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Warm Audio WA73

Warm Audio WA73 Microphone Preamp User Manual

Model: WA73

1. Introduction

The Warm Audio WA73 is a single-channel microphone, line, and instrument preamplifier designed to provide 80dB of gain with a fully discrete, transformer-balanced signal path. This unit is engineered to deliver a rich, full-bodied tonal quality, reminiscent of classic British console preamplifiers. It is suitable for a wide range of recording applications, enhancing the character and presence of audio signals.

2. Safety Information

- **Power Source:** Connect the unit only to the specified power source as indicated on the rear panel. Ensure the voltage is correct for your region.
- **Grounding:** Always use a grounded power cable to prevent electrical shock.
- **Moisture:** Do not expose this unit to rain or moisture. Avoid placing objects filled with liquids, such as vases, on the unit.
- **Ventilation:** Ensure adequate ventilation around the unit. Do not block ventilation openings.
- **Heat:** Do not place the unit near heat sources such as radiators, heat registers, stoves, or other apparatus that produce heat.
- **Servicing:** Refer all servicing to qualified service personnel. Do not attempt to service this unit yourself.
- **Cleaning:** Clean only with a dry cloth.

3. Package Contents

Please check that all items listed below are included in your package:

- Warm Audio WA73 Microphone Preamp Unit
- IEC Power Cable
- This User Manual

4. Product Overview

The Warm Audio WA73 is a robust, single-channel preamplifier housed in a durable metal enclosure. It features a straightforward design for intuitive operation and high-quality audio processing.



Image 1: Front view of the Warm Audio WA73 Microphone Preamp, showcasing its controls and inputs.

4.1 Front Panel Controls and Connections

- **Input Gain Knob:** Adjusts the input level for microphones or line sources.
- **Output Level Knob:** Controls the overall output level of the preamplifier.
- **Phantom Power (+48V) Switch:** Engages +48V phantom power for condenser microphones.
- **Phase Reverse Switch:** Inverts the phase of the input signal.
- **High-Pass Filter Switch:** Activates a high-pass filter to reduce low-frequency rumble.
- **Instrument Input (DI):** 1/4-inch TS input for connecting instruments directly.
- **Mic Input:** XLR input for connecting microphones.

4.2 Rear Panel Connections

- **Line Input:** XLR input for connecting line-level sources.
- **Line Output:** XLR output for connecting to an audio interface or mixing console.
- **IEC Power Inlet:** For connecting the supplied IEC power cable.

5. Setup

5.1 Unpacking and Placement

1. Carefully remove the WA73 unit from its packaging.
2. Place the unit on a stable, flat surface or mount it in a standard 19-inch rack (if applicable).
3. Ensure there is adequate space around the unit for ventilation to prevent overheating.

5.2 Power Connection

1. Ensure the WA73's power switch is in the OFF position.
2. Connect the supplied IEC power cable to the IEC inlet on the rear panel of the WA73.
3. Plug the other end of the power cable into a grounded AC power outlet.

5.3 Audio Connections

1. **Microphone Connection:** Connect your microphone to the XLR Mic Input on the front panel using a balanced XLR cable.
2. **Instrument Connection:** For instruments (e.g., guitar, bass), connect directly to the 1/4-inch Instrument Input on the front panel using a TS cable.
3. **Line Input Connection:** For line-level sources, connect to the XLR Line Input on the rear panel.

4. **Output Connection:** Connect the XLR Line Output on the rear panel to your audio interface, mixer, or other recording device using a balanced XLR cable.

6. Operating Instructions

6.1 Powering On/Off

After all connections are made, flip the power switch on the rear panel to the ON position. To power off, flip the switch to the OFF position.

6.2 Gain Staging

1. Start with the Input Gain and Output Level knobs set to their minimum positions.
2. If using a condenser microphone, engage the +48V Phantom Power switch. Wait a few seconds for the power to stabilize before proceeding.
3. Gradually increase the Input Gain knob while monitoring your signal level on your recording device. Aim for a healthy signal without clipping.
4. Use the Output Level knob to fine-tune the signal sent to your recording device, ensuring it matches the optimal input level of your interface or mixer.

6.3 Using Phase Reverse

The Phase Reverse switch inverts the polarity of the input signal. This can be useful when recording multiple microphones on a single source (e.g., top and bottom snare mics) to correct phase cancellation issues. Engage or disengage as needed to achieve the desired sound.

6.4 High-Pass Filter

The High-Pass Filter switch activates a filter that reduces low-frequency content below a certain point. This can help eliminate unwanted rumble, hum, or proximity effect from microphones, resulting in a cleaner, more focused sound. Engage this switch when low-frequency issues are present.

7. Maintenance

- **Cleaning:** Disconnect the unit from power before cleaning. Use a soft, dry cloth to wipe the exterior. Do not use liquid cleaners or solvents.
- **Storage:** When not in use for extended periods, store the unit in a cool, dry place, away from direct sunlight and extreme temperatures.
- **No User-Serviceable Parts:** The WA73 contains no user-serviceable parts. Do not open the chassis. Opening the unit will void the warranty.

8. Troubleshooting

- **No Power:**
    - Ensure the power cable is securely connected to both the unit and a working AC outlet.
    - Check the power switch on the rear panel is in the ON position.
    - Verify the AC outlet is functional by plugging in another device.

- **No Sound Output:**
  - Check all audio cables (input and output) are securely connected.
  - Ensure Input Gain and Output Level knobs are not set to minimum.
  - If using a condenser microphone, ensure +48V Phantom Power is engaged.
  - Verify the connected audio interface or mixer is correctly configured and receiving signal.
- **Hum or Noise:**
  - Ensure all cables are balanced XLR where appropriate.
  - Check for ground loops by trying different power outlets or using a ground lift adapter (use with caution).
  - Keep the unit away from strong electromagnetic interference sources (e.g., power transformers, computer monitors).
- **Distorted Sound:**
  - Reduce the Input Gain. The signal may be too hot.
  - Ensure the output level is not overloading the input of your connected device.
  - Check that the microphone or instrument itself is not distorting.

9. Specifications

Feature	Specification
Model Name	WA73
Brand	Warm Audio
Type	Single-channel Mic/Line/Instrument Preamp
Color	Black
Compatible Devices	Microphone, Audio Interface, Mixing Console
Material	Metal Enclosure
Item Weight	9.5 Pounds
Power Source	Corded Electric (IEC)
Connector Types	XLR, 1/4 inch, IEC
Gain	Up to 80dB
Warranty	2 Year Limited Warranty

10. Warranty Information

The Warm Audio WA73 Microphone Preamp is covered by a **2 Year Limited Warranty** from the date of purchase. This warranty covers defects in materials and workmanship under normal use. It does not cover damage caused by misuse, accident, unauthorized modification, or improper operation.
For full details regarding the warranty terms and conditions, please refer to the official Warm Audio website or contact their customer support directly.

11. Support

If you encounter any issues not covered in this manual or require further assistance, please contact Warm Audio customer support. You can typically find contact information, FAQs, and additional resources on the official Warm Audio website.
When contacting support, please have your product model (WA73) and serial number ready.

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