

# AS THE TONEWHEEL TURNS

TONEWHEEL General Hospital's  
Electronic Newsletter 0918



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GREETINGS, and welcome to our newsletter. Past readers will note with wonder the appearance of this newsletter in their Inbox. Yes, the newsletters have been few and far between. That's because we're busy shipping orders and performing surgeries daily, plus answering your phone calls and emails. We promised not to annoy you too often and we meant it!

2009 marks the fifth year of the Tonewheel General Hospital web site. The IT department works diligently keeping it up to date and ready for your orders 24 hours a day. Please drop us a note if you need something but can't find it. So many parts, so little time to take pictures and write text.

Thank you for your compliments, suggestions, and where appropriate, the occasional constructive criticism. All correspondence is read and responded to as quickly as time allows.

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## HAMMOND SUZUKI Price Rollback ↓

Hammond Suzuki has reduced prices on several instruments in its Proline series of products. The XK-3c and XK-1 keyboard list prices have been reduced to \$2,295 and \$1,495. And to make it easier to own a double keyboard rig, the professional version of the XK-3 lower manual (XLK-3) now has a list price of \$1,150. Rounding out the list is the Hammond 44 Melodion selling for \$499. You can download Tonewheel General Hospital's price sheet to obtain our actual selling prices for these and other Hammond Suzuki Proline instruments at [www.tonewheelgeneral.com/pdf/twg\\_hspl0509.pdf](http://www.tonewheelgeneral.com/pdf/twg_hspl0509.pdf).

## Postage Rates Going UP ↑



Once again USPS is raising postage costs. In January the Priority Mail rates were raised, and on May 11 First Class (which really isn't First Class any more) and Parcel Post costs will be increased.

For many of our smaller parts First Class mail is an economical shipping method when the items on the gurney weigh 13 ounces or less for domestic mail and 4 pounds or less for international mail. At checkout the web site will offer First Class service if your parts are estimated to fall in these weight categories.

You can check your order's shipping weight and cost by clicking on the gurney at the top of the screen, then clicking on "How much will shipping cost?".

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## The Guitar Leslie Is BACK↔

Taking the place of the 1970's Models 16 and 18, the G37 Leslie includes a 100 watt amplifier with clean and overdrive channels, channel select, three band equalizer, and variable rotor speeds. The overdrive channel includes a tube preamp that gives lots of crunch, and a quick press of the channel select footswitch puts you back in mellow land. The G37 is now stocked in the Tonewheel General Hospital Pharmacy. A non-powered G27 unit is also available. Here are a couple You Tube clips of Jim Peterik doing a demo of the unit:



Part 1: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6drlD4ZaHFA>

Part 2: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yq\\_Jy8jaXsl](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yq_Jy8jaXsl)

## Waka Waka!

Tonewheel General Hospital has been invited back to the Wakarusa Music Festival for the sixth year in a row. We have provided the back line organs and Leslies since the festival's inception in 2004. Galactic, Benevento & Russo, MOFRO, Leftover Salmon and numerous other artists have used our rigs. This year the show is moving to Ozark, Arkansas so it's road trip time! With more than 80 bands playing over the course of four days there's always something going on worth seeing. Headlining the show this year will be The Black Crowes, Gov't Mule and STS9.

## Featured Artist: Bigger Than a Breadbox

Winner of the Best Use of a Car Alarm in a Musical Performance, and featured on NPR's "Car Talk", "Dude in a Mercedes" takes you on a wild ride at the start of this CD titled "Is It?" Hang on while John Freund drives his Hammond across ten tracks of aggressive, lyrically interesting tunes. A bonus eleventh track features an introspective look at the "Star Spangled Banner" through a slightly out of tune piano. Guaranteed to have you not expecting to hear "Play Ball!" at the finish. The CD is available in the Hospital gift shop or through the band's web site at <http://www.biggerthanabreadbox.com>.



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## ASK DOCTOR DRAWBAR



**Q:** When I floor the volume pedal of my B-3 (much more than I ever need when playing) I get a static "hash" sound not noticeable at normal playing volume. I figure if I do nothing, it will probably get worse?

**A:** I agree. Try this... get a can of Deoxit or other contact cleaner. With the organ off, remove the tubes one at a time and spray cleaner on the tube pins. Reinsert the tube and rock it around the socket a few times. Corrosion can develop on the pins or sockets resulting in noise. If that doesn't solve it you may have failing plate or screen resistors or filter capacitors.

**Q:** My 147 amplifier has a selector knob with three settings: Open, 8 ohms and 16 ohms. My question is, what are these settings for, and when are they used. I can never get an answer for that question.

**A:** The load switch on 47/147 and 44/46W Leslies is there for the organ's benefit, not the Leslie's. In practice, when the main/ensemble/echo switch on the organ's front rail is set to echo the organ power amplifier is unterminated. This makes the output transformer unhappy. When the organ power amplifier is driving an 8 ohm load (the organ's internal speakers) the Leslie load switch would be set to 8 ohms. For a 16 ohm load the switch should be moved to the 16 ohm position. The open position is used when there is no power amplifier output transformer involved, such as with a B-3 or combo preamp.

**Q:** I have been reading about the Leslie 122 speed control. Some people think that running the speed control voltage over the balanced signal wires is an antiquated approach and should no longer be used. Is this something that I should be concerned with?

**A:** Do these same people also think generating tones via a spinning metal wheel is also an antiquated approach as well? If not, then their logic is flawed. If so, they really aren't into this instrument and should be avoided. One wonders what they think of drums.

**Q:** I got an M-3 for \$300. The bass pedals don't work and there is no bench. I'm starting to think this was a bad investment?

**A:** Buying broken, used organs is not a wise investment strategy. T-bills would be a

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better plan. Even with their (current) low rates they at least guarantee the principle, offer a (small) return, and are much easier to carry around.

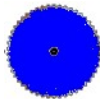
**Q: Should I expect a "break-in" time period for the Jensen speaker you reconed recently? I've been playing guitar through the P12N, and it seems to be 'warming up' a little with time. At rehearsal last night it seemed to sound better than it did last week. Just wondering if this is normal, or if I was just imagining things.**

A: Our speaker technician advises when the speaker is new (or reconed) all the parts are "tight" or stiff, and with use they relax. This should result in better bass response. The only time factor that is important is the amount spent operating, as that is when the speaker is flexing. And, while there is probably some ultimate "at rest" condition the parts eventually reach and won't deviate from, there is no way to quantify when that will happen.

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**Editor:** Rick Prevallet, B3-122/147, A-31H/31H, ATP, CFII/MEI, MA, BA, servant of SHMBO.

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