



## Artist Q&A

# Jason Schweitzer

MTM digs out the latest news from the Grammy-winner who's recorded the Deftones, Snoop Dogg and more.



Photo © Universal Audio/David Goggin

**1 What projects have you been working on recently?**

I've been working on a number of independent projects lately. Currently, I'm in the process of mixing a smooth jazz album with a guy named Meikel, who plays saxophone, a rap album with Talib Kweli, as well as an alt-rock album that I can't say more about at the moment. But these are all happening at the same time.

**2 What has this work involved from your point of view?**

It's always a challenge to mix very different genres of music at the same time. You have to keep the style of music in mind to avoid mixing something to sound like rap when it's smooth jazz, etc. Also, most of these projects have been recorded on a low budget or by the artist themselves, so that uncovers a whole laundry list of issues to deal with.

**3 How do you find mixing different genres – your discography reads like a *Who's Who* of hip hop?**

To be honest, it's really not a big deal. I actually went to school for recording arts and music performance, so I have a wide range of styles that I am comfortable with. My strength in hip hop was just the way it played out at the time I started in the music business. In the late 90s, when hip hop was on the rise, I happened to be good at making things bass- and kick-heavy. But I love all types of music and have always wanted to branch out. My new manager helped me with that.

**4 From the press shots of you it looks like you're possibly working fully in-the-box. Is this right?**

Right now, yes, I'm working strictly in-the-box. However, when I finally get my UA Apollo then I will work on adding some analogue summing into my mixes.

**5 On that note, we notice you have UAD plug-ins on the press shot above. What are you loving about them and which plug-ins do you go for in particular?**

UA, in my opinion, has the best plug-ins around. I really think they are putting in the extra work to make plug-ins that give us the vibe and feel of the pieces of gear they are emulating. When I use a Neve or SSL plug-in, I get the feeling and the sound of those specific pieces. It's really nice to have some tools at my disposal that allow me to

add some vibe and texture to my mixes. As far as favourites go, I really like all of their plug-ins, but the ATR-102 truly is amazing. I don't know how they did it, but they made something really exceptional with that plug-in, it sounds amazing. I'll usually place it right at the end of the chain. Although you can use it on individual tracks, I usually treat it as a 1/2-inch tape machine, meaning I print through the plug-in in real time just like I would if I was in the studio mixing on an SSL desk.

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**6 We're intrigued to find out who your production partner is in the photo! Have you worked together for long and what roles do you typically take?**

His name is Buckley, and yes, it's after the late, great singer-songwriter Jeff Buckley. So it's kinda appropriate that he decided to be in the picture and he's usually a part of all the mixes I do in my home studio.

**7 Where should we go to find out more about you and your work?**

There's plenty more on how I use my plug-ins on the UAD website. I also recently appeared on Pensado's Place. It's a web show talking about engineering. Dave Pensado is an old-school engineer who has been around for a long time. He does this show where he has an engineer on and they talk about audio.

Jason's interview with Universal Audio can be found at: [www.uaudio.com/blog/artist-interview-jason-schweitzer](http://www.uaudio.com/blog/artist-interview-jason-schweitzer)

To hear his chat on Dave Pensado's show, go to: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=RE73Vg03jOA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RE73Vg03jOA)

You can also follow him on Twitter: @mixingismybag

Jason uses the UAD ATR-102 plug-in like a two-track machine at the end of his mixes.

