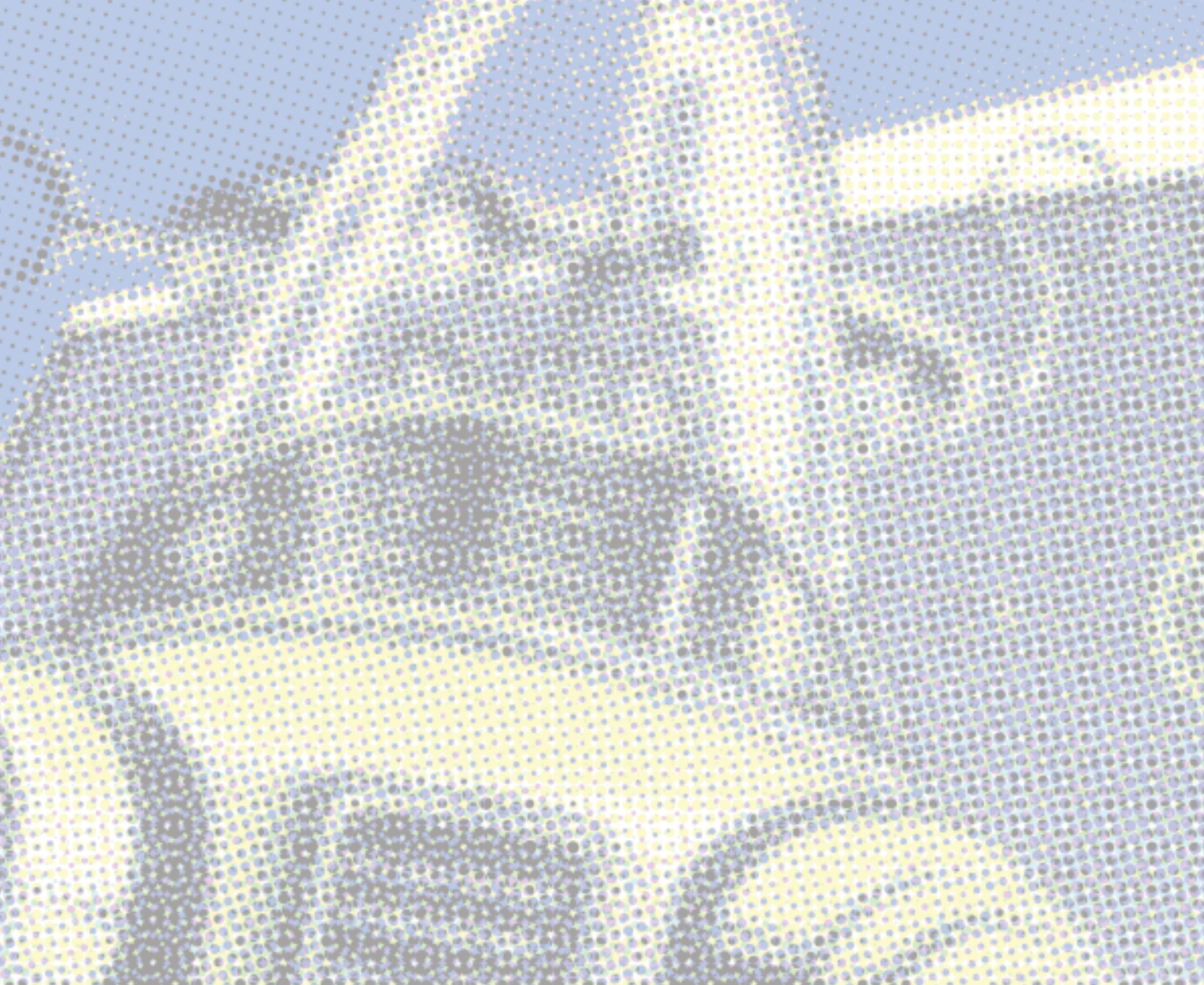


ROBBIE
THE MIC PRE™

OPERATOR'S MANUAL





ROBBIE

CLASS-A DISCRETE MIC PRE

Robbie is a Class-A discrete tube microphone and instrument preamplifier. With no ICs and only the highest-quality discrete components from input to output, Robbie is one of the quietest (-131 dB EIN @ 50Ω) and most detailed (THD 0.006%) tube preamps available today. It features audiophile-grade ultra low noise metal film resistors and polystyrene capacitors, and provides the user with the best of both worlds: An electronically-balanced, fully discrete input stage, tube gain stage (ECC88 twin triode), and an electronically-balanced solid-state output stage. There is no switching crossover distortion anywhere in the completely balanced audio signal path. And if that's not enough, Robbie achieves an amazing 34dB headroom before clipping!

Elegance and simplicity are the driving forces behind our design philosophy. Robbie is no exception. The front panel features only a large backlit potentiometer (gain) and 1/4 hi-Z instrument input. On the back, you'll find the power cable input, power switch, balanced XLR mic input, balanced XLR line output, polarity switch, -20 dB pad, input selector switch (mic/instrument) and phantom power on/off.



MINIMUM GAIN	8 dB
MAXIMUM GAIN	68 dB
FREQUENCY RESPONSE (+ / - 2 dB)	10Hz – 100kHz
NOISE @ 60 dB gain (10 Hz – 30 kHz, 50Ω source)	-131 dB EIN
NOISE @ 60 dB gain (10 Hz – 30 kHz, 150Ω source)	-129 dB EIN
THD + NOISE @ 60 dB gain (10 Hz – 20 kHz, +22 dBu output)	< 0.006%
PHASE RESPONSE @ 60dB gain (50 Hz – 20 kHz, +22 dBu output)	< 5°
COMMON MODE REJECTION RATIO (50 Hz – 20 kHz, 100 mV input)	60dB gain > 64dB; 30dB gain > 75 dB
MAXIMUM INPUT LEVEL (8 dB Gain, 20 Hz - 20 kHz)	+22 dBu w/o pad
MAXIMUM OUTPUT LEVEL (20 Hz – 40 kHz @ 10 kΩ)	+34 dBu
MIC INPUT IMPEDANCE (20Hz - 20kHz)	5kΩ (2x 2,5kΩ)
HI-Z INPUT IMPEDANCE	1MΩ
OUTPUT IMPEDANCE	50Ω (2x25Ω)
PHANTOM POWER	+48 VDC, +/-1.5 VDC
POWER CONSUMPTION	8W
POWER REQUIREMENTS	115/230 VAC, 50/60 Hz
DIMENSIONS	8½" L X 8¼" W X 5¼" H
WEIGHT	7 LB

OPERATIONS



AC Power

Robbie operates at 115VAC with USA power supply, or 230VAC with European power supply. Connect the male end of the AC power supply cable to Robbie by lining up the large top center tab with the large top center slot on Robbie's female AC input jack. Make sure the cable is inserted fully into the jack and then gently twist to the right until it clicks into place. To detach the AC cable, slide the spring-loaded metal tab toward you and gently twist to the left.

Front Panel

Robbie's front panel has a gain control, hi-z instrument input, and enclosed vacuum tube.

Gain Control

The continuously variable gain control determines Robbie's output. Gain is variable from a minimum of 8 dB (fully counterclockwise) to a maximum of 68 dB (fully clockwise). Adjust Robbie's gain control until the desired level appears on the input level meter of your recording device.

Hi-Z Instrument Input.

This is a $\frac{1}{4}$ high-impedance instrument level input. It is intended for direct injection (DI) of guitars, bass guitars, synths, drum machines and other equipment with an instrument level output. Any signal fed to the INSTRUMENT input will appear at the LINE output when the MIC/INST selector switch is depressed.

Rear Panel

The rear panel contains Robbie's power switch, power cable input, MIC input, LINE output, polarity switch, -20dB pad, MIC/LINE selector switch and phantom power switch.

Power Switch

Powers Robbie On or Off.

Mic In

The balanced XLR female jack is for connection of your microphone with a XLR microphone cable such as the Blue Kiwi, Cranberry or Blueberry.

Any signal fed to the MIC input will appear at the LINE output when the MIC/INST selector switch is in its normal (out) position.



Line Out

The balanced XLR male jack is for connection to your +4dBm balanced line-level input device with a XLR microphone cable such as the Blue Kiwi, Cranberry or Blueberry. Robbie's nominal operating level is 0dB = 1.228V. Robbie's line output is wired *pin 2 hot*.

Polarity (Ø)

The SPST switch labeled Ø/REV reverses the signal polarity at a point immediately before the active input stage. When in its normal (out) position, the input signal passes unaffected. When depressed (in), the polarity is reversed.

Pad

The SPST switch labeled 0 dB/-20dB activates Robbie's pre-attenuation circuit. When in its normal (out) position, input signal passes unaffected. When depressed (in) the input signal is attenuated by -20dB to accommodate high-spl sources.

Mic/Inst

The SPST switch labeled MIC/INST determines which of Robbie's two inputs feeds the LINE output. When in its normal position (out), the input signal to the rear-panel XLR MIC input will appear at the LINE output. When depressed, (in), the input signal to the ¼ Hi-Z front-panel input appears at the LINE output.

+48V

The SPST switch labeled +48V activates Robbie's phantom power circuit. When in its normal position (out), phantom power is OFF. When depressed (in), phantom power is ON. Most condenser microphones require phantom power as well as some active dynamic and ribbon microphones. The Blue Ball microphone is a good example of this. Check your microphone's specifications to determine whether it needs power. If it does not, be sure Robbie's phantom power circuit is OFF. Though most modern microphones of various designs are fairly robust, application of phantom power to a device not designed for it could result in permanent damage. Particular care should be exercised when connecting ribbon microphones. Make sure phantom power is switched off before connecting or removing any microphone to avoid transients that could damage other components in your audio signal path.



SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

Ventilation

Insure adequate ventilation when installing Robbie in a rack or other location. Improper ventilation will cause overheating which can damage Robbie and shorten tube life.

Heat

Robbie should not be positioned near any heat source or other equipment that produces heat. Failure to do so will cause overheating which can damage Robbie and shorten tube life.

Moisture

Do not use Robbie near any water source or in an excessively damp environment.

Cleaning

Carefully wipe Robbie's face plate with a damp cloth. Do not use any solvents or detergents.

Object and Liquid Entry

Do not allow objects or liquids to enter the enclosure.

Power Source

Robbie should only be connected to the power supply included with the unit.

Storage/Nonuse

Disconnect Robbie's AC power supply cable if unused for extended periods of time. Store in a location where dust can not settle in Robbie's input jacks.

Servicing

There are no user-serviceable parts inside Robbie. All service must be preformed by Blue-authorized service personnel. Any user attempt to perform service will void Robbie's warranty and may result in serious injury or death.



Notice: This manual provides general information about the operation and maintenance of Robbie the Mic Pre. The information contained in this manual is subject to change without notice. Blue, LLC, makes no warranties of any kind regarding this manual including, but not limited to, the implied warranties of merchantability and fitness for any particular purposes. Blue, LLC, shall not be liable for errors contained herein or direct, indirect, special, incidental or consequential damages in conjunction with furnishing, performance or use of this material.

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Microphones

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