

**Balanced Audio Technology**

# VK-5

Balanced Line  
Preamplifier



*Harmonic rightness* ▲

*Dynamic authority* ▲

*Rugged reliability* ▲

*Superlative performance* ▲

The union of the mathematician with the poet, fervor with measure, passion with correctness, this surely is the ideal.

—William James



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# Balanced Line Preamp VK-5



## VK-5 Specifications

### Inputs:

5 XLR line-level inputs  
(optional XLR-to-RCA adapters available)

### Outputs:

3 (2 main and 1 tape) XLR outputs  
(optional XLR-to-RCA adapters available)

### Gain:

18 dB (gain controls at maximum)

### Frequency response @ -3 dB:

2 Hz to 300 kHz (volume control at 9 o'clock)

### Input impedance:

100 k $\Omega$  minimum each phase

### Noise:

Better than -100 dB unweighted

### Distortion:

0.01% at 2 V RMS output

### Channel-to-channel crosstalk:

Better than -85 dB at 10 kHz

### Maximum output signal:

50 V RMS

### Minimum power amplifier input impedance:

10 k $\Omega$

### Absolute polarity:

Noninverting

### Tube complement

Eight 6922s and two 5881s

### Power consumption:

150 VA maximum

### Dimensions:

19" W x 5.75" H x 15.5" D  
(48 cm W x 15 cm H x 40 cm D)

### Weight:

31 lb. (14 kg) unpackaged

Measurements reflect typical performance in balanced mode.

The Balanced Audio Technology VK-5 is designed to be the reference standard in line stage preamplification. The VK-5 combines the benefits of fully balanced operation with a purist signal path, dual-mono construction, vacuum-tube current and voltage regulation, and enormous energy reserves. The result is a balance of virtues rarely found in a single component.

### ▲ *Harmonic rightness*

The VK-5's superb rendition of music's complex harmonic structure begins with a unique single gain stage. This Unistage™ design avoids the stage-to-stage coupling distortions inherent in complex buffer or follower circuits. The VK-5's shunt volume control uses one Vishay bulk metal foil resistor per phase while a custom encapsulated oil-filled capacitor completes the signal path. No global feedback is employed. Intelligent resonance control protects the delicate signal from vibration-induced distortions. Together these elements enable the VK-5 to preserve all the color, emotion, and atmosphere of a great performance.

### ▲ *Dynamic authority*

The benefits of a simple signal path are lost unless it is served by a substantial power supply. That's why the VK-5 contains nearly 200 joules of energy storage—30 to 50 times that of the leading competition. This stable low-impedance supply is further enhanced by AC shunt voltage regulators to provide uncontaminated power to the signal tubes. The high-power balanced gain stage incorporates vacuum-tube current sources. This is a power supply with the stability of an aircraft carrier.



### ▲ *Rugged reliability*

The performance features of the VK-5 would mean little if particular attention were not paid to the reliability of the final product. An aggressive design-for-reliability approach ensures that the VK-5 will spend its life in your system and not in a repair shop. All components operate well below their maximum ratings. Soft start and power delay guarantee long tube life. Electronic overcurrent circuits protect sensitive components as well as your audio system. This rigorous approach allows us to provide a full five-year warranty on parts and labor. (Tubes are covered for one year.)

### ▲ *Superlative performance*

We invite you to read the VK-5 white paper for further insight into the design of this innovative product. More important, we invite you to listen to the VK-5 at your BAT audio specialist. You'll want to listen forever.

  
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