



By Ronny North

The last couple weeks I've been getting everything ready for my upcoming tour that starts in a week. Since we're now getting down to the wire I'd thought I'd share with all of you my adventures that I've had in the last couple weeks getting everything together.

My adventures began when we found out our drummer wouldn't be able to make the tour because of his scheduling conflicts. Well, that meant that we had to hold auditions for a replacement - and let me just say that water torture is much more fun.

We placed an ad and put the word out that we were looking for someone for my tour. Please take note - as soon as you put an ad out that says a signed act is looking for a drummer, expect all the freaks to come out.

We were overwhelmed with players and my bassist Bryan kindly went through them through phone interviews. We ended up with only a few guys worth auditioning. After auditioning everyone we weren't impressed. My brother who is a great drummer even offered to do the tour to help us out but couldn't get the time free to do the tour even though he nailed it when he came down to play with us.

Just when we thought we might be in trouble we were recommended a drummer who was a great player and a cool guy. He was highly recommended to me by some very big people who have played with the greats including a couple guitar Gods. Well, after I called the guy (his name is Steve) he was indeed cool and told me to e-mail him a couple songs and he could come down that night for an audition. We were already auditioning another drummer so we decided to try out both guys. Needless to say, the other guy didn't have it.

When Steve came in he was cool. He sat down adjusted the drums for a minute and told us he was ready to go. Bryan and I were still a little shaken from the drummer before him who managed to destroy two of my songs before I finally had to stop him and say that it wasn't working.

Steve counted off the first song and just tore it up. After the song I looked at Bryan, he smiled back at me and we gave Steve the gig. We played one more song and got out of there. We now have our guy. It's going to be a blast to play on the tour with Steve on the drums. The guy can really play. Plus, he and Bryan lock in together which is a great thing.

A few rehearsals and we're ready to go.

On that note, when we auditioned all the other drummers this time I was always very nice when I told the players that they weren't the guy for us. It really doesn't pay to be mean about it. I try to be supportive if I can but sometimes they just don't get it and you have to tell them that they just don't have the chops for the gig.

Next time I'll get into getting all the gear ready for the tour and building a cool new touring rig.....

[Ronny North](#) *This email address is being protected from spam bots, you need Javascript enabled to view it* plays his own [signature brand](#) of instrumental guitar rock and is fast becoming a So Cal guitar hero. He has appeared in several national and international music publications, including this one each week.