

# ROAD CASES

## SMOKE... FLAMES... ZAP!

We thought it had gone the way of the multi-cell horn... but it's baaa-aaack!

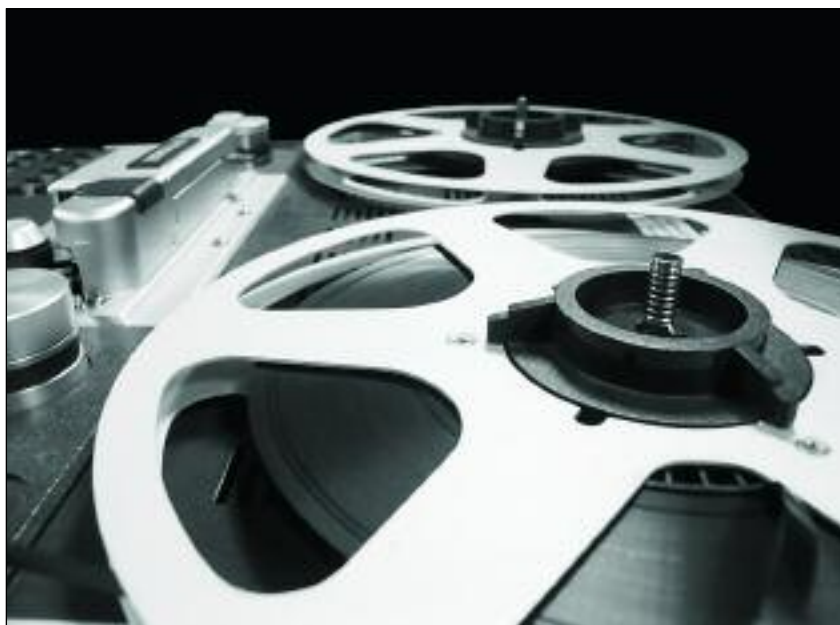
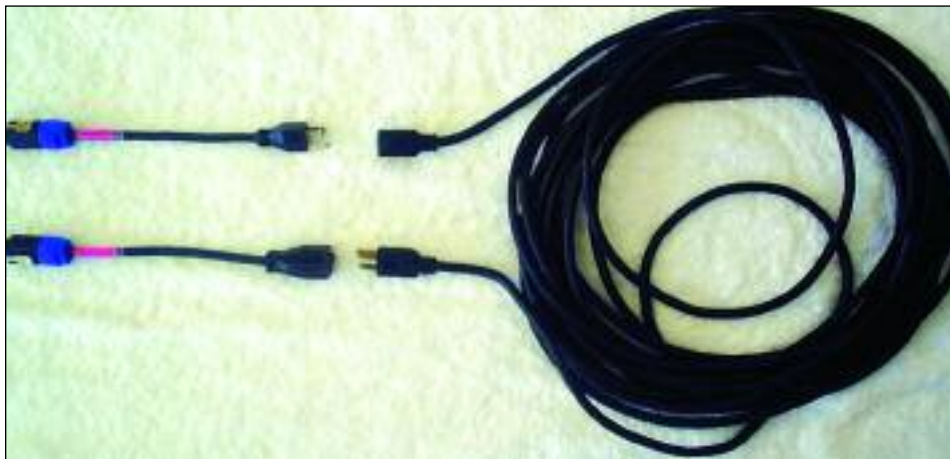
The humble J-Con connector, that is, sighted at the recent Winter NAMM show, where it was proudly displayed by a cable supplier not to be named here.

Even at a glance, this just doesn't seem like the sharpest idea in sound reinforcement. At least to those who prefer their loudspeakers survive a show intact. We

asked *Live Sound* Technical Editor John Murray for his take on the J-Con:

"Well, the obvious problem is mixing up connectors and plugging a loudspeaker into an AC outlet, thus letting out all of the smoke, necessitating having to send the loudspeaker back to the factory to have the smoke reinstalled.

"The not-so-obvious problem is that non-twisted conductors for distances of 50 feet or more create a great AM antenna if not installed in metal conduit. And some power amplifiers, particularly higher-end ones with fast slew rates, will happily demodulate the AM signal in its feedback loop circuits, providing background music at no additional charge."



## END OF AN ERA

Quantegy, the last remaining manufacturer of professional analog recording tape and the only U.S. recording tape manufacturer, halted operation on the last day of 2004. The company supplied a variety of audio tape products under the "Ampex By Quantegy" brand name. (Ampex is another glorious name of audio days gone by, but that's another story.)

According to a company statement: "Quantegy, Inc. has ceased operations pending restructuring. This is due to financial issues that have plagued the industry and Quantegy for some time. All employees are on lay off pending further notice."

A quick "Google" search at press time showed several on-line sources still offering Ampex By Quantegy products.