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The “NICERIZER” Owner’s Manual

Firstly, let me congratulate you on your purchase of the “Nicerizer”. I know you will be as pleased with it’s sonic qualities as we are.

You are now the proud owner of a Nicerizer that has the advantages of more than 25 years experience in audio engineering, today’s component and manufacturing technology, but still retaining “that sound” uniquely achievable through Class A design.

As you can tell, Phoenix Audio International (UK) is dedicated to the development of Class A discrete technology used within high build-quality equipment.

The Nicerizer was originally conceived because of the demand from customers for something that would "sweeten" the output from Digital Audio Workstations and to make the final mix easier to distribute and handle.

The Nicerizer is designed to take the output out of the digital realm, and to add the Class A characteristics and feel before the final recording.

The “Nicerizer” uses our well proven and loved Class A output stage, but also has our latest breakthrough in transformerless Class A, Discrete Mic Input Technology which gives a "valve-like" sound.

You CAN hear the difference!!!

The Nicerizer is a 2U 19" rack mountable 8 channel unit, which can be stacked and linked in any multiple and various configurations to give high quality, line-level, Class A, discrete buffering.

Applications: Range from "digital sweetening" to source routing, from studio to stadium.

Specifications:

8 channels of our famous Class A, discrete, truly balanced transformerless input.

8 channels of our proven and loved Class A, discrete, transformer-balanced output.

Individual level control for each channel

8 x Balanced XLR Inputs

8 x Balanced XLR outputs.

2 x mix busses (linkable to each other and other units)

2 x individual mix bus output level controls with 10dB "in hand"

LED level monitoring switchable for each channel. RED LED DOES NOT INDICATE CLIPPING!! The level metering is for line-up purposes only. The "Nicerizer" is capable of delivering up to +26dB on the output. **Way beyond the range of the metering.**

Separate Headphone monitoring switchable to each channel, plus an additional headphone jack for monitoring the A and B mix outputs.

In addition to the 8 individual outputs, channels 1 - 4 and 5 -8 feed two individual mix busses that have independent line level outputs. 4 sockets on the rear of the unit provide access to the mix bus inputs and outputs to allow very versatile stacking, and linking to further units and to itself.

Independent balanced mix output available on XLR's.

Huge headroom available on all channels.

Usages:

If the Nicerizer is used as 8 channels of individual buffer amp the faders have up to 14dB of level "in hand"

As a distribution amp. The inputs can be linked as required. If 1-4, and 5-8 (or 1-8) are linked, then two extra outputs are available for further distribution. (IE: 1 input with 10 outputs, or 2 inputs with 5 outputs each).

As a mixer. Channels 1-4 and 5-8 mix down to A and B Outputs. There are balanced TRS connections in and Balanced XLR outputs. In this configuration the input faders have at least 6dB "in hand", and the output faders have 10dB available "in hand".

Overview

The Input signal is fed to the Nicerizer via the Input XLR's on the rear panel. The input signal level is controlled by the associated level control on the front panel and can be monitored by selecting the associated channel on the Monitor control on the front panel. Monitoring can be achieved via the Headphone jack, and visually by the LED metering on the front panel.

All channels can be monitored individual, and the A bus and B bus can also be monitored individually (mono). Level sent to the monitor Jack socket can adjusted via the level control beside it (mon. level)

The A and B busses can be monitored in stereo from the jack on the front panel and level to the jack is altered via the level control

Outputs are available individually on the associated output XLR, Output 1 – 8) as well as being available on the Main Output XLR's.

Channels 1 – 4 are available on Main Output XLR -A and 5 – 8 are available on Output XLR- B. (bus outputs)

Output level for each bus is individually controlled by the level controls on the front panel (Level A, Level B).

Connections and functions:

Rear connections:

All connections to the Nicerizer are wired as follows:

3 Pin XLR connectors: Pin 1 – Ground, Pin 2 – Hot (signal +ve), Pin 3 – Cold (signal –ve).

” (6.35mm) TRS Stereo Jack Sockets: Tip – Hot (signal +ve), Ring - Cold (signal –ve), Sleeve- Ground.

” (6.35mm) TS Mono Jack Sockets: Tip – Signal, Sleeve – Ground.

On the rear panel there are 2 rows of XLR connectors.

The top row of XLR's (Female) are Labeled - Inputs 1 to 8. These inputs are balanced individual inputs to each channel. The Input stages on the Nicerizer are designed to be able to accept both balanced and unbalanced inputs (using appropriately wired connectors), and as they are truly balanced, do not exhibit the 6dB signal level drop often found when applying an unbalanced signal to a balanced input.

The Bottom row of XLR's (Male) are numbered Ouputs - 1 to 8. These outputs are transformer-balanced individual outputs for each channel. These outputs can be used balanced or un-balanced (using appropriately wired connectors). The outputs can be fed to any number of pieces of external equipment (using appropriate “Y” or splitter cables), as long as total loading does not exceed 200R.

transformer-balanced Outputs and can be used in either balanced or un-balanced mode. These outputs can also be fed to any number of pieces of external equipment as long as total loading does not exceed 200R.

The group of 4 x TRS Jacks on the rear panel provide access to the mix busses. These are labeled Buss Link In (A + B) and Buss Link Out (A + B). These can be linked to other Nicerizer Busses, or to each other. The inputs and outputs can also be used to link to external monitoring and equipment.

Front Panel:

The front panel has a row of Level controls associated with the Input XLR's on the rear panel. Each channel is individually controlled and monitored via the LED metering and/or output Headphone jack on the front panel.

The level control adjusts the level sent to the rear XLR and the Bus at the same time (channels 1 – 4 = Bus A, Channels 5 – 8 = Bus B).

The Monitor Selector switch is a 10 position rotary switch and is used to select which channel is switched (Channels 1 –8 and Buss A + B) to the LED monitoring circuit and Headphone Monitoring Jack socket.

The Monitor Level Control adjusts the level available at the Monitor Headphone Jack Socket. The Headphone Jack Socket can also be used to send signal to external monitoring equipment.

The individual A and B level controls individually adjust the level of the A and B bus signal on the Output A and B XLR's on the rear panel. The A+B level control adjusts signal level at the A+B Output Jack socket only.