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Subject: Two \_nice\_ pieces o' gear  
Posted by [TCB](#) on Thu, 08 May 2008 07:24:14 GMT  
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Greetings all. Sitting at my desk at work at 3.00 AM watching a mail server fail to restore again. This is the life, let me tell you. Calm green bonus, calm green bonus . . .

Speaking of bonus I gave myself a little budget for new sound toys to be purchased with part of my yearly 'THAT'S why I work in this industry' check. Part of it went to pick up some new sound libraries (my scratch drum sounds were getting awfully stale) that are quite nice. The other part is still left. Now then, I've always wanted a really nice acoustic guitar. Not even a good Taylor but a nice Collings or a vintage Gibson B45. I thought I'd set a budget, go to Mandolin Bothers, pay 150% of my budget and be done. However, I was in NYC over the weekend and met up with a guy I know who shares a lot of my taste in both music and gear and he showed me around his new Dave Smith Prophet 08. Whao Nellie, as Keith Jackson would say.

I'd say the difference between that synth and my John Bowen designed Prophet 5 DSP synth is small, but easily audible and almost tactile. The Bowen synth sounds great, easily up to snuff for anything I might be doing and of course is more versatile (more flexible routing, patching of f/x, multimode filters, vastly more modulation possibilities, etc.) by a good bit, but the honest to goodness analog engine really does matter. I'd say the difference is something like the difference between a printed circuit board reissue Fender Deluxe and my hand made Savage Macht 6. Both use the same tubes, are targeted at the same basic sonic territory, would be usable in the same situations. The Fender is a little more versatile but the Savage does a few things pretty much perfectly. I've always had a taste for that last 5% when it comes to gear (and wine, and women, and song) when 95% is really good enough, so it might be a Prophet on my desk instead of a Collings in a case.

OK, back to see if the damn mail server backed up . . .

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