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Black Lion Audio B173 Preamp Owner's Manual

Thank you for purchasing the B173 Preamp! There has been quite a bit of anticipation for this preamp. It's based on the classic design of the Neve 1073, with a modern approach to the circuitry and sound. We are very proud that it has surpassed the hype and expectation of our dedicated customers, providing the top-notch quality that Black Lion is known for at a surprisingly affordable price.

We began with the idea of making an extremely inexpensive clone of the revered Neve 1073 preamp, but as we continued to design and add modern features, we concluded that this was no clone, but a quite unique preamp all on its own! The entire circuit is discrete Class A, with a vintage, single-ended style microphone amp and a discrete balanced output amplifier. Our aim was to design a preamp with the creamy fullness of the classic Neve 1073 that also provides the polish and clarity featured in many expensive modern preamps. The result is a well-balanced, smooth, vintage-sounding pre, with a bit of punch, low noise floor, and plenty of gain.

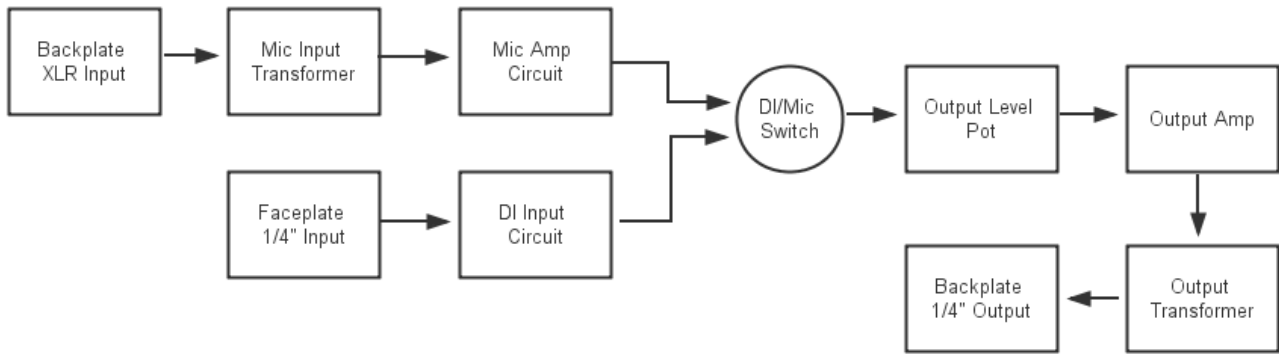
But let's get to the meat: the B173 is a single channel microphone pre-amp with input and output transformers, stepped gain, output level control, phantom power, and switchable phase. It features 80dB of gain, is housed in a 1U, 1/2 rack chassis, and has a DI input with a high-impedance buffer that will work with guitars as well as keyboards.



Signal path:

The Mic Gain is a 12-position, stepped switch ranging from +12dB minimum gain to +80dB max gain. The majority of the gain for the microphone section comes from the mic amp stage. The signal passes through a transformer input stage before going into the active mic amp circuit, which is controlled by the rotary switch on the front panel. The signal then passes to the DI switch where you can select which input signal will go to the output amp (either DI or XLR input). The output level knob controls the output amp before going through the output transformer. (Note the following flow chart):

Signal path (cont.):



Specifications:

Power Requirements: 24 volts AC, 15W

Gain = 12dB to 80dB

THD+N @ 12dB Gain = .07%

THD+N @ 62dB Gain = .14%

Something to keep in mind BEFORE using your Black Lion Audio B173 Preamp for the first time:

It is important to note that due to the design and particular selection of components used in this preamp, there will be an initial "warm-up" time required before the audio quality will be optimal. Simply power on your BLA B173 and wait 2 - 3 minutes before passing audio, otherwise you might hear a slight bit of distortion in the signal while the unit settles.

Other than that, you are all set to enjoy a hybrid of the timeless sound of the Neve 1073 and Black Lion Audio's innovative touch.

Thank you again for your purchase and for your support of us here at Black Lion Audio. Be sure to check out our other products and modifications at www.blacklionaudio.com.

Cheers!