

Pit electronics set-up tips:

Ever wondered why you keep tripping power circuits when you plug in your pit sound system? Actually there's a pretty easy explanation. The on-off switch on almost every electronic audio component powers the unit up gradually, over a time span of between 1.5 and 3 seconds. This spreads the demand for the electrical power out a bit and, most importantly, allows the individual electrical components (resistors, transistors ..etc) in the component (usually an amplifier) to power up in their appropriate sequence. Want to see it in practice? Take one of your amplifiers (or powered speakers), make sure it's NOT turned on; plug it in and THEN flip on the power switch, watch all the little lights and see how long it takes before it becomes usable.

By having all your amplifiers turned on before you plug them in, you've multiplied the power up sequence, creating "inrush" currents that cause circuit breakers to trip even though the steady (or operating) current demands are not excessive. Utilizing a standard power processor (ex..a std. Furman or power strip) won't make any difference because turning that switch on isn't all that less "immediate" than putting in a plug

If you still feel the need to make sure your amplifier components are turned on before they actually get to see electricity, there are power processors that will sequence the powering up of each component so they're not all screaming for juice at the same time (**The Furman model M-8S is the least expensive I've found...\$199.99 available right here at DrumsWest**), but you **STILL** need to make sure this unit is NOT switched on until AFTER you've plugged it in.. Now..if your power cords are older and potentially creating a "short" somewhere, well then.....

Tripping electrical circuits when all 10 of your mallet keyboard players do a unison 4 mallet cord is called a "spike", and is another discussion which we'll address next time.