

## **CABLE FACTORY PRO-DI P-1**

### **By Teri Hogan**

There are dozens of Direct Input boxes on the market in all sizes, shapes, colors and prices. Then you have passive DIs, active DIs and DIs with pre-amps. The only way I've been able to discern the difference between them is to A/B one against another.

Cable Factory, located in Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada, sent me their Pro-DI P-1 to evaluate. This is a passive DI, constructed of extruded aluminum, with the same dimensions as a Countryman, only a few centimeters longer. It weighs next to nothing. It's pretty straight forward, with 1/4" input and output jacks on one end and XLR jack and toggle-type ground lift switch on the other. Both ends are recessed for good protection. The fascinating part is that it has a Lundahl transformer in it, which separates the men from the boys.

The appeal of the DI is in the mind of the performer, not the engineer, so I've used sound checks as the opportunity to A/B this DI against other brands. At the end of sound check, I would approach the musician and say, "Okay, we're set. But if you don't mind, I'd like to see what this DI sounds like compared to the one we've just set up." Musicians are always into new gear so all were happy to check it out. I've A/Bed the Pro-DI P-1 with a Countryman, L. R. Baggs, Fishman, Whirlwind Director, Behringer Pro and the Imp. In every case, the musician opted to use the Pro-DI P-1 over their own DI. That speaks volumes for the quality of sound produced by this DI.

It is difficult to describe sounds in writing. This DI does not have as much high end as the L. R. Baggs, but then I usually have to roll some high end off the channel when using a Baggs anyway. In fact, I didn't have to EQ the channel at all using the Cable Factory DI. The really nice thing about its sound is its honesty. It seems to bring out the "woodiness" of the instrument, which is why a musician plays an acoustic instrument in the first place. Every musician who tried this DI was totally impressed with the sound quality and several asked me where they could buy one.

The DI-Pro P1 has a five-year warranty. It's a little pricy but you always get what you pay for. Cable Factory has several other DI models to offer, as well, including the AP1, which is a selectable Active/Passive box and the DI-Pro4, which is a single rack space unit with 4 DIs in one unit. All have Lundahl transformers.

It looks like the Cable Factory Pro-DI P-1 has a bright future in the marketplace and I would recommend it to anyone looking for a quality sound from an instrument that actually sounds good to begin with.