



*Greg Howard has been a multi talented technician for dozens of bands since the early 1990s. His role has included setup and maintaining all instruments, amplifiers, and sound systems. Greg has also been a tour manager and stage manager for several acts. His resume includes working for such artists as Aerosmith, Green Day, The Black Crowes, Linkin Park, Hall & Oates, Kings X, and many more. We are honored to have him be a part of GJDs Insider series.*

[Here's Part 1 Just in case you missed it.](#)

*By Ken Volpe - GJD*

GJD: Greg, we would like to find out more about you and next time we will get into more details about you working as a tech for various rock stars.

GH: Sounds good to me.

GJD: What college did you attend?

GH: I went to North Carolina State.

GJD: I know that we covered a bit of this last time, but what did you study in college?

GH: I studied Electrical Engineering. I also studied Mechanical Engineering and Civil Engineering. In addition, I studied Economics. Actually, I ended up with a degree in Economics and a partial degree in Civil Engineering.

GJD: In college, how did you keep up your interest in music?

GH: I worked at the college radio station, which was pretty cool. I also use to have weekly jam sessions with my friends. We would play a lot of classic rock tunes.

GJD: Did you ever take formal guitar lessons?

GH: In high school I took a couple of years of lessons. It really helped me develop my ears. After that, I just worked on my own.

GJD: In college, what gear were you using?

GH: I custom ordered a Gibson Explorer, with Union Jack graphics. I also purchased a mid 1970s Marshall 100 watt head. It has 6550 power tubes and was way too loud and too clean. If I had known better, I would have rebiased it with EL34s. I bet it would have sound much better that way. After that I ended up with some Mesa Boogie amps that I really liked. I also started collecting pedals, especially delay pedals.

GJD: In college, did you have any idea that you wanted to become a guitar tech?

GH: Not really, but I loved playing music and I enjoyed messing with gear and helping people out with their gear.

GJD: What did you end up doing after college?

GH: I was still doing work at the radio station. I could not really find any work in my degree and I did not want to sit behind a desk and do the 9 to 5 thing. Soon after, I ended managing a record store with a buddy of mine. It was great and I learned a lot about bands and music that I had never really heard of. A bit down the road, I ended up working at a local music store selling guitars and amps. I did OK, but I guess I was too honest to be a really good sales person. Laughs.. They moved me to office manager at the store. I stayed at that position for 2 years until the store eventually shut down.

GJD: It seems to me that all these different things that you did and all your jobs were key components to becoming involved as a music tech and manager for bands.

GH: Yes, definitely. I didn't know it at the time, but all that stuff was my training ground. Life is kind of funny that way, sometimes you just don't know.