



# 260VU USER MANUAL

AUDIOSCAPE  
ENGINEERING CO.

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*AudioScape*  
ENGINEERING CO.

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POWERED BY  
**SONIC TRUTH**  
MADE IN THE USA

This manual provides general information, preparation for use, installation, and operating instructions for the Audioscape 260VU.

Audioscape Engineering Co.  
Florida  
Made in the U.S.A.



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A WORD FROM THE AUDIOSCAPE FAMILY.

**Thank you for purchasing the 260VU from  
AUDIOSCAPE Engineering!**

**Need that ineffable “special something” on your Snare?  
Turn a Wimpy Kick Drum into a PUNCH FACTORY?  
Welcome to the 260VU from Audioscape!**

**The stereo version of the  
Grand-Daddy VCA compressor that started it all.**

**Its classic soft knee/smooth compression sound and ease of  
operation make the 260VU compressor a  
go-to for audio engineers.**



# IMPORTANT SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS



- 1. Water and Moisture** - Do not use the unit near any source of water or in excessively moist environments.
- 2. Object and Liquid Entry** - Care should be taken so that objects do not fall, and liquids are not spilled, into the enclosure through openings.
- 3. Ventilation** - When installing the unit in a rack or any other location, be sure there is adequate ventilation. Improper ventilation will cause overheating and can damage the unit.
- 4. Heat** - The unit should be situated away from heat sources, or other equipment that produce heat.
- 5. Power Sources** - The unit should be connected to a power supply only of the type described in the operating instructions, or as marked on the unit.
- 6. Power Cord Protection** - AC power supply cords should be routed so that they are not likely to be walked on or pinched by items placed upon or against them. Pay particular attention to cords at plugs, convenience receptacles, and the point where they exit from the unit. Never take hold of the plug or cord if your hand is wet. Always grasp the plug body when connecting or disconnecting it.
- 7. Non-use Periods** - The AC power supply cord of the unit should be unplugged from the AC outlet when left unused for a long period of time.

## FRONT PANEL



(1) THRESHOLD control adjusts the level above which compression or limiting occurs, and is continuously variable from 10mV to 3 volts.

(1) (LED's) BELOW, ABOVE THRESHOLD When the amber indicator is illuminated, the input level to the compressor/limiter is below the threshold level adjusted by the THRESHOLD control. When the red indicator is illuminated, the input level to the compressor/limiter is above the threshold level. The LED's do not measure the output level.

(2) RMS links the detectors together. A slight shift in the stereo imaging will occur, but it is not a true stereo link. The controls will still have to be set by the user to achieve equal compression and gain.

(3) COMPRESSION control varies the amount of compression from 1 :1 (unity gain) up to infinity (approx. 120:1). The unit can be considered to be limiting at compression settings of 10:1 or higher.

(4) METER FUNCTION SWITCHES select whether the meter displays the INPUT level, the OUTPUT level, or the amount of GAIN CHANGE

(5) OUTPUT GAIN control adjusts the gain of the unit's output stage; can actually attenuate up to 20dB. or can provide up to 20dB of gain. This control is independent of Threshold and Compression.

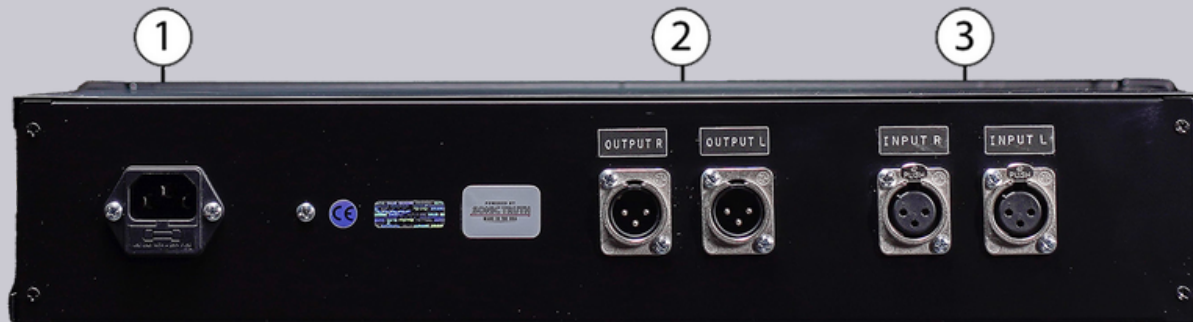
## FRONT PANEL CONT.



(6) METER Factory set for 0VU=+4dB

(7) POWER switch turns AC power "on" and "off". No signal flows when power is "off".

## REAR PANEL



(1) AC Power Connector - connects to the UNIQUELY paired power supply that comes with your 260VU. Please disconnect this supply from the XLR5 socket if being used for any period of time longer than a day or two.

(2) XLR OUTPUT - A balanced XLR connector carrying the line-level output signal of the 260VU. This signal will normally be routed via a patchbay to a channel or bus insert return.

(3) XLR INPUT - Connect line-level input signal to this balanced XLR connector. Pin 2 is wired positive (hot). This signal will normally be arriving via a patchbay from a channel or bus insert send.



# ★ FEATURES

## NO ATTACK OR RELEASE REQUIRED

Since the attack and release times of the 260VU vary automatically with the rate of level change in the program material (the envelope shape), operation is simplified; no manual attack/ release adjustments are required.

At the same time, the "naturalness" of any given sound is better preserved.

## RMS LEVEL DETECTION

The 260VU maintains crystalline high end but lessens ear fatigue, allowing COMPLETE control over unruly dynamics through it's novel use of the detector circuit that hears like the 'Human Ear'; which have a sound unlike any other compression topology out there.



### THRESHOLD

THRESHOLD control adjusts the level above which compression or limiting occurs, and is continuously variable from 10mV to 3 volts.



### COMPRESSION

COMPRESSION control varies the amount of compression from 1 :1 (unity gain) up to infinity (approx. 120:1). The unit can be considered to be limiting at compression settings of 10:1 or higher.



### OUTPUT

OUTPUT GAIN control adjusts the gain of the unit's output stage; can actually attenuate up to 20dB. or can provide up to 20dB of gain. This control is independent of Threshold and Compression.



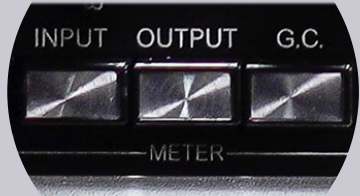
### LED'S

BELOW, ABOVE THRESHOLD (L.E.D.'s)  
When the amber indicator is illuminated, the input level to the compressor/limiter is below the threshold level adjusted by the THRESHOLD control. When the red indicator is illuminated, the input level to the compressor/limiter is above the threshold level. The L.E.D.'s do not measure output level.



### METERING

Factory set for 0VU=+4dB



### METER

METER FUNCTION SWITCHES select whether the meter displays the INPUT level, the OUTPUT level, or the amount of GAIN CHANGE.

260VU



# TECH SPECS



## SPECIFICATIONS

**Freq Response:** 20hz-20khz  
**Noise:** -78db +/-5  
**Height:** 2U  
**Depth:** 11 In (229mm)  
**Width:** 19in (48cm)  
**Weight:** 13lbs  
**Power:** 120/220v  
**Impedance in/out:**50k/600ohm

## CONTROLS

**Threshold:** Continuously variable from 10mV(-38dB) to 3V(+12dB)

**Compression:** variable from 1 :1 to 120:1 (infinity).

**Meter:** 60dB (-40dB to +20dB)  
Switchable for input level, output level or gain change.

**Attack Time:** 15 milliseconds for 10dB level change above threshold. 5 milliseconds for 20dB level change above threshold. 3 milliseconds for 30dB level change.

**Release Rate:** 120dB/second

Hassle-Free 2 Year Warranty.  
Painstakingly Handcrafted in the USA!



## ADDITIONAL FEATURES

- Handcrafted in the USA
- Stylish 2U 19" Rackmount
- Electronically Balanced Discrete/Transistor +4dBu Circuitry
- Premium Hand Selected, Sonically Superior Components Throughout (as always!)
- Alpha Potentiometers
- Triad International Series Toroidal Power Transformer
- Exclusive AudioScape Custom Analog dB Gain-Reduction Meters
- Neutrik Metal XLR Input and Output Connectors
- External, Low-Noise Custom 120V/240V Power Supply



# COMMON QUESTIONS & TIPS



- Q1. Can you link the left and right channels?
- A1. No, each channel operates independently.
  
- Q2. Don't have XLR inputs or Outputs on your interface?
- A2. Use TRS 1/4" to XLR cables
  
- Q3. Should you power down the 260VU in-between uses?
- A3. Yes, we recommend powering down your 260VU at the end of work each day. And if left for more than one day, we recommend unplugging THE 260VU from the wall outlet.



- When the input level is below the set threshold, and the Output Gain control is set at "0dB" (12 o'clock), the unit functions as a 1: 1 amplifier (a unity gain device). When the input level is above the set threshold, the unit functions as a compressor, or as a limiter, depending on the compression ratio selected.

## TRACKING DUTIES

- Effortlessly suited for Tracking Duties, adding Complete Smack and Punch to anything it embraces.
- For some tape compression feel, just tap the kick/snare with it before your DAW.

## MIXING DUTIES

- On the 2-buss, the 260VU is like a finely matched pair of vintage 160VUs where it seems like even just a couple of db shaved off the transient spikes knits together your mix. All the while adding the best part of a 70's vibe.