Ever had a live tech fail?
Many times. When we were in Africa in the 1990s, the generator went after a couple of songs. There was no power and we were thinking, ‘What the hell are we going to do?’ The arena was packed. Adrenaline made me think, ‘You know what? We’re here, we’ve got to do what we’ve got to do.’ So I put them mic down and I sang. There was no instrumental sound apart from drums and percussion but the crowd was roaring us on and the energy was awesome.

What tech would make life easier?
An iPhone with three SIM slots. I need three phones because I have my Jamaican number, my English number and my US number. I carry two iPhone 12s and an iPhone 10, and every time I go to the airport it’s, ‘How come you’ve got three phones?’ It looks dodgy.

What’s the best tech that’s come out during your career?
The mic shield. I use a Halo Portable Microphone Reflection Filter by Aston Microphones. It’s a shield that goes around the mic for when you’re voicing. It means I don’t have to get cooped up in a voice room with that cold start of somebody talking to me down my ear, going ‘OK? You ready?’ I don’t like that separation from my engineer and my people in the studio. I like to feel like I’m singing to somebody.

What gadgets do you depend on when you travel?
On planes I listen to music, especially on long journeys. I’ll use Bose QC35 headphones or my Jerry Harvey in-ears because I like the fit.

If money was no object, what tech would you buy tomorrow?
I’d build a brand new studio. I like that old look we used to have but with modern technology. I’d want a beautiful, long engineer board, a massive one like we used to have in the 1990s but with the technology we have now.

What tech holds the most memories for you?
Back in the day we would sing on sound systems. It was like a mobile discotheque and we’d play in parties and clubs, challenging sound systems from other areas. We’d play the B-side of a record, then take the microphone and sing. Somebody else would do a bit of rapping or DJing. That’s the culture I grew up in, playing records and deck. I would love to go back to my Goldring Garrard deck and lift up the needle, like when I was on a sound system.

What gadget can’t you live without?
I have a Breville electric kettle but I like to heat up my old-fashioned kettle on the stove. I light the fire and let it whistle. The whistling brings back so many memories.

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