

## **Le Mobile Chooses Avastor Hard Drives** **Leading Remote Recording Operation Goes All Digital**



Pictured in the Le Mobile recording truck with the Avastor lockbox is owner/chief engineer Guy Charbonneau. Photo by Richard Wilson.

Carlsbad, CA, April, 2007 - "We took the last Studer multitrack out of the truck two months ago," says renowned remote recording engineer Guy Charbonneau. "It was a little spooky for me, but now it's Pro Tools as the main recorder and strictly Avastor hard drives. On request, we still offer analog multitrack and DASH recording. Our first dates with ProTools only were for Lily Allen for Capitol Records, and our second was MusiCares 'Don Henley' with Elliot Scheiner engineering. Thanks to Avastor, we now feel totally confident without a tape back-up."

Le Mobile has been a leader in the mobile recording industry for more than 30 years, recording music for CD, DVD 5.1 surround, motion picture soundtracks, plus internet and television music specials. A short list of clients includes Gwen Stefani, Faith Hill, Eric Clapton, Christina Aguilera, Peter Gabriel, Sting, U2, Genesis, Aerosmith, Rush, The Eagles, Deep Purple, Fleetwood Mac, and Jane's Addiction.

"We now run two Pro Tools rigs simultaneously, each with 96 channels and Apogee converters," explains Charbonneau. "But we still have our classic Neve 8058 console and that is going to stay. We've looked at all the storage options and after thorough testing, Avastor was our resolute choice." For the upcoming three-day Coachella Festival and the StageCoach Festival, Charbonneau has ordered more than 40 of Avastor's HDX-800 250 GB triple interface drives. "All the Avastor drives are identically formatted for our truck and for Design FX and Seattle Music. We provide dual recordings, one for my client and we keep one for them in my vault as a back up."

Charbonneau enumerates the essential features of the Avastor drives: "First of all, Avastor uses EIC AC connectors and they don't use external power supplies with those fragile Walwart plugs like most of the other drives. That is a big plus because in our work we have one chance to get it right. If somebody moves the power supply or the Walwart plug gets disconnected we have a big problem. Avastor drives have the proper internal power that is far better regulated, an internal fan to cool them off, and the Oxford chipset."

Avastor drives come with interface cables, file documentation labels, and are packed in the rugged HDX lockbox for ease of handling and shipment. "We use FireWire 800, but we really like the Avastor triple interface with USB 2.0, and Firewire 400 and 800 so that the client has all the options. The hard briefcase packaging is the best around -- much better than shipping your masters in a cardboard box!"

Le Mobile also adds their own bright yellow warning sticker that states: WARNING - Master Drive. Do Not Erase. "For a major project," Charbonneau explains, "We might have a number of original masters and back-ups, plus a separate drive for edited material and then a final mix drive and a master that goes to the label. If the original take is erased and you want to do a remix, you have a problem. Believe me, it has happened."

Charbonneau is currently in construction for a new immobile studio at his headquarters in Southern California which will house equipment storage, workshops, a machine room for his analog machines and a control room for editing, copying, and transfers from analog to digital and vice versa.

Among discerning audio and video professionals, Avastor has become the de facto standard for digital storage. The company was founded in 2005 by industry veteran Steve Smith, who has held executive positions at Ampex and Quantegy through decades of storage evolution, and Richard Wilson, formerly with 3M and Apogee. Avastor offers the industry's most comprehensive line of external hard disk products, including over 20 configurations of drive interfaces and capacities for virtually every application. The company's flagship product, the HDX hard disk drive system, is produced in the USA with a mandate for superior build quality and 100% quality testing.

For more info, visit

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