

NEW GEAR 2002

THE TOP 40 HITS FROM WINTER NAMM

Music and partying go hand in hand, and one of the biggest bashes of the year is Winter NAMM—a four-day event in Southern California where the musical-instrument industry shows off its latest creations to crowds of music dealers and distributors from all over the world. NAMM is always a great hang for gear freaks of every stripe, and despite the scary business forecasts that proliferated in the wake of September 11, this year's show exceeded all expectations. The vibe on the floor was incredibly upbeat and the array of new products unveiled this year—everything from the

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about the size of a grain of rice—can be installed in your instrument for about \$30, plus a \$20 registration fee. Then music stores and pawnshops can scan the instrument and, if your unique code comes up, you get your guitar back, and the bad guy goes to the pokie. SNAGG. (818) 508-6842; snagg.com.



A SNAGG MICROCHIP IMPLANT

In an effort to keep bad people from stealing good guitars, the folks at SNAGG (Serial Number Authority for Global Goods) have designed a groovy little microchip ID that can be implanted in guitars, amps, or just about anything else you want to keep track of. This isn't like the car systems that can be tracked with a global positioning satellite, but rather it's like the pet IDs that have successfully returned thousands of critters to their worried owners. The SNAGG chip—which is



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