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Subject: Audio Confessions

Posted by [Bill L](#) on Fri, 08 Jun 2007 01:21:38 GMT

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I've tried to put these incident behind me, but I can't seem to forget about them and I have to come clean it to the only people I know who might understand.

When I worked as Chick Corea's studio manager we did a crazy little experiment. We decided to see how good the Yamaha 02R96 mic pres are compared to pristine vintage Neve 1073 modules. We used a 9 foot Yamaha grand with Yamaha's mechanical recording/playback system (can't remember the name of it) into 2 AKG C12s. We were able to get the exact same performance on each take with the playback system.

In the end, we could hear that the Neve was ever so slightly warmer than the 01v96, but we were shocked at how unremarkable the difference was - really shocked. Bernie Kirsh, a true golden ears, and a world famous engineer who has done virtually all of chick's records could not hear much difference either, and I gotta tell you he is a real snob when it comes to equipment.

In a similar vein, when I listened to the first Lynn Fuston mic pre CD of female vox, I blindly picked the Mackie mic pre as my 3rd favorite. However I must say that that comparo is not as accurate as the one with the piano because despite how good she was, she could not do the exact same performance every time, while the piano could.

Does that make me a bad person?

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