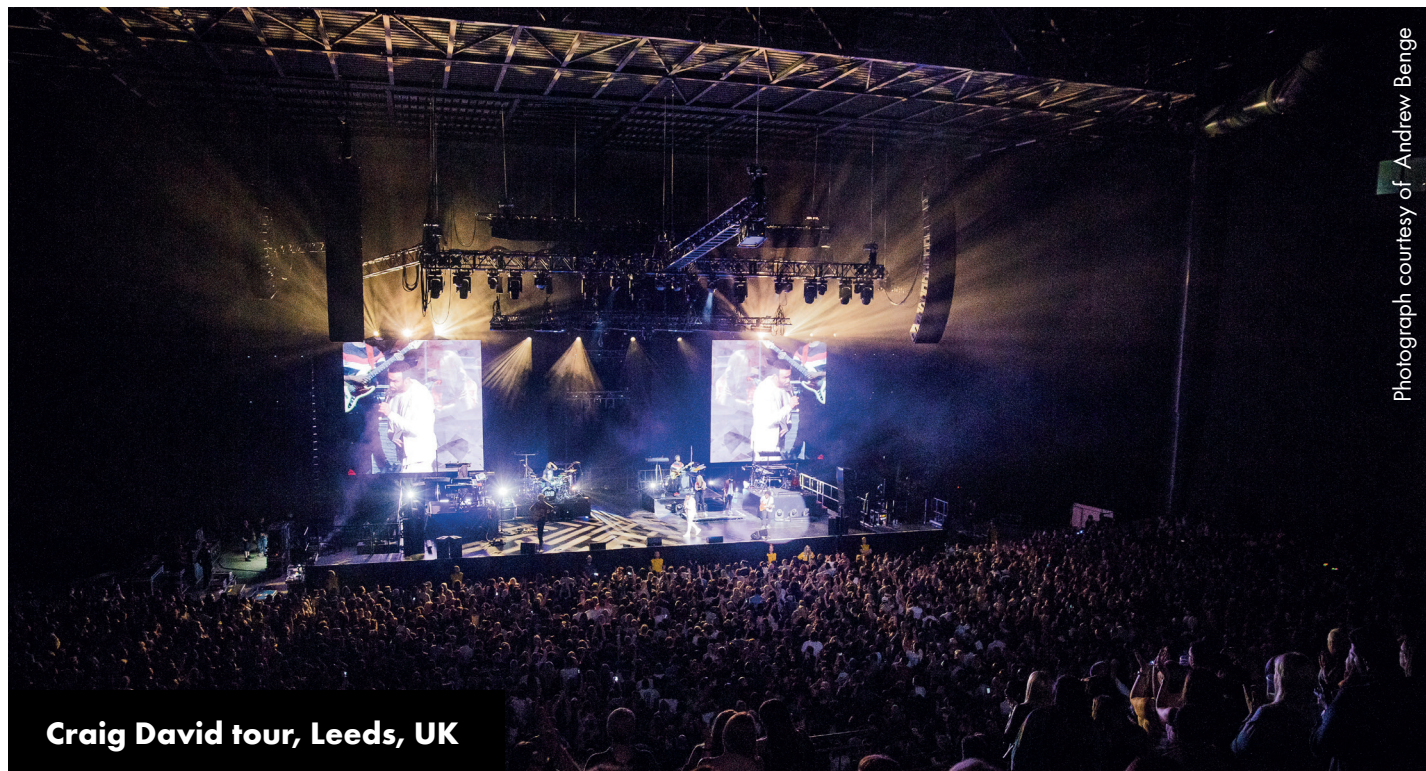


Craig David and Capital Sound take DS10 on tour.



Photograph courtesy of Andrew Bengie

Craig David tour, Leeds, UK

"The DS10 fits seamlessly into [Capital's] existing systems, and by investing in the official d&b D80 Touring racks it means that you know exactly what you are getting and how it is set up every time you turn up to prep a system. It really does make a potentially complex system that much easier."

Liam Halpin, Systems Engineer and Director, DataSound Consulting

Setting the scene

After his latest album, *Following My Intuition*, went to number one, 2017 saw the garage and R+B singer-songwriter Craig David embark on his biggest arena tour in 15 years.

As expected, his sell out tour of the same name has delivered a series of dynamic shows, incorporating hip hop, dance and garage classics. Sets range from heavy club sessions to acoustic guitar, to David's trademark acapella solos.

Establishing objectives

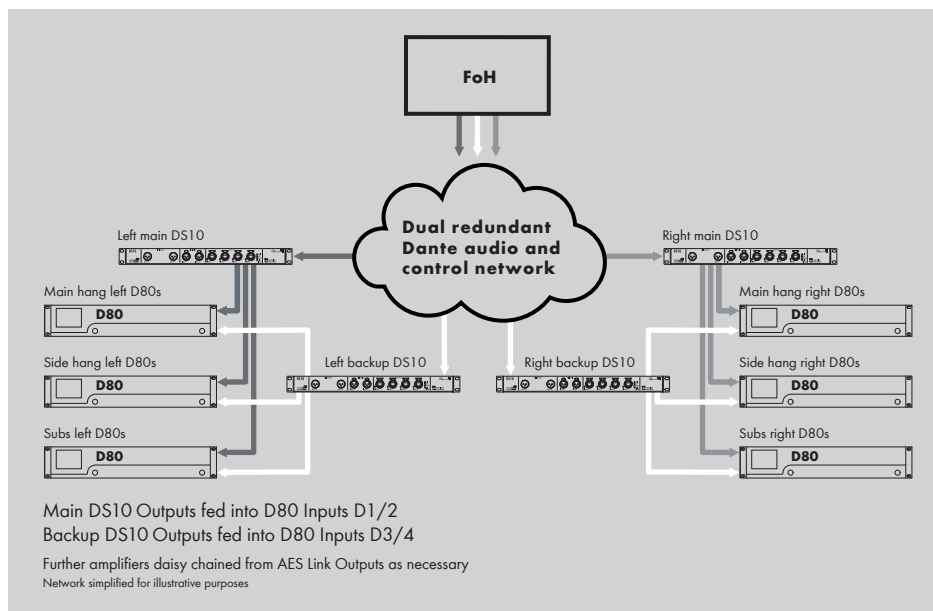
Audio rental house, Capital Sound, provided touring crew and project management support. For the team, including Systems Engineer Liam Halpin, and Project Manager Martin Connolly, it represented one of Capital's biggest d&b jobs to date.

The main system comprised ArrayProcessed J-Series, with sonically matched V-Series side hangs, and V7P and Y10P point source loudspeakers for outfill and centrefill.

"Liam had been working hard to establish a failsafe digital audio path to the amps on the network," explains Robin Conway, Head of Development at Capital Sound. "This included main and spare d&b DS10 Audio network bridges in various positions to come out of Dante and into the amplifiers, and main and spare LM44s at front of house to get signals on to the Dante network; each on different mains supplies and using the AES/EBU metadata tags to set up automatic signal fail-over within the amplifiers. So, if an amp lost the connection to the subscribed Dante path, it would look for the other AES feed with a correct and active Dante subscription."

“The peace of mind of knowing that even a serious critical device failure is something that the amps can just deal with is incredibly reassuring in these times of high demand and low tolerance of any issues.”

Liam Halpin, Systems Engineer and Director, DataSound Consulting



The solution

Halpin adds the detail: “We used Lake LM44 processors as our front end for matrixing from the console to the system, with units dedicated to left, right and backup.

“These fed our matrixed signals into a dual redundant Dante network with all control configured on the primary network. These Lakes were then patched to DS10s in the amp racks, with main and backup units. The amplifiers were set up to use their input monitoring functions to monitor the Dante subscriptions.

“Essentially this meant that if there was any issue with the signal getting through the Dante network to the main DS10s, the amps would pick up on this issue within a second, and automatically switch over to the backup unit. The issues that could be detected would

include a failure of the LM44, its network connections, or any issues with the ‘main’ DS10. This includes any power failures of those devices. “This meant that I was able to set up a combination of different power sources, from separate breakers or UPSs safe in the knowledge that any individual failure would not mean a failure of the audio signal.

“As the Dante devices are already dual redundant, this setup effectively expanded our redundancy to device level, and meant that from a networking point of view we would have to have multiple simultaneous failures to lose audio; in cabling terms we were effectively running a ‘quad redundant’ system. “It’s pretty mental how good it is to unplug the power on a device that isn’t even directly connected to the amps and have them be aware that this is an issue and switch automatically to a completely different signal path.

“Prepping for this tour was the first time I properly explored the advanced features of the DS10/D80 amplifier integration. Now it is my standard operating practice on any show I specify and execute. The peace of mind of knowing that even a serious critical device failure is something that the amps can just deal with is incredibly reassuring in these times of high demand and low tolerance of any issues.”

Capital Sound have now standardized to Dante networked audio for their primary returns and signal distribution. “The DS10 fits seamlessly into their existing systems,” says Halpin, “and by investing in the official d&b D80 Touring racks it means that you know exactly what you are getting and how it is set up every time you turn up to prep a system. It really does make a potentially complex system that much easier.”

➤ System: B22-SUB, J8, J12, V7P, V8, Y7P, Y10P, and D80, DS10