

THANK YOU

for your purchase

H  **LABS**

PRE169

Mic Preamp

User manual v9.22

INTRODUCTION

The PRE169 is a versatile microphone preamplifier using the widely used API® 500-format. Inspired by the legendary Studer® 169 mixing console, the PRE169's input stage is a close replication of the original Studer® design and its fairly transparent sound with massive gain range. To add more fatness, we put a big Carnhill transformer in the output section - the same you can find in Neve® 51-series console for example.

It is compatible with all the 500-format lunchbox in the market, but due to the large transformer used in this design, be advised that this module will perform better with a well-sized power supply, delivering at least 400mA per slot.

As every HLabs product, the PRE169 has been designed to be used in a very simple way. Each knob you will find in front of you has a simple and clear purpose - just turn it up and down, listen, and focus on music.

SPECIFICATIONS

- ▶ Max Gain: 67dB
- ▶ Pad: -33dB
- ▶ Output level: 0 to -30dB
- ▶ +48V Phantom Power
- ▶ Polarity switch
- ▶ Discrete 12dB/octave HPF (High Pass Filter) from 20Hz to 315Hz
- ▶ Input transformer: Neutrik NTM-4
- ▶ Output transformer: Carnhill VT24499
- ▶ Mic input impedance: 1.2kΩ
- ▶ DI input impedance: 1.0MΩ

Designed and assembled in our workshop in Saint Vérand (France).



MAINTENANCE

Thanks to their modular design using mainly old school THT components, our products are robust and will be easily serviced for decades. We simply want our products to stand the test of time and become future classics.

Feel free to contact us for any maintenance operation or spare parts, we will always be there to help.

MAIN FEATURES

SIGNAL LED

The multicolor LED indicates the presence and level of signal after preamplification and HPF, but before output level.

- = input signal detected
- = 0.2% harmonic distortion

INPUT LEVEL

The gain range is divided in two sub ranges :

- when the **HI** switch is not engaged, the gain knob will operate from +18dB to +42dB
- with the **HI** switch pushed, the gain range step up to +40dB to +65dB.

In addition, use the **PAD** to lower the input level by 33dB (with line level sources for example).

PHASE INVERT

Invert the phase of the input signal by pushing this switch. Especially useful for multi-mics recordings as drums or guitar amps.

HI-Z INPUT

Plug here your guitar, bass or any other low level instrument.

OUTPUT LEVEL

The output level knob is a simple attenuator, ranging from 0 to -30dB.

By using a low input gain and no output attenuation, you will get a very clear and dynamic sound, true to the original Studer® 169 console. When increasing the gain, you will hear the output transformer working by getting a much warmer and colored sound. To ensure that you don't overload the connected device, use the **OUTPUT** knob to attenuate the level at the output.

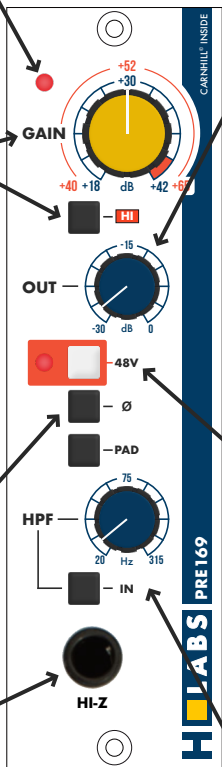
PHANTOM POWER

Push this switch to activate the phantom power supply, used for condenser microphones. The red LED indicates the presence of a 48V supply on the microphone line (from the PRE169 or any other device in the chain).

Be careful not to leave the power on when using your ribbon or vintage mics!

HIGH PASS FILTER

Push the **IN** switch to activate the filter and turn the knob to choose the frequency. Cutting low frequencies will help making the mids stand out and reveal room sound in your recordings for example.



**For any question,
feel free to contact us at
support@hlab.audio**

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