

# The Brick™

## Tube Microphone and Instrument Preamplifier

### Congratulations!

We believe you've just purchased the world's finest portable tube mic and instrument preamplifier available anywhere, for any price. The Brick got it's name when noted engineer Greg Ladanyi had commented that *"this thing is built like a brick!"*

Your new GT Brick can be used for a multitude of audio signal amplification and distribution chores:

#### 1 - A Tube Mic Pre for Studio:

The Brick will work warming wonders for all dynamic, condenser, or ribbon type studio grade microphones in any recording environment. The Brick can provide up to +55dB of tube gain to any studio mic. This is more than enough gain for direct recording into computer based recording systems or traditional analog formats.

#### 2 - A Tube Mic Pre for Stage:

Many engineers have noticed how our ViPRE tube mic pre added so much depth to dynamic mics popular for live performance. They asked us to develop a portable and road worthy mic pre that could work the same audio magic for a dynamic or wireless mic in live performance applications. That is why we designed the Brick capable for stage or studio use with its unique rugged steel package and special internal construction features.

The Brick is a compact powerhouse preamp that will noticeably improve the tone of all common stage mics, either dynamic, condenser or wireless. The Brick's 3 internal tubes and massive custom output transformer can drive a signal 100's of feet with no loss...and improve any performance. Now you can get studio grade tone and performance on any stage!

#### 3 - A Tube Line Driver:

The Brick can input an unbalanced line or instrument level signal and output a balanced signal that will add depth and warmth to any recording. Its balanced and floating output will arrive at your mixing console or recorder warm, fat, and totally unaffected by the journey.



#### 4 - A Tube Instrument Preamp for Studio:

The Brick has the same tonal feature as its forerunner, the GT DITTO box. Just plug in your electric or acoustic-electric guitar, electric bass, synth or keyboard to amplify and drive a balanced and floating signal to your mixer or recorder. The brick is capable of amplifying up to +30dB with its 3 tube cascode gain circuitry. You may use the Brick as a neutral D.I. (with Gain at "0") and the signal level will be unchanged. Or, use the Brick as a preamplifier (Gain up to +30dB and you will not need any additional gain from your board). The Brick will preamplify any line or instrument signals directly into a +4 or -10 Line input stage of your mixer or recorder.

#### 5 - A Tube Instrument Preamp for Stage:

Hear the difference a real tube preamp can make for your live instrument performances. The Brick offers those sweet tube dynamics and warming properties to all live stage performances. You will find this especially helpful for those instrument wireless systems that can sound thin. The Brick shrugs off that thin wireless tone and replaces it with Fat! Once you play out live with a Brick, you'll never go back!

The Brick also adds clarity, punch, and tube warmth to the wide range of electro-acoustic guitar pickups that can sound brash and brittle....while rounding out the boom of an electric bass. The Brick will provide added clarity, dimension, and true dynamic response of tubes when compared to the "pseudo tube", solid state or passive DI boxes.

### Specs

**Mic Input**  
Nominal 150 Ohms  
source  
Reflected Load presented  
to source is 600 Ohms  
For use with:  
Condenser Mic  
Dynamic Mic  
Ribbon Mic

**Inst Input**  
Three megohm  
High Impedance,  
For use with :  
Electric Guitar  
Electro-Acoustic Guitar  
Piezo-electric Pickups  
Electric Bass  
Electronic Keyboard  
Electronic Synthesizer  
Line Level Signals

**Output Level**  
Nominal + 4 dBm  
Maximum +16 dBm  
terminated at 600 Ohms

**Dynamic Range**  
118 dB

**Available Gain**  
INST= + 30 dB  
MIC = + 55 dB

**Bandwidth**  
6 Hz to 22K Hz  
@ Minimum Gain  
(+0 dB and -3 dB)

**Noise**  
A Weighted  
EIN -90 dB

**Total Harmonic  
Distortion**  
.013% @ +4 dBm

**Phantom Power**  
+48 volts DC

**Mic Polarity**  
Pin 2 Positive

**AC**  
Primary input voltage is  
Internally Selectable  
between 120v and 240v  
50-60 Hertz

**FUSE**  
1 Amp @ 120 volts  
1/2 Amp @ 240 volts



## Operating Instructions:

### Mic Preamp:

Insert your Lo Z microphone into the XLR jack labeled "MIC INPUT" on the front panel of the Brick. The Brick automatically adds +25dB of gain with the Gain control set fully to the left. As you rotate the Gain control to the right, the Brick will gradually increase the gain up to +55dB.

### Instrument Preamp:

Insert your instrument into the far left 1/4" input labeled "INST INPUT". There is zero gain added (ie: Unity Gain") when the Gain control is fully counterclockwise. Rotating the Gain control to the right will gradually increase the amplification factor up to +30dB.

### Instrument DI:

Insert your instrument into the far left 1/4" input labeled "INST INPUT". There is zero gain added (ie: Unity Gain") when the Gain control is fully counterclockwise. You may pass your instrument signal onto another stage amp by using the "INST THRU" 1/4" output jack located directly to the right of the "INST INPUT" jack. This will not affect the Brick's preamplification gain or tone.

### Line driver:

Same rules apply as for the Instrument D.I. above. The Brick passes unity gain when the Gain control is set in the fully counterclockwise position.

Trading tube gain for solid state gain is almost always desirable and will result in a better sounding performance.

## Other Features:

### Signal Ground Lift:

Engaging this switch to the "0" position will isolate your signal ground from your Earth ground and can be used to "float" your signal in certain environments. This switch does not unbalance your XLR transmission line or add induction of hum or noise.

### Gain Control:

This control allows you to set the Brick for "0" dB, or unity gain, for the "INST INPUT" signals. The Brick's internal all tube amplifier can add up to +30dB in the full clockwise position

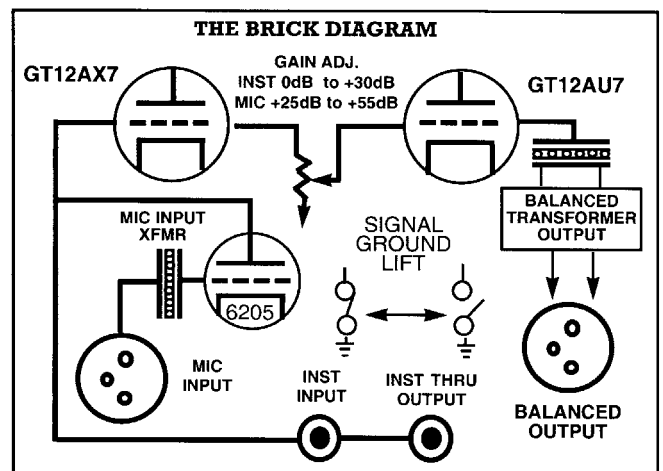
The "MIC INPUT" signals will be automatically amplified @ +25dB and can be increased to up to +55dB with the Gain control in the full clockwise position.

### Phantom Power:

Activating this switch will add +48vdc to the XLR jack for powering common phantom powered condenser microphones.

### On/Off switch

External fuse holder provided on the opposite side from the audio input/output face panel.



**NOTE:** The balance output signal from the Brick uses Pin 2 as "hot", consistent with the AES standard. You may "unbalance" this signal and run it single ended but hum and noise induction may result depending on the environment conditions.