

Millennia TD-1... Don't get on the plane without it!

Steve McGuire is the Front of House Engineer for the Grammy-award winning Los Angeles-based band The Wallflowers. In search of the perfect acoustic sound for guitarist and lead singer Jakob Dylan, McGuire found even more than what he had hoped for in Millennia's TD-1 unit.

I started mixing Jakob Dylan and the boys last April, and have been working with them ever since. When I came on board mixing the band, Jake was using two acoustic guitars every night during the set, with different electronic components in each instrument.



The signal flow protocol for the acoustics had always been guitar – DI – splitter - consoles. From the get go, I thought that the acoustic signal definitely needed a little help. I am not targeting the electronics in the actual guitars, or the actual guitars themselves, but it just wasn't "right" - not the most full-flavored signal you could hope for.

I had to come up with a solution to the "lifeless" acoustic signal and gave Dave Shadoan at Southern California Sound Image a call - he has always been very helpful to me in whatever I needed. As I was on the phone with him discussing a particular processing unit, he says to me "Have you ever used the Millennia stuff?" I said no I hadn't, that I had heard good things about it but I had never used it myself. He said that he could get me the other unit that I was originally calling him about, but that I really should give this Millennia stuff a shot. So I agreed to try it out.

Now this is what was really ironic, no sooner had I said that to Dave, when his other line rang. It was Joel Silverman from Millennia Media! So imagine Dave taking my questions in one ear on one phone, while passing the inquiries on to Joel for me into the other line! Pretty funny!

Anyway, I agreed to try out Millennia's TD-1 for Jake's acoustic. I used it as a DI onstage and then sent the signal to the split from there.

From the second I plugged Jake's gear in, there was the fattest most pristine, gorgeous "full flavored" sound I had ever heard from an acoustic guitar! The band's

guitar tech just stood there with his jaw on the floor, *amazing*.

I experimented with the impedance selection, tube and FET input stage and also notched out a couple of ugly frequencies coming off the guitar. When Jake showed up at sound check he was quite impressed as well. He asked me why nobody else had ever done this to his acoustic before and I politely said that it was probably because a unit like the TD-1 was not in existence before. He was completely thrilled with his acoustic sound for the first time in ages.

One of the great things about using the TD-1 as a DI is that you can quickly and easily model the signal to make up for deficiencies in whatever monitor rig is in place. It's suddenly a simple matter of getting the gain structure right at the monitor desk, and tweaking the absolutely brilliant EQ section on the unit.

We actually had a "fly date" that was thrown into the tour schedule, involving nothing but guitars and drumsticks accompanying us on the trip for gear. Jake hit the stage that night and while he had his acoustic, there was no TD-1 (it was on the equipment truck with the rest of the gear on its way to the next stop on the tour). After the show he kind of laughed and said to me, "Yeah Steve, my acoustic sounded weird to me in my monitors tonight, so I looked around to see if that "thing" you got for my acoustic was on stage, and it wasn't, just a regular DI. That "thing" (TD-1) you got really makes a *huge* difference!"

Needless to say, the TD-1 will be replacing my suitcase the next time a fly date is thrown in to the tour schedule. The whole layout of the unit is ergonomically logical, and the sheer sturdiness built into it is quite apparent that no corners were cut in building this piece of equipment to withstand the rigors of the road. Everything about it says "quality and durability"

I owe Dave Shadoan and Joel Silverman a great thank you for turning me on to this outstanding piece of gear and also for Millennia's Origin - I use it on the front end for vocals, it too is *unbelievable!*

I highly recommend this great gear for anyone truly interested in taking their sound to the next level. This stuff is simply *amazing!*

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