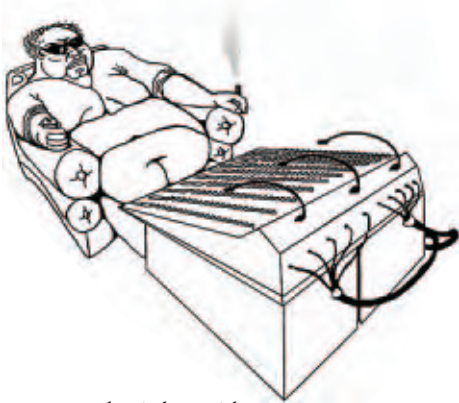


# OLDSOUNDMAN



Never let it be said that soundmen do not dwell on deep philosophical questions. Forget Sartre, Camus, and Dr. Gene Scott – check out the intriguing yet obscure quests that Matt and “JWL” are on!

## **Greetings, OSM, from the great North Woods.**

And greetings to you from my secret location! Dick Cheney’s got nothing on me.

## **I’m not all that old, only been riding the faders for a few years now.**

Ride ‘em, soundman – yee-haw! Hey, have you ever heard of the X Bar X Boys?

## **The calluses on my fingers and in my ears are just about right.**

What a bizarre viewpoint you have. I don’t really like to think about calluses. But whatever floats your boat!

## **I was one of those dumb youngsters who thought a fancy school was the way to go. Luckily, I didn’t pay my tuition right away and instead spent it on some crappy gear after dropping out. (Don’t tell the government.)**

They’ll have to torture me with old Bing Crosby records before I’ll talk, Matt!

## **My first gig was a 10-piece funk band with horns, lots of fun. I made it and they kept hiring me.**

You probably worked cheap.

## Deep Questions

Quests pursued by young and old

**Anyway, after a few years of fumbling through gigs and paying the first of my dues, I have two questions that haven’t been answered.**

### **First: what’s the best mic to use on a sewing machine?**

You’ve stepped across the line, Matt, I’ve told you people countless times. Funny stuff: me. Audio and philosophical questions: you.

Use a condenser microphone and crouch there all night, holding it up to the sewing machine. Don’t use a mic stand like the cheaters.

### **Second: when will I see the worst band ever?**

Tomorrow night. If you survive that, you’ve only got 20-some years to go to catch up with my main man “JWL” here...

### **Hello OSM:**

### **Like you, I’ve been at this for a long time, over 30 years.**

Believe it or not, you’ve got me beat, brother!

### **Remember when bands didn’t use monitors?**

I’ve heard tell of those days.

### **I appreciate and respect your words of wisdom, biting wit and especially your ability to keep doing show after show.**

But you have that same ability, just like Willie Nelson and Blue Oyster Cult!

### **I’ve toured the world with large**

**and small acts and even became a dreaded FOH/tour manager to get out of banging gear.**

Isn’t that the worst? Every whining musician on your case all the time. Forgetful bandleaders. Insane agents. Demented wives and girlfriends. Checking everybody out of the hotels. Waiting at the airports. Settling merchandise.

Ah, the devil was working overtime when he came up with the position of tour manager!

### **After 20 years on the road, I went back to school to get a degree in order to land a suit-n-tie gig that paid off with stock options; got the degree, but never the gig.**

How come? Didn’t you ever apply at a Fortune 500 company? How about National Public Radio? Wal-Mart? Toys-R-Us? Chili’s?

### **Is it just possible that I’ve done rock ‘n’ roll too long, and there’s no hope of my ever becoming a member of the establishment?**

Thanks,  
JWL

Sounds like it to me. But the good news is: you’ve got plenty of company! When you come to my club, the drinks are on me, pal of mine. We’ll solve all the world’s problems. And watch the sun come up!

Luv,  
The Old Soundman

*There’s simply no denying the love. The Old Soundman (OSM for short) continues to hang out at ProSoundWeb, dispensing his wisdom to anyone with the nerve to ask. Check out more OSM files at [www.prosoundweb.com/sr/osm](http://www.prosoundweb.com/sr/osm).*