

# WA273

DUAL CHANNEL BRITISH MICROPHONE PREAMPLIFIER



**WARM**<sup>TM</sup>  
AUDIO

# THANK YOU!

Thank you for purchasing the Warm Audio WA273 Dual Channel British Microphone Preamp. We feel this product offers the best in terms of the sound, function, and vibe from the classic era of analog recording. We don't cut corners when it comes to what goes into our products, and the WA273 is no exception. The WA273 uses the highest quality custom input and output transformers made by Carnhill Transformers UK. Classic '73-style preamps were often hand-wired and so is the WA273! Guru's claim that a portion of the sought after classic British tone can be attributed to the hand-wired nature of the build. The WA273 is hand-wired and hand assembled, including the pcb components that are all populated by hand and class A signal path throughout. We are confident you will love recording with the WA273.

## WELCOME BACK TO THE WORLD OF ANALOG

Though digital technology and software have made great strides in their performance in recent years; we still feel that nothing compares to the level of articulation, depth, realism, and responsiveness of a well-built piece of analog gear. When you hear the bottom end presence and top end detail of quality analog gear, the difference can be astounding. The cost of most boutique analog equipment is financially out of reach for many recording artists. Our mission is to change this, and introduce as many people as we can to recording and mixing with real, dedicated hardware. Whether this is the first piece of outboard gear you've ever purchased outside of a recording interface, or merely the first in a long time; we thank you, and welcome you back to the world of analog.

**Bryce Young**

President

Warm Audio

Liberty Hill, Texas USA

## REGISTER YOUR WA273!

Before we begin, please take the time to visit [www.warmaudio.com](http://www.warmaudio.com) to register your product. To ensure you receive proper and uninterrupted warranty support for your product, please register your unit within 14 days from purchase.

## **WARRANTY STATEMENT**

Warm Audio warranties this product to be free from defect in materials and workmanship for one year from the date of purchase, for the original purchaser to whom this equipment is registered. This warranty is non-transferrable.

This warranty is void in the event of damage incurred from unauthorized service to this unit, or from electrical or mechanical modification to this unit. This warranty does not cover damage resulting from abuse, accidental damage, misuse, improper electrical conditions such as mis-wiring, incorrect voltage or frequency, unstable power, disconnection from earth ground (for products requiring a 3 pin, grounded power cable), or from exposure to hostile environmental conditions such as moisture, humidity, smoke, fire, sand or other debris, and extreme temperatures.

Warm Audio will, at its sole discretion, repair or replace this product in a timely manner. This limited warranty extends only to products determined to be defective and does not cover incidental costs such as equipment rental, loss of revenue, etc. Please visit us at **[www.warmaudio.com](http://www.warmaudio.com)** for more information on your warranty, or to request warranty service.

This warranty applies to products sold in the United States of America. For warranty information in any other country, please refer to your local Warm Audio distributor. This warranty provides specific legal rights, which may vary from state to state. Depending on the state in which you live, you may have rights in addition to those covered in this statement. Please refer to your state laws or see your local Warm Audio retailer for more information.

## **NON-WARRANTY SERVICE**

If you have a defective unit that is outside of our warranty period or conditions; we are still here for you and can get your unit working again for a modest service fee. Please visit us at **[www.warmaudio.com](http://www.warmaudio.com)** to contact us about setting up a repair or for more information.

With the proper care, your Warm Audio gear should last a lifetime and provide a lifetime of enjoyment. We believe the best advertisement we can have is a properly working unit being put to great use. Let's work together to make it happen.

# NOW LET'S GET STARTED!

The Warm Audio WA273 is one of the highest quality microphone preamplifiers on the market in its price range. It uses custom made components similarly found in preamplifiers with much higher price tags. Home-based musicians and professional studios alike will find the WA273 to be an extremely powerful, versatile and fully professional piece of gear that is capable of warming and shaping both input signals and mixes in a way that is very pleasing to the ear.

The information contained in this manual is written to help you get quickly started with using your WA273.

## TECHNICAL SPECS



### 1. +48V Switch

The 48 volts feature provides power for condenser mics and any other devices requiring continuous phantom power through the XLR input. This power is supplied at a constant level to prevent any degradation of audio quality. The adjacent LED lights when phantom power is active.

### 2. Polarity Switch

This feature inverts the polarity of the signal. Use the polarity switch when recording with more than one open microphone to combat phase cancellation between microphones.

### 3. Tone Switch

The control switches the input transformer configuration from a 1:2 (step up) turns ratio to a steeper 1:4 (step up) turns ratio, drawing out a greater degree of coloration and impact from the input transformer. When engaged, the input impedance of the WA273 is 300 ohms. When disengaged, the input impedance of the WA273 is 1200 ohms. This feature will make a noticeable tone change to most microphones. The 1200 ohms impedance setting is recommended for condenser and dynamic microphones, and 300 ohms is recommended for dynamic and ribbons. This switch is labeled "Tone" for a reason; most listeners will find the unswitched setting to be more open and natural, with the engaged setting to be more punchy, aggressive, or thick. We strongly suggest you experiment with both settings on all sources to find the best possible tone for your recordings. As with all things, let your ear be the final judge on which setting to use for any given situation.

# TECHNICAL SPECS



## 4. Line Input Switch

This feature engages the TRS line input on the back of the WA273 and disconnects the XLR microphone inputs.

## 5. Insert Switch

Switches the insert loop into the signal path.

## 6. Instrument Switch

This feature engages the Instrument input on the front of the WA273 and disconnects the XLR microphone inputs.

## 7. TRS Instrument Input

You can connect a variety of instruments via the instrument input on the front panel of the WA273 including: acoustic and electric guitars, bass guitar, keyboards, synths and drum machines.

## 8. Red Input Knob

This is a 22 position gain switch that adjusts gain for Line / Mic / Hi-Z level sources.

## 9. HI Pass Knob

18dB per octave slope, switchable between 50Hz, 80Hz, 160Hz, 300Hz.

## 10. Output Control Knob

This knob controls the signal exiting the WA273. It ensures that the amplified signal doesn't exit the WA273 too loud and overload the inputs on your recording interface or the next device in the signal chain. It also gives greater ability to drive the gain of the preamp harder resulting in greater colorization and tone shaping within the various settings.

## 11. Power Switch

The power switch is used to power the unit on and off. LED light will indicate if the unit is powered on. To extend the life of the electronics please turn the WA273 off when not in use.

# TECHNICAL SPECS



## 1. IEC AC POWER INLET

Connect the accompanying power cord to power the unit.

## 2. 250v Fuse

Always use the correct fuse rating, as indicated beside the fuse holder. Warm Audio provides an extra fuse located inside the IEC inlet.

## 3. Ground Lift Switch

Eliminates unwanted hum and buzz by interrupting the ground loops between equipment, preventing current flow along the cable shield between two devices.

## 4. Balanced Line Outputs (XLR & TRS)

Balanced output are provided on an XLR and 1/4" TRS connection for convenience. Unbalanced operation is possible via 1/4" TRS output using an unbalanced 1/4" cable.

## 5. Insert (Send & Return)

These connects are designed to allow another device such as a compressor or EQ to be inserted in the middle of the WA273's circuit. These connections insert the secondary device into the circuit after the input transformer and initial gain stage. We recommend unbalanced 1/4" patch cables.

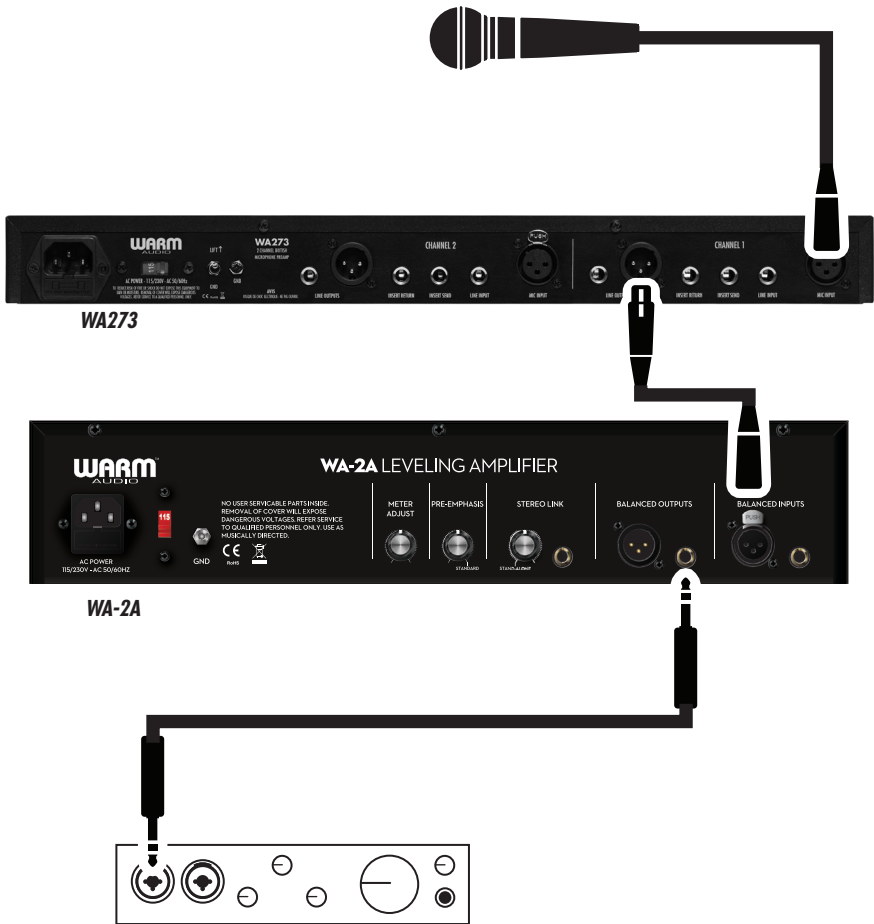
## 6. Line Input

This TRS input is padded and is designed for line level instruments or sources that put out line level signals such as keyboards, electric instruments or audio interface outputs. This input travels through the entire preamp circuit including both Carnhill Transformers.

## 7. Microphone XLR Input

This input is designed for dynamic, condenser and ribbon microphones. Other instruments or devices that put out a low level microphone signal can also be plugged into this input. The input impedance can be set to either 1200 or 300 ohms, via the tone button.

# HOOKUP DIAGRAMS

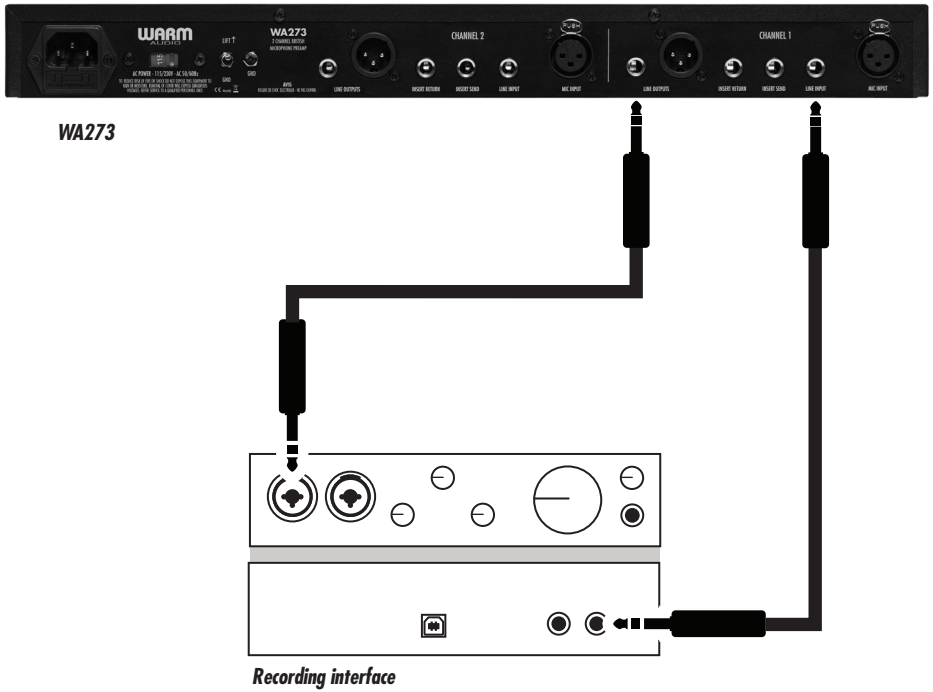


## **Recording interface**

In this example, a microphone is feeding into a WA273, which feeds in to the WA-2A via a balanced XLR patch cable, which feeds in the LINE LEVEL input of your recording interface/recorder.

**Note: it is important to use a line level input on your recording device as opposed to a microphone or instrument level input.**

# HOOKUP DIAGRAMS



In this example, the WA273 is being routed as an insert into a recording device. This is useful for using the WA273 as an “analog plug-in” or insert for mix-down. The recording device is feeding the WA273 with a balanced 1/4” cable via a line output. Then, the recording device is capturing the WA273 via a LINE LEVEL input.

The WA273 may be used as a line level processor to ‘warm up’, saturate, or intentionally distort a line level signal creatively. It may also be used after any other line level device or another preamp for a similar effect.



# SPECIFICATIONS

- Dual Channel, Class A, '73-Style British Microphone Preamp
- UK made Carnhill Transformers
- Hand Wired, hand assembled
- 80dB of gain - resistor stepped gain switch
- Fully discrete
- TONE button - Changes input transformer impedance for varying tone
- Polarity switch
- 48v phantom power
- 4 position inductor based hipass filter - 50, 80, 160, 300 Hz
- XLR mic input
- Line level TRS input
- TS Send/Receive insert jacks
- XLR & TRS line level outputs
- Direct In, instrument input
- Freq response 20Hz - 20kHz +/- .5 dB
- 19" rackable
- Internal IEC 115v/230v power inlet

# RECALL SHEETS



Session: \_\_\_\_\_ Track: \_\_\_\_\_ Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Instrument: \_\_\_\_\_ Notes: \_\_\_\_\_



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# RECALL SHEETS



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