



Audio Engineering Associates

# The Ribbon Pre™

The first preamp designed  
specifically for ribbon mics



## TRP

### The Original Ribbon Mic Pre

Have you ever wondered if you were using the right preamp for your ribbon mics? That perhaps the mic pre you were using wasn't able to pass along as much of signal it was receiving from the microphone as possible? Like trying to fit a square peg into a round hole, you *can* make it fit—but only by changing the shape of the peg into something, well, *more circular*.

Most preamps are typically geared towards the needs of condenser mics. But if you're micing with a ribbon, you're probably doing it because you want to hear the smooth, open tone that a ribbon gives you. However, if you're using a mic pre designed for condensers, you might be trying to fit a ribbon-shaped sound through a condenser-shaped hole, and throwing away much of the ribbon's tone in the process. In fact, you may have never heard everything your ribbon mics are capable of.

The AEA TRP is the first mic preamp designed specifically to fit the needs of a ribbon mic. First, the JFET discrete front end provides 83dB of gain. We made that gain as quiet as physically possible, so we left out the phantom power circuitry and gave it an external power supply. The TRP's 300 kHz of bandwidth makes it well-equipped to handle fast transients and the Low-Energy-Storage (LES)™ circuit topology allows it to recover instantly from overloads, providing you with everything you need for 192 kHz high-resolution recordings.

The AEA TRP is optimized for ribbon, moving coil, and tube mics that don't need phantom power. It allows you to hear more of what you want to hear and less of absolutely everything else. After all, if you own ribbon mics, don't you want to be able to really use them?



### Electronics

- Gain is >83 dB at 1 kHz, balanced in to balanced out
- Positive polarity is pin 2 on XLRs, tip on 1/4" stereo jacks
- Balanced outputs clip above +28 dBu, 100k load
- Unbalanced XLR output load reduces max level by ~6 dB
- Unbalanced 1/4" TRS outputs clip at +22 dBu, 100k load
- Frequency response: down 3 dB at 6 Hz and 300 kHz
- THD at 1 kHz is .005% with 22 Hz to 22 kHz bandwidth
- EIN, (weighted noise figure): -130 dBu, 150 Ω input
- Balanced mic input impedance: >30,000 Ω
- Microphone input electronics are DC coupled
- Mic inputs are zener protected from external P48 DC
- Mic inputs shut off while external DC is present
- Green LED snaps on at ~ -5 dBu
- Yellow LED is variable brightness from ~ 0 to +20 dBu
- Red LED snaps on at ~ +20 dBu
- High-pass filter: 12 dB per octave and -3 dB at 100 Hz
- Power supply provides two 17.25 VAC outputs

### Physical

- Gain switch: 12 position Grayhill series 71
- Output level control detents at 12 noon
- Polarity invert & high-pass pushbutton switches
- External power supply (P.S.) for minimum noise
- P.S. input & output cords are 6 feet long each
- 115 VAC P.S. uses male grounded Edison power plug
- 230 VAC P.S. uses male recessed IEC power plug
- Chassis P.S. input is a female 7-pin circular DIN jack
- Laser engraved legends & single line schematic
- Power-on indication: front panel LED
- Chassis: aluminum with rugged extruded endcaps
- Size: half-rack wide, rack unit high 8.5" x 8.5" x 1.7"
- Metric: chassis is 36.7 cm wide & deep, by 4.3 high
- Weight: chassis: 2 pounds, P.S.: 1.5 pounds
- Metric: chassis: 0.9 Kg, P.S.: 0.7 kg
- Finish: tough, textured, black & gray powder coat
- Dual TRP steel 1 RU rackshelf mounting option

