

## THE DECEMBERISTS' COLIN MELOY COMPLIMENTS HIS HOME STUDIO WITH A TOFT SERIES ATB

MUSICIAN, AUTHOR AND RECORDING ENTHUSIAST FINDS THE ATB WARMS UP HIS MIXES

*Portland, Oregon*

Colin Meloy just added a new analog component to his studio. When not recording or touring with his band, The Decemberists, he comes home to a small recording setup where he can hash musical ideas out. "I wanted to create a more agile home recording setup. I do all my demo work from home and I've found that that process has become more and more helpful when I have the tools to really flesh some idea out to its fullest. I think Robyn Hitchcock said that: the real purpose of demoing songs is to get the thing out of your head, to make a concrete thing that you can stand back from and look at from every angle. That's how I see demoing. And the more fleshed out it is, the more dimensions you can see inside it."

Colin sought the smaller footprint Series ATB08M to compliment his existing equipment and expand his tracking capabilities. "I was doing really rudimentary stuff with just a 2 in/2 out AD box but I had this big space in my work studio and didn't see why I couldn't do more stereo tracking, drum tracking etc. Which, as anyone who's done any home recording can attest to, is totally accessible for two channel recording, but sometimes you just long for a little more flexibility. I also heard great things about the pres on the board and wanted to add a little analog to my signal chain. I started out doing a lot of broad stroke stuff in my



*Colin Meloy at his home studio*



*The Series ATB08M*

demoing, just guitar and vocals - back when we were doing a lot of work in rehearsals and I would "bring" songs to the band. Now that we really only get to-

gether to rehearse before tour and before recording (our rehearsals are longer and more concentrated) it makes sense to flesh the ideas out to the fullest

before they're brought to the band.

The effect of the Series ATB in his signal path was instantaneous. "I immediately noticed a HUGE difference in drum sounds I was getting, just by running them through the pres on the Toft before hitting my AD box. They warmed up considerably! Vocals too; just getting that warmth in the signal chain was enough to cut the digital edge from a ton of the stuff I was doing. Plus, the flexibility of the EQ, the hands-on nature of the interface just makes a big difference. I was so used to clicking through mixes; it makes a world of difference to be able to do it in real time, with all hands on the faders."

Besides writing music and composing, recording and touring with the Decemberists, Meloy is also a successful author, and recorded and self released the "Colin Sings" series EPs sold on his solo tour. These recordings derive mostly from experiments in his home studio. The lasting effect of getting songs "out of your head" is that you can revisit them later. "I like to dig up old, discarded song ideas and commit them to tape (or HD). It's a way of archiving old ideas before they get lost to the sands of time; also nice exercise to keep my recording chops up. I've done a handful of those -- sometimes they lead to a rediscovery of an old idea that never got a fair shake. More often than not, they're just as unusable as they were when I first wrote them and I'm creating a nice log of unreleasable curiosi-

ties."

Colin's purchase makes him the second member of the Decemberists to purchase a console, as guitarist Chris Funk set up his recording studio with an ATB32.

<http://decemberists.com/>

<https://twitter.com/colinmeloy>

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About PMI Audio Group: Established in 1979, PMI Audio Group is a professional audio company located in Gardena, California specializing in the design and manufacture of professional audio products for recording, video, post, film, broadcast, and the fixed installation markets. PMI Audio brands include: Studio Projects, Trident Audio Developments, Joemeek, Toft Audio Designs, Tonelux, and Valley People.

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