

**Challenge:**

Keep patrons and bar staff consistently comfortable due to fluctuating crowd sizes in an open air atmosphere, especially during peak business hours.

Solution:

Entrematic C-Class commercial HVLS fan that provides a consistent volume of air flow through the environment.

Results:

Powerful, energy-efficient air circulation no matter what the outside temperature is reading which helps keep patrons comfortable, happy and fast moving staff cool.

Application:

The Nodding Donkey
Neighborhood Bar and Scratch Kitchen

Environment:

Restaurant/Bar

Geography:

Dallas, Texas

The Nodding Donkey Keeps Pumpin' Suds While New HVLS Fan Helps Patrons and Staff Stay Comfortable

It's game day. The big college matchup you've been waiting for is just mere minutes away at what *D Magazine* has labeled the "best sports bar in Dallas."

While your favorite team takes the field on one of 20 large screen TVs, you start with a healthy dose of Willy's Wagon Wheels or smoked Chicken Wings. Then you move on to a fresh salad of mixed greens, add in a few Allen Street brisket tacos, top everything off with Firemans #4 Blonde Ale—one of Texas' fine craft beers—and you end up with an ideal recipe for a memorable dining experience at The Nodding Donkey Neighborhood Bar and Scratch Kitchen.

Open garage doors often not enough

Like any pub in the Dallas, Texas area, The Nodding Donkey (which operates two locations in Uptown and Greenville) is all-too-familiar with the region's summer sun. Even though the Uptown location has garage doors on two outside walls that management can easily raise to turn the sports bar into an open air establishment, the interior space can always use some additional air flow.



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– Mike Weatherall, General Manager,
The Nodding Donkey, Dallas, Texas

“As long as the outside air temperature is roughly between 65 and 100 degrees, we open the garage doors to connect the interior space with our wrap around porch, a feature that our customers inside and out really enjoy throughout the year,” said Mike Weatherall, General Manager, The Nodding Donkey. “However, on calm days when there's little wind, the open garage doors are sometimes not enough to get the air moving inside the restaurant and bar areas.”

Add to that a fast moving bar and wait staff and you have the recipe for what's often one warmer than necessary working environment. The solution? Keep a large volume of air in constant motion in the 3,000 square foot establishment—whether the garage doors are open or closed—to ensure both staff and patrons alike remain happy and comfortable.

To make this happen, The Nodding Donkey decided to install an 8-foot diameter Entrematic C-Class HVLS commercial fan centrally located over its Uptown location's bar area. The fan features a powder-coated gloss black finish that coordinates well with The Nodding Donkey's décor and silver corrugated industrial ceiling. According to Dan Linder, Sales Manager, Entrematic Fans, the corrugated ceiling presented a unique installation challenge, but one that he and his team easily met for The Nodding Donkey.

“Prior to our new C-Class fan, we were operating three smaller fans above the bar area,” Weatherall pointed out. “By replacing three fans with one, The Nodding Donkey has not only made an improvement in the look of our Uptown location, but we expect to save on energy costs too as a result.”

In contrast to mixing inside with outside air when the garage doors are up, or circulating air-conditioned air when the doors are down, The Nodding Donkey also relies on its C-Class fan to circulate heated air on colder days during the winter months. “Our main concern, no matter what the outside temperature is reading, is to keep our customers inside as comfortable as possible,” Weatherall added.

What exactly is an HVLS fan?

When most restaurant/bar owners think of ceiling fans, they typically envision high-speed residential fans found in big box hardware stores or home centers. The Nodding Donkey wisely opted instead to install Entrematic Fan's new C-Class commercial HVLS fan that is specifically designed to move a high volume of air at a very slow speed. Hence, the initials HVLS, which stand for high volume, low speed.

Although HVLS fans are most widely associated with warehouse and other industrial applications, don't let that be misleading for restaurants and bars. Entrematic's C-Class commercial HVLS fan features a uniquely sleek, low profile design to complement any décor. It's completely customizable to either blend in to any décor or jump out as an eye-catching feature piece.

With HVLS fans, faster doesn't necessarily mean better. The Nodding Donkey's management keeps its HVLS fan running at the slower end of several available speed settings, especially when air conditioning is running. If management determines that the fan requires a speed adjustment (depending on the size of ever fluctuating crowds and patron needs), the fan comes with a convenient wireless remote control that is sensitive enough to work from an enclosed room or office.

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Patrons have noticed the difference

Since The Nodding Donkey installed its new HVLS fan, Weatherall commented that the sports bar's craft beer-seeking patrons have actually noticed the establishment's addition to its ceiling and the powerful air flow it generates.

"Before our C-Class fan, nobody ever commented on the three ceiling fans it replaced since they were nothing special, just your average ceiling fans," said Weatherall. "The new fan's sleek design and gloss black paint finish add up to a really sharp look against our silver corrugated ceiling, and customers are definitely talking about the difference in air flow in the bar area." Weatherall added, "Believe me, customers do notice if the fan is off when it's warm outside and the garage doors are open. They'll ask, 'what happened to the fan?... that was really feeling nice.'"

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Weatherall emphasized that his bar and wait staff also enjoy the powerful air flow that the C-Class fan generates. "When we have a large crowd, it's convenient being able to remotely adjust the fan to circulate just the right amount of air which keeps everyone comfortable, especially when the garage doors are open and the humidity level is high."

At The Nodding Donkey, great food, a fun atmosphere and a comfortable, cool breeze for staff and patrons alike from its C-Class HVLS fan all add up to an experience that will keep everyone returning back to the "best sports bar in Dallas" time and time again.

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Entrematic

1612 Hutton Dr., Suite 140

Carrollton, TX 75006

800.558.6960

www.entrematicfans.com

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