started working closely with Electro-Voice, and I put together my first all-EV (X-Line) system design. After that tour was finished, I had this great EV system left over, and I moved it over to Kenny's tour, with whom it grew exponentially—as did the tour.

"At that time, X-Line had been well established with the Rolling Stones, but the P3000RL remote-control DSP amplifiers were brand new," Scobee continued. "I was excited to be the first to use this important new technology—including the earliest versions of IRIS control and supervision software. From there, we went forward, working together on the development of the IRIS-Net and NetMax systems we use today. Now the technology has finally caught up to what I envisioned back then, and it continues to be an extremely rewarding working relationship. I always knew the X-Line was a great PA, but now we can reap its full benefits, tying the whole package together with this new technology."



Phil Scobee of Morris Leasing designed the world's largest touring EV rig for Kenny Chesney's tours.

The Kenny Chesney tour plays some of the largest NFL and college football stadiums in the U.S., and Scobee's PA design is scaled accordingly, drawing from a rolling stock of 112 X-Line boxes and 68 mid-sized XLC127+ boxes, powered by a total of 144 P3000RL amplifiers for the 2008 tour.

The system is designed with main arrays of 20 full-range and 20 Xsub boxes per side. The full-range arrays feature 18 Xvls 90-degree boxes and two Xvlt 120-degree boxes. The 20-box-deep arrays are made possible by a unique custom-made rigging package from EV; the usual maximum capacity is 16 boxes. In addition to the 80 X-Line boxes used for main PA, Scobee deploys additional X-Line boxes and XLC127+ mid-sized boxes for added coverage according to venue layout.

Key to the system is IRIS-Net—system control and configuration software providing a unique set of tools with easily configured, user defined interfaces. IRIS-Net provides the ultimate in control and configuration flexibility and performance.

"IRIS-Net has streamlined the setup and centralized control to an amazing degree," Scobee noted. "We can manage the whole system from a couple of laptops, fine-tuning it from a remote position in a stadium if needed, remote-monitoring the performance of every component. I designed the rig so everything is numbered and goes in its proper place. For example, box one at the top of the PA always hooks to the exact same speaker cable, and always connects to the exact

same amp. This means I have a controlled setup that I can monitor throughout the tour, right down to a single cable or driver. That said, I'm amazed at how reliable all the components are. We have the best of both worlds: Not only has the system proven extremely reliable in and of itself, but we are also monitoring every detail at all times in case something does happen."

The 2008 system design sees the debut of complete system processing exclusively via NetMax with FIR-Drive (X-Line) and IIR filters (XLC-127+). FIR-Drive sports state-of-the-art Finite Impulse Response filters and processing to provide linear phase performance for sonic clarity and improved pattern control beyond all other DSP and system drive packages. The use of both FIR-Drive and IIR filters on the tour is the result of a collaborative effort between EV and Scobee.

"We have four NetMax N8000 units: two on stage left, two on stage right. The addition of FIR filters was very exciting, and again represents the strong working relationship we have with EV. The filters we worked on were taken down to the Houston Rodeo where our good friends at LD Systems demo'd them; LD Systems was impressed enough to actually run the FIR-loaded NetMax systems for the 2008 rodeo. We are using those DSP presets on all our X-Line boxes for the Kenny Chesney tour, and I'm blown away by them."



X-Line Family Values: Performance, Power, and Precision



Having pioneered the first large-format concert sound systems during the formative years of arena rock in the late '60s and early '70s, Electro-Voice has continued to lead the way with the highest quality, highest reliability, and highest performance sound systems for the world's largest tours and events.

Today, EV's X-Line family of line-array loudspeakers systems offers state-of-the-art sound reinforcement for all applications. Coupled with IRIS-Net control and supervision software and the NetMax digital matrix/DSP platform (now with FIR-Drive), EV systems stand alone for sound quality, control, and power. And, unlike most of our competitors, all EV systems are designed by our own engineers and built from the ground up in our own factories.

X-Line

Large format X-Line systems are heard by millions, on the world's largest tours (Foo Fighters, Kenny Chesney) and biggest events (Live Earth, Houston Rodeo, Barack Obama's Presidential acceptance speech). X-Line's unique balance of massive power handling and warm, transparent sonic character have made it a world tour standard.

XLC

The XLC (X-Line compact) is the mid-sized member of the industry's most distinguished line-array loudspeaker family. Since launching in 2002, the line has evolved into the XLC 127DVX, featuring EV's new DVX series woofers. XLC comes equipped with a range of carefully considered rigging and transport options to address deployments in venues of all shapes and sizes. Simply put, pound for pound, nothing else comes close to equaling the XLC's performance to size ratio. XLC is now available in both 120 and 90-degree versions. "i" versions are manufactured specifically for permanent installation.

XLVC

While expectations of audio performance in terms of SPL, natural response, and uniform coverage have expanded, the demand for smaller and lighter sound systems has increased. X-Line Very Compact offers the best of both worlds: XLD systems are capable of producing concert SPL levels on full bandwidth in small to medium sized venues; smaller XLE systems are ideal for critical audio requirements where overall cluster size is highest priority. Both systems are well suited for many types of live and install applications. XLVC systems are now available in both 120 and 90-degree versions.

Subwoofers

A complete line of complimentary subwoofers ensures sonic integrity at the lower end of the frequency range: X-Line: Xsub (2x 18"); XLC: XLC215 (2x 15"); XLVC: XCS312 (3x 12" cardioid sub)

FIR-Drive – State-of-the art Finite Impulse Response filters and processing provide linear phase performance for sonic clarity and improved pattern control beyond all other DSP and system drive packages.

IRIS-Net – System control and configuration software providing a unique set of tools with easily configured, user defined interfaces. IRIS-Net provides the ultimate in control and configuration flexibility and performance.

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