



# V1290 PREAMP USER MANUAL

AUDIOSCAPE  
ENGINEERING CO.



POWERED BY  
**SONIC TRUTH**  
MADE IN THE U.S.A.

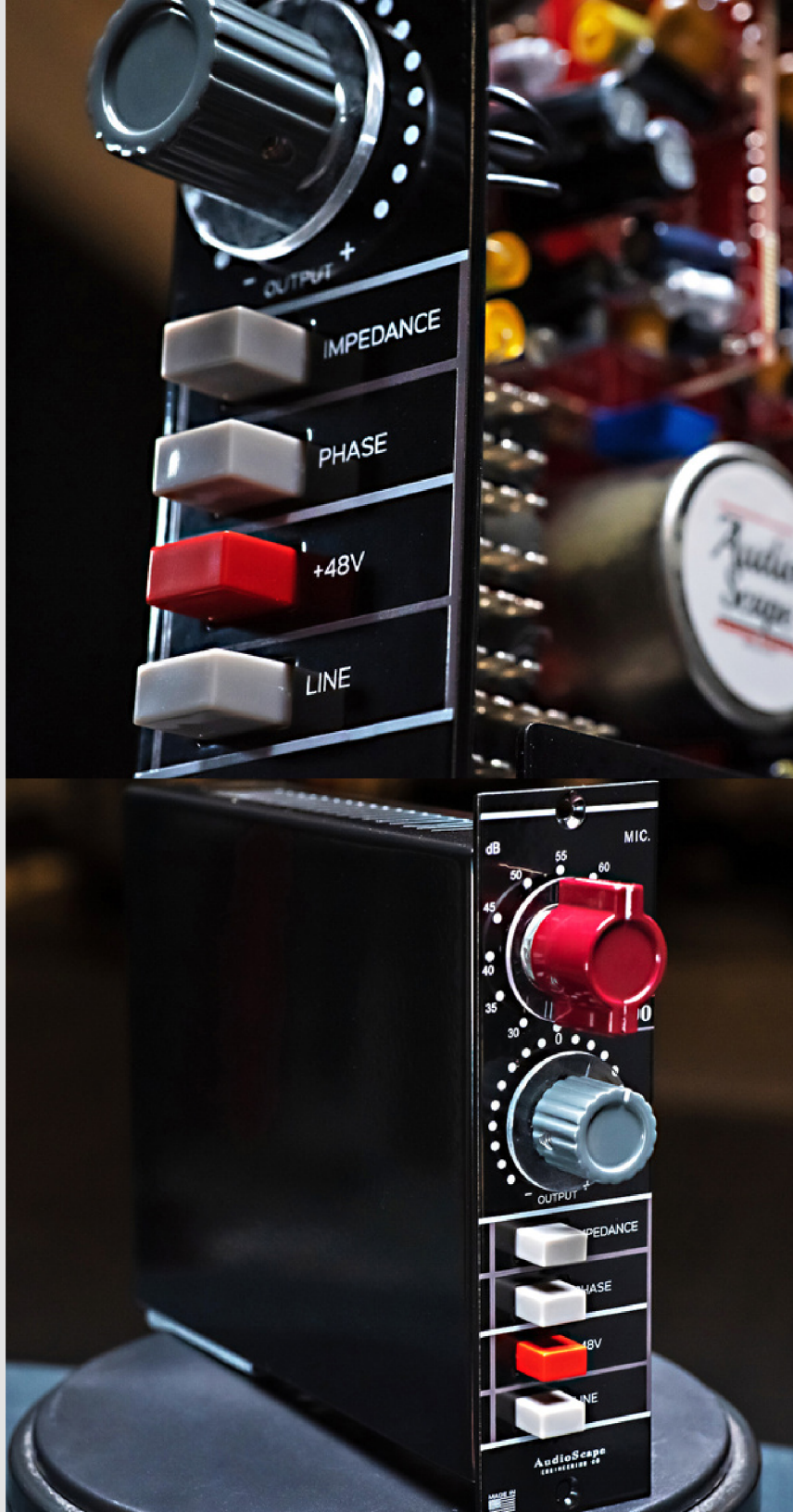
This manual provides general information, preparation for use, installation, and operating instructions for the Audioscape V1290

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 V1290 Preamplifier from AUDIOSCAPE Engineering! Not your typical rendition of an 'N' style preamp. The OG preamp circuit is BIGGER & bolder and more "quintessential" than any other variant.**

**The V1290 has all that low-end girth along with the perfect mid-range & top end. From CLEAN to MEAN, it delivers. Set yourself apart from the pack. Find your new crayon.**

**Let's dig into its features.**





# IMPORTANT SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

- **Water and Moisture** - Do not use the unit near any source of water or in excessively moist environments.
- **Object and Liquid Entry** - make sure that you use blank space plates to cover unused slots in your 500 series chassis, to prevent liquids or objects falling into your chassis and damaging your preamp.
- **Ventilation** - Most 500 series modules are fine in their chassis, however we recommend not putting a V1290 next to a unit with vacuum tubes in it.
- **Heat** - As above, beware putting your V1290 in a slot next to another 500 series unit that generates a lot of heat.
- **Power Sources** - The V1290 will work with any standard approved 500 series chassis, however we recommend you buy a high quality one with sufficient juice to run all your units, allowing 500 milliamps of good +/-16 volt power.
- **Power Cord Protection** - Always make certain the V1290 is firmly seated in the 500 series chassis edge-connector before screwing it in on the front panel.
- **Cleaning** - Follow general cleaning rules as with any face-plate. A feather duster and damp towelette are effective.
- **Non-use Periods** - We recommend you disconnect the 500 series chassis power cord if you aren't going to be using your studio gear for any longer than a few days.
- **Damage Requiring Service** - Please refer to a qualified technician.



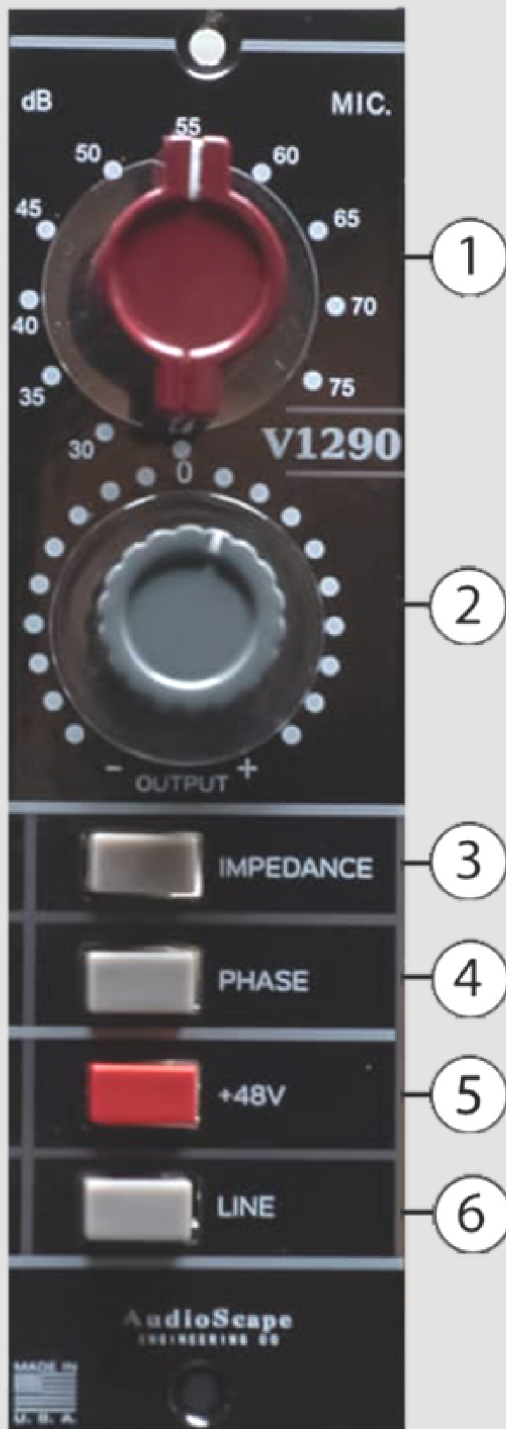


# GETTING STARTED



- **Firmly seat the V1290 in the slot of your 500 series chassis. Align the connection strip of the V1290 with the edge-connector inside the 500 series chassis, then carefully, but firmly, insert the V1290.**
- **Screw the V1290's face-plate into the top and bottom screw holes of your 500 series chassis.**
- **Set the V1290:**
  - **default gain @ 45 dB**
  - **OUTPUT @ 0**
  - **IMPEDANCE button out (high impedance)**
  - **PHASE button out (in phase)**
  - **48V button in (FOR CONDENSER MICS ONLY!)**
  - **LINE button out (mic level) to start**
- **Test connections to your input and output.**
- **Additional start-up help: V1290 QUICK-START**
- **If you 'd like to see and hear some examples of the Audioscape V1290 in action, please see the webpage on our website for links to examples on youtube.**





## FRONT PANEL

(1) Input - Additive preamp gain in 5 dB steps, from 25 dB to 75 dB.

(2) Output - Unlike some designs, this isn't another gain control of +5/-20 dB, this is a straight 10 dB attenuation control.

(3) Impedance - Switches input impedance. Normally 1200Ω, when pushed-in the impedance drops to 300Ω.

(4) Phase - Normally in-phase (pin 2 hot), push in for out-of-phase (pin 3 hot)

(5) 48V - Phantom power at the industry std +48 Volts for powering condenser mics, DI boxes and boost boxes requiring phantom power.

(6) Line - When pushed in switches the XLR input on your 500 chassis from mic level to a line level input. Ideal for running any signal thru, to get the iron working for you!

## REAR PANEL

The V1290 follows the 500 series chassis protocol.

All of the usual rear panel connections are on the back of your 500 series chassis.



## ★ FEATURES

The V1290 is a Class-A, Discrete, Transformer laden mic preamp that's been heralded for its extremely unique dynamics response, box-tone and beautiful silky highs & thick lows.

The V1290S pedigree has long been known and revered by engineers of all styles and tastes for decades. Known for sounding great on just about ANY source; it's a preamp you can use WITHOUT fear of sub-par sonics or performance.

**This circuit is a legend for a reason!**



## ADDITIONAL FEATURES

- Chunky custom iron (input/output transformer), fine tuned to deliver the best tonal balance.
- Super handy line input switch to crank your finest mixes and groups/source material through.
- Phantom power, polarity and impedance switch for lower level ribbon/dynamic microphones.
- Grayhill gain switch offering 11 mic gain positions from 25 dB up to 75 dB.
- Dust-sealed Alpha output fader pots to drive the gain to the perfect sweet spot.
- Original NOS BC184C transistors throughout and one Motorola 2N3055, decades long obsolete and rare.
- Period correct carbon film resistors in the audio path along with the correct polystyrene, tantalum caps and poly film capacitors, all where they belong.



# FAQ

## COMMON QUESTIONS

**Q: How do you stereo link two V1290s?**

**A: You can't. But they are so closely matched in all components, that a matched stereo pair of microphones into individual V1290s set the same with the same input field, will achieve near identical results.**

**Q: How closely does this match famous N designs like the 1073, 1061, 1064, 1081, 1084?**

**A: First of all, all those units use the 1290 preamp. Reactions from very knowledgeable and critical recording engineers have led to feedback stating that this is the finest and quietest vintage N style preamp they have ever owned and used. The attention to detail ensures the discreet circuits or yesteryear are faithfully replicated and our QA is unmatched.**

**Q: Should you power down the V1290 in between uses?**

**A: Yes, we recommend powering down your 500 series chassis at the end of work each day.**

**Q: If something isn't working right, what do you think the problem is?**

**A: Usually, you need to power down the 500 series chassis, and carefully remove the V1290 from its slot. Very carefully make certain you have the connection strip in**







# CONTACT

- Have support or service related questions? Please email [tech@audio-scape.com](mailto:tech@audio-scape.com)
- Looking for Inventory updates, all general inquiries, questions about using our products, need gear or mix advice? Please email [info@audio-scape.com](mailto:info@audio-scape.com) and subscribe to the Email Newsletter, [Instagram](#), & [Facebook](#).



# CE EU DECLARATION OF CONFORMITY

## PRODUCT MODEL / PRODUCT:

PRODUCT: V1290 [500-SERIES] PREAMPLIFIER

MODEL/TYPE: V1290

SERIAL NOS. 125000 - 130000

## MANUFACTURER:

MANUFACTURER: AUDIOSCAPE ENGINEERING CO. LLC

ADDRESS: 1631 S. NOVA ROAD, BUILDING A, DAYTONA BEACH, FL 32119, USA

THIS DECLARATION OF CONFORMITY IS ISSUED UNDER THE SOLE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE MANUFACTURER.



THE OBJECT OF THE DECLARATION DESCRIBED IS IN CONFORMITY WITH THE RELEVANT UNION HARMONISATION LEGISLATION:

73/23/EWG	LOW VOLTAGE DIRECTIVE
89/336/EWG	EMC DIRECTIVE
DIN EN 55103-1&2	ELECTROMAGNETIC COMPATIBILITY OF AUDIO EQUIPMENT
2011/65/EU	THE RESTRICTION OF HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES DIRECTIVE

THIS DECLARATION BECOMES INVALID BY MODIFICATION ON THE DEVICE WITHOUT APPROVAL.

THE TECHNICAL FILE IS AVAILABLE FROM THE MANUFACTURER AT THE ADDRESS ABOVE.

SIGNED FOR AND ON BEHALF: AUDIOSCAPE ENGINEERING CO. LLC

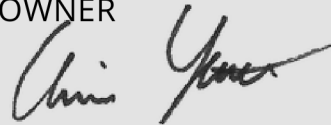
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DATE OF ISSUE: NOVEMBER 1ST, 2023

NAME: CHRIS YETTER

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