

As Seen in Guitar World Acoustic, July 2007

Wet and Wild

PLANET WAVES HUMIDIPAK AUTOMATIC HUMIDITY CONTROL SYSTEM BY EMILE MENASCHÉ

WHO HATES the winter? The aged, the infirm, the homeless and ... acoustic guitar owners. All that dry air, made even drier by malevolent, moisture-sucking heating systems, cause tonewoods—rosewood, mahogany, you name it, to shrink. And shrinkage leads to cracks, which are to an acoustic guitar what kryptonite is to Superman: lethal. I know a well-heeled guy so protective of his valuable archtop that he purchased an extremely expensive room humidifier to regulate his music studio at all times. The rest of us, if we do anything at all, usually rely on a wet sponge, a sliced potato or, at best, a manual-fill tube placed in a guitar case.

Now, for acoustic guitarists in search of a little moisture and peace

of mind there is the Planet Waves Humidipak Automatic Humidity Control System. So easy to use that even the laziest and most inept among us will love it,

the Humidipak eliminates the guesswork and diligence usually involved when using other control

devices. Special leak-proof—but vapor permeable—packets filled with a solution con-

sisting of water, salt and a special gel are designed to maintain the

level of relative humidity in your case at 45 percent. (Formulas for extra humid environments are also available.) Each packet is about the size of an iPod, and is actually a two-way system that adds or reduces moisture to maintain that 45 percent comfort zone.

Here's how the system works: Simply insert the two packs in the pouches,

then hang one in the soundhole, straddling the G and D strings, and the other up by the headstock. According to Planet Waves, the packets have a life of two to four months, after which they need to be replaced.

While I was, obviously, not able to put the Humidipak to the long-term test, it had an immediate positive impact on my dried-out flattop. And that should be good news for anyone who's ever experienced the heartbreak of a cracked guitar. ■

LIST PRICE \$39.99; \$9.99 (Standard Refill Packette)
MANUFACTURER Planet Waves, planetwaves.com

