



XXX LIMITED EDITION DUAL MONO MIC PREAMP

Greetings!

As we celebrate our 30th year building Manley vacuum tube audio equipment, I recall back to my first few months at the old company working with David Manley as he had just won a design shootout for a large organization who ordered sixty units of his first microphone preamplifier, the two-stage 60dB model. This in effect launched the pro audio division of MANLEY. On the heels of that giant order, a flurry of new pro audio products began development. Luckily we were able to grab the brilliant young Steve Haselton from The Mastering Lab for a few days per week and he brought to us more developed technology and circuit refinements they had already proven at The Mastering Lab. One of these pieces of circuitry was the dual-triode White Cathode Follower which replaced the regular ol' single triode Cathode Follower that David Manley had been using for his output stages.

You'll find the White Cathode Follower output stage in most of our line level single-ended circuits driving that big ol' white 30 uF MultiCap, but in fact the circuit is not named for the color of the output capacitor but rather for Eric Lawrence Casling White, a British scientist who worked at EMI with Alan Blumlein - the inventor of stereo! They also made important advancements with early television, radar, disk cutting, and audio recording. White's improvement to the traditional cathode follower circuit included much lower output impedance at twice the current and was patented in the early 1940s. You'll find the White Cathode Follower, or "WCF" as it's also known, on the output stage of your LA-2As - however, it was Steve Haselton who showed us it was possible to direct-couple the previous stage into the WCF thereby eliminating a capacitor, and in my view, less is more. To my ears, the sound was more pure and true to the original source.

This White Cathode Follower output stage is a foundational element of most of our outboard processors and audiophile preamplifiers, and a defining point in the character of "The Manley Sound". In the Manley Dual Mono Microphone Preamplifier, this circuit is executed by a current production Electro-Harmonix 12BH7 dual triode vacuum tube on each channel.

As for the rest of the unit, it's been around for decades, hasn't it? You are probably fairly familiar with its space-saving 1 RU design, silent-conductive plastic input attenuators that pretty much function like a Variable Input Pad, and super-creative GAIN switch that alters the amount of Global Negative Feedback - which not only changes the amount of amplification by the 12AX7 tube, but also affects the slew rate or apparent "speed" of the sound, providing a variation of sonic colors from slow and "tube-y" to fast and punchy. You also have the option of coming out the 1/4" jacks which gives you another sonic choice of hearing the transformers via the XLRs, or not...oh yeah, and the Direct Input jacks on the front panel are well-loved by bass and keyboard players! Ahhhh, but you guys know about these things already. I wanted to zero in on some obscure geeky history in this missive talking about the origins of the Manley Dual Mono Microphone Preamplifier. I hope you enjoyed peeking inside - and wayyyyyy back.

Due to its 1 RU design with all the tubes lying down sideways, there are a tremendous number of American labor-hours required to hand wire each Dual Mono Microphone Preamplifier. When we designed the replacement Manley FORCE mic pre, we found that with thoughtful layout and attention to efficient manufacturing techniques, we could offer 4 channels of Manley microphone amplification for far less money to many more eager musicians and engineers and thus made the decision to retire the older Mono and Dual Mono 1 RU units. But because we are in the audio business, always listening, we have decided to celebrate our 30 Years of MANLEY pro audio production with a celebratory limited production run of these classic cornerstone Manley Dual Mono Microphone Preamplifiers.

Please enjoy this lovingly hand-crafted unit, and thank you for being a Manley customer.

Sincerely,
EveAnna Manley
President, Manley Laboratories, Inc.