

slate pro audio

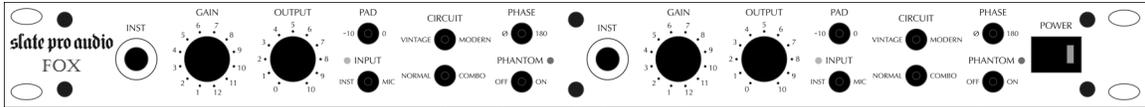


FOX

REFERENCE GUIDE

Microphone

Preamplifier



Hello

And thanks for purchasing the **Slate Pro Audio FOX** dual microphone preamplifier. Our hardware is proudly hand built in the USA and tested thoroughly for quality control. We guarantee satisfaction on all **Slate Pro Audio** products. Please do not hesitate to call us at 323-656-2050 or email us at sales@slateproaudio.com

The FOX Concept

After starting my pro audio business in 2006, I quickly fell victim to an unexpected new role amongst my peers: Audio Gear Psychologist. I would constantly get calls from fellow engineers who were in the market for audio gear, and one of the most common questions I would get was about mic preamp purchasing. "Do I get the Neve, the API, or the Millennia?" would be a common question. No one ever liked my answer which was, "Get all of them; they are all amazing preamps and you'll appreciate having a versatile sonic palette for your microphones and sources."

This was good advice. Companies like Neve, API, Millennia, and other hi-fi brands have been making great mic preamps for years, and I've used them and loved them in countless sessions. So when I sat down with Studio Electronics, and the **Slate Pro Audio** engineering team to discuss our mic pre, my first thought was to make a mic preamp that could offer several sonic characteristics in one box; similar to having a rack of various mic pres.

Our first idea was to use one main mic pre circuit with filters and some various component and circuit manipulations to change the sound. This worked. Kind of...

Overall, it still sounded like the same preamp with some filters. It didn't provide the real experience of having several preamp sounds in one box.

We went back to the drawing board and realized the thing we needed to do was to employ more than one unique preamp circuit in each channel. This design concept led to two amazing preamp circuits called VINTAGE and MODERN.

VINTAGE is our take on the classic British Discrete Class A design. It is thick, rich, warm, and sounds great on just about everything. MODERN, is a new design based on ultra hi-fi solid state components that provide a sound that is very precise, clean, and detailed. The preamp adeptly catches the stick attack of a snare drum or the crispness of a vocal.

Now we had our two circuits, excellent, but could we expand on this concept? Yes, indeed. We came up with a rather ingenious idea; combining the VINTAGE and the MODERN circuits to create new sounds. With that, COMBO mode was born. In COMBO mode, the input of one of the preamp circuit is combined with the output of the other preamp circuit. So VINTAGE/COMBO means the input is the VINTAGE circuit, and the output is the MODERN circuit. With MODERN/COMBO, the input is the MODERN circuit and the output is the VINTAGE circuit. Now the **FOX** had four great sounding mic preamps in ONE box!

This allows you, the audio engineer, to benefit from ultimate versatility and precision during recording. You can switch the different mic pre circuits while monitoring your source live, so that you can optimize the best sound for that particular source. Listen to that guitar track in the VINTAGE circuit... Now hear how it sounds in the MODERN... Then try MODERN/COMBO.. Nope-that's not it... Now VINTAGE/COMBO... and BAM! That works!

On behalf of the **Slate Pro Audio** team, I hope you make inspiring music with the **FOX** dual mic preamplifier. Feel free to send me some audio clips or just say "hey" by emailing me at slate@stevenslate.com

Thanks, and Happy Recording!

Steven Slate

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FEATURES

- Single Rack Space
- Solid State Design
- Custom Input and Output Transformers
- Two Discrete Combinable Preamp Circuits per Channel:
Vintage and Modern
- Level Controls
- Hi-Z 1/4" Inch Instrument Input
- -10dB Pad Switch
- 48v Phantom Power
- Phase / "Polarity" Switch
- Red LED Phantom Indicator
- ON/OFF Switch with in switch LED Power Indicator
- 60 dB Gain
- Balanced XLR Input and Output
- Toroid Power Transformer

***CIRCUIT MUTING**: Internal relays provide a 5 second power-up mute while various circuits stabilize. The output is also muted for 1 second when changing preamp circuits, polarity (phase), and engaging phantom power, in order to prevent pops or other transients from reaching the output. When muting is active, the XLR and TRS outputs are disconnected, but not grounded

WARRANTY INFORMATION

Warranty: If your Fox requires professional help, please contact support@stevenslate.com or call (323) 656 2050 ext. 1. The warranty for the Fox is one year from date of purchase, parts and labor. You are responsible for shipping the unit to us and we will handle shipping back to you. If you cause damage to your Fox, that damage is not covered by the warranty. Don't worry, we'll be here to fix your Fox for \$75/hour plus parts. In this case you are responsible for shipping costs to us and back to you.

Register: Please take a moment to register your new Fox by visiting our website:

<http://www.slateproaudio.com>

Our website also contains additional instructions and tips for how to tame your Fox!

Slate Pro Audio Customer Service: (323) 656-2050 Ext 1.

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Slate Pro Audio warrants that our hardware conforms substantially to the specifications contained in this manual when used in accordance with these specifications for a period of 1 year from the date of original purchase. In case of a valid warranty claim, your sole and exclusive remedy and **Slate Pro Audio's** entire liability under any theory of liability will be, at its option, to repair or replace the product without charge. The warranty is non transferable and applies only to the original purchaser of the product.

For warranty service, contact **Slate Pro Audio** at 323-656-2050 to obtain a Return Merchandise Authorization (RMA) number. After obtaining the RMA number, ship defective product to **Slate Pro Audio** 8331 Lookout Mtn Ave. Los Angeles, CA 90046. Write RMA number on outside of shipping box. Be sure to include your name, address, phone number, copy of original sales invoice, and detailed description of the

problem. **Slate Pro Audio** will not accept responsibility for loss or damage in shipping.

Warranty is void if product serial numbers have been removed or if the product has been damaged by abuse or unauthorized modification and repair. There are no user serviceable parts inside.

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IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

Water: Do not use the unit near any source of water or in excessively moist environments.

Ventilation: Foxes like to keep it cool. When installing the unit in a rack or any other location, the Fox should be located so that its position does not interfere with its proper ventilation. It is normal for this unit to generate a degree of heat. Improper ventilation will cause overheating, and can damage the unit. The unit should be situated away from heat sources, or other equipment that produce heat.

Placement: Placing your Fox in close proximity to power amplifiers or equipment containing large transformers is likely to induce hum. If the unit is operated near TV or radio receivers, some type of interference might be noticeable. In such cases, move the unit out of proximity with the entertainment devices.

Power Sources: AC power supply cords should be routed so that they are not likely to be walked on or pinched by items placed upon or against them. Never take hold of the plug or cord if your hand is wet. Do not pull the cord -- always grasp the plug body when connecting or disconnecting it. Use a separate power outlet for this unit -- sharing one with distortion producing devices (such as motors, variable lighting devices) is unwise. The AC power supply cord of the unit should be unplugged from the AC outlet when left unused for a long period of time.

******BEFORE PLUGGING IN YOUR FOX, MAKE SURE THE VOLTAGE SELECTOR SWITCH ON THE REAR PANEL IS SET CORRECTLY FOR THE VOLTAGE IN YOUR AREA! MAKE SURE THE FOX IS OFF BEFORE CONNECTING THE AC POWER SUPPLY. THIS WILL HELP TO PREVENT MALFUNCTION AND SPEAKER DAMAGE.***

Grounding: This unit must be grounded. If it should malfunction, grounding provides a path of least resistance for electric current to reduce the risk of electric shock. This unit's cord has an equipment grounding conductor and a grounding plug, which must be plugged into an appropriate outlet that is properly installed and grounded in accordance with all local codes and ordinances. Do not modify the plug provided with the unit – if it will not fit the outlet; have a proper outlet installed by a qualified electrician.

Cleaning: Care should be taken so that objects do not fall and liquid is not spilled into the enclosure through openings. Avoid using the product where it may be affected by dust.

In hopes that you might keep the visuals of your treasured analog Fox in tip top shape, follow these general rules when cleaning your Fox:

- Turn the power OFF and unplug the unit
- Gently wipe with a clean lint-free soft cloth
- If necessary, slightly dampen the cloth using lukewarm distilled water (making sure not to over saturate as liquid could drip inside the unit and cause damage)
- Use a dry lint-free soft cloth to remove any remaining moisture
- Do not use aerosol sprays, solvents, or abrasives

Damage Requiring Service: Do not attempt to service your FOX. The unit should be serviced by qualified service technicians when:

- The AC power supply cord or the plug has been damaged
- Objects have fallen or liquid has been spilled into the unit
- The unit has been dropped, or the enclosure damaged
- The unit does not operate normally or exhibits a marked change in performance.

Other Precautions: Protect your FOX from strong jolts and vibration. Never apply strong pressure to the front, back or sides, or strike your FOX in any manner whatsoever. A stern scolding of your Fox, however, is certainly permissible and quite cathartic.

This product, either alone or in combination with an amplifier and headphones or speakers, may be capable of producing sound levels that could cause permanent hearing loss. Do not operate for a long period of time at high volume levels or at a level that is uncomfortable.

RACK MOUNT INSTRUCTIONS

A) Elevated Operating Ambient - If installed in a closed or multi-unit rack assembly, the operating ambient temperature of the rack environment may be greater than room ambient. Therefore, consideration should be given to installing the equipment in an environment compatible with the maximum ambient temperature (T_{ma}) specified by the manufacturer.

B) Reduced Airflow - Installation of the equipment in a rack should be such that the amount of airflow required for safe operation of the equipment is not compromised.

C) Mechanical Loading - Mounting of the equipment in the rack should be such that a hazardous condition is not achieved due to uneven mechanical loading.

D) Circuit Overloading - Consideration should be given to the connection of the equipment to the supply circuit and the effect that overloading of the circuits might have on over current protection and supply wiring. Appropriate consideration of equipment nameplate ratings should be used when addressing this concern.

E) Reliable Earthing - Reliable earthing of rack-mounted equipment should be maintained. Particular attention should be given to supply connections other than direct connections to the branch circuit (e.g. use of power strips).

Recommended T_{ma} = 122 deg F, 50 deg C

OPERATING CONTROLS

GAIN SWITCH: 12-position gain control employs a superior quality Grayhill mil-spec gold plated rotary switch. Switch gain is approximately 5 dB per step. After a brief warm-up period adjustment of this switch is virtually silent.

OUTPUT CONTROL: When the Output Control knob is fully clockwise, the output gain is at unity; when the Output Control knob is in the mid-position, the output is 20dB down. **Keep output gain at max** for optimal performance.

PAD SWITCH: provides 10 db of pad at input.

VINTAGE / MODERN SWITCH: selects the preamp circuit to be used.

NORMAL / COMBO SWITCH: selects routing of preamp circuits. With VINTAGE and COMBO selected, preamp circuit is vintage and output circuit is modern. With MODERN and COMBO selected, modern circuit is preamp and vintage circuit is output. In NORMAL mode the circuits are not combined.

INPUT SWITCH: selects rear panel mic input or front panel instrument input.

PHASE SWITCH: gives 180° phase change at balanced output.

PHANTOM POWER SWITCH (" +48V "): provides phantom power (+48VDC) to the microphone inserted into that channel. When this switch is depressed (illuminated red), phantom power is applied simultaneously through dual 6.81k ohm resistors to pins 2 and 3 of the three pin female XLR input. Use phantom power with condenser and other microphones requiring traditional phantom supply. *CAUTION:* Applying phantom power to ribbon microphones could damage them. Do not use phantom with ribbons, moving coil, and other microphones which do not require phantom power. Use care, as well, to not insert or extract mic cables from the **FOX** when phantom power is active.

SIGNAL INDICATOR LED: The green "signal present" LED indicates that signal is present at the microphone or instrument input. The intensity will vary with increases or decreases in signal level.

POWER SWITCH: When illuminated the LED in power switch shows that the **FOX** is powered and active.

REAR PANEL

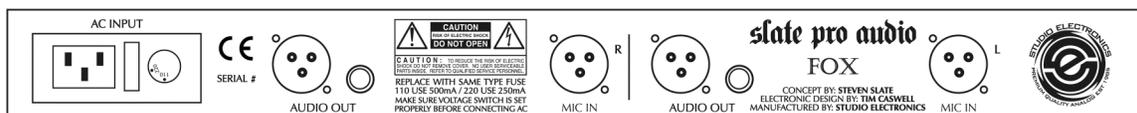
MIC INPUTS: Conventional 3-pin female XLR input jacks for use with all conventional balanced microphones, both phantom and non-phantom powered. Provides +48V Phantom powering. Standard input impedance is approximately 6,200 ohms. Pin 1 is ground. Pin 2 is positive polarity. Pin 3 is negative polarity. Connector contacts are Neutrik plated gold. It is suggested that XLR cable connectors used with the **FOX** employ similar plating.

LINE LEVEL OUTPUTS: Conventional three pin male XLR connectors providing balanced, line level microphone output. Pin 1 is ground. Pin 2 is positive polarity. Pin 3 is negative polarity. The line level output is capable of driving 600 ohm loads and long, high capacitance cables.

1/4 INCH OUTPUTS: Parallel with XLR Male, Tip= Pin2, Ring=Pin3, Sleeve=Pin1

The input circuitry is protected against high transient energy spikes common when inserting and extracting XLR connectors. However, to maintain top performance and protect the **FOX's** sensitive front-end, it is advised that you do not insert or extract XLR connectors with preamp AC power on. Get in the habit of turning preamp power off when inserting or removing microphone input or line output cables!

POWER ENTRY / IEC Power Receptacle: An IEC-type AC line-power receptacle for use with removable cords. Use only the power cord provided with the **FOX** unit or equivalent U/L approved type SV, SVT, SJ, or SJT AC power supply cord. Do not defeat the third pin earth ground.



MAIN VOLTAGE ADJUSTMENT

(Read carefully, very important!)

- 1.) Switch off unit.**
- 2.) Turn rotary switch barrel with screwdriver or coin until correct voltage is selected.**
- 3.) Replace fuse with appropriate value.**

FUSES: For 100-120 VAC mains use 5 x 20 mm, 500 mA, slow blow, 250 V, Littelfuse 218 or equiv. For 200-240 VAC mains use 5 x 20 mm, 250 mA, slow blow, 250 V, Littelfuse 218 or equiv.

TECHNICAL DATA

Unit Specifications	
Input Impedance	1500 Ohms
Gain Range	60 dB
Noise (EIN)	-128 dB
Mic Phantom	Mic Input Switchable 48 Volt Power Source
Phase	Switchable 0 -180
Instrument Input Jack	¼" , > 1 Megohm Input Impedance
Rear panel connections	Female XLR Mic Input, Parallel XLR Male/ ¼" TRS Output
Frequency Response	9Hz-101KHz
Distortion	Less than 1%
Power Requirements	110/220 VAC - 25 Watts
Dimensions, Weight	19" x 1.75" x 10", 15 lbs