

bassplayer

Iron Maiden's Steve Harris talks British Lion, songwriting, and why his SansAmp is a carry-on essential when touring

By [Joel McIver](#) (Bass Player) a day ago

"Whether the crowd is 200 or 200,000 people, there's no difference - I still give 110 per cent wherever I'm playing"



(Image credit: Francesco Castaldo\Archivio Francesco Castaldo\Mondadori via Getty Images)

Tech 21 have just sent us the new Steve Harris SansAmp.

"Oh yeah! I can't believe how good it is. I literally couldn't believe it when I first heard it. The guy at Tech 21 sent me this unit and he'd done a couple of special mods on it for me to try and recreate my EV speaker sound.

"When we were playing in Canada with Coney Hatch, their bassist Andy Curran's a good mate of mine, and he uses an Ampeg rig, which is probably as far away from my sound as you can get. So I thought, 'Let's try it' [through the Ampeg], and I couldn't believe how close it was to the sound going through it. I thought, 'Wow, if it works through that...'

"I just couldn't believe it. It was a miracle moment, and miracle moments don't often happen. I said, 'I'm totally happy to put my name to this, because this really works and I'm really going to use it'. I've discussed similar things in the past, but if I'm not really happy with something or don't feel like I'm going to use it, there's no point in putting my name to it. But this really does what it says it's going to do."

So you know you can plug it in and get the sound you want?

"Well, that's the thing. One of the reasons why I started down that road, to a certain degree, was because with British Lion there's a certain budget - and I can't transport amps everywhere. Orange have been brilliant as well, helping me out with stuff, so I've got a couple of rigs in different parts of the world.

“ I try not to hit the strings too hard, but at some places you just end up getting excited, or the sound isn't as good and you overcompensate

"But in parts of the world where I can't take anything with me, the SansAmp is incredible because you can pack it in your carry-on bag. I'm not a salesman; it's not like that at all. It's just actually nice when something does what it's supposed to do."

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