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The “NICERIZER Junior” Owner’s Manual

Firstly, let us congratulate you on your purchase of the “Nicerizer Junior”. We know you will be as pleased with its sonic qualities as we are.

You are now the proud owner of a “Nicerizer Junior” 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 is dedicated to the development of Class A discrete technology used within high build-quality equipment.

The “Nicerizer Junior” 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 Junior” 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 Junior” uses our well proven and loved Class A output stage (DSOP-2), but also has our latest breakthrough in transformer-less Class A, Discrete Input Technology which gives a "valve-like" sound, and our Class A, Discrete, Virtual Earth mixing stage, and Unique Class A Discrete Stereo Width mixing stage.

You CAN hear the difference!!

The “Nicerizer Junior” is a 2U, 19" rack mountable 16 channel Input unit, which can be stacked and linked.

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

Specifications:

- 16 channels of our Class A, discrete, truly balanced transformer-less input stage.
- Our proven and loved Class A, discrete, transformer balanced output stage (DSOP-2).
- Class A, Discrete, High Gain, Inverting (Virtual Earth) Mixing stage.
- Individual pan control for each channel with detented control (16 x Pan pots).
- 16 x Balanced Inputs on D-sub. Can accept balanced or unbalanced input with no -6dB loss, wired to Tascam DA88 Standard
- 4 x mix busses (Stereo Mix Bus).
- +8dB Boost button on each channel.
- 2 x Master mix bus output level control.
- Main Outputs on Balanced XLR's (4 outputs)
- Huge headroom available on all channels. Input Headroom +26dB. Output Headroom +26dB

Overview:

The Input signal is fed to the “Nicerizer Junior” via the D-sub inputs on the rear panel. The input signal is panned by the associated pan control on the front panel. The Nicerizer Junior is usually used in channel pairs Eg: 1- Left, 2 –Right. The main bus output level is adjusted via the main level control on the front panel.

Rear Panel Connections:

Inputs:

On the rear panel there are 2 Tascam DA88 Wire D-sub input connectors Numbered 1 – 8 and 9 - 16. These correspond with the Pan controls and monitor control on the front panel. These are Balanced XLR Inputs, but are equally capable of accepting an unbalanced signal without the 6dB loss often associated with sending an unbalanced signal into a balanced input.

Main Outputs:

There are 4 x Main output XLR's labelled Output L and R on output A and Output L and R on output B. These provide access to the 2 mix busses which are transformer-balanced Outputs driven by our Class A, Discrete DSOP-2 Output stages, and can be used in either balanced or un-balanced mode. These outputs can also be chained to any number of pieces of external equipment as long as total loading does not exceed 600R.

Front Panel:

Pan Controls

The front panel has 2 rows of detented Pan controls numbered 1 - 16 associated with the Input on the rear panel. Each channel is individually controlled and can be panned From Left to Right, and anywhere in between.

+8 dB Push-button switches

Between the rows of Pan controls there is a row of Push-button switches marked +8. Each switch is associated with an individual channel, and pressing a switch will add an additional gain of +8dB to the input of that channel.

Main Output Level Control

The Main Output Level control is used to adjust the Main Output Level of the unit on the main Output XLR's, there are two sets of controls – A & B, both these are identical and all 16 channels are fed simultaneously to both outputs, which are independent of each other. Two sets of controls allow the Nicerizer Junior to mix two different mixes with different level controls and differing tones or splitting signals by sending one into a DAW and another into a monitoring box or hardware compressor or EQ.

Illuminated Mains switch.

Switching this switch into the 'ON' position so that the Neon glows, has a profound effect on the sound quality and gain of the unit. This is best left in the "ON" position for normal use. ☺