
Subject: Neve Portico Mini-Review

Posted by [Neil](#) on Sun, 28 May 2006 07:19:33 GMT

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So far have used this on two tracks by the same male vocalist... one was a soft vocal track using my "Claytor-67" tube mic, and as I said in a previous post, I was thoroughly unimpressed & immediately went back to the Chandler TG2 for that application. Tonight I had a chance to try it on a harder-edged vocal track with a TLM-103, and it worked out pretty good for that. The previous mic pre we'd been using for this was the Focusrite ISA 428 on the ISA 110 impedance setting, and the Portico definitely imparted a slightly thicker or richer, and also a little bit smoother, quality to the track, but I wouldn't call it a "warm"-sounding pre, necessarily. I liked the "silk" setting - not sure what that circuit's all about, but it worked for this application, and imparted a little bit of color to what I'd consider to otherwise be a fairly dry-sounding preamp.

I am tending to think that the Focusrite is a much faster preamp than the Portico, because some rasp inherent in this guy's voice was reduced (in a positive way) with the Neve, whereas with the ISA it was VERY apparent, and in fact, I'd say it was even emphasized (this was one of the things that guy liked about the 428, actually, until he'd heard the takes a few times & started "not" liking the emphasized rasp so much. The Portico let some of this through, but it definitely had a smoothing effect on it.

So in my first good use of the Portico, I'd say my first impressions are that it's:

- * Pretty clean, with little coloration
- * Almost drab with the "silk" button disengaged
- * Pretty Smooth
- * Seems to have no shortage of headroom
- * Is definitely what I'd call a "soft" sounding pre
- * Has the potential for some "air" - I could hear it wanting to try & throw some stuff around up there, so maybe with a different mic, it would be more effective for this. Like maybe DeeJ's Stephen Paul U-87, or my modded M-147 (going to try this mic next).

Overall, I was hoping for more coloration & character, I guess, but I think I could definitely find some uses for it, regardless of that. So I'm right now I guess you could say I'm in the "not blown away, but not disappointed" category with

regard to this pre. lol

Judging from using it with a -103, I think it would sound great for overheads with this mic, and if you have a u-87, I have a feeling it might take away some of the "honk" & add some air to that one. I have a feeling it might be too smooth for a lot of rock or metal guitar, but not having tried it on that yet, this is just speculation based on what I heard tonight.

Bottom line - If you're expecting a classic "Neve" sound, this ain't it... there's no wooliness in the lower mids, it's not "mushy" or "creamy", and it's MUCH quieter & cleaner, IMO.

It sounds familiar to something else I've used before, but I can't put a finger on it... it's the type of "smoothness" quality it has that makes me say this; it's reminiscent of something, but I can't figure out what just yet.

Anyway, there it is so far.

Neil

Subject: Re: Neve Portico Mini-Review
Posted by [Deej \[1\]](#) on Sun, 28 May 2006 16:58:31 GMT
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Neil,

My Outlook Express outbox is somehow hosed and I don't have the time to troubleshoot it so I can't send you PM, but if you want to try the ADL-600 unit I've got here on demo, give me a call. I'll almost guarantee that it will blow your socks off. I can box it up and UPS it to you on Tuesday. It should be there by Friday (I sent it to a friend in Midland and it was there in 3 days UPS ground.

Morgan was/is selling these at a very competitivbe price so the price would be around the same for this as for the NEVE, I think, and if you are looking for something like this, you really *need* to hear this thing. No **** man. I'll stake what meagre reputation I may have here on this. To say it's *high end* is an understatement.

Call me if you're seriously interested in something like this and want a test drive.....970-375-7081

Deej

"Neil" <OIUOIU@OIU.com> wrote in message news:44794f05\$1@linux...

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> vocalist... one was a soft vocal track using my "Claytor-67"
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Subject: Re: Neve Portico Mini-Review
Posted by [Neil](#) on Tue, 30 May 2006 23:36:56 GMT
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Hey Deej... thanks for the offer, but I usually don't like to demo things if I can't afford to buy it at the time - otherwise I may run across something that I just have to own or I will die. :D

Neil

"DJ" <animix_spam-this-ahole_@animas.net> wrote:

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