
Subject: grace m101 vs Presonus Tube Pre vs. Behringer ADA8000

Posted by [Mike Audet](#) on Wed, 24 Dec 2008 02:51:07 GMT

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Hi Guys,

I just spent my first couple of hours with a grace m101. It's definitely the best mic preamp I've ever owned. I learned a lot from comparing it to my older ones, too. I recorded the same thing on acoustic guitar through all three mic pres with a 4050 pointed at the neck joint from about 10 inches away.

The m101: bright, full, but the biggest thing I noticed was how you could hear every nuance of the pick hitting every single string. It was like the sound had more texture than I'm used to. There is a percussive dimension that is missing or lesser on the other mic pres.

The Presonus Tube Pre: Brighter than the m101 and not as full. All that texture/percussive quality of the m101 is missing with the Tube Pre. It's like a whole dimension of the sound is missing - because it is. It sounds plastic, like a sock is muffling all the percussive content of the sound.

The ADA800: It's not as bright as the other two, but its fuller than the Presonus. As for the texture dimension, it's about half way between the Tube Pre and the m101. This surprised me because I expected it to come in last. The Tube Pre was an upgrade to my ears above the Mackie XDR preamps that I used to have, and the mic pres in the ADA800 are significantly better than the Tube Pre.

I'd recommend the m101 to anyone. You can never eq back in what the Tube Pre leaves out. Way cool.

I hope this mini review is useful to someone.

Mike

Subject: Re: grace m101 vs Presonus Tube Pre vs. Behringer ADA8000

Posted by [Aaron Allen](#) on Wed, 24 Dec 2008 05:44:42 GMT

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For me, confirmation that the 2 ADA8000's I bought when they first came out are still a good value. I thought the same thing when I got the first one you were expecting. Something along the lines of, well, it'll probably suck but I need the extra ins to catch a load of keyboard inputs and the such. If it's even remotely close to a 101, I'm thrilled man. I'm not shocked about the Presonus, most of their stuff I've tried has been less than stellar, but I am a little surprised the Behr slapped it that badly.

Very cool man, any chance you can put up some comparison files?

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"Mike Audet" <mike@...> wrote in message news:4951958b@linux...

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Subject: Re: grace m101 vs Presonus Tube Pre vs. Behringer ADA8000

Posted by [Neil](#) on Wed, 24 Dec 2008 07:18:46 GMT

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"Mike Audet" <mike@...> wrote:

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This, IMO, is related to SPEED... lots of times you hear people talk about preamp color or tone or what have you, but not very often do you hear about how fast or how slow a preamp is, and how that factors in to what you hear. Sometimes "slow" is good (like Neve-ish type pre's), as it can slap down certain unwanted aspects or transients (like sibilants, to a degree); but sometimes you want a super-fast preamp to bring out the clarity or "glassiness" of something. The Grace is faster than a shithouse mouse, and will definitely let you hear detail you may not have heard before, if you haven't previously had anything able to reproduce at that kind of level of definition.

Oh, and Happy Holidays to everyone! :)

Neil

Subject: Re: grace m101 vs Presonus Tube Pre vs. Behringer ADA8000
Posted by [Bill L](#) on Thu, 25 Dec 2008 19:21:12 GMT
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My experience with the Grace is similar to yours. I did a comparo with an Old School Audio pre (think API) on a female vocal a few years ago and found it very pleasing. To my ears, it had a tiny bit of something I hesitate to call distortion, but cannot think of another word for, at the very top end, but it was extremely slight and overall I liked the Grace a lot. Extremely open.

Mike Audet wrote:

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Subject: Re: grace m101 vs Presonus Tube Pre vs. Behringer ADA8000
Posted by [Aaron Allen](#) on Fri, 26 Dec 2008 05:35:26 GMT
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We didn't use the sub \$200 crap at Tisway. It was the digimax, original release model. Up against any of the other stuff there, it felt like a toy and unfortunately held up about the same way. I had Mackie XDR, Millenia and Demeter to hold it against and it wasn't even close on any aspect. I also have a Blue Tube in my recording rack when I want nasty/grit. It does a pretty good classic 60's/70's bass DI thing, but I understand it's a cheap piece and I expect little from it in the way of prestine, of course. I've also used the 8 channel comp/limit deal they have out currently, ACP88. What a pile of crap that thing is, yikes...
Have they improved the Digimax that much over the first release?

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"James McCloskey" <excelsm@hotmail.com> wrote in message
news:49546d5c\$1@linux...

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Subject: Re: grace m101 vs Presonus Tube Pre vs. Behringer ADA8000
Posted by [excelav](#) on Fri, 26 Dec 2008 06:36:28 GMT
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Subject: Re: grace m101 vs Presonus Tube Pre vs. Behringer ADA8000
Posted by [Wayne](#) on Fri, 26 Dec 2008 07:12:21 GMT
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I looked into the PreSonus stuff because of price. I currently own the Eureka and it is satisfactory. By turning up the saturation knob I was able to smooth out the harshness of my Mackie 160vlz (1990 circa) pres. The Eureka also has a compressor, VU meter and 3 band parametric and with minimal use of these two items I have tamed my vox. It's a single channel unit. The newer FireWire, Digimax FS and D8 use a X-MAX pre and per their rep it's their newest as of a couple months back.

Wayne

"James McCloskey" <excelsm@hotmail.com> wrote in message
news:495479ee\$1@linux...

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> other pres, by users. Of course this is second hand information, so,
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Posted by [excelav](#) on Fri, 26 Dec 2008 07:30:06 GMT
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Subject: Re: grace m101 vs Presonus Tube Pre vs. Behringer ADA8000

Posted by [Aaron Allen](#) on Fri, 26 Dec 2008 10:45:05 GMT

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In that same price range? A pair of dBX 1046's probably.

Purty sure Mike said he was using a TubePre model.

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>>>>> Tube
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>>>>> I hope this mini review is useful to someone.
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>>>>> Mike
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Subject: Re: grace m101 vs Presonus Tube Pre vs. Behringer ADA8000
Posted by [Mike Audet](#) on Mon, 29 Dec 2008 11:50:06 GMT
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Hi Aaron,

Sorry about the delay. I've been at holiday functions for the past week.

here are the samples:
<http://ensoniq.ca/preamps/>

Cheers!

Mike

"Aaron Allen" <know-spam@not_here.dude> wrote:

>For me, confirmation that the 2 ADA8000's I bought when they first came
out

>are still a good value. I thought the same thing when I got the first one

>you were expecting. Something along the lines of, well, it'll probably suck

>but I need the extra ins to catch a load of keyboard inputs and the such.
If

>it's even remotely close to a 101, I'm thrilled man. I'm not shocked about

>the Presonus, most of their stuff I've tried has been less than stellar,
but
>I am a little surprised the Behr slapped it that badly.
>Very cool man, any chance you can put up some comparison files?
>
>AA
>
>
>"Mike Audet" <mike@...> wrote in message news:4951958b@linux...
>>
>> Hi Guys,
>>
>> I just spent my first couple of hours with a grace m101. It's definitely
>> the best mic preamp I've ever owned. I learned a lot from comparing it
to
>> my older ones, too. I recorded the same thing on acoustic guitar through
>> all three mic pres with a 4050 pointed at the neck joint from about 10

>> inches
>> away.
>>
>> The m101: bright, full, but the biggest thing I noticed was how you could
>> hear every nuance of the pick hitting every single string. It was like

>> the
>> sound had more texture than I'm used to. There is a percussive dimension
>> that is missing or lesser on the other mic pres.
>>
>> The Presonus Tube Pre: Brighter than the m101 and not as full. All that
>> texture/percussive quality of the m101 is missing with the Tube Pre.
It's
>> like a whole dimension of the sound is missing - because it is. It sounds
>> plastic, like a sock is muffling all the percussive content of the sound.
>>
>> The ADA800: It's not as bright as the other two, but it's fuller than
the
>> Presonus. As for the texture dimension, it's about half way between the
>> Tube Pre and the m101. This surprised me because I expected it to come
in
>> last. The Tube Pre was an upgrade to my ears above the Mackie XDR preamps
>> that I used to have, and the mic pres in the ADA800 are significantly

>> better
>> than the Tube Pre.
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Subject: Re: grace m101 vs Presonus Tube Pre vs. Behringer ADA8000
Posted by [LaMontt](#) on Mon, 29 Dec 2008 18:15:05 GMT
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For the money, the ADA800's can't be beat.

"Mike Audet" <mike@...> wrote:

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Subject: Re: grace m101 vs Presonus Tube Pre vs. Behringer ADA8000

Posted by [TC](#) on Mon, 29 Dec 2008 19:10:23 GMT

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Of course, since Behringer never has to spend any money on R&D. It's already been done for them.

Cheers,

TC

LaMont wrote:

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> "Mike Audet" <mike@...> wrote:

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Subject: Re: grace m101 vs Presonus Tube Pre vs. Behringer ADA8000

Posted by [LaMontt](#) on Thu, 01 Jan 2009 08:15:25 GMT

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Well, most mast marketed products today are made in China. So, there's little R&D for the so-called reputable companies.

I mean, how much R&D goes into re-creating a Neve 1073 eq?

TC <tc@spammetodeathyoubastards.org> wrote:

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>TC

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Subject: Re: grace m101 vs Presonus Tube Pre vs. Behringer ADA8000

Posted by [audioguy_editout_](#) on Thu, 01 Jan 2009 20:53:17 GMT

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Well, I agree with the China thing, the R&D department at Behringer consists of a photocopier!... but re-creating a classic can be harder than you think!

I have been working on small production runs of REDD mic Pre's and Altec/RS124 compressors... reverse engineering some of the parts like transformers can be quite a challenge. In one instance, the fellow I am doing this for had to have the metallurgy done on the transformer plates to figure out the balance of nickel and iron etc. This is key to the sound of the units. Many of the recreations are using components that are "close" and as such don't sound exactly like the originals.

David.

LaMont wrote:

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