

Gizmo Alert Radial JD7 Injector

Simple though it seems, routing your guitar signal to multiple amps can often lead to problems such as ground loops, phasing issues, and signal losses. Radial's JD7 Injector signal distributor and routing system (\$799) is equipped to deal with these multi-amp maladies while providing the most flexible signal routing of any splitter I've seen.

Designed primarily for studio use, the JD7 offers seven output channels—five of which (channels two through six) feature Jensen isolation transformers and provide three functions: a ground lift (bye-bye buzz), a polarity selector (adios phasing problems), and an on/off switch. Channel one has only an on/off switch and an output, and channel seven (which is located on the back of the unit) is simply an output that can be used for a tuner. The front panel also features a blank area above each channel on which you can jot down (using an erasable pen or wax marker) what each output is feeding.

Besides being a traffic cop for your guitar signal, the JD7 has a few cool tricks up its sleeve. One is the addition of a switchable effects loop on channels five and six. Another is the inclusion of a balanced line input and line output on the back panel for the sole purpose of “re-

amping” your guitar signal. Many players and producers avail themselves of increased tonal options by recording a dry guitar signal, and then, when all the tracks are recorded and the sonic landscape is more developed, the dry signal is sent (via a direct line from the appropriate mixer channel) to myriad amps until the perfect sound is achieved. The JD7 offers a quick and simple way to route tape (or hard disk) tracks to different amps (or processors) without risking signal loss.

Another of the JD7's more thoughtful features is its Drag control, which allows you to dial in as much impedance loading on your guitar signal as needed to darken—or clarify—your sound. And speaking of clarity, the JD7 is amazingly transparent. Close your eyes and you'd swear the only thing between your guitar and amp is a high-quality cable.

The JD7's sheer amount of routing options—combined with its ability to effectively deal with a variety of sonic gremlins—makes it an essential tool for any studio with a herd of unruly amps to wrangle. —DARRIN FOX

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