

# kaiser chiefs

WITH A FUNKTION ONE PA SYSTEM IN TOW, TPI PREDICTED EXCELLENT SOUND QUALITY WHEN NEO-NEW WEVERS THE KAISER CHIEFS BLEW THE ROOF OFF BRIXTON ACADEMY IN LATE OCTOBER.

MARK CUNNINGHAM REPORTS...

Leeds-based Kaiser Chiefs rose from virtual obscurity just over a year ago after American alt-rock radio stations jumped upon import copies of 'Riot' and set about re-discovering all that was so great about the mod-punk spirit of '77. Without a shadow of doubt, their debut album *Employment* — and its huge, pogo-inducing hit 'I Predict A Riot' — gave the summer of 2005 a stylish soundtrack as the neo-new wave revolution reached a peak.

With a highly successful year behind them, the Kaisers embarked on their sell-out, NME-sponsored *Rock'n'Riot* autumn tour for which production/tour manager Mike Darling had secured the support of Prism Lighting and audio firms DBA UK and Audio Plus.

The tie-up between the two sound companies came about through FOH engineer Christian Bayley's quest for major improvements for the band, with whom he'd been working for a year. "I wasn't getting the quality of sound that I'd been looking for," he said, "so I consulted George McKechnie at DBA UK and he came up with some good suggestions."

McKechnie's recommendation was that Funktion

One's Resolution systems would give the Kaisers vastly improved dynamics, and for this tour he decided to partner with Audio Plus who had experienced success on recent events and tours with its own Funktion One system.

"When I first started talking to Audio Plus about the Kaiser Chiefs' tour, they were very keen to make it work for everyone and I could see the potential," said McKechnie. "They've been fans of Funktion One for as long as I have, and they're now at the point where they have around 40 pairs of boxes that can service a full arena tour. They did the Moloko tour which included dates at Brixton Academy, so their experience with that counted for a lot."

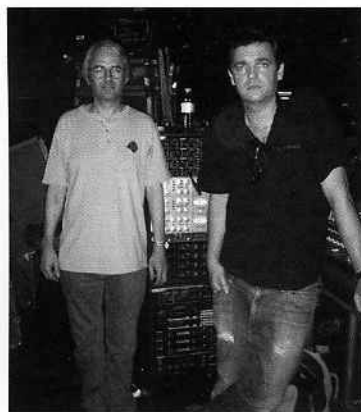
Said Bayley: "It was great to find a PA company that could deliver exactly what we needed. I'd worked with George in the past and he introduced me to Audio Plus. He felt they'd give us exactly what we needed, and I trusted his judgement. I'd wanted an excuse to use Funktion One speakers for a long time, but the situation wasn't right until this tour. It meant a lot to have the back-up and support of an experienced

touring company."

Powered by QSC amplifiers, the Funktion One Resolution boxes deployed on the tour were Res5, Res4D, Res4, Res2, F218 and F118. But what was it about them that was so attractive to Bayley? "I wanted a very well-designed box that was quite flat in response, not something where I'd have to apply a lot of EQ to get a result. I also wanted a modular system that was flexible enough to stack or array in different configurations, depending on the venue, and that's something you can't achieve with a line array. That was very important because as it's turned out, the configurations on this tour have differed wildly. And the Funktion One system meets that brief totally."

"I think that Funktion One brand has been pigeon-holed as the ultimate dance system, because of its bass qualities, and that's fine. The bass bins are very fast and tight. But a truly great system should be able to hold its weight regardless of the style of music going through it, and it's certainly doing fine with the Kaiser Chiefs."

For a company whose main activity tends to be based around college balls and provincial festivals, the



Left to right:

DBA UK's George McKechnie and FOH engineer Christian Bayley;

Ollie Brown of Audio Plus with Funktion One's Tony Andrews;

LD Richard Larkum.



One side of the Funktion One touring system.

Kaiser Chiefs tour was a considerable test of Audio Plus' resources. The only kit that the Colchester-based firm needed to sub-rent were the Midas Heritage 3000 desks for Bayley at FOH and monitor engineer Ilias Andriantos, and a set of Turbosound TFM-450 stage wedges.

Previously, its main rental system was a Turbosound rig and when the time came to upgrade,

the connection with the original Turbo designers, Tony Andrews and John Newsham, encouraged them to turn to Funktion One.

Said Audio Plus technician Oliver Brown: "For all the right reasons, we considered Funktion One to be the next step along the path of audio evolution! It stands to reason that because we operate in both rock'n'roll and dance music, Funktion One's products

and their legendary bass response offered us the best solution. One of the first tours we did with the system was with Moloko, which was a perfect test for it and the results were superb."

The PA was processed using five of XTA's GQ600 dual 30-band graphic EQs and four DP428 audio management systems. Audio Plus praised the quality of the products and the valued support from XTA. Brown

# Audio Plus

## High Performance PA Systems



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