

Solid State Logic 729745X2

Solid State Logic PureDrive Octo 8 Channel Mic Pre User Manual

Model: 729745X2

1. INTRODUCTION

The Solid State Logic PureDrive Octo is an 8-channel microphone preamplifier designed for professional audio recording and production environments. It integrates SSL's renowned PURE and DRIVE modes, offering versatile tonal characteristics, along with advanced digital connectivity and an onboard USB interface. This manual provides comprehensive instructions for the setup, operation, and maintenance of your PureDrive Octo unit.

The PureDrive Octo features four mic preamp input impedance options, allowing for exploration of various tonal possibilities and optimal matching with different microphone types. Each channel includes independent +48V phantom power, polarity inversion, and a High Pass Filter, making it a highly capable and feature-rich outboard microphone preamplifier.

2. KEY FEATURES

- 8 channel high-performance PureDrive mic preamps.
- +48V phantom power, polarity invert, and 3rd order hi-pass filter per channel.
- 31-step Trim control with precise 1 dB increments for signal level adjustment and gain staging.
- Line inputs via TRS Jack or dedicated D-Sub connectivity.
- Four mic preamp input impedance options to explore new tonal possibilities from dynamic and ribbon microphones.
- PURE and DRIVE modes, including a new 'Asymmetric' DRIVE option.
- Advanced digital connectivity (ADAT, AES/EBU).
- Onboard USB audio interface.

3. PRODUCT OVERVIEW

Front Panel



This image displays the front panel of the PureDrive Octo. It features eight identical input channels, each with dedicated controls for Gain, Trim, and various processing options. On the right, digital metering and A/D conversion controls are visible.

Rear Panel



The rear panel provides all input and output connections. This includes XLR/TRS combo jacks for microphone/line inputs, D-Sub connectors for line inputs and outputs/sends, ADAT and AES/EBU digital outputs, Wordclock I/O, and a USB port for computer connectivity. The power inlet is located on the far left.

4. SETUP GUIDE

4.1 Unpacking and Placement

- Carefully remove the PureDrive Octo from its packaging.
- Place the unit in a well-ventilated area, preferably in a standard 19-inch equipment rack. Ensure adequate airflow around the unit to prevent overheating.
- Avoid placing the unit near heat sources or in direct sunlight.

4.2 Power Connection

- Ensure the unit's power switch is in the OFF position.
- Connect the supplied AC power cable to the IEC inlet on the rear panel of the PureDrive Octo.
- Plug the other end of the power cable into a grounded AC outlet.

4.3 Audio Connections

- **Microphone Inputs:** Connect microphones to the XLR inputs on the rear panel (Channels 1-8).
- **Line Inputs:** Connect line-level sources using TRS jacks or the dedicated D-Sub connectors on the rear

panel.

- **Digital Outputs:** Connect the ADAT OUT ports to your audio interface or digital mixer for multi-channel digital audio. Use AES/EBU outputs for stereo digital audio.
- **USB Connection:** Connect the USB port on the rear panel to your computer for use as an audio interface. Install necessary drivers if prompted by your operating system.
- **Wordclock:** For synchronization with other digital audio devices, connect a Wordclock cable to the WORDCLOCK IN/OUT ports.

5. OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

5.1 Powering On/Off

- To power on, flip the power switch on the rear panel to the ON position.
- To power off, flip the power switch to the OFF position.

5.2 Channel Controls (Per Channel)

- **GAIN Knob:** Adjusts the input gain for the microphone preamplifier. Use this to set the primary signal level.
- **TRIM Knob:** Provides fine-tuning of the output level in 1 dB increments. This allows for precise level matching and can be used to drive the signal into the DRIVE circuit.
- **+48V Button:** Engages phantom power for condenser microphones. Ensure the microphone is connected before activating.
- **POLARITY Button:** Inverts the phase of the input signal. Useful for correcting phase issues when using multiple microphones.
- **HPF Button:** Activates a High Pass Filter to reduce unwanted low-frequency rumble or proximity effect.
- **Z.D. (Impedance) Button:** Cycles through four input impedance options. Experiment with different settings to find the optimal tonal response for your microphone.
- **PURE/DRIVE Button:** Toggles between the PURE and DRIVE preamp modes.
 - **PURE Mode:** Provides a clean, transparent, and linear amplification.
 - **DRIVE Mode:** Introduces harmonic saturation and warmth. The PureDrive Octo also features an 'Asymmetric' DRIVE option for unique tonal shaping.

5.3 A/D Conversion and Digital Output Controls

- **RATE Knob:** Selects the sample rate for the A/D converters (e.g., 44.1kHz, 48kHz, 88.2kHz, 96kHz).
- **CLOCK Button:** Selects the clock source (Internal, Wordclock, USB).
- **Metering:** The front panel features LED meters for each channel, providing visual feedback on input levels.

6. MAINTENANCE

- **Cleaning:** Use a soft, dry cloth to clean the exterior of the unit. Avoid abrasive cleaners or solvents.
- **Ventilation:** Ensure that the ventilation slots are not obstructed to prevent overheating.
- **Storage:** When not in use for extended periods, store the unit in a cool, dry environment, away from dust and extreme temperatures.

7. TROUBLESHOOTING

- **No Power:**
 - Check if the power cable is securely connected to both the unit and the AC outlet.
 - Verify that the power outlet is functional.
- **No Audio Output:**
 - Ensure all audio cables are correctly connected to the inputs and outputs.
 - Check the GAIN and TRIM settings on the relevant channels.
 - Verify that the correct input source is selected on your receiving device (audio interface, mixer).
 - If using digital outputs (ADAT, AES/EBU, USB), ensure sample rates and clocking are correctly synchronized between devices.
- **Distorted Audio:**
 - Reduce the GAIN or TRIM level to prevent clipping.
 - Check the input level of your microphone or line source.
 - Ensure the PURE/DRIVE mode is set as desired; DRIVE mode intentionally adds harmonic distortion.

8. SPECIFICATIONS

Attribute	Value
Item Weight	19.51 pounds
Product Dimensions	22 x 18 x 9 inches
Model Number	729745X2
Color Name	Black
Compatible Devices	Microphone
Connector Type	XLR
Power Source	Corded Electric

9. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

For information regarding warranty coverage, technical support, or service, please contact Solid State Logic directly through their official website or authorized distributors. Keep your proof of purchase for warranty claims.

Official Solid State Logic Website: www.solidstatellogic.com