

valve warmth



valve
classics



M-3

tubetracker 8/2 valve mixer

overview

The M-3 TubeTracker builds on the success of our award winning VTC valve console by offering a compact and supremely sweet sounding valve solution for all tracking and submixing applications. Now at last a small format analogue mixer is available that offers all the benefits of TL Audio's heritage in valve technology, without any of the compromises in audio quality associated with budget mixers.

Each of the M-3's 8 channels features a discrete valve mic preamp, four band EQ with swept mids, a pair of auxiliary sends and a post-fader direct output for straight-to-multitrack recording. A simple yet flexible master section is based around a stereo valve mix buss, with a pair of auxiliary returns, comprehensive monitoring and metering options and an optional 24/96 stereo digital output. Multiple M-3s can be linked to provide an unlimited number of channels, since the link facility connects each mixer's stereo, PFL and auxiliary busses to create a true expansion of mixing capacity - plus the M-3 is suitable for 19" rack fitting or table top mounting, complete with vintage wooden surround. Whether you need a fat front end for your digital HD recorder, a classy submixer for your large format console or a pristine quality mixer for live music recording then the TubeTracker will deliver expensive sounding results - without breaking the bank!

valve stages

Like the VTC, the M-3 features a Sovtek ECC83/12AX7A valve stage in each channel preamp and the stereo mix buss, run from a stabilised 200V DC supply. For maximum signal integrity the M-3 is powered from a high quality external linear PSU, and all internal signal busses are fully balanced.

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Studio
sound

"This is a serious tool with useful features for many applications, from location recording to studio mixdown. The EQ and mic amplifier sections are excellent, suiting a wide range of inputs. It handled everything I threw at it with ease, always sounding responsive, exciting and dynamic.... it is a joy to use, and those familiar with the TL Audio range will know what to expect - I loved its chunky feel and chunky sound."
GEORGE SHILLING



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www.tlaudio.co.uk

compact valve solution

valve classics

channel section

Input Stage: At last - a small format mixer with truly high performance mic preamps! The M-3 employs an all-new valve mic preamp stage for superb warmth and detail, based around a discrete transistor front end and a secondary triode valve stage. The preamp delivers between 16 and 60dB of gain on the mic input, and +/- 20dB of gain on the line input. A source select switch allows either mic or line inputs to be designated the signal source, and phase reverse and 90Hz filter switches are provided which apply to both mic and line signal paths.

EQ Stage: The equaliser section of the M-3 is everything you would expect from a TL Audio product - warm, smooth and responsive. Based on that of the VTC console, the M-3 EQ stage provides four bands with two swept mids. The LF and HF shelving bands are fixed at 80Hz and 12kHz respectively, both with second order 12dB/octave slopes. Both mid bands provide up to 15dB of cut or boost, with the LM band variable between 50Hz and 2kHz and the HM band spanning the range 500Hz to 18kHz, thus providing good overlap between all four bands. The Q of both mid bands is fixed at 0.7 (1.4 octaves), and an EQ bypass switch with status LED is provided for instant A/B comparisons of the original and EQ'd signals.

Auxiliary Sends: Two post EQ aux sends are provided for FX or foldback applications. Aux 1 is switchable pre or post fader, while aux 2 is permanently set post fader.

Pan: A centre detented pan control adjusts the L/R balance of the signal sent to the stereo mix buss.

Mute & PFL: Each channel can be independently muted and PFL'd via dedicated switches with their own status LEDs.

Drive and Peak LEDs: The yellow Drive LED indicates the degree of drive to the preamp valve stage, and glows with increasing intensity over the range +6dBu to +16dBu.

The red Peak LED monitors the headroom at two stages (input and post fader), and is triggered when 5dB of headroom remains at the Direct Output.

Channel Fader: A high quality Alps 100mm fader controls the level of signal sent to the direct output and stereo mix buss.



master section

Stereo Metering: Circular backlit VU meters provide an indication of L/R signal level, with red Peak LEDs becoming active when 5dB of headroom remains on the stereo mix buss. The meters follow the L/R outputs or the 2-T return, whichever is selected as the monitor source. Additionally, the meters switch over to read the PFL buss whenever a channel is PFL'd.

Digital Output: An optional stereo digital output card can be fitted to the rear panel of the M-3, at which point the front panel bit & sample rate selector switches become active, along with the 8 segment digital output meter. The digital card offers simultaneous AES, SPDIF and TOSLINK optical outputs, along with a Wordclock input. The bit rate is variable between 16, 20 and 24 bits, and the sample rate is switchable between 44.1, 48, 88.2 and 96kHz. A status LED is provided which confirms when the M-3 is locked to an external source.

Phantom Power: A global phantom power switch applies +48V to all 8 mic inputs simultaneously, enabling the M-3 to be used with condenser microphones.

Auxiliary Send Masters: Auxiliary master controls govern the level at both aux 1 & 2 outputs, and provide up to 15dB of extra gain. Both masters have associated PFL switches, allowing either aux sends to be auditioned in isolation. Both sends are selectable for -10 or +4dB operation via a rear panel switch.

Auxiliary Return Masters: Both master aux returns feature level and L/R balance controls, along with a PFL switch. Both returns feed directly into the stereo mix, and are selectable for -10 or +4dB operation via a rear panel switch. Plugging a mono source into the left return only will feed the signal equally to left and right busses.

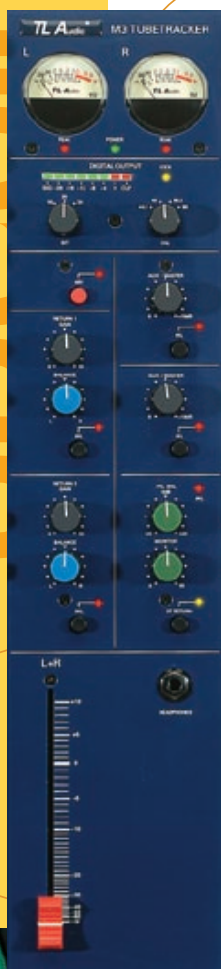
PFL Balance Control: This control sets the relative balance in level between the normal monitor and PFL'd signals, and is variable by +/- 20dB.

Monitor Level Control: Simultaneously sets the signal level fed to both the monitor and headphone outputs. The 2-T return can be monitored via the adjacent selector switch.

Master Fader: A high quality 100mm Alps stereo fader controls the level sent to the master and monitor outputs.

Headphone Output: A convenient front panel stereo headphone feed follows the monitor output, with the phones level being set by the Monitor Level Control.

○ Mic Input	
Noise:	-127dBu EIN @ 60dBu gain 150 ohm source, 22Hz to 22kHz
Max Input Level:	10dBu
Frequency Response:	20Hz to 40kHz, +0 / -2dB (to Direct Out @ 40dB gain)
THD + Noise:	0.02% (1kHz), 0.03% (20Hz to 40kHz)
Connector:	Balanced XLR
○ Line Input	
Frequency Response:	10Hz to 40kHz, +0 / -1dB (to Direct Out)
THD + Noise:	0.01% (1kHz), 0.04% (20Hz to 40kHz) @ 4dBu
Connector:	Balanced TRS jack, unbalanced compatible
○ Insert Point	
Nominal Level:	-2dBu
Connector:	Unbalanced TRS jack (tip=send, ring=return)
○ Direct Output	
Max Output Level:	+26dBu into 10kohms
Noise:	-84dBu, 22Hz to 22kHz (line i/p, 0dB gain, +4dBu selected)
Dynamic Range:	110dB
Connector:	Balanced TRS jack, unbalanced compatible. Level switchable between -10dB & +4dB via rear panel switch
○ L/R Mix Output	
Frequency Response:	10Hz to 40kHz (+0, -1.5dB)
THD + Noise:	0.05% @ 1kHz (from line input)
Max Output Level:	+26dBu into 10kohms
Output Noise:	-74dBu (all channels routed with faders @ 0dB line inputs @ 0dB gain)
Connector:	Balanced XLR
○ Aux Outputs	
Max Gain:	+15dBu
Max Output Level:	+26dBu
Connector:	Balanced TRS jack, unbalanced compatible. Level switchable between -10dB & +4dB via rear panel switch
○ Aux Returns	
Max Input Level:	+22dBu
Max Gain:	+10dB
Connector:	Balanced TRS jack, unbalanced compatible. Level switchable between -10dB and +4dB via rear panel switch
○ 2T Return	
Connector:	Balanced TRS jack, unbalanced compatible. Level switchable between -10dB & +4dB via rear panel switch
○ Monitor Outputs	
Max Gain:	+15dB
Max Output Level:	+26dBu
Connector:	Balanced TRS jack, unbalanced compatible
○ Headphone Output	
Stereo TRS jack output on front panel, suitable for headphones with 32 ohms minimum impedance	
○ Link Facility	
15 pin D-type connectors for Link In and Link Out, to enable any number of mixers to be cascaded. Links stereo, aux and PFL busses via balanced connections	
○ Power Supply	
Consumption:	100VA
IEC mains connector, switchable 110-120V or 220-240V AC	
○ Dimensions	
Mixer:	483mm x 442mm x 125mm (19" 10U)
PSU:	483mm x 88mm x 260mm (19" 2U)



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