



 **aric**AUDIO

THE JACKPOT

LINESTAGE

ARIC AUDIO TUBE GEAR

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INTRO

The Jackpot linestage is a progression of my original Unlimited preamplifier that allows tube rolling different noval tubes in the front end to change the sonic flavors drastically. While the Motherlode II and XL are the best 6SN7 preamplifiers you can buy, the Jackpot is designed to be the most flexible preamplifier.

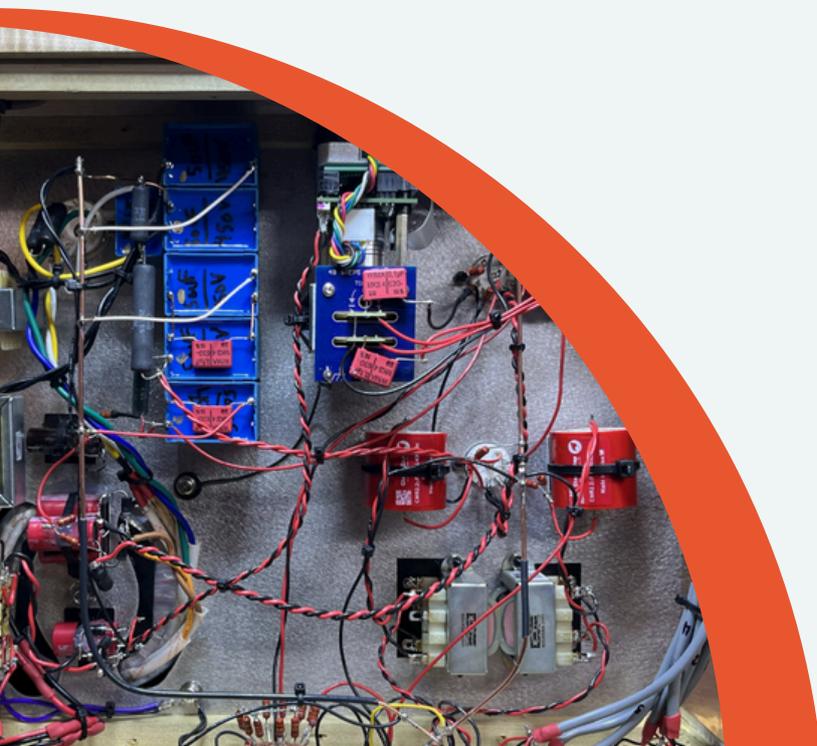
Aric Kimball

Owner



IN THE BOX

- Aric Audio - The Jackpot Linestage
- Power Cord
- 12AU7 tube
- 5751 tube
- 5U4GB tubes



ABOUT

The Jackpot features a single chassis design using a 5U4GB rectifier, a 12AU7 output stage, and your choice of a 12AU7, 12AT7, 5751, or 12AX7 front end. The output level control is used to go from unity gain (gain =1), for very sensitive amplifiers, to a gain of up to 40db (12AX7 gain control at MAX) to drive low sensitivity amplifiers. The sound is more dynamic and "fast" using the higher gain tubes, and more "warm" and full bodied using the lower gain tubes. Both balanced and unbalanced versions of this linestage are available, and it features an all film capacitor power supply filter section, Toroidal power transformer, Vishay resistors throughout and Clarity Cap CMR series coupling capacitors.

CRAFTED — **POWERFUL** — **RELIABLE**



FRONT & TOP PANELS



1. 5U4GB Tube
2. 5751 Tube
3. 12AU7 Tube
4. Master Volume Knob
5. Input Selector



REAR PANELS



OPERATION

Install the 5U4, 5U4G or 5U4GB rectifier in the left position (in front of the power transformer), then in the front 9 pin slot install your gain tube (12AU7, 12AT7, 7571 or 12AX7), and in the rear 9 pin slot install a 12AU7 (you should keep the 12AU7 here for proper biasing and to keep the output impedance stable). Power on the unit and wait 15 seconds before powering up your amplifier. You can use the output level control on the rear of the unit to set the gain of the preamplifier, gain settings are below- but can be experimented with to get the best amount of rotation of the Master Volume, and the lowest noise floor (too much gain = hiss or hum, the correct amount will make this inaudible).

The gains for each tube type are listed below:

12AX7 40db gain

5751 30db gain

12AT7 20db gain

12AU7 10 db gain

Now, the numbers above are the maximum amount of gain you can get from each tube, then we have the 5 position output level controller to set the overall preamp gain (fully clockwise is the MAX position, and fully counter-clockwise is the MIN position).

MAX= full gain of the tube used

4th= 75% of the max gain

3rd= 50% of the max gain

2nd= 25% of the max gain

1st= Unity gain (GAIN =1)



OPERATION (CONT.)

This can be used with a sensitive amplifier that does not necessarily need a preamplifier's additional gain to drive it. For example, since most DACs and digital sources are 2 volts out RCA and 4 volts out XLR, and your amp has a low input sensitivity (2 volts or higher), then you can keep the output position at the 1st, and the preamp outputs the same amount of signal that you feed into it. There is no "right or wrong" gain setting and the above is a reference point. If you want more rotation of the Master Volume, you can simply raise the gain higher noting that generally 9-10 o'clock is considered a causal listening position and 2-4 o'clock would be around the loudest listening you would do.

NOTE: The output level control can be adjusted while operating the preamp in order to experiment.

Master Volume (front panel LEFT): This controls the 48 step Khozmo silver contact volume control unit and it shows the position on the OLED display on the front panel (the IR sensor is also located in the display towards the lower right of the window).

Selector Switch: Full counter-clockwise (rotated all of the way to the left) is Input 1, and each clock clockwise engages the next input in line (input 2, 3, and 4 respectively with the 5th position being MUTE or no signal).

Also on the rear panel is a ground reference switch for the XLR out jacks. It connects PIN1 (ground) to either signal ground, or chassis ground. This switch is used to allow compatibility with different balanced input architectures, as some amps will ground PIN 1 to chassis, while others will ground it to signal ground. This switch can be flipped to find the lowest noise floor. If both positions sound the same, you can leave it set to CHA GND (chassis ground).



OPERATION (CONT.)

There is no maintenance needed with this preamplifier and it is built using very over-rated parts that run less than 40% duty cycle to ensure cool and reliable operation. Please keep in mind that noise floor of tubes can vary greatly, and generally a bad tube will either lose a channel, the channel cuts in and out, or you will hear excessive static or popping in one channel or both. Some tubes (especially NOS tubes) can emit some noise within the 1st few minutes of operation and stabilize after that once the internal components of the tube warm up. This is normal and nothing to be alarmed about.

The warranty on this hand-made linestage is 2 years parts and labor, and any questions or concerns can be directed to me using the Contact Us form at www.aricaudio.com

Thank you again for purchasing my equipment and I hope it provides years of enjoyment! Best regards



SPECS & FEATURES

- Fully transformer balanced I/Os (balanced), all RCA I/Os (unbalanced).
- 4 sets of stereo inputs and 2 sets of stereo parallel outputs.
- 5 position output level control
- Khozmo 48 step motorized remote volume control
- Toroidal power transformer
- All gold plated tube sockets and I/O jacks
- Clarity Cap CMR coupling capacitors
- Tube rectified using a 5U4GB rectifier
- Output stage uses a single 12AU7
- Input stage can use 12AU7, 12AT7, 5751, or 12AX7 (comes with a 5751 front end)
- Vishay resistors used throughout
- All film capacitors in the power supply

Technical Specs:

- Gain between 1-40db depending on tube and output level
- controller position
- 5-40,000 hz +/-1 db
- Balanced XLR Inputs (2 sets- balanced version only)
- Single-ended RCA inputs (2 sets)
- Balanced XLR Outputs (1 set-balanced version only)
- Single-ended outputs (1 set)
- 5 position output level control
- Input impedance: 50 kOhms
- Output impedance: 400 Ohms
- Balanced standard: AES48
- Dimensions 16.5" wide X 13.5" deep
- Weight- 27 lbs



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