
Subject: Re: U87 mods?? SPA???

Posted by [TC](#) on Mon, 09 Feb 2009 17:33:40 GMT

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I'm not a big U87 fan either for what they are priced at new.

Haven't heard it, but your friend may want to check out this also.

<http://www.innertubeaudio.com/u87retrofit.html>

Cheers,

TC

Rod Lincoln wrote:

> A friend of mine (no, really) bought a new U87 from sweetwater. He's a little
> dissapointed in it. I told him about Stephen Paul audio. Was that good advice?
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> Does anyone have a ballpark figure of what it will cost, and how long it
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Subject: U87 mods?? SPA???

Posted by [Rod Lincoln](#) on Mon, 09 Feb 2009 18:10:10 GMT

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Rod

Subject: Re: U87 mods?? SPA???

Posted by [John \[1\]](#) on Mon, 09 Feb 2009 19:39:20 GMT

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Just have him return it and get a Studio Projects C3 for \$300. If he can't
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1. Guitar

2. Guitar Player
3. Singer
4. A/D convertor
5. His Ears.

Enjoy. With the extra money he can go to Kiva and help some small businesses.

http://www.kiva.org/app.php?page=businesses&action=about &id=88111&_tpos=f&_tpg=h

John

Subject: Re: U87 mods?? SPA???

Posted by [Bill L](#) on Mon, 09 Feb 2009 20:59:10 GMT

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I can't hang with the SP C3, myself, but I do agree he should return it, not spend even more to mod it. There are dozens of excellent mics to choose from and some cost a lot less. Have him try the M-Audio Sputnik. They're pretty cheap and supposedly sound excellent. The new 414s are nice. Shure and AT mics are good too. I wouldn't spend Neumann dollars myself. I did own a U87 for a long time, but I got it used.

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> John

Subject: Re: U87 mods?? SPA???

Posted by [TC](#) on Mon, 09 Feb 2009 21:47:54 GMT

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At one point I had a red type A with B6 cap and a U87AI here that I a/b'd through various preamps. For vocals, they were pretty much on par. The U87AI sounded decent, but didn't "wow" me on anything. I was able to

sell it without too much of a loss. I wouldn't buy one again unless it was used and was cheap \$\$, or perhaps an older non "AI" version (at a good price).

I'm skeptical of SP mics, I used to have one (C3 I think, maybe it was a different "C" version). Bright in not a good way, and lacked body (sounded like it was only worth \$300). Would much rather spend that money on an SM7b.

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>>

>>

>> John

Subject: Re: U87 mods?? SPA???

Posted by [John \[1\]](#) on Mon, 09 Feb 2009 22:58:42 GMT

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Mics are personal for sure but my C3 makes me so happy. On acoustic guitar i move it around with headphones on and around the 12th fret the magic happens where the balance between highs and lows and pick noise is just right and the top end is bright and open and the sound is just happily full.

On vocals I love it even more :-)

John

Subject: Re: U87 mods?? SPA???

Posted by [Ted Gerber](#) on Tue, 10 Feb 2009 00:05:53 GMT

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I have a Sputnik, and like it. I wouldn't say I love it, it has a lot of "grain", not as smooth as the 2 U87s I have access to. Others like the results tho...

Ted

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>> John

Subject: Re: U87 mods?? SPA???

Posted by [Rod Lincoln](#) on Tue, 10 Feb 2009 01:40:02 GMT

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Thanks for the info, I will pass it along

rod

TC <tc@spammetodeathyoubastards.org> wrote:

>I'm not a big U87 fan either for what they are priced at new.

>

>Haven't heard it, but your friend may want to check out this also.

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>> Thanks

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Subject: Re: U87 mods?? SPA???

Posted by [Rod Lincoln](#) on Tue, 10 Feb 2009 01:42:03 GMT

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Thanks guys. I will pass along your thoughts. Always helpful.

Rod

"Ted Gerber" <tedgerber@rogers.com> wrote:

>

>I have a Sputnik, and like it. I wouldn't say I love it, it has

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Subject: Re: U87 mods?? SPA???

Posted by [Neil](#) on Tue, 10 Feb 2009 06:27:16 GMT

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It's new Neumann & he's thinking about modding it? No way....
not worth it. It's very expensive, and will take MONTHS to get
back from SPA. If he wants a really ass-kickin' non-tube LDC
that he doesn't have to spend more money to mod, then he should
return it to SW, get a Kiwi, and keep the change.

If you're gonna mod an -87, get an older one for circa \$1,500 &
THEN spend the extra money... whether it's an Innertube or SPA
mod or whatever.

BTW, Rod, you ready to work on another tune or two soon?

Neil

"Rod Lincoln" <rlincoln@nospam.kc.rr.com> wrote:
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>>>> John
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>

Subject: Re: U87 mods?? SPA???

Posted by [Bill L](#) on Tue, 10 Feb 2009 12:27:29 GMT

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I forgot about the BeesKnees. I'd love to hear one.

TC wrote:

> At one point I had a red type A with B6 cap and a U87AI here that I
> a/b'd through various preamps. For vocals, they were pretty much on par.
> The U87AI sounded decent, but didn't "wow" me on anything. I was able to
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>>>

>>>

>>> John

Subject: Re: U87 mods?? SPA???

Posted by [John \[1\]](#) on Tue, 10 Feb 2009 13:55:17 GMT

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Bright in not a good way? man we must have very different ears and or mics.
My C3 is freaking wonderful to me. natural, open full with air, detailed,
even picks up the clock ticking on my wall. I love it.

Subject: Re: U87 mods?? SPA???

Posted by [John \[1\]](#) on Tue, 10 Feb 2009 13:57:01 GMT

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Also if you don't need figure 8 or omni patterns and just cardioid then the
C1 sounds exactly the same and costs about \$200 !

Subject: Re: U87 mods?? SPA???

Posted by [Tom Bruhl](#) on Tue, 10 Feb 2009 16:30:23 GMT

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Rod,

Ever try the C1 on toms? I was thinking that would
be a much less expensive way in getting reasonable
condensers around the kit. I have a C3 here
but haven't tried it for that app yet. A lot less than 414s!!
Different sound too.

Tom

"Rod Lincoln" <rlincoln@nospam.kc.rr.com> wrote in message
news:4991a478\$1@linux...

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> pretty

> brittle on the top end.

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Posted by [Rod Lincoln](#) on Tue, 10 Feb 2009 16:59:52 GMT

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Subject: Re: U87 mods?? SPA???

Posted by [Rod Lincoln](#) on Tue, 10 Feb 2009 17:01:17 GMT

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Hey Neil....yes I am.

Rod

"Neil" <OIUOI@OI.com> wrote:

>

>It's new Neumann & he's thinking about modding it? No way....

>not worth it. It's very expensive, and will take MONTHS to get

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Subject: Re: U87 mods?? SPA???
Posted by [kerryg](#) on Tue, 10 Feb 2009 17:42:44 GMT
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The SP stuff had QC issues so there's pretty wide variation in quality
between the mics. I have a C1 as well and while it's pretty good value for

the price I certainly would never call it equal in sweetness, richness and detail to the 87's it was once compared to. I still think it was a good purchase, but I don't expect the much-hyped four-digit performance from it.

I may tear it down and mod it some day just to see what happens.

- K

On 2/10/09 8:59 AM, in article 4991a478\$1@linux, "Rod Lincoln" <rlincoln@nospam.kc.rr.com> wrote:

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Subject: Re: U87 mods?? SPA???

Posted by [TC](#) on Tue, 10 Feb 2009 18:39:27 GMT

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Could be..

This was probably almost 10 years ago, so it was when they first came out. Could have been a C1.. It wasn't terrible, but I do remember it having that brighter spitty sound of the Chinese mics of the day. I did get some decent tracks from it, but the AT 40 series mics were almost always used over the SP.

Maybe you just got a great one? There's often differences between individual mics of the same make/model, and probably QC issues back then. I'd love to be wrong on that, maybe they've tightened that up and the newer ones sound great.. I dunno.

I'm a bit spoiled now with the condensers I have, so I'm pretty picky on what I like.

Cheers,

TC

John wrote:

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 - > My C3 is freaking wonderful to me. natural, open full with air, detailed,
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-

Subject: Re: U87 mods?? SPA???

Posted by [Aaron Allen](#) on Tue, 10 Feb 2009 18:41:04 GMT

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That's been what I've heard as well. Not 4 digit performance, but honestly I've been pretty happy with mine. I think the earlier runs were better from what I've seen/heard. A friend brought over his later model and it didn't sound as good in a direct comparison.

AA

"Kerry Galloway" <kg@kerrygalloway.com> wrote in message
news:C5B6FC94.1949D%kg@kerrygalloway.com...

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- > between the mics. I have a C1 as well and while it's pretty good value for
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- > <rlincoln@nospam.kc.rr.com> wrote:

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Subject: Re: U87 mods?? SPA???

Posted by [Tom Bruhl](#) on Wed, 11 Feb 2009 01:06:23 GMT

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Hey Rod,

It really sounds to me like you got a stinker.
I can't say that my C3 is stellar but it competes
with the 414 ULS and EB in an almost as good but
not as 3D kind of way. Not my first choice.

Oh well at least it wasn't a huge amount of cash for you.

Tom

"Rod Lincoln" <rlincoln@nospam.kc.rr.com> wrote in message
news:4992184c\$1@linux...

>
> I tried it on my floor tom once, it sounded kind of "plastic"
> for lack of a better word. I usually use Shure SM 98's and I like those
> better.

> Rod

> "Tom Bruhl" <arpeggio@comcast.net> wrote:

>>Rod,

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Posted by [Rod Lincoln](#) on Wed, 11 Feb 2009 01:14:04 GMT
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Subject: Re: U87 mods?? SPA???

Posted by [audioguy_editout_](#) on Wed, 11 Feb 2009 02:20:05 GMT

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For reasonable large-ish diaphragm condensers, the Shure KSM32/44 are pretty good value and very consistent from mic to mic.

David.

Rod Lincoln wrote:

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Subject: Re: U87 mods?? SPA???

Posted by [Rod Lincoln](#) on Wed, 11 Feb 2009 05:51:08 GMT

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I borrowed 2 of those for about a year (the 32's) and I really loved them for overhead mics on drums. What I use now for overheads are audio-technica 4033's which I absolutely love, they do really nice things to the cymbals and are very complimentary to the whole kit.

Rod

"Dave(EK Sound)" <audioguy_editout_@shaw.ca> wrote:

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>>>

>>>

>>> "Rod Lincoln" <rlincoln@nospam.kc.rr.com> wrote in message

>>> news:4991a478\$1@linux...

>>>> John, I have a C1 and I really don't care that much for it. It seems

>>>> pretty

>>>> brittle on the top end.

>>>> Rod

>>>> "John" <no@no.com> wrote:

>>>>> Also if you don't need figure 8 or omni patterns and just cardioid then

>> the

>>>>> C1 sounds exactly the same and costs about \$200 !

>>>

>>

Subject: Re: U87 mods?? SPA???

Posted by [Martin Harrington](#) on Thu, 12 Feb 2009 22:24:14 GMT

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John, I have a CI, amongst others obviously, and quite like it for Voice
overs, (which I do a lot of), but there is NO comparison with a U87, or
almost any Neumann for that matter.

Martin H
Lend An Ear Sound

On 11/02/09 12:57 AM, in article 4991799d\$1@linux, "John" <no@no.com> wrote:

>
> Also if you don't need figure 8 or omni patterns and just cardioid then the
> C1 sounds exactly the same and costs about \$200 !
