A VULGAR DISPLAY OF POWER

THE GUITAR RIGS OF THE STARS

OLD SCHOOL MEETS NEW SCHOOL

Whitesnake's Doug Aldrich reveals the secrets of his "hybrid" rig.



>>DESIGN PHILOSOPHY "My rig is a hybrid in that it combines classic and modern setups," says Whitesnake guitarist Doug Aldrich. "A lot of players are running wireless straight into racks, and they have a MIDI controller to switch everything. But to me, nothing sounds as good as a cable, and I like to have standalone pedals onstage. So I mix those old-school elements with a custom MIDI system that allows me to switch amps, channels and effects with one tap of a preset switch."

>> CONTROL ISSUES "A lot of guys like

to have their guitar techs do all their changes for them, which is great when you're playing bigger stages. But when the tech isn't available, you're back to doing it for yourself. That's happened to me once mid tour, and it blew my whole vibe. That's why I do all of my own switching, all of the time. Plus, when I'm in control, I can change things up if I feel like it."

»FAVORITE PIECE OF GEAR "My Dunlop wah, because it can add a whole new level of expression to my playing. I love how players like Jimi Hendrix, Jeff Beck, Steve Vai and Brad Gillis use the whammy bar, but I don't get to do that



much because I mainly play Les Paulstyle guitars at the moment. To me, the wah is the same kind of thing. It's really expressive, and there's a whole technique to using one well."

>>SECRET WEAPON "My wah pedal is one. My other secret weapon is a little gimmick you can do when you've got a two-pickup/two-volume guitar like a Les Paul. You turn one volume down, and then you use the pickup toggle to switch back and forth between the pickups to get a tremolo/stuttering effect. Randy Rhoads and Ace Frehley were the first guys I heard do that, and it sounds really cool."

