

# John Klett

Technical Audio Consultant and owner of Tech Mecca, Inc.

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## Summary

Top ten keywords and phrases describing my work... Technical, Audio, Studio, Engineering, Recording, Mixing, Mastering, Product Development, Design, and Custom Work.

Most work is project-based. I live and have office and shop spaces in the lower Hudson Valley, NY north of NYC. Travel is generally no problem.

Some ongoing projects (Jun/jul 2017)

Several music performing/recording studio design/build/fix/upgrade projects are ongoing that I consult/design/contribute to. One involves removing technical systems and equipment from a facility I put together 20 years ago, updating, and moving that into a new private music production/recording/mixing space. There are some related projects that have been slow-cooking around this move for some years that will be delivered in to that new room. Another project I am contributing to revolves around reconfiguring, renovating and adding some additional production space to an existing studio in LA. There will be some interesting "retro"-fitting going on to revert this facility back in time a bit - makes things simpler.

The Despacio Soundsystem seems to be asleep while LCD Soundsystem and Soulwax have new releases just out and moving in to touring mode so 2017 is TBD.

NonLinearAudio™ products and projects. We took a break to move NLA to a new shop/production space and will be doing short runs of Flexiguy preamp, CurvOmatic filter/tone, and BLEND A parallel loop processor modules. A new NonLinearAudio™ product is out getting field tested - more on that as it develops. We are doing individual projects as well as collaborating on some fun custom builds and art projects this year.

Engineering/Production: Blue Jazz TV is pressing up 12" singles of four sides that John Terelle and I engineered and produced for them last year. We are lining up to do some more of that.

2017 has shaped up to be a full year - I am looking for interesting projects to fit in to 2018

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## Experience

**owner / audio tech and recording engineer**

1997 - Present

technical consulting for recording and sound studios - audio engineering mixing mastering - analog circuit design and product development - custom projects

### **sound system designer and "F.O.H." engineer**

June 2013 - Present

Despacio Soundsystem is a large vinyl-only high fidelity discotheque system that was custom designed for the 2013 Manchester International Festival in Manchester, UK. The system has since appeared at various venues and festivals in Europe and America... last year (2016) Despacio appeared at the Coachella and Panorama festivals in Indio, CA and NYC, NY respectively. The DJ's who pilot this system, the Dewaele brothers (2manyDJ's, DeeWee, SoulWax) and James Murphy (LCD Soundsystem) are launching new releases and touring this year (2017) so scheduling is tough but I am ever hopeful for another Despacio.

### **owner / audio tech and recording engineer**

1987 - 2002 (16 years)

technical consulting for recording and sound studios - audio engineering mixing mastering - subcontracted technical and manufacturer support services

### **contract service tech at AMS Neve Ltd**

1988 - 1998 (11 years)

on call contract tech support - analog console restoration, repair, modification, refurbishing, commissioning, decommissioning, documentation, engineering, troubleshooting and custom projects - covered the full range Neve analog music consoles

### **technical director**

1991 - 1995 (5 years)

technical director at multi-room audio-for-video post-production facility serving cable, network and agency clientele... renovated three studios and added two new studios and central machine room as Clack expanded and moved from analog islands to a fully integrated digital facility

### **technical services manager - north america**

1987 - 1990 (4 years)

technical support in N.A. for UK based manufacturer of recording studio and film synchronizers, SMPTE based auto-locators and console fader automation systems

### **technical services manager**

1985 - 1987 (3 years)

directed and managed technical services shop for large pro audio dealer - provided technical support to sales, product QA and on-site commissioning, after sales and warranty support for well over 100 major product lines

### **recording engineer mixer and tech**

1977 - 1985 (9 years)

recording engineering and mixing, technical repair and facility maintenance, studio wireups, not sleeping very much, some music production, jingle writing, playing drums in studio and live

### **technical director**

1979 - 1983 (5 years)

technical director at audio post facility for radio and TV - MCI, Otari, Trident, Auditronics - wired and installed the original two room facility in 1979, expanded to three rooms in 1981. In 1982 planned and designed a new five room facility with central machine room, tape duplication and other support service spaces in conjunction with an architectural firm and various subcontractors, provided specifications for and coordinated architectural, acoustical, electrical and mechanical elements

### **field service and shop tech**

1979 - 1981 (3 years)

installation and service tech for North East Sales Office for Trident Audio Developments, Quintek, Audio Kinetics, Melkuist, Court Acoustics, Audio and Design, Valley Audio and others... Trident TSM, Series 80, Fleximix and others (maintained a continuing relationship with Trident consoles well past Empirical), Audio Kinetics InteLocator, Q-Lock 210 and 310 Synchronizers, and Valley VCA fader automation systems

### **staff**

1977 - 1978 (2 years)

staff, started in shipping, moved to duplication, then to Film Center as a dub room operator and projectionist, but I managed to escape before becoming a sprocket head

### **assistant engineer and tech**

1977 - 1977 (1 year)

"old school" ... typical day started with cleaning and aligning tape machines, trouble shooting and repair of equipment faults, set up sessions, mic placements, track and take sheets, engineering overdubs, tape op during mix, and at the end of the day cutting multiple test lacquers and tape dubs - Quad Eight (custom discrete transistor) console, MCI JH-16, Scully 280, Ampex 440, Scully disc mastering lathe etc.

### **assistant assistant engineer / assistant tech**

1976 - 1977 (2 years)

first studio gig in NYC ... typical day started with vacuuming and cleaning the entire studio, taking out the trash, cleaning and aligning tape machines, trouble shooting and repair of equipment faults, occasional wiring, session setups, assisting, running errands and getting food for the sessions, keeping track and take sheets, overdubs, tape op, anything else Jack and Gene could think of - all for less than \$50 per week and lots of burgers and fries.... MCI JH-428 (later JH-632) MCI JH-16 2" machine (later Studer A-80), ATR-102 etc....

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## Education

### **Institute of Audio Research**

Audio Technology - Recording Engineering, 1976 - 1977

**Activities and Societies:** joined AES

**Point Park College**

Journalism and Communication, 1975 - 1976

**Activities and Societies:** Radio Station DJ

**Catholic University**

Physics and Math (double mjr), 1974 - 1975

**Activities and Societies:** Radio Station DJ

**John Carroll High School**

Bel Air, MD, 1970 - 1974

**Activities and Societies:** Light Crew, A/V Squad, Band

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[Contact John on LinkedIn](#)