

Galaxy Hot Spots are Versatile Performers for FOH Engineer Robert Scovill



Robert Scovill at FOH in Boston with Galaxy PA6BT Hot Spots



Scovill's Drum Mic Alignment Setup with Galaxy PA6S Hot Spot

40 years ago Galaxy Audio pioneered the small PA/personal monitor category with an innovative product called the “Hot Spot”. In 2017, FOH engineer Robert Scovill made good use of these versatile performers on Tom Petty’s 40th Anniversary Tour.

Early in the tour Scovill decided to try a pair of PA6BT Hot Spots at FOH and another at monitor world. “They were absolutely the perfect choice for our shout system,” he said. “I had our stage technician Fumi Okazaki on a wireless headset coming out of one speaker and monitor engineer Greg Looper coming from the other. The second set of inputs on the Hot Spots allowed me to route one of my stereo solo buses to them as well.”

Scovill also took advantage of the Bluetooth capabilities of the PA6BT and connected his iPad to one of the FOH Hot Spots to create his own “media center” in order to browse the internet or watch Sling TV during down times of the day. He also keeps a third Hot Spot on hand for interface to a video production truck. “We could give the video people that third Hot Spot,” he said. “That solved what always seems to be a big challenge with a production truck – how do we all talk and hear each other?”

In smaller rehearsal spaces, Scovill offered Benmont Tench, Petty’s pianist and keyboard player, a pair of PA6S Hot Spots as an alternative to his large format monitors. “This gave him a way to play quietly when needed in the rehearsals,” Scovill said. “It was kind funny in that, Benmont remembered using Hot Spots on a 1970’s Saturday Night Live performance. It was a fantastic solution!”

A well seasoned audio engineer, Scovill pays attention to small details that can greatly affect the sound quality of a voice or instrument. For drummer Steve Ferrone he uses a compliment of four microphones overhead on the drum kit and pays very close attention to the arrival time of the snare drum to these positions. To check and achieve the desired alignment of these channels, Scovill built a PA6S Hot Spot into the shell of a snare drum. He temporarily replaces the actual drum with this “speaker drum” and physically adjusts the microphone positions while viewing the phase trace in an FFT analyzer with the Hot Spot delivering pink noise as the source.



Scovill commented, “It’s refreshing to see a product like the Hot Spot that has evolved over 40 years and hasn’t lost its soul! It’s an absolute proof of concept that the idea was right the very first day and it’s still right 40 years later. So it’s the oldest adage in the world, ‘if it ain’t broke, don’t fix it!’”

[High-Resolution Version of Photo 1](#)

[High-Resolution Version of Photo 2](#)

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Galaxy Audio, a family-owned company based out of Wichita, Kansas, has been providing high-quality audio gear since 1977. Our signature product, The Hot Spot, launched the company, and has since expanded into a full line of audio products for live production, portable sound, and more. Galaxy Audio promises clear sound and expert support with every product we sell. For more information or to learn about all of the products we have to offer, visit GalaxyAudio.com or come to **Booth 11326 at the 2018 NAMM Show**.