



2007 NAMM Wrap-Up By Ken Volpe, Guitar Jam Daily

It's Monday morning and I'm on a plane from LA back to NYC. The 2007 NAMM show was incredible. Before I get into the dynamics of the show, I'd like to share with you about my trip out to L.A.

The night before my flight I got about an hour of sleep, due to a digestive adventure. I left the house on Thursday, at 5:30 am in balmy 12-degree weather, to pick up my Guitar Jam Daily cohort, Nick Friese. We get to JFK airport and board our plane. Right away it is apparent that our flight is packed with NAMM attendees due to the all the long hair and guitar cases. I have the window seat and next to me is a gentleman who builds custom motorcycles for a living. He is a large man with a strong odiferous vibe. Seated to his right in the aisle seat is a somewhat famous rocker who has obviously been through the mill. He makes Keith Richards look like a J. Crew model. Anyhow, it was apparent

he was partying the night before and was not done yet. Early into the flight he threw back a few Bloody Marys and was soon down for the count. So basically I was penned in my seat. I decided that my only option to brave the next six hours was to go into a temporary cocoon state. Not one of my finer moments.

Finally, we arrive at Long Beach airport, get our rent-a-car and head to see day one of the show. As soon as we get to the show we grab a NAMM guidebook and starting planning out which of the 1500 exhibits we will attempt to visit. Nick and I both have a lot of ground to cover so we decide to split up. My first stop is to see my friend Mitch Colby at the Vox/Marshall booth. We do some catching up and he shows me all their new cool products. After visiting a few more booths, day one is coming to a close. Nick and I head out to dinner and discuss our Friday game plan.



We get to the show around 11:00 am for day two and the fun starts right away. Throughout the day I

see some amazing gear and hear some of the world's most prolific musicians. I stop by the Salvender International booth to see my friend Uwe and check out the display of Diezel guitar amps, Glockenklang bass amps, Vigier guitars and more. My favorite visual is the Diezel Herbert head and matching 4 x 12 cab in white tolex.

I swing by VHT to check in with Stevie and Victoria Amp Co. to see Mark. Both of those guys have done a fabulous job in building up their respective amp companies.