
CARING FOR YOUR SOUND SYSTEM

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I. Introduction

- A. We are called to be good stewards of God's resources
 - 1. Tools used to serve local churches
 - a. The percent of a churches budget for technology is increasing
 - b. We are using other's hard earned money
 - c. Treat equipment as your own
 - d. "Less to do with how much money is saved but more to do with how much money is not wasted"
- B. Variety of Applications
 - 1. Traditional vs. Contemporary
 - 2. Installed vs. Portable
 - 3. Small vs. Large

II. Buying

- A. Who makes the choices?
 - 1. Creative Pastor/Worship Leader
 - 2. Budget
 - 3. Technical director
 - 4. What the church really needs
- B. Good Planning
 - 1. Gather user needs
 - 2. Dream big but be realistic
 - 3. Discourage the notion that "we can add it later"
 - 4. Utilize "Professional" contractor – you get what you pay for
 - 5. Stand your ground on quality if you foresee going "cheap" will cost more in the long run
 - 6. If equipment failure is not an option, spend the money
- C. Choose level of quality
 - 1. Radio Shack
 - 2. MI (Music Industry)
 - 3. Broadcast/professional

III. Maintaining

A. "Things do not last forever"

1. Budget for maintenance/replacement costs
2. Implement maintenance schedule
 - a. Clean
 - 1) Filters
 - 2) Consoles with paint brush
 - 3) Tape residue from cables
 - b. Inspect
 - 1) Stands
 - 2) Cables
 - 3) Microphones
 - 4) Damage from being dropped
 - c. Repair
 - 1) Label as needing to be repaired
 - 2) Timely manner, being considerate of others
 - 3) Consider purchasing with a loner policy
3. Consider logging a report of each meeting (web based)
 - a. May give a "heads up" of trouble brewing

B. Equipment maintenance and personal safety go hand in hand

1. Proper Electricity
 - a. Use Licensed Electrician
 - b. Be careful of "DIY"
 - c. Use a UPS
 - d. Be aware of static electricity
2. Use of Cases and Covers
 - a. Protection
 - b. Use quality wheels
 - c. Properly positioned handles

- d. Take the time to return to its case – “Everything has its place”
- 3. Careful Handling
 - a. Pack up mics first
 - b. “No heroes, please”
 - 1) Ask for help with a heavy case
 - 2) Make a 2nd trip if necessary
 - c. Discourage children on stage
 - d. Install a net curtain if in a “Multipurpose room”
- 4. Cable Management
 - a. Visual inspection
 - b. Test periodically
 - c. Wrap over/under
 - d. Use tape, carpet runners, cable ramps
- 5. “This is not a restaurant”
 - a. No soda at console rule
 - b. No donut powder/crumbs
 - c. Watch out for greasy hands

IV. Upgrading

- A. Determine Motive for an upgrade
 - 1. New Technology Exists
 - 2. Effective use in another church
 - 3. Pastors asking
 - 4. Program drives a “real” need
 - 5. Equipment “end of life”
- B. Determine “when” to upgrade
 - 1. New construction or facility change
 - 2. Church growth or church planting
 - 3. Moving to “Contemporary” Service
 - 4. Extra money in the budget at the end of the year
 - 5. Unreliable equipment before a failure
- C. What to upgrade
 - 1. Unreliable equipment

2. Weakest link in the chain
3. Technology improvements or needs

D. Have a “Grand Scheme” in mind

1. Plan to move “outgrown” equipment to a smaller ministry
 - a. Ex. Move 16 channel board to children’s ministry
 - b. Ex. Send small system to church plant
2. Plan for several smaller systems to be combined to create a larger system
 - a. Ex. Several small systems could provide audio for a large outdoor event
 - b. Ex. Several small churches could provide audio for a regional conference
3. Choose and purchase using same Manufacturer
 - a. Support across systems
 - 1) Customer support
 - 2) Swap out for repair
 - b. Less training across the systems
 - 1) Volunteers from other ministries can be asked to help out in a pinch
 - 2) Similar platform when mixing on a Yamaha 01v96, DM1000, LS9, M7CL, PM5D, PM1D

E. A/V director purchases equipment for all departments

1. Aware of overall technology needs
2. Total inventory in mind
3. Able to recommend purchases or pass on equipment

V. Supporting the Mission of the Pastor and Worship Leader

- A. Important to patiently listen
- B. Keep up with technology to know how to better serve

- C. Appeal humbly when you have a different perspective, but always communicate your desire to fully support your leader's decision

VI. Q and A