

He's set in the suburbs

Engineer/composer Tom Krol finds his niche

by Marshall Layne

Engineer Tom Krol calls the suburbs (he's in Skokie) and scoring for low-budget commercials his special niche. "I pride myself on being able to offer downtown engineering quality in the suburbs," he says.

Neither his TK Audio or year-old New Moon Music lack for business. The Ad People in Skokie have provided him ample opportunity to score spots as well as play guitar on them. On recent spots for Faul Chevrolet and Nigri/McCue Mercury, he even sings.

His attractive rates range from \$800 to \$8,000—completing 12 jobs last year—in addition to his \$100,000 mixing and sweetening business.

Engineer Michael Tutaj, a recent DePaul graduate, has been on board for eight months to help with TK's workload, freeing Krol to compose admusic, an inter-

est he's had since starting his first band in high school.

"Composition is something I've always wanted to get into," Krol says. "I just didn't have the equipment."

One of New Moon's scores was on a pilot for a proposed ESPN series about kickboxing. TK sweetened the audio track, and Krol wrote a rock/hip-hop score to accompany footage of students training and competing.

"The footage was really dynamic," says Krol, a 1990 DePaul graduate with a sound recording technology degree.

Working in a 600 sq. ft. studio, encompassing a recording room with 12-ft. and control room, Krol bought a 24-bit Pro Tools mix system and expanding his sampling library. He has a Kurzweil 88 weighted keyboard controller and various Roland sound modules.

After graduating DPU, Krol worked for now-defunct Universal Recording, where

he interned while at DePaul, leaving it in 1991 after its purchase by Zenith D/B recording.

He spent a year in Los Angeles at Devonshire Recording. While there, he played guitar at evening social events and thought for a while he would pursue a career in guitar and vocal performance. But finding no further opportunities there "and more work for me in Chicago," he returned in 1993 to work for Ken Hale at What the Hale Music. "That was really where I learned the business," he states.

A little over a year later, he left Hale and went into business for himself. "I'm finally getting to where I want to be," he says. "It's really a great feeling."

TK Audio and New Moon Music are located at 7620 Gross Point Road, Skokie, 60077; phone: 847/663-0970. ★



It's now Tom Krol, composer.