

1. My first Zeta product – the Little FEANC. Took 5 guitar effects off the floor (Fuzz, EQ, Amp, NoiseGate, Compressor) and put them in the guitar. Product tagline: "We don't make you bend over to get the sounds you like." Sold about 1000.
2. My beautiful wife Suzanne and I at our first trade show selling Little FEANCs and PolyFuzzes. Check out the hair. And the suit.
3. The worlds' first programmable MIDI mixer. Original on the left. I licensed this to Akai and they built 3000 of them. Beautiful sounding (down just 6dB at 200KHz) and easy to use. Zeta also designed shipped 300,000 custom C4 VCA chips to Japan for use in this mixer.
4. Working on the first Zeta violin. I would spend months just playing on the E string until it behaved, and would then spend months on the A string. Did wonders for my bow technique.
5. The PolyFuzz and programmer. Provided fuzz, distortion and sub octave voices for each of the 6 strings of the guitar. Came with a Hex piezo pickup. John Abercrombie played the hell out of this thing.
6. The Stradicaster violin. Built this model for country violinists (like Jeff Cook/Alabama) until the nice lawyers at Fender asked me to stop.
7. Jean-Luc Ponty and his first violin. I delayed returning calls from "his people" because the prototype wasn't finished. Thinking I didn't want to work with JLP, his manager finally called, pleading "He's not the drug crazed maniac he used to be, please get us a violin." How could I argue?

17. Laurie Anderson. Met her during the "Oh Superman" phase. She had moussed hair, a black linen sport coat and pink Adida aerobic shoes. We sat down on the floor of the Lab and drew outlines of what she wanted (a cross between a walking stick and a violin). We made several violins for her. They hooked into her Synclavier and were used extensively on tour and in the movie "Home of the Brave."
18. Athena Tergis - alien violinist with Riverdance. In space no one can hear you col legno battuto.
19. Roscoe Beck plays a Zeta Bass with Robin Ford.
20. David Laflamme "It's a Beautiful Day" (you know: White Bird in a gilded cage...) He is the antithesis of JLP. Laid back, tan, very un-anal and he's still French. Go figure. Great guy - always a party when he came over.
21. "Evolve or Die" Ever try selling electric violins? After explaining how I am not a blasphemer and this is not the work of the devil, the hard part begins. The best thing that ever happened to these people occurred 300 years ago. This ad (below) appeared on the back cover of "Strad" magazine. I contracted the space for 6 months before they saw the copy. They offered to pay me to drop the ad.
22. Karen Briggs is the violinist with Yanni and Stanley Clarke.
23. Fred Marshall. I have had the great pleasure of knowing and working with Fred. He is one the finest composers, bass players, and creative thinkers I ever met. Famous for playing bass on Vince Giraldi's Charlie Brown Christmas, Fred was one of a kind. We designed the Zeta Uprite bass along with Dan Maloney, Zeta's master luthier.
24. First Cello and Viola. The Kronos Quartet commissioned 4 instruments in 1992. Joan Jeanrenaud says "My Zeta cello has opened up all kinds of possibilities for me musically, from being able to play with electric guitar and drums to experimenting with improvisation in different contexts and exploring multi-media avenues. I am the proud owner of the first Zeta cello ever made."

33. Fleetwood Mac's John McVie and his Zeta "Cross-Over" bass. No not for the dying, the Cross-Over is for bass guitarists who want to play a double bass, but not take lessons. Like a strap-on for musicians...
34. That's me with one of our marble finish violins. Some people complained the Jazz series was a little heavy so I started making them with a faux marble finish. Complaints ceased.
35. Tyrone Brown has recorded 80 CD's to date including 6 with Max Roach, 4 with Pat Martino, 5 with Odean Pope, and 5 with Grover Washington Jr. Seen here playing one of our Zeta Fusion Basses. These generate their own power at room temperature.
36. Playboy Magazine. I finally knew I had made it. You can see the name Zeta on the violin on the cover of Playboy's "Sex and Music" issue. I believe most people bought the magazine for the violin article.
37. Educator Series. Zeta started selling full quartets to schools and universities. Kids can play in the orchestra and yet be cool. You still get beat up, but the instruments can be used for defense.
38. Karl Sevareid is the bass player with Robert Cray Band.
39. Charlie Daniels. Yes we made him a gold fiddle.
40. Scott Joss plays with Dwight Yoakam and Merle Haggard. He helped create the "Workingman's Fiddle" which sells well to out of work country musicians.
41. Eileen Ivers plays with Riverdance, Hall and Oates and the Chieftans. She has been called "the Jimi Hendrix of the violin" by the New York Times. Must be the wah-wah pedal we lent her.

53. The soulful and sassy Nicole Yarling.
54. Octiv's Volume Logic. That little red VL will soon be as common as the Dolby logo. It is used already in iTunes plugin (66) and the Terk VR1 (71).
55. Me in the studio. Featured in a Silicon Valley Business article about how not all CEO's are rapacious whoremongers.
56. The OctiVox Clear Call fixes audio problems in conference phones.
57. Lisa Haley tuning the violin with her teeth. She plays with John Hiatt, Toad the Wet Sprocket and the ZydeKats.
58. The lovely and talented Ashley Adams, founding member of TrioMetrik. An accomplished and insightful bass player. She and I have been working together for 6 years.
59. Will Lee plays bass for David Letterman and he still can't get me tickets when I'm in NYC.
60. Famous German musician, Wolfram Huschke, planned and executed a brilliant escape from East Berlin in order to buy a Zeta Cello. The year was 1999 and no one had the heart to tell him.
61. John Chiasson of the Rankin Family Band. Excellent posture and a Canadian.
62. Question Mark Violins & Cello. Ron Fair, president of A&M records wanted some distinctive violins for the 2004 Grammy's. After the show, American Express auctioned them off and donated the money to music education. A&M ordered another 20.



8. My first guitar for controlling computers and synthesizers. This took me 8 months to build and had dual hex pickups, triple axis joystick, an accelerometer, and LEDs as position markers. Sounded great. Weighed a ton.
9. Zeta violin logo. This appeared on all the early Zeta rack gear. Fender made a guitar like this and I had MY lawyers talk to them.
10. A COLOR! brochure for the VSC-1 (Violin Synthesizer Controller). Although I am now resigned to the high costs of marketing, this was not always the case. Also acronyms were very big in the early 80's so don't blame me.
11. Mickey Hart's balifone. I remember pulling into the Grateful Dead's parking lot in Marin. Not sure if I was in the right spot I knocked on the window of a black BMW. A cloud of smoke and Jerry emerged. Must be the place. I got to be known as the pickup artist of the bay area and could make anything sound good. This was a MIDI balifone as well.
12. The first complete violin synthesizer. What a beast. The violin had laser trimmed resistor elements under each string and a rack of analog computers that interfaced with 4 digitally controlled VCO/VCF style synths. Stayed in tune for minutes at a time.
13. Renowned Indian violinist L. Subramaniam. First person to record with a Zeta violin on his album Indian Express. We went into Fantasy Records with Stanley Clarke and wrestled the prototype into shape long enough to complete the album. Later, Mani saved my life and I his during the Loma Prieta earthquake in 1989.
14. The UMM. The first attempt at what has turned into my personal space program. This was a big analog monster with digital control. Worked with guitar (8) above. Had a Z-80 sequencer running the first version of MACIAS and a cool footswitch called SoftStep that used big displays above each switch so it could be programmed for different purposes during a performance. Many of the concepts employed here are still in use 25 years later.
15. The Cyber System. One more piece of gear I needed – a programmable guitar effects system – and since there weren't any, I invented it. Licensed to Peavey in 1983 it morphed into a rack mount box (16). Driving around Meridian Mississippi with Hartley Peavey in his Cadillac will always remain a favored memory. People would stop at the one traffic light and wave him through even though they had the green. He was sheriff of the town as well.

25. The Zeta family circa 1987.
26. Mirror 6. The holy grail for guitarists was a synth controller that was fast and accurate. The Mirror guitar had both pitch extraction and fret scanning and was very cool looking as well.
27. Drew Trelick was the first Julliard graduate to play his thesis concert on an electric violin.
28. Zeta R&D team circa 1989. What a bunch of eccentrics, but that is what it takes.
29. Jean-Luc Ponty and his Signature Series violin – "A dream come true."
30. Daniel Kobialka and me. Dan was one of the first people to approach me to make him a violin synthesizer. Always a great supporter and inspiration we appeared together with the SF Symphony at Davies Hall to perform his "Antiphony Across" using a Zeta Violin. I need my own tuxedo.
31. Our "3-D" bass pickup was very accurate and clean sounding. First Zeta product to be OEMed to other instrument makers.
32. Michael Urbaniak – crazy gypsy violinist. Never paid me for his instrument.

42. Grammy award winner Mark O'Connor is an amazing fiddler turned composer. He wrote his "Fiddle Concerto No. 1" using a Zeta plugged into a computer to create the notation and hear all the parts. With more than 150 performances, this piece has become the most-performed modern violin concerto. He also skateboards with a special wireless Zeta violin equipped with safety restraints and a roll bar.
43. More color brochures. When we could be spending this money on R&D? At least all the instruments are on the cover this time.
44. Roger and Me. Roger Powell (representing SGI) and me (wearing my Oberheim/Gibson hat) shake on the joint venture to use SGI hardware to implement the FAR (Fourier Analysis Synthesis) music system. Collaborators include UC Berkeley, Stanford, MIT and IRCAM.
45. Rob Wasserman is bass player for Rat Dog and Lou Reed.
46. The Forte violin amp. After 20 years of getting asked what amp to use I designed the Forte. Made to mimic the acoustic chambers of a traditional violin the Forte uses 2 x 100 watt amps driving an 8" and 5" speakers. These simulate the top plates of a violin. Resonant peaks are copied from fine Italian instruments. Puts the "wood" back into the sound.
47. Still more color brochures – this was our blue-sky look after failing to take the company public during a market crash. Probably for the best.
48. Synhthony - One of 5 generations of violin controllers. This one had a built in synthesizer. Compare size to (12).
49. The sultry Vanessa Mae. We have told her not to stand in water while playing electric violin.
50. ZIPI. While MIDI works great for keyboards it is a real stretch for Violin. Working with CNMAT at UCB under a research grant from the state of California, we created ZIPI (Zeta Instrumental Processor Interface).
51. Clinton Gregory is a huge Country music star.
52. The Echoplex Digital Pro has been the favored on stage looping device for the last 10 years.

63. Lorenza Ponce plays with Kitaro and Sheryl Crow. She has a good sense of balance.
64. Harman Kardon's Orban division where I made these broadcast products. I realized what was missing in MACIAS and started Octiv to make sophisticated multiband dynamics processing a household word.
65. Fiddlechicks.com – smallest violin ever made.
66. Award winning Volume Logic plugin for Apple iTunes. Another world's first.
67. Real men ride horses and wear frilly jackets. Zach Runquist of the Sons of Tennessee.
68. Boyd Tinsley of the Dave Mathew's band and his signature series violin on the right.
69. Duran Duran cellist Martin Tillman.
70. Me in performance reading selections from "Crash Cart", an Opera in progress.
71. Terk VR-1 fixes audio for TV (like no more loud commercials).
72. Linear Acoustic OctiMax 5.1 processor. This surround processor is used to fix all the audio problems for HDTV. Ted Turner just bought twenty.