

STINGRAY



PATIENCE IS A NECESSITY in the Soviet Union. Consumers know that to get what they want, they usually have to stand in line and wait for hours and even days. And for the Soviet musician who is interested in getting a taste of Western music technology, he's got even more waiting than in the average grocery line. According to American-born Johanna Stingray, who's married to a Soviet citizen, many Soviet musos wait for years to get the equipment they want, which includes a heavy demand for Roland keyboards and BOSS guitar effects. Although they lack the availability of going down to the local music store and eyeing their next purchase, Soviet musicians are able to obtain promotional catalogs showing current equipment. And from them they figure out exactly what they're interested in purchasing. Doobie Brother Jeff (Skunk) Baxter lent a helping hand while the Doobie's were in Moscow by donating his array of BOSS pedals to local musicians, hungry for a blast of the newest sound. Usually in order to get the goods, it takes someone like Stingray who can commute to the United States or Europe, and bring them back. "They would rather wait another year to get a BOSS pedal than buy another brand," said Stingray. So for those that got the pedals it was quite a godsend, and for those that still want them, who knows what might be included in the next cultural exchange.

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