

Reference 6 Line Stage Preamp

The Legacy Continues



“The Reference 6 has an incredibly addictive lifelike presence and bloom that will draw you in and dazzle your senses. There is so much harmonic texture and rich layers of information that you will have to pinch yourself to remember that you are in a listening room and not the original event. Female vocals, saxophone, piano—it does not get any better or more seductive!”
Posi+iveFeedback, September 2016

The Reference 6 is our finest single chassis line stage preamplifier for good reason. Utilizing circuit and power supply elements derived from our two-chassis flagship, the REF6 squeezes as much quality and technology into a single chassis component as possible.

The REF6 provides a new sonic landscape. Increasing the tube count with advancements in the power supply, improve both micro- and macro-dynamics while lowering distortion. The refined design delivers a relaxed and effortless musical presentation with great transparency and speed. The power supply provides great bass weight and control. Quite simply, the REF6 delivers a more palpable and immediate musical performance.

The REF6’s four single-ended RCA inputs and four balanced XLR inputs assure connectivity with virtually every source. Two sets of RCA and XLR outputs allow easy integration with multiple power amplifiers or powered subwoofers. We’ve even included a pair of fixed level outputs for those using a tape recorder or analog-to-digital converter. No matter how extensive your audio system is, the REF6 has you covered.

The proof is in the listening. “The Reference 6 managed an exceptional combination of overall perfection of timing, in which everything arrived at the right time, and lingered just long enough before gracefully evaporating. It also managed to reproduce unerringly convincing harmonic structures that produced lush, true colors and solid, three-dimensional images.” Michael Fremer, Stereophile, November 2016.

After nearly 50 years, our focus remains the advancement of the state-of-the-art in music reproduction. Every component is meticulously hand-crafted and personally auditioned before it leaves our factory. Our attention to detail, customer service, and product support create unprecedented value. An Audio Research component is more than a purchase, it’s an investment.

When you experience the musical presentation of the REF6, you’ll see for yourself how mere technical specifications don’t tell the entire story. This is audio fine art. We invite you hear the difference by visiting your nearest Audio Research dealer.



SPECIFICATIONS

Frequency response

+0-3dB, 0.4Hz to 200kHz at rated output
(Balanced, 200k ohms load)

THD

Less than .01% at 2V RMS BAL output

Gain

Main output: 12dB Balanced output, 6dB SE output. Record out: 0dB (Processor input: 0dB BAL output)

Noise

1.7uV RMS residual IHF weighted balanced equivalent input noise with volume at 1 (109dB below 2V RMS output.)

Tube complement

6 - 6H30 dual triodes, plus 1 - 6550WE and 1 - 6H30 in power supply

Dimensions

Width: 19" (48 cm)
Height: 7.8" (19.8 cm)
Depth: 16.5" (41.9 cm)
Handles extend 1.6" (4 cm) forward of the front panel

Weight

37.5 lbs. (17 kg) Net; 49 lbs. (22.3 kg) Shipping

Complete technical specifications can be found on our website.

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