

New Mic Preamps, at a Glance

Here's a look at nearly 50 new mic preamplifiers that have debuted or begun shipping in the past year. This chart focuses mainly on studio preamps rather than systems built into digital snakes, stage boxes for consoles and the many DAW front ends with built-in preamps, such as units from MOTU, Lexicon, Digidesign, TC Electronic, M-Audio and others. Also, unless otherwise noted, all include 48VDC phantom powering, input pads and polarity-reverse switches.

Product/Website	Retail	Channels	Outputs	Topology	DI	Signal Processing	Notes
A-Designs Pacifica www.adesignsaudio.com	\$1,995	Two	XLR analog	SS	Yes	No	Based on the sound of classic Quad-8 preamps with transformer I/Os
A-Designs MP-2A	\$2,700	Two	XLR analog	Tube	Yes	4 tone settings	Transformer I/Os; single-channel version available
AEA TRP (The Ribbon Pre) www.ribbonmics.com	\$835	Two	¼-inch/XLR analog	SS	Yes	HP filters	Designed for ribbon mics with 84 dB of gain and no phantom power
Aphex 230 Master Voice Channel www.aphex.com	\$799	One	XLR and ¼-inch analog; AES and S/PDIF digital	Hybrid	No	Parametric mid-EQ, Big Bottom and Aural Exciter enhancement	Transformerless transistor front end with tube second stage
Aphex 1788A	\$4,999	Eight	XLR; optional digital TDIF/ADAT/AES	SS	No	Microphone output limiters	Controllable via MIDI, LAN, Mac/PC software, Pro Tools or hardware remote
API Audio A2D www.apiaudio.com	\$1,995	Two	XLR analog, S/PDIF and AES digital	SS	Yes	Onboard ADCs	Two Model 312 pre's and 24-bit, 44.1 to 192kHz ADCs with sync for running multiple units
ART Tube MP www.artproaudio.com	\$129	One	XLR and ¼-inch analog; USB digital	Tube	Yes	HP filter; FET limiter	
Buzz Audio ARC1.1 www.buzzaudio.com	\$3,500	One	XLR analog	SS	Yes	4-band EQ with parametric mids, compressor, limiter	TRS sidechain access
Buzz Audio elixir	\$895	One	XLR analog	SS	Yes		API rack-compatible module
Chameleon Labs 7602 www.chameleonlabs.com	\$699	One	XLR analog	SS	Yes	HP filter; 3-band EQ	\$100 separate power supply can power two 7602s
Chandler Germanium www.mercenary.com/chandler.html	\$1,150	One	XLR analog	SS	Yes	"Thick" LF rise switch; feedback control adds THD	Class-A, transformer balanced
D.W. Fearn VT-15 www.dwfearn.com	\$4,950	One	XLR analog	Tube	Yes	HP filters, 3-band EQ, compressor	
Focusrite ISA 430 MKII Producer Pack www.focusrite.com	\$2,995	One	XLR analog; AES, S/PDIF digital	SS	Yes	4-band EQ with parametric mids, Air band	Transformer-based with variable impedance
Grace m801 www.gracedesign.com	\$4,895	Eight	XLR analog	SS	No		Updated version of original 801
Groove Tubes SuPRE www.groovetubes.com	\$1,799	Two	XLR analog	Tube	Yes	Variable impedance-matching, HP filter	Custom nickel-core I/O transformers
Helios 1r Stereo Type 69 www.helios-electronics.com	\$4,500	Two	XLR analog	SS	No	3-band EQ	
JoeMeek oneQ www.joemeek.com	\$799	One	XLR analog; AES, S/PDIF digital	SS	Yes	3-band EQ, enhancer, opto-compressor, de-esser	
JoeMeek twinQ	\$999	Two	XLR analog; AES, S/PDIF digital	SS	Yes	3-band EQ, opto-compressor	"Iron" transformer in/out switch
LaChapell Audio 992 www.lachapellaudio.com	\$3,495	Two	XLR analog	Tube	Yes		Transformerless and extended gain version also available
Lipinski L-409 www.lipinskisound.com	\$1,095	One	XLR analog	SS	No	Multiple outputs fed from different transformers	
Little Labs LMNOPRE www.littlelabs.com	\$1,680	One	XLR analog	SS	Yes	LF resonance control for countering proximity effect	Output transformer bypass switch
Mackie Onyx 800R www.mackie.com	\$1,299	Eight	D-sub 25 analog; AES, S/PDIF, ADAT digital	SS	Yes	HP filters; onboard 24/192 ADCs	

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Manley TNT (Tubes-No Tubes) www.manleylabs.com	\$3,000	Two	XLR analog	Tube/SS	Yes	HP filter, impedance matching, "color" switch	One tube and one vintage-style solid-state preamp in one rack for studio versatility
Matrix Audio Systems T0-2 www.matrixaudiosystems.net	\$1,495	Two	XLR analog	SS	No		No IC, all-discrete op amp design with transformer I/Os; also available as TD-1 with electrically balanced out.
Mercury Grand Pre www.mercuryrecordingequipment.com	\$2,000	Two	XLR analog	SS	Yes		Sowter transformer I/Os; also available in single-channel version
Mercury M72s/1	\$3,500	One	XLR analog	SS	Yes		Based on sound of vintage V72 modules
Millennia Media HV-3R www.mil-media.com	\$4,999	Eight	XLR analog	SS	No		Remote-control cable over Ethernet and MIDI; Pro Tools plug-and-play compatible
PreSonus DiglMax FS www.presonus.com	\$799	Eight	¼-inch TRS, Lightpipe (ADAT/96k SMUX)	SS	Yes		24-bit digital outs, analog direct outs and insert points on every channel
PreSonus ADL 600	\$2,295	Two	XLR analog	Tube	Yes	3-stage highpass filter switch	Anthony DeMaria design
Reso Audiotechnics Pre 873 www.axidistribution.com	\$1,995	Eight	D-sub 25 analog; digital optional	SS	No		Remote control via MIDI, front panel, software or via Pro Tools
RME Micstasy www.synthax.com	\$3,995	Eight	Analog TRS and D-sub; ADAT/AES digital; MADI optional	SS	Yes	Onboard 24/192 ADCs, analog/digital limiters	Remote control via MIDI or MADI, with storage/recall of all presets
Rupert Neve Portico 5032 www.rupertneve.com	\$1,895	One	XLR analog	SS	No	3-band EQ, sweepable HP filter	
Shadow Hills Industries GAMA www.shadowhillsindustries.com	\$4,995	Eight	XLR analog	SS	Yes	Steel/nickel transformer or transformerless outs	All-discrete, 24-volt op amp design
Solid State Logic XLogic Channel www.solid-state-logic.com	\$3,840	One	XLR analog (AES/EBU and S/PDIF optional)	SS	Yes	4-band EQ with parametric mids; SSL G/E switchable	Same preamp as SSL 9000 K Series consoles
Solid State Logic XLogic E Signature	\$4,040	One	XLR analog; optional 192kHz digital	SS	No	4-band EQ with parametric mids; Listen Mic comp., VCA dynamics	Variable Harmonic Drive circuit; recreates E Series console sound
Studio Projects SP828 www.studioprojects.com	\$799	Eight	¼-inch analog	SS	No		Stereo L/R output and headphone out
Studio Projects VTB-1	\$179	One	XLR and ¼-inch analog	Tube	Yes	HF filter; tube blend control	
Thermionic Culture Earlybird 2.2 www.thermioniculture.com	\$4,550	Two	XLR analog	Tube	No	Stereo Pullet passive EQ	Upgraded output transformers and selectable bass/mid-frequencies
Toft Audio Designs AFC-2 www.toftaudio.com	\$799	Two	XLR and ¼-inch analog	SS	Yes	Onboard 4-band EQs	
Tonelux/Genex Remote mic pre/A/D www.tonelux.com	N/A	48	D-sub 25 analog; optional AES/Lightpipe/MADI	SS	No	A/D converters	Modular system with up to 48 remote-controllable preamps with A/D in a four-rackspace case
Trident S40 www.tridentaudio.co.uk	\$2,500	One	XLR and ¼-inch analog	SS	Yes	4-band EQ; compressor/limiter	
True Systems P-SOLO www.true-systems.com	\$749	One	XLR and ¼-inch analog	SS	Yes		
Universal Audio SOLO/110 www.uaudio.com	\$935	One	XLR analog	SS	Yes	Switchable HP filter	Class-A circuit from company's 8110
Universal Audio SOLO/610	\$935	One	XLR analog	Tube	Yes	Switchable HP filter	
Vintech Model 273 www.vintech-audio.com	\$2,600	Two	XLR analog	SS	Yes	2-band low/high shelving	1,200/300-ohm impedance matching
Wunder Audio PAF04R www.wunderaudio.com	\$2,795	Four	XLR analog	SS	Yes		Custom I/O transformers
Wunder Audio PEQ1 Rev A	\$2,450	Two	XLR analog	SS	Yes		Custom I/O transformers