

A-Designs Audio

500 Series Modular Preamps

A Designs has developed an array of five different sounding 500 preamps, all US made, all with different combinations of input and output audio transformers. These combinations of transformers give each A Designs 500 preamp a sound uniquely their own. No other company has taken the 500 modules so seriously and offered so many options to the user. The beauty of the A Designs 500 preamps is so many sonic options in so little rack space.

A Designs makes a two space frame with built in power supply called the 500HR. All A Designs modules are tested by API to be fully compatible with API frames including the Lunchbox ® and 500V 10 space frame.

A DESIGNS P-1:

1. INPUT TRANSFORMER: The “Model One” proprietary input transformer is the same input transformer inside the Pacifica.
2. OUTPUT TRANSFORMER: The “Model Five” steel/nickel blend output transformer. This is a smaller version of the output transformer in the Pacifica.
3. This One + Five transformer combination translates into wider bandwidth
4. White face=wide bandwidth
5. For sources that you want to enhance: Vocals, ambient room, guitar, keyboards, overhead drums, snare.
6. Try it instead of an API 512 for a smoother top end and more aggressive mids; P1 is exactly the “Quad 8” sound of the consoles.
7. P-1 has 65dB of gain (Pacifica has 72 dB)
8. Our best selling 500 Series preamp.

A DESIGNS EM-Blue:

1. INPUT TRANSFORMER: A Designs Model One proprietary input transformer
2. OUTPUT TRANSFORMER: A Designs Model Three nickel alloy output transformer
3. This One + Three transformer combo translates into a brighter sound.
4. Blue face=More highs.
5. For sources you would like to brighten up: darker vintage microphones, dynamic mics, flat wound electric bass, old Rhodes piano.
6. CC Thomas (Baby Face, Diana Ross) prefers the EM-Blue for his bass.
7. Paul Tobias and Chris Pitman who played on a good many tracks for Guns and Roses loved it on his electric guitar and keyboards.
8. Try it on a dull flat wound stringed electric bass for more detail
9. EM Blue has 65dB of gain.

A DESIGNS EM SILVER:

1. INPUT TRANSFORMER: A Designs Model One proprietary transformer
2. OUTPUT TRANSFORMER: A Designs Model Four steel alloy custom wound output transformer
3. The One+ Four transformer combination in the EM Silver translates into more low end than the other units, without sacrificing detail.
4. Silver face = Steel
5. For sources that could use more bottom end: Strings, pedal steel, kick, floor toms, over bright Chinese mics.
6. Justin Mendahl-Johnson (Bass for Beck) and Reggie Hamilton (LA's hot studio bass player) uses the Silver + tube REDDI as the front end before a power amp.
7. Try it on a Royer Ribbon Mic for that "Old School" ribbon vibe.
8. EM Silver has 65 dB of gain.

A DESIGNS EM-Gold:

1. INPUT TRANSFORMER: A Designs Model Two proprietary transformer. Different than the P1, Silver or Blue.
2. OUTPUT TRANSFORMER: A Designs Model Four steel alloy custom wound output transformer.
3. This Two + Four transformer combination in the EM Gold translates into more low upper mids than the other units.
4. Gold= golden low midrange
5. For sources that could use some "Lower midrange forward" emphasis, such as bass guitars, synth, drums such as toms.
6. Joe Cicarelli loves this unit on floor toms.
7. Try it on "all bottom and top" chinese condenser mics for a more mixable sound.
8. EM Gold has 63dB of gain.

A DESIGNS EM-Red:

1. INPUT TRANSFORMER: A Designs Model Two proprietary transformer. Different than the P1, Silver or Blue. But the same as the EM-Red.
2. OUTPUT TRANSFORMER: A Designs Model Five steel/nickel blend alloy output transformer.
3. The Two+ Five transformer combination in the EM Red translates into more midrange.
4. Red= Blushing midrange
5. For sources that could use "Upper midrange forward" emphasis, such as toms, larger drum kits, screaming electric guitar, acoustic guitar.
6. Try it on mandolin or acoustics.
7. This unit is the closest to an API 512 in sound.
8. This unit has 63dB of gain.