

SOUND TREK

The Audio Explorations of Ben Burt

by Michael Kunke portraits by Gregory Schwartz



BEN'S PERSONAL (SOUND) EFFECTS

1. Helium canister used for pitching up human voices into alien voices for *Star Wars*' cantina scene.

2. Original Nagra stereo tape recorder used for field recording on *Star Wars* and all *Indiana Jones* movies.

3. Reel-to-reel recorder, Burt's main pre-digital tool in recording and sound editing.

4. R2D2 placard used to advertise Burt's use of Teac tape recorders.

5. Air conditioner cushion springs from roof

at Pixar; used for sound of clanging swords.

6. Jumpsuit made to wear while recording sound effects for *Return of the Jedi*.

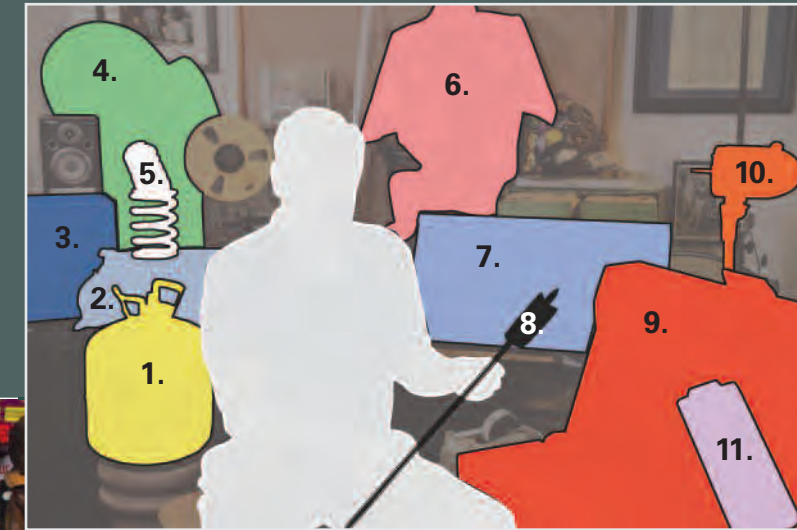
7. Mini-Moog synthesizer used for creating electronic tonalities of space in both *Star Trek* and *Star Wars*.

8. Custom-built arrows used to reproduce the sounds from Warner Bros.' 1938 version of *The Adventures of Robin Hood*.

9. ARP 2600 synthesizer used to record R2D2's voice.

10. Electric motor used to spin rods to create wind sound.

11. Ice cube tray used for C3PO Foley arm movements.



The crack of Indiana Jones' whip, the roar of an Imperial TIE fighter, the hum and crackle of clashing lightsabers, the voice of *WALL-E* speaking through his circuitry... Almost anyone who has come of movie-going age in the past 30 years knows these sounds; they are part of worldwide pop culture. And all can be traced to the same source: sound designer extraordinaire Ben Burt. >>>