

FLOYD ROSE

The Guru of Tremolo Systems Talks about New Technology

Floyd Rose was quoted in *ROCK IT* Magazine in February of 1988 as saying, "Whoever said inventing is 1 percent inspiration and 99 percent perspiration hit it right on the nose." As evidenced by our interview with him in *Daddy's Junky Mail* after a store appearance in Boston, he still feels the same way and is more involved with Kramer than ever. Even though Rose has become more well known stateside as the tremolo guru, he also plays with a Seattle-based band called Q5 that has released two albums in Japan and Europe and has released the second album, *When The Mirror Cracks*, on Polygram Records in the US. What follows are two of the more pertinent queries from his appearance, as well as his interview with *DJM* at a nearby Boston restaurant after the clinic.

THE CLINIC

Question: How can I keep string breaking to a minimum on my tremolo system?

Rose: Contrary to what some people think, the lighter the gauge string you have, the less your string is likely to break. When you use your bar a lot or very aggressively, that weakens the string. The more you do it (use your bar) the more it happens. You'll always break strings right on top of the saddle. If you break it down where its planted, there's a problem. There's really nothing you can do on this bridge, as long as it's all set up right, to make it break. It's all relative to how much you use the bar or bend.

I like to play with the heel of my hand up behind the bridge. Are you ever going to make it so I can reach up and not hit my hand on the bridge?

Yes. There's a new model coming out where the fine tuners are down level with the saddle and angled back. It should make it much easier for players such as yourself.

THE INTERVIEW

Daddy's: You've earned your reputation as an inventor yet I heard you say back at the store that you're not an engineer - that you're just a rock 'n' roller. Is that true?

Floyd Rose: I actually had only had a half a credit to go (to graduation) and it was in PE (laughs). You could say I almost made it. I wasn't a good student. You know, when you get into rock 'n' roll in high school you're trying to get girls and it's hard to concentrate on school.

I went to night school to

finish up - it's kind of a dumb, long story - but I went back in and I'd taken my last half credit, right, and I was going to get out of high school and say, "OK, I'm done." And they said, "Well no, this year we upped it a credit and you have

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