



BAT VK-42SE PREAMP



UNPRECEDENTED WARMTH IN A SOLID-STATE COMPONENT

A new reference, the VK-42SE serves up engrossing warmth that, heretofore, has never been heard in a solid-state preamplifier. It incorporates much of the same groundbreaking technology found throughout BAT's lineup of tube preamplifiers.

UNISTAGE™ DESIGN & BALANCED TOPOLOGY REFINE HARMONICS

A Unistage™ circuit provides the ultimate simplicity of amplifying the incoming signal only once. Balanced topology translates into a dramatic lowering of the noise floor and a grain-free, textured, and refined portrayal of harmonics.

THE INDUSTRY'S BEST USER INTERFACE

Customize the VK-42SE to your liking. Dim the display from your chair via remote. Fade music at the touch of a button. Name sources. And a proprietary electronic shunt volume attenuator means you'll always get the volume right.

SPECIFICATIONS

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|----------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| Inputs | 3x XLR + 2x RCA | Output Impedance | 200kΩ each phase |
| Outputs (Main) | 2x XLR | Noise (Unweighted) | -96dB |
| Outputs (Tape) | 1x RCA | Distortion at 2V Output | 0.01% |
| Maximum Gain | 20dB | Maximum Output Signal | 20V |
| Global Feedback | None | Absolute Polarity | Switchable |
| Volume Control Resolution | 0.5dB | Power Consumption | 80VA |
| Volume Control Steps | 140 | Dimension | 19" x 5.75" x 15.5" |
| Frequency Response | 2Hz to 200kHz | Weight | 40 lbs |
| Input Impedance (Minimum) | 100kΩ each phase | | |

Balanced Audio Technology is pleased to offer the VK-42SE as a new reference in solid-state preamplification. The VK-42SE incorporates the same groundbreaking technology that is found throughout Balanced Audio Technology's widely acclaimed lineup of tube preamplifiers. The BAT VK-42SE Unistage™ circuit design features all-MOSFET devices in a fully balanced implementation that uses a novel C-multiplier based power supply. Vishay resistors are used in critical signal-path locations to further enhance the transparency of this Unistage™ design. This elegant solid-state circuit is then combined with the same second-generation Super-Pak oil capacitors used in the REX II pre-amplifier to provide an extended, yet warm and involving sound that breathes with a fundamental musicality unlike any other solid-state preamplifier.

UNISTAGE™ DESIGN

Simplicity of design, especially in the direct signal path, has always been the hallmark of Balanced Audio Technology's purist approach to circuit topology. Some advocates of this purist approach like to talk about a "direct wire with gain" as being the ideal circuit. The VK-42SE preamplifier deftly meets this simple design criterion. Effectively, the signal in the VK-42SE preamplifier is transmitted through only one MOSFET-based gain stage. It is a design that is free from the negative artifacts attributable to both extremes of modern preamplifier designs - passive preamplifiers on one end of the spectrum and multi-stage buffered active circuits on the other.

The benefit of the Unistage™ circuit is that it provides the ultimate simplicity of amplifying the incoming signal only once, while using no global feedback to double-back on the straight-through integrity of that signal. Imagine telling a joke to your friends and telling them to "pass it on".... Pass it on enough times and you won't recognize the joke. Pass the music through too many gain stages, and you'll no longer recognize the genius and beauty of your favorite recordings.

FULLY BALANCED DESIGN

Of course the VK-42SE preamplifier is balanced. Balanced Audio Technology staked its reputation on this principal of circuit design from day one. Today, it isn't hard to find many followers in the industry. Why do we believe that balanced is

better? In our opinion balanced topology simply provides a complete signal representation. Something magical happens when you free yourself from the limitations of the single-ended structure with its half-signal processing. If a one-handed craftsman can be very good, imagine what he could do with two hands.

It is fairly common to associate the benefits of balanced design with improved signal integrity when dealing with long interconnects, for example. However, the true benefits of a balanced approach to circuit design go much further than signal transmission. These benefits include such fundamental aspects of design as the interaction between the power supply and its associated gain stage. It is now common wisdom that the power supply should be considered a part of the signal path. However, whereas the sonic contribution of the power supply can be overwhelming in a single-ended design, it is much less of a concern in a balanced circuit. As the circuit becomes more symmetrical, the residual effect of the power supply becomes less intrusive. In effect, the demand on the power supply is reduced, making it easier to design a balanced circuit that conforms more closely to the engineering ideal.

For added convenience, the VK-42SE incorporates a mix of balanced as well as single-ended inputs.

SECOND-GENERATION SUPER-PAK

The revised power supply of the VK-42SE now incorporates the same second-generation oil-filled capacitors used in Balanced Audio Technology's new REX II Preamplifier. These second-generation oil capacitors increase the high quality filtering capacity by an order of magnitude over the first generation oil parts. The result is a dramatic lowering of the preamplifier's noise floor combined with a grain-free, yet textured, and more refined portrayal of musical harmonics.

SHUNT VOLUME CONTROL

The VK-42SE preamplifier employs a proprietary electronic shunt volume attenuator that offers one hundred and forty steps of 0.5dB resolution. With this circuit, only the highest quality Vishay resistor is in series with the signal. Discrete metal film resistors are used to bleed the unused signal

to ground. In addition, the one hundred and forty steps give precise repeatable volume settings that sound continuous to the human ear. With the VK-42SE preamplifier, you can always get the volume just right!

OPTIONAL PHONO MODULE

The user can order the VK-42SE preamplifier with Balanced Audio Technology's outstanding VK-P3 phono card. The VK-P3 phono card is a solid-state phono module that is designed to compete with external phono stages that are twice its price. It offers switch-selectable moving magnet or moving coil gain settings, and provides a convenient, high performance, single-box solution for the vinyl record aficionado.

SUPERB USER INTERFACE

The VK-42SE preamplifier is easy to use right out of the box. It is also just as easy to customize. Its user interface has been widely acknowledged to be one of the best and perhaps the most flexible in the industry. You can dim the display (or turn it off entirely) from the comfort of your chair by using the BAT remote. Fade the music gently at the touch of one button. Name your sources: for example, name your home theater playback input THTR. Fix the volume for your THTR input to allow easy master control of your home theater system from your pre/pro remote. Switch phase from your chair to see if a recording was made in reverse absolute polarity. The list of features is extensive. If you only use one of the many delightful features of the VK-42SE preamplifier, you'll appreciate the thoughtfulness behind its design.

SUMMARY

The Balanced Audio Technology VK-42SE, like all BAT components, converges upon a singular sound - that of live music - with all its warmth, beauty and magic delivered intact. Using much of the technology employed in our flagship REX II preamplifier, and employing solid-state devices in BAT's signature Unistage™ design, the VK-42SE serves up beguiling warmth that, heretofore, has been unheard of in a solid-state preamplifier. Visit your BAT audio specialist today.

All you need to do is listen...