



STEREO TUBE MIC PRE

MP-2ATM



Owner's Manual

TECHNICAL DATA

Input Impedance. 1.4k Ohm
Gain Range 60dB
Noise (EIN) -128 Weighted
Mic Phantom. Switchable 48 Volt Power Source
Mic Input Phase Switchable 0-180

Instrument Jack Input 1/4 phono
Input Impedance. Min > 100k Ohm

Balanced XLR Output:

Output Impedance. 600 Ohm Switchable to 10k
Maximum Level +22 dBu

Output Low-Z, transformer-balanced
Frequency Response 20 Hz - 60k Hz
Distortion THD: > .08 @ 1 Khz

Power Requirements: 100/120/230 VAC - 42 Watts

Dimensions (W x H x D 19" x 3.5" x 10"
Weight 18 lbs. 8.16kg (Shipping weight 20 lbs.) MP-1 17 lbs.

In line with our company policy of continuous development, the above specifications are subject to change without notice.
Testing was performed BE Labs Oxnard, CA.

Functions

Front



- 1 **Level Control Knobs** - These knobs are just that. They will control the level/pad of the incoming signals.
- 2 **VU Meters** - Meters provide general indication of level. They are set to -4dB.
- 3 **Direct In**
- 4 **Polarity Switch** (0 to 180)
- 5 **Pad Switch** (+20dB)
- 6 **Phantom On/Off** - The Phantom Switch gives you the option to use various types of Microphones. If you are using a Condenser Microphone please make sure you have the Phantom Switch in the on position. If you turn the Phantom Power Switch off while the Mic is still plugged in there will be a 5 second delay before it is completely off.
- 7 **Tone Switch 1/2** - This switch will allow you to set your outputs to your configuration.
- 8 **Tone Switch 3/4** - This switch will allow you to set your outputs to your configuration.
- 9 **Heat Vents** - Allow the flow and circulation of air to cool the tubes and transformers.
- 10 **Power Switch** - Large size for easy operation up and down (on/off).
- 11 **Power Light Indicator** - Red Jewel light indicator. When power is on the light will illuminate.

Functions (continued)

Back



- 12 AC Power Connector** - For electrical outlet (Caution: please check to see what Voltage your MP-2A is set to). If the Voltage Box is not marked according to your country's code please notify A Designs before powering up.
- 13 Fuse Amperage** - These are placed on the MP-2A to indicate which voltage your unit is set up for. USA Voltage should be set to 120v. For export to countries with 220v, the correct box should be marked at the back of the unit. If not marked or marked incorrectly, please notify A Designs before you turn your unit on!
- 14 Fuse Box** - This box acts as a fuse container draw. The Fuse draw will slide in and out for easy access to change your fuse, as necessary.
- 15 Heat Vents** - Allow the flow and circulation of air to cool the tubes and transformers.
- 16 XLR Outputs** (balanced) - The XLR output is balanced out and you have the option to change the output ohms from the face of the MP-2A (600 ohms/ 10k) by using the OUTPUT Switch located on the front panel of the MP-2A. XLR's are clearly marked indicating which Channel is being used.
- 17 XLR Inputs** (balanced) - The XLR input is used for Microphones. You can use the inputs for other instruments. If you are using a condenser Microphone, please make sure your Phantom Power is in the on position. The Phantom Power switch is located on the front panel. (See Illustration 1). XLR's are clearly marked indicating which Channel is being used.
- 18 Serial Number** - If this serial number is removed or tampered with, your warranty will be void.

The MP-2A has a 2U rack space which fits nicely into any Studio Rack and will compliment your array.

UNIT SIZE:

Width: Standard 19 inches for easy Rack Mount installation.
Height: Standard 3.50 inches or 2U Rack Space.
Depth: 10 inches
Weight: 18 lbs 8.16 kg.

ALWAYS USE GOOD COMMON SENSE WHEN OPERATING ANY ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT YOUR DEALER OR THE MANUFACTURER BEFORE DOING ANYTHING!!!!

A good, quality microphone preamp will add a full, warm sound to any type of recording or live performance.

Generally, we begin by setting our input signal to unity, then concentrate on other devices such as compressors or effects for modifying the sound. But, this does not always have to be the case.

You will notice this unit is not cluttered with bells and whistles. Less is more. The MP-2A was designed for simplicity. This has not restricted the sound, but enhanced it. This unit was designed to free your imagination to create music with unencumbered tonal qualities.

Mic-pre settings, as a rule, begin with gain structure, unity or 0db. Although this seems a great place to start, this may not always have the best application for your particular project. Try, what we call, "driving the tubes" on the MP-2A, instead of introducing effects into a chain. Simply stated, try sending the input signal well into the red. Many producers and engineers use this technique for bass guitars in rock/pop songs, and more recently, vocals in chorus.

Another technique audio engineers use, when recording an instrument in stereo, is to run one side in-phase and the other side out-of-phase. This trick tends to deceive the stereo image and also defuses bass boom by canceling out frequencies. It may sound unusual, but surprisingly, there are large numbers of published Audio CD's where this technique has been employed to improve the overall sound.

Apart from creating special effects, the MP-2A can be used to fix problematic recordings. An example of this would be a drum track that has gone out-of-phase.

Try the following:

- (1) Send the individual tracks to the MP-2A.
- (2) Change the phase switch on one of the tracks. (3) Compare this with the bass response.

You will then be able to determine which tracks are in-phase and out-of-phase. This allows you to hear how much of the sound you are missing.

Above all, it is important to experiment. Do not to leave the controls "set in stone." Most professional audio engineers and producers modify the mic-pre controls first, before moving on to a secondary unit.

NOTE: If you have a trick or tip that you would like to share with us, contact A Designs Audio, Inc. through our website or mail us at:

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We will publish it on our website with your name, if you choose.



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