



PACIFICA™



Owner's Manual

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A Designs Audio, Inc. Introduces the PACIFICA

Throughout the 1970s, the American professional music recording industry was in its heyday. Popular artists like The Who, The Beatles, The Eagles, Doobie Brothers, Jackson 5, Rolling Stones and Steely Dan were all at the top of the charts and on every record player and eight track tape deck. Underground bands such as Pink Floyd and Led Zeppelin were not on the radio, but had ardent followers. The diversity and quality of new music was astounding.

The 1970s was also a time of great change in pro audio. The introduction of “solid state” electronics led to an explosion in development and a very different sound than the tube gear of previous decades. The Recording Console in a high end 1970s studio was likely a Neve®, an API®, or a Quad Eight. These companies set the standards for audio quality – with a unique sound firmly imprinted on the popular recordings of the era.

While much has been made currently with Neve and API reissues, interpretations and clones, the Quad Eight curiously faded from view. The irony is that many engineers firmly believe the Quad Eight Ventura, Pacifica and Coronado consoles to be sonically the very best of their day! A Designs Audio in West Hills California and pro audio designer Jon Erickson teamed up to recover and restore this lost “sound” to the recording community. Significant effort over the past 2 years has gone into the research of the origins of what was “The Quad Eight Sound”. Closely examining the design and composition of these were both a nightmare and a joy. The original QE staff was hard to locate. Documentation, design and parts were impossible to come by. Key parts were obsolete and not readily replaceable. After thousands of hours, endless listening sessions and time at the bench with test circuits, a target emerged.

QE mic pres, such as those used in the Quad Eight Ventura, Coronado and Pacifica consoles, emerged as one of the best examples of the unique Quad Eight tonal character. Thanks to critical efforts by Tom Reichenbach of Cinemag (whose father designed the original Quad Eight transformers) Jon and A Designs developed a prototype dubbed “Pacifica” for its decidedly West Coast vibe. The prototype was sent to a handful of devoted Quad Eight Console owners and mic pre fans along with some of today’s talented recording engineers. The results were gratifying: Nearly all agreed the new A Designs prototype was very close to the original Quad Eight sound, but with a tad more top end (exactly the target sound).

A Designs Audio is proud to introduce the “PACIFICA”, a single rack space, dual (mono/mono) channel microphone pre amplifier that comes amazingly close to the original in looks and sound. There are few, but valuable improvements, such as a front panel active hi-z ¼ inch input that places the input transformer directly in the signal path for a huge direct sound. The PACIFICA possesses a uniquely “Made in California” feel, with a significant heft from the huge transformers contained within. The original cream colored panel and red knob scheme was retained and is supplied with an outboard power supply for the lowest possible noise floor. We think the A Designs PACIFICA will achieve an instant classic status, becoming an important part of “must haves” for years to come.

Features

- Solid State Design
- Custom Input Transformers
- Custom Output Transformers
- Single Rack Space
- Balanced XLR Input
- Balanced XLR Output
- Level Controls
- -20dB Pad Switch
- 48V Switch
- Phase Switch
- Blue LED Power Indicator
- ON/OFF Switch
- Toroid Power Transformer
- 72dB Gain
- Hi Z ¼" Inch Input for Direct Inject.
- Red LED Phantom Indicator

In line with our company policy of continuous development, the above features are subject to change without notice.

TECHNICAL DATA

Input Impedance	1500 Ohms
Gain Range	72 dB Noise (EIN) -128 dB
Mic Phantom.	Switchable 48 Volt Power Source
Mic Input Phase	Switchable 0 -180
Instrument Input Jack	1/4" Phono
Balanced XLR Output	
Frequency Response	9Hz-101KHz
Distortion	Less than 1%
Power Requirements	100/120/230 VAC - 23 Watts
Dimensions	19" x 1.75" x 10"
Weight	11lbs.; 12.5 lbs. shipping weight

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Functions

Front



- 1 **Direct Inject** - Instrument input for bass, guitar, drum machine, etc.
- 2 **Phantom Power Indicator** - When lit indicates that 48V phantom power is active.
- 3 **Phantom Power Switch (48V)** - For microphones that require 48V power.
- 4 **PAD Switch** - For dropping a high level input down -20dB
- 5 **Phase Switch**
- 6 **Gain Control Knob**
- 7 **Power On/Off Switch (I/O)**
- 8 **Power Indicator LED**

Functions (continued)

Back



- 9 Fuse Box
- 10 AC Power Connector
- 11 Fuse Amperage
- 12 Serial Number
- 13 Line Output (Channel B)
- 14 Mic Input (Channel B)
- 15 Line Output (Channel A)
- 16 Mic Input (Channel A)

**ALWAYS USE GOOD COMMON SENSE WHEN OPERATING ANY ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT.
IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR DEALER OR THE MANUFACTURER BEFORE
DOING ANYTHING!!!!**



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PRO-AUDIO

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