

## New Vocal Channels, At a Glance:

PRODUCT/WEBSITE	PRICE	CHANNELS	INPUT/OUTPUT	SOLID-STATE OR TUBE	PREAMPLIFIER	EQ TYPE	
ADT Audio Toolkit (dist. by LasVegas ProAudio, www.lasvegasproaudio.com)	\$4,400	1	XLR and TRS in, XLR out	solid-state	high-gain, low-noise, transformer-balanced microphone preamp with 48V, pad and phase reverse; separate DI preamp	5-band, three parametric midrange bands	
Aphex 230 Master Voice Channel Processor (www.aphex.com)	\$799	1	XLR input; XLR and TRS, AES, S/PDIF and optical digital outputs	solid-state, tube preamp	transformerless, NPN active balanced, tube second stage with 48V, pad and phase reverse	1-band parametric midrange EQ. "Big Bottom" low-frequency adjustment, "Aural Exciter" HF adjustment	
Buzz Audio ARC1.1 Analog Recording Channel (www.buzzaudio.com)	\$3,000	1	XLR, TRS sidechains, front panel TRS line input	solid-state	Buzz BE40 Class-A with 48V, phase reverse and +15dB boost; line preamp with -10dB cut	4-band parametric with high- and low-shelving sections	
Focusrite ISA 430 MKII Producer Pack (www.focusrite.com)	\$2,995	1	XLR, TRS line input, front panel TRS line input, key inputs, word clock, AES-S/PDIF and optical digital	solid-state	transformer-based with variable impedance, Air feature, 48V and phase reverse	expanded version of the ISA 110: low-mid and high-mid parametric with low- and high-shelving sections	
Joemeek oneQ (www.joemeek.com)	\$799	1	XLR and TRS inputs, front panel TRS line/instrument input, word clock I/O, AES-S/PDIF (RCA phono connectors) and optical digital	solid-state	switchable Burr-Brown IC or transformer, 10 to 60dB variable, with 48V and phase reverse	4-band parametric with high- and low-shelving sections	
Joemeek twinQ	\$999	2	XLR and TRS inputs, front panel TRS line/instrument input, word clock I/O, AES-S/PDIF (RCA phono connectors) and optical digital	solid-state	switchable Burr-Brown IC or transformer, 10 to 60dB variable, with 48V and phase reverse	4-band parametric with high- and low-shelving sections	
PreSonus Eureka (www.presonus.com)	\$699 (optional AD192 card: \$249)	1	XLR and TRS inputs, front panel TRS line/instrument input (optional AES/EBU and S/PDIF output card with word clock I/O and balanced TRS line input)	solid-state	Class-A, transformer-coupled preamp with 48V, 20dB pad and phase reverse	3-band fully parametric with variable bandwidth per band	
Solid State Logic XLogic Channel (with new 192kHz ADC card) (www.solid-state-logic.com)	\$3,600 (optional 192kHz ADC card: \$650)	1	XLR and TRS in, XLR out (optional AES/EBU and S/PDIF output card with word clock I/O and XLR input)	solid-state	XL 9000 K Series with 48V, pad and phase reverse; selectable instrument input with front panel XLR/TRS jack	4-band parametric midrange bands, shelving high- and low-bands, fully parametric mid-bands; G/E Q/gain selection	
Toft Audio Designs ATC-2 (www.toftaudio.com)	\$1,299	2	XLR and TRS inputs, front panel TRS line/instrument input	solid-state	Burr-Brown IC preamp with 48V and phase reverse	4-band parametric, shelving low- and high-band	
Toft Audio Designs EC-1 2	\$799	1	XLR and TRS inputs, front panel TRS line/instrument input	solid-state	Burr-Brown IC preamp with 48V and phase reverse	4-band parametric, pre/post-compressor-switchable	
Trident 4T Celebration Channel Strip (www.tridentaudio.co.uk)	\$999	1	XLR and TRS inputs, front panel TRS line/instrument input	solid-state	Class-A Trident S20/S40 mic preamp with continuously adjustable gain, 48V and phase reverse	4-band parametric, shelving, low- and high-bands; EQ Magic—100Hz/10kHz shelving EQ for DI signal	
Universal Audio LA-610 (www.uaudio.com)	\$1,749	1	XLR and TRS inputs, front panel TRS line/instrument input	tube (three 12AX7As and one 6072A)	Bill Putnam 610 tube mic preamp with separate and selectable mic/DI impedances, 48V, -15dB pad and phase reverse	shelving, low- and high-bands with three selectable frequencies each	

# Comparing This Year's Crop

	FILTERS	COMPRESSION PARAMETERS	OTHER FEATURES	ADDITIONAL NOTES
	highpass, 24dB/octave slope, 20 to 600 Hz; lowpass, 12dB/octave slope, 25 to 1.5k Hz	threshold, ratio, attack, release, gain, envelope, crest, knee adjustment	independent noise gate, peak-stop limiter, second output with level control	The ADT Toolkit, built by German firm Analoge + Digitale Tonstudioteknik, is one of the more comprehensively equipped channel strips.
	none	"Easy Rider" compressor featuring fixed threshold, 4:1 ratio, program-dependent attack/release, gain and medium-hard knee	logic-assisted gate, split-band de-esser, word clock I/O, soft mute, 24-bit/96kHz A/D	Built for use in broadcast audio, the Aphex 230 is a low-cost, fully featured channel strip that is well-suited for budget DAW-based music recording.
	highpass, 12dB/octave slope, 25 to 450 Hz	pre/post-EQ SOC1.1 optical compressor with threshold, 4-position soft-knee ratio, 3-position attack, 5-position release, make-up gain, FET limiter with threshold	12-segment LED I/O indicators; output section with gain, phase reverse, mute, Clean/Tranny selector	The ARC1.1 offers a Clean/Tranny switch in its output section, offering an option of a signal path transformer to introduce low-frequency harmonics for tonal variation.
	lowpass, 18dB/octave slope, 400 to 22k Hz; highpass, 18dB/octave slope, 20 to 1.6k Hz	multiformat, switchable compressor (VCA or optical circuits) with threshold, ratio, soft-knee slope, attack and release	Class-A VCA noise gate expander, soft limiter, optical de-esser, optional 24-bit/192kHz stereo A/D converter	The ISA 430 MKII Producer Pack is somewhat a "Best of" offering from Focusrite, incorporating such features as selectable VCA or optical compression circuits and high-resolution digital output.
	highpass, 12dB/octave slope below 80 Hz	variable threshold and ratio, attack and release	optical de-esser, enhancer, 24-bit/96kHz A/D converter	Like its big brother—the twinQ—the oneQ offers a front panel Iron switch, which selects between the mic preamp's Burr-Brown IC or transformer for greater flexibility in sonic coloration.
	highpass, 12dB/octave slope below 80 Hz	variable threshold and ratio, attack and release	optical de-esser, enhancer, 24-bit/96kHz A/D converter	The twinQ offers twice the processing power of the oneQ and the same digital output features.
	switchable highpass, 3dB shelf at 80 Hz	variable threshold, ratio, attack and release; make-up gain; and highpass sidechain filter	variable Saturate control, EQ pre/post-compressor, output fader, up to 24-bit, 192kHz A/D converter (optional)	The Eureka is one of the least expensive of all feature-packed vocal channels available. The optional AD192 card further increases the unit's value.
	highpass, 18dB/octave slope, 20 to 500 Hz; lowpass, 12dB/octave slope, 35 to 3k Hz; "DYN SC" dynamic sidechain	RMS "over easy" compressor with variable threshold, ratio and release; fast attack; peak-sensing; and hard-knee modes	expander/gate with switchable gate ratios and independent hold/release controls; variable output; optional 192kHz A/D converter	Having the XLogic Channel as a DAW front end is like having an SSL 9000 K-equipped studio, but only one channel at a time—great for vocal recording applications. A new ADC provides 192kHz capabilities.
	lowpass shelf at 50 Hz	variable attack, release and ratio; make-up gain; stereo pair link	front panel VU meter	The ATC-2 incorporates Malcom Toft's EQ design from the original Trident 80B console.
	none	variable attack, release and ratio; make-up gain	front panel VU meter	For the ATC-2, Malcolm Toft incorporated the exact EQ design from the MTA 980 console.
	none	variable threshold and release, 4:1 and 30:1 selectable ratios	built-in monitor mixer, mic/DI internal mixing, blue/green backlit VU meter for output and gain-reduction levels	John Oram's Celebration Channel Strip—built to recognize Oram's 40 years of pro audio involvement—offers classically styled features.
	none	T4 optical compressor with adjustable peak reduction and gain; compressor/limiter selector	built-in monitor mixer, mic/DI internal mixing, VU meter for preamp, compression or output levels	The all-tube LA-610 combines the mic pre/EQ/DI section of a UA 610 with a T4 opto-compressor based on the classic LA-2A.