

# NADY<sup>®</sup> AUDIO

## OWNER'S MANUAL

PREAMPLIFIER



# PRA-8

## 8 CHANNEL MICROPHONE PREAMPLIFIER

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Congratulations on your choice of microphone preamplifier — you have purchased one of the finest stereo microphone preamplifiers on the market today. This unit was developed using the expertise of professional sound engineers and working musicians. You will find that your new NADY AUDIO PRA-8 has superior performance and greater flexibility than any other microphone preamplifiers in its price range. Please read this manual carefully to get the most out of your new unit.

Thanks for selecting NADY AUDIO as your choice in microphone preamplifier.

### FEATURES

The PRA-8 is a professional, multi-purpose 8-channel microphone preamplifier designed for the most exacting world class studio applications, yet affordable enough for home project studios.

- Solves many of the connectivity problems arising in studio and live sound applications from using increasingly popular digital audio interfaces which often only consist of unbalanced line inputs or very low (or no mic pre) gain structure for the balanced input stage and with no available phantom power
- Eight totally independent world-class preamps in one single rack (1RU) through package with servo-balanced XLR inputs and 1/4" TS outputs for each preamp
- Highest quality components and advanced design with ultra-linear, high bandwidth operational amps for no-compromise crystal clear audio with exceptionally low noise and negligible distortion
- Individual gain control and Peak LED indicator on each channel with up to 75dB of gain
- +48V Phantom Power with individual Phantom On/Off switches and Phantom Power On LED indicators on each channel
- Rugged construction for maximum long-term reliability
- Shielded internal dual regulated power supply with ~115V(60Hz)/~230V(50Hz) select switch and fused IEC power cord connector

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Date of Purchase \_\_\_\_\_

Dealer's Name \_\_\_\_\_

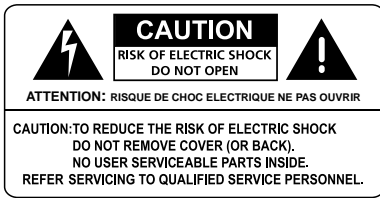
City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Model # \_\_\_\_\_

Serial # \_\_\_\_\_

# WARNING



An equilateral triangle enclosing a lightning flash/arrowhead symbol is intended to alert the user to the presence of uninsulated "dangerous voltage" within the product's enclosure which may be of sufficient magnitude to constitute a risk of electric shock.



An equilateral triangle enclosing an exclamation point is intended to alert the user to the presence of important operating and service instructions in the literature enclosed with this unit.

## IMPORTANT SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

When using this electronic device, basic precautions should always be taken, including the following:

1. Read all instructions before using the product.
2. Do not use this product near water (e.g., near a bathtub, washbowl, kitchen sink, in a wet basement, or near a swimming pool, etc.).
3. This product should be used only with a cart or stand that will keep it level and stable and prevent wobbling.
4. This product, in combination with headphones or speakers, may be capable of producing sound levels that could cause permanent hearing loss. Do not operate for a long period of time at a high volume level or at a level that is uncomfortable. If you experience any hearing loss or ringing in the ears, you should consult an audiologist.
5. The product should be positioned so that proper ventilation is maintained.
6. The product should be located away from heat sources such as radiators, heat vents, or other devices (including amplifiers) that produce heat.
7. The product should be connected to a power supply only of the type described in the operating instructions or as marked on the product. Replace the fuse only with one of the specified type, size, and correct rating.
8. The power supply cord should: (1) be undamaged, (2) never share an outlet or extension cord with other devices so that the outlet's or extension cord's power rating is exceeded, and (3) never be left plugged into the outlet when not being used for a long period of time.
9. Care should be taken so that objects do not fall into, and liquids are not spilled through, the enclosure's openings.
10. The product should be serviced by qualified service personnel if:
  - A. The power supply cord or the plug has been damaged.
  - B. Objects have fallen into, or liquid has been spilled onto the product.
  - C. The product has been exposed to rain.
  - D. The product does not appear to operate normally or exhibits a marked change in performance.
  - E. The product has been dropped, or the enclosure damaged.
11. Do not attempt to service the product beyond what is described in the user maintenance instructions. All other servicing should be referred to qualified service personnel.

# INSTALLATION

To ensure years of enjoyment from your NADY AUDIO PRA-8, please read and understand this manual thoroughly before using the unit.

## **INSPECTION**

Your PRA-8 was carefully packed at the factory in packaging designed to protect the units in shipment. Before installing and using your unit, carefully examine the packaging and all contents for any signs of physical damage that may have occurred in transit.

*(Note: Nady Systems is not responsible for shipping damage. If the unit is damaged, do not return to us, but notify your dealer and the shipping company immediately to make a claim. Such claims must be made by the consignee in a timely manner.)*

## **CONTENTS:**

- Instruction manual
- PRA-8 (verify that the unit's serial number is same as shown on shipping carton)
- AC Power cord
- Warranty Card

## **RACK MOUNTING**

The PRA-8 fits into one standard 19" rack unit of space (1 3/4"). Parts of the unit can become very warm during use. This is normal during operation. Care should be taken to ensure that there is enough space around the unit for cooling (at least 12" or 30cm). Do not place the PRA-8 on high temperature devices such as power amplifiers, etc., or the unit may overheat in operation. Also, do not place the unit on speakers as this may cause them to move and/or fall due to speaker vibrations.

Although the unit's chassis is shielded against radio frequency (RF) and electromagnetic interference (EMI), extremely high fields of RF and EMI should be avoided.

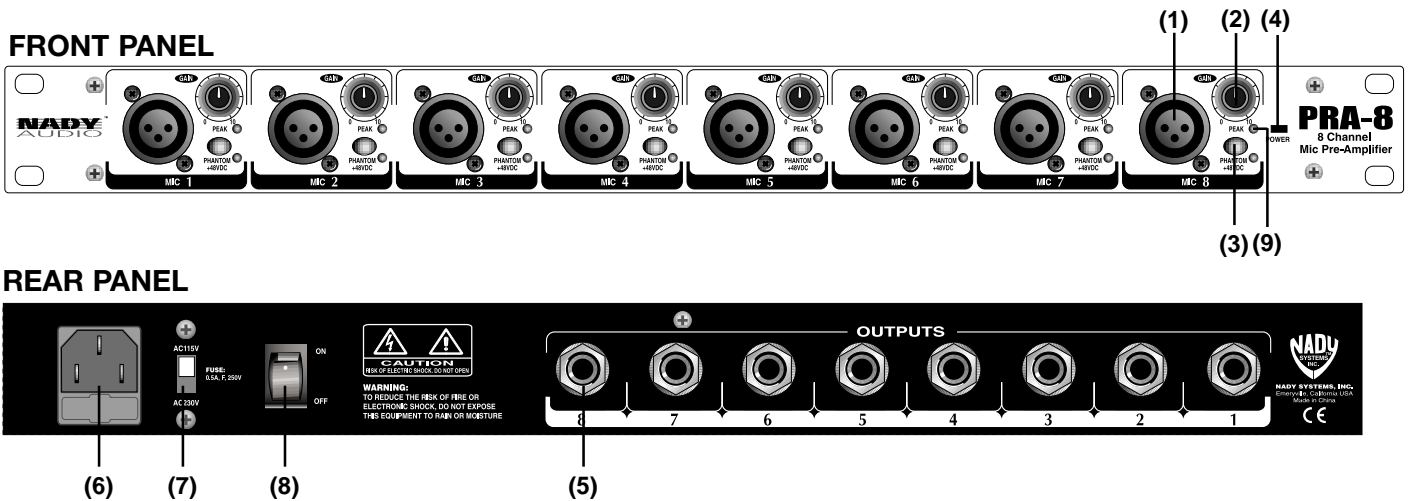
## **POWER CONNECTION**

The PRA-8 has an internal power supply and is designed to operate from an external AC source. Power requirements for electrical equipment differ from area to area. Be sure to confirm that the voltage selected by the voltage selector switch on the back panel is proper for your area (120VAC/60 Hz or 230VAC/50Hz) per the information below:

Europe (except UK): 230V, 50Hz  
UK and Australia: 240V, 50Hz  
USA and Canada: 120V, 60 Hz  
For other areas, please check with local authorities.

When ready to operate, plug the AC cord into the power source. Make sure that the unit is turned off before connecting to the AC power source to avoid possible loud transients which can damage your speakers or your ears, especially when monitoring with headphones.

# FRONT & REAR CONNECTIONS



## FRONT PANEL

### (1) AUDIO INPUTS

Eight balanced XLR audio input jacks

## REAR PANEL

### (5) AUDIO OUTPUTS

Eight balanced output 1/4" TRS jacks

### (6) POWER CONNECTOR WITH FUSE HOLDER

This standard IEC power cord receptacle is used to connect the AC power to your unit. It features a built-in fuse holder for a 5X20mm, 0.5A/250V slow-blow fuse. If the fuse continuously blows, shut off the unit and have it serviced by qualified service personnel.

## FRONT PANEL

The PRA-8 has eight independent pre-amplifier channels. The unit provides variable rotary gain controls, phantom power and peak indicator lights per channel.

### (2) GAIN CONTROLS

Each channel features a rotary gain control for variable adjustment of the desired pre-amplifier level.

### (3) PHANTOM POWER SWITCHES

If needed to power condenser microphones, each channel features a phantom power switch for supplying +48VDC across pins 2 and 3 of the XLR input connector. If you don't need phantom power, be sure to turn this switch to the "OFF" position.

*(Note, It is safe to connect balanced dynamic mics even if this switch is on, but connecting unbalanced devices or devices whose transformers are center grounded will cause hum or malfunctions. Shorting the +48VDC can also damage your PRA-8. Also, mute any connected Monitor/PA speakers when turning the phantom power on or off.)*

### (4) POWER LED INDICATOR

This LED indicator illuminates when the unit is powered on by the rear panel **POWER SWITCH (8)**.

### (9) CHANNEL PEAK (CLIP) LED INDICATORS

This LED indicator illuminates when that channel's pre-amplifier is overloaded. To avoid distortion, turn down the **GAIN (2)** control for the selected channel until the peak clip light is no longer illuminated.

## REAR PANEL

### (8) POWER SWITCH

To turn the unit ON or OFF, press the upper or lower portion of this button as indicated. The front panel **POWER LED INDICATOR (4)** will illuminate when the power is "ON". Before turning on this unit, verify connection to the proper voltage AC source, check all connections and turn down the level controls of equipment connected to the outputs.

### (6) AC VOLTAGE SELECTOR SWITCH

Before plugging in the power cord, check to see that the unit is set for the proper voltage for your area: ~115v (60Hz) or ~230V (50Hz).

*(Note: use at the improper voltage can damage your unit and void the warranty.)*

# APPLICATIONS

## USING THE PRA-8

It is as simple as ABC to use and operate the PRA-8. Each of the eight pre-amplifier channels has its own **INPUT (1)** and **OUTPUT (5)** and variable **GAIN (2)** control.

- A. Connect a signal you wish to process to one of the XLR balanced **INPUTS (1)** on the front of the PRA-8.
- B. Connect the corresponding channel **OUTPUT (5)** on the rear of the PRA-8 to your desired destination (mixer, recorder, etc).
- C. Adjust the variable **GAIN (2)** control of that channel to the desired pre-amplified level. To ensure that you do not over pre-amplify your signal, a **PEAK (CLIP) LED INDICATOR (9)** has been provided on the front panel of the PRA-8 for each channel. When illuminated, this LED indicates that the pre-amplifier for that channel is overloaded and that distortion may result. Turn down the variable **GAIN (2)** control for the selected channel until the **PEAK (9) LED** is no longer illuminated.

# SPECIFICATIONS

## AUDIO INPUTS & PRE AMPS

Connectors ..... XLR  
Type ..... Balanced  
Impedance ..... 2k Ohms  
Min Sensitivity ..... -40dB  
Peak input level ..... +5dB  
Gain control range ..... 50dB  
Peak amplification ..... 74dB  
Phantom power ..... +48V, switchable

## AUDIO OUTPUTS

Connectors ..... 1/4" jack  
Type ..... TRS Balanced  
Impedance ..... 600 Ohms  
Peak output level ..... +18.5dB

## DISTORTION, FREQUENCY RESPONSE, S/N RATIO & CROSSTALK

Frequency response ..... 20Hz~20kHz, 0dB~-2B  
Distortion ..... 0.02%  
S/N Ratio ..... Better than 80dB  
Crosstalk rejection ..... >70dB@1kHz; -20dB input

## POWER SUPPLY

Power Requirements ..... selectable, ~ 100-120 VAC,  
~ 200-240 VAC, 50-60 Hz  
Fuse ..... 100-120 VAC: 630 mA (slow-blow)  
200-240 VAC: 315 mA (slow-blow)  
100-240 VAC: 500 mA (slow-blow)  
5X20mm glass type  
Power cord connector ..... Standard IEC receptacle  
with built-in fuse holder

## PHYSICAL

Dimensions ..... 1.75"X 19"X 8.5" (44.5X482.6X217mm)  
Weight ..... 7.48lbs (3.4Kg)

*The specifications above are correct at the time of printing of this manual. For improvement purposes, all specifications for this unit, including design and appearance, are subject to change without prior notice.*

# NOTES

## **SERVICE FOR YOUR NADY AUDIO PRODUCT**

**(U.S.)** Should your NADY AUDIO product require service, please contact the Nady Service Department via telephone at (510) 652-2411, or e-mail at [service@nady.com](mailto:service@nady.com).

**(International)** For service, please contact the NADY AUDIO distributor in your country through the dealer from whom you purchased this product.

DO NOT ATTEMPT TO SERVICE THIS UNIT  
YOURSELF AS IT CAN BE DANGEROUS AND  
WILL ALSO VOID THE WARRANTY.

