

QUICK SPECS

Inputs: 3 Inputs + 1 Phono Input
Controls: 1 Selector Switch +
 1 Volume Control

Input impedance: 100K
Line Stage Gain: 15 db
S/N Ratio: Better than 90 db

Phono Gain Stage: 34 db / 50x
Input impedance: 47K
 RIAA Characteristic

TUBES USE:

12AU7 /ECC82
 Matched Pair

1 x 6CA4/EZ81
 Rectify Tube
 (First Tube from Left)

1 x ECL85 / 6GV8
 Regulate Tube
 (Second Tube from Left)

FINISH / BOX:

Magma Gray Metallic (2014)
 or computer coded
 automotive paint (For
 Au Pre du Triode)

Chassis Dimensions:
 17" x 8" x 8" (W x D x H)

Shipping Box:
 20" x 12" x 20"
 (W x D x H)

Shipping Weight: 20 LB
Launch Date: 2012
MSRP: Starting from \$2,899 CAD



MADE IN CANADA / FAIT AU CANADA

Audio Amplifiers

HTTP://WWW.TRIODELAB.COM

DESIGNER NOTES:

The Au Pre design uses tube rectification and regulation, with two 12AU7s in the gain stage and a solid-state phono stage.

It's been almost 30 years since we first developed this 12AU7 preamp circuitry. That first version was designed for a recording studio in Germany as a contract job – meeting strict German specifications and requirements. This preamp is, however, a product of 30 years of subsequent research and development. During that time, the original design was enhanced on the basis of continuous testing, use and feedback, leading to improvements to both engineering and design philosophy.

Today, we are pleased to debut the design in its home/hi-fi version -- our *AuPre*. This is easily our reference and favourite tube preamp.

The minimal design approach...

is not just for the looks and space savings.

The Au Pre is a compact preamplifier. But it is not just compact. Although we have kept all the wiring as short as possible, we have also used top-level components throughout – it is hardwired with heavy-duty silver wires, and high quality E-capacitors and parts - which contribute to the darker and quieter noise floor. Finally, to achieve the best signal to noise ratio and least interference, we separated the entire power supply circuitry from the main circuitry board. As a result, the Au Pre offers higher quality and cleaner sound with excellent imaging.

As with all other high-end tube equipment, we are of course adopting the best of the old ways, in this case by using tube rectification with a 6CA4/EZ81 tube. We also use a 6GV8/ECL85 tube to handle the regulating and stability task. We favour it to the more commonly used ECL82/6BM8 -- it just sounds better, and these days more affordable to the ECL82/6BM8. And yes, every tube, including both the rectify/regulating tubes, can make a great difference (day/night) in sound, so start looking for some NOS tubes!

For the 12AU7s, we prefer new production tubes. The EH12AU7 is what we supply with and tested with. It also have thousand of reasons why we like it and chosen it.

Simple, but Best = Hardest in Design & Engineering

As we mentioned above, this is not just a compact preamp. Although some might further minimize the design by using only one preamp tube, we will never go down to using just one tube for both channels. The same care in planning has gone into the phono stage. We have chosen to go with a non tube phono stage for this amplifier. Although it is not a tube-based component and looks simple, we have listened to a lot of options, and are convinced that we are using simply the best policy **and we take our phono stage very seriously**. Like most audiophiles, we are obsessed to what we like. Imagine back then we were crazy enough to flew over to Japan to ask old Mr. K san for a cart!

Although we like a simple approach, there are of course minimal safety, other specifications, and sonic goals to meet – with a simple design, there is not a lot of room for error. Thus, it is safe to say that a product of “simple-best” is harder to design and engineer than an all-out “serious” design. With our Au Pre, we have had thirty years to simplify, streamline and optimize the design of our preamp with phono stage. We think we’ve landed on a pretty good version of “simple-best.” Its clarity and precision will bring the best sound out of your other components.

Now all you have to do is start pulling out your old records and rediscovering your system’s true ability!

2014 Rev 2.3

IT WAS SCIENCE, NOW IT'S ART!