

JIM MATHEOS OF ARCH/MATHEOS

DESIGN PHILOSOPHY

Throughout his tenure in long-running prog-metal act Fates Warning, guitarist Jim Matheos has simplified his rig to the extent that dialing in his heavy, progressive tones is now instinctive. He employs this same straightforward approach in his side project, Arch/Matheos, which features former Fates Warning singer John Arch.

"In the early days I'd have this four-foot rack," Matheos says. "But over the years I've found that

I like a cleaner signal path. Plus, as the gear has improved, I actually need less of it."

CONTROL ISSUES

Matheos might have scaled back his setup, but he still manages to extract a lot of sounds from his rig, thanks to his Ground Control unit. "In a typical set, I've probably got a good 40 sounds programmed in there," he says. "Before each show, I'll program one bank with two dirty channels, one semi-dirty channel, a couple clean channels

and a lead channel. If we run three songs together I'll try to get them all in one bank. Then I just go up a bank for the next set of songs."

FAVORITE PIECE OF GEAR

"My Mesa/Boogie Mark IV, which I've had for about 20 years. It took me a long time to handle it the right way, because subtle changes in how you set the controls can make a big difference. But it's really rewarding in the end and more unique sounding than a lot of what's out there."

SECRET WEAPON

"My SansAmp PSA-1. A lot of people don't realize this, but I use it a lot. It's got a great tone to it. I use it in combination with the Mark IV in the studio, and that's what makes my sound."

—PAUL HANSON

Arch/Matheos' debut album, *Sympathetic Resonance*, is out now on Metal Blade Records. Visit archmatheos.com for more info.

1993 PRS CUSTOM 24 (DARK BLUE)
 STRINGS: D'ADDARIO EXL110 (10, 13, 17, 26, 36, 46)
 TUNING: STANDARD DOWN A HALF STEP (E- A- D- G- B- E-)
 PICKUPS: STOCK

PICKS: JIM DUNLOP TORTEX HEAVY
 GUITAR CABLE: SPECTRAFLEX

TC ELECTRONIC G-MAJOR

MESA/BOOGIE MARK IV HEAD

TWO MESA ENGINEERING 4x12 RECTIFIER STANDARD SLANT CABINETS LOADED WITH STOCK CELESTIONS

DIGITAL MUSIC CORP GROUND CONTROL MIDI CONTROLLER

PRS CUSTOM 24 BRAZILIAN (NATURAL)
 STRINGS: D'ADDARIO EXL110 (10, 13, 17, 26, 36, 46)
 TUNING: DROP-D DOWN A HALF STEP (D- A- D- G- B- E-)
 PICKUPS: STOCK

PRS SC-245 (SUNBURST)
 STRINGS: D'ADDARIO EXL110 (10, 13, 17, 26, 36, 46)
 TUNING: STANDARD DOWN A HALF STEP (E- A- D- G- B- E-)
 PICKUPS: STOCK