

NAMM 2012

Acoustic across the pond. Take a look at the hottest, new gear from the music event of the year!

Wham, bam – that was NAMM. A massively well-supported and thrumming 2012 show continued to enthrall and excite the crowds and masses from all reaches of the world both musically and geographically.

Attendance from exhibitors reached a high of 1,441, which was a healthy 236 more than 2011. There were more than 95,000 attendees contributing to the general buzz of the show, which you may be interested to learn is now in its 110th year! It just goes to

show that the irrepressible love of our friends in music continues to grow and become more accessible through technology than ever before. Here are some of the highlights as experienced first-hand by your host, *Acoustic* magazine.

Elixir

From the world of **WL Gore** technologies comes the latest innovation of Nanoweb coated bass guitar strings. They prevent skin, oil and dirt prematurely ageing the strings and are available in a variety of scale lengths in your most popular gauges of 40, 60, 75, 95–45, 65, 80, 100–45, 65, 85, 105 and a 5-string option of 45, 65, 80, 100 and 130. Also the specific Acoustic Bass set is available in 45, 65, 80 and 100 gauge, suitable for light/long-scale format.



LAG

Expanding their ranks of famous guitar players, now including not only Gus G but also Richie Kotzen, is not the only news from this French company. They also have an expanded range of ukuleles in both concert and soprano forms. They feature arched back designs, solid rosewood fingerboards and nickel frets. Notably, the U44S, new this year, sports the Tramontane headstock design, ivory effect buttons and logo inlay with a tiki man-style rosette motif. Also within the dreadnought range T200 series is the newly released TN200A14CE model – an auditorium-style nylon with Studio LAG preamp electrics and cutaway in solid cedar with mahogany back and sides.



McPherson

With production of these high-calibre instruments being limited to just 200 for the world each year, McPherson remain highly exclusive and limited in availability for the UK. Designed and engineered from the ground up with unique insights from the world of archery and bow construction, they know more than you can guess about tensioning, strength and construction methods. Demonstrated at the show was their elaborate Picasso model, inlaid with hundreds of pieces of wood.

TC Electronic

New from TC is the exciting VoiceLive Play GTX harmony and effects unit for singers – a floor- or desktop-mounted unit dedicated to vocal effects and studio-quality tones designed to enhance, and yes correct, your vocals. Attributes include song and artist's presets, effects such as hard tune, reverb, double and megaphone, room sense to set auto key harmonies, VLOOP for looping your vocal track – and it supports USB, aux in and headphones. It's compatible with the MP-75 Modern Performance Vocal mic and also has a practice mode where you can compare your statistical performance improvements.



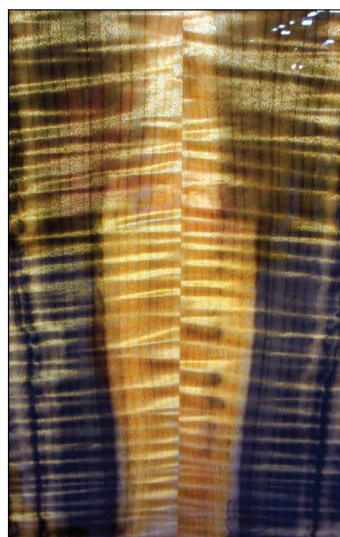
Line 6

Excitingly, the developments from Line 6 include new highly thought-out StageSource L3t top and subwoofer PA cabs – with built-in wheels! Innovatively, tops have been designed for multiple dedicated purposes and are fitted out with stereo 10" with horn and single 12" drivers in the respective sub cabs. The top cabs, rated at 1,400 watts, have been designed to recognise their use either as wedge monitor (with built-in floor prop) or full-blown PA as internal accelerometers tell the cab its orientation and intended use. The L3t cab is designed to optimise performance in one of six different modes: front-of-house PA, personal PA, acoustic guitars, backline monitoring, keyboard and electric performance, and it will also take a pole mount or be suitable for suspension, thanks to four M10 suspension points. It additionally has a built-in mixer with two mic/instrument inputs, full three-band EQ with sweepable mid, Smart effects (modulation and reverb), Line 6 acoustic guitar modeling and 12-band feedback suppression technology.



Breedlove

Among the exquisitely finished instruments bedecking their stand, the Breedlove team unveiled their new Voice series of guitars. Each guitar has great access to higher-fret registers thanks to their cutaways. More interestingly, there are six new guitars in the range, each equipped with the LR Baggs Anthem TRU-VOICE preamp technology specifically designed for consistency in live performance tone, both when amplified onstage and when in use on small-scale unplugged gigs. The pickup system consists of a noise-cancelling microphone and transducer system which has been built from the ground up exclusively for three instruments in the original Breedlove series and three in the Revival series.



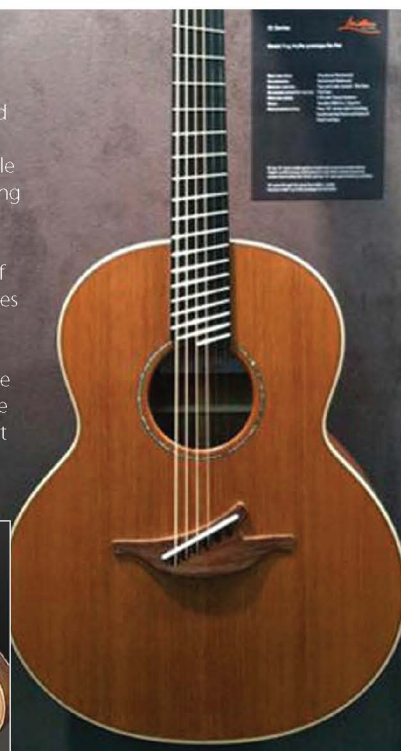
MXL

Launching two new condenser microphones aimed squarely at the computer and USB-compatible markets, MXL have designed the Tempo and the Trio. Created for comprehensive support of the iPad for use by musicians on the go, both microphones have practical application for webcasts, iChat, video blogging and vocal recordings. Fitted with a headphone jack, the Tempo is available in two colours and sports a more classic studio mic-type look.



Lowden

Debuted at the Lowden booth were the anticipated Fan Fret guitars. These prototypes are now available in standard dimensions along with three alternative scale length options including a baritone and five choices of different neck widths/profiles on the 30 and 50 series, with two additional neck width/profile options on the standard series. Not only are they attention grabbing but they are also easier to play than you may imagine.



Dean Markley

New from Dean are their Helix HD strings. Based on the principles of a higher-density string producing greater tone and longevity, they are available in four gauges: 10–47s, 11–52s, 12–53s and 13–56s. The increased mass is achieved by increasing the number of wraps on the core via their own hyper-elliptical winding process, which makes for more mass within the gauge you may already prefer.

