Little Radiator

Little Tube Pre-Amp Warmth

User's Guide

Version 5 : For Mac and Windows

soundtoys

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THE BASICS - ABOUT LITTLE RADIATOR

Warmth: it's the elusive and hard to quantify character that we're all striving for in modern, digital productions. Little Radiator was designed for this very task, turning up the HEAT on your mixes, utilizing one of the warmest preamps we know of: the Altec 1566A Amplifier*.

Introduced in the early 1960s, the 1566A was a three-stage mic preamp and power supply, in a single-space rack unit, all behind an unmistakable and very green faceplate. By today's standards, the sound of the Altec is colored and gritty, with a generous amount of old-fashioned hardware noise. After all, these devices were primarily meant to supply PA systems and could be found in churches, school auditoriums, and roller rinks all across the United States.

Eventually, aficionados of the analog sound began seeking out vintage 1566A units as inexpensive sources for a real-life tube front-end. The comparatively warm and punchy sound of the 1566A would become a sleeper classic for injecting that nebulous concept of "warmth" we mentioned earlier into setups based on an increasing amount of burgeoning digital technology.

Little Radiator brings that same heat-generating character of the 1566A to your digital setup. In addition to being a faithful recreation of the saturation and harmonic properties of the original hardware (based on multiple 1566A units at Soundtoys HQ), Little Radiator offers a mix control for easy parallel processing as well as a selectable Bias, altering the saturation characteristics of the plug-in.

Crank up Little Radiator and feel the heat!

* The Altec 1566A and associated trademarks are property of Altec Lansing LLC / Altec, Inc. and are in no way associated or affiliated with Soundtoys. All mention and references in this manual are merely to provide historical reference to products analyzed during the development of Little Radiator.

THE LITTLE RADIATOR CONTROL PANEL

Figure 2: Little Radiator's Control Panel

HEAT

The Heat control of Little Radiator determines the gain of the signal entering Little Radiator's (virtual) circuit path. As gain (or Heat) is increased, saturation will increase accordingly along with output level. This control determines the amount of drive into Little Radiator's tube saturation stage, creating harmonic distortion as the control is increased.

MIX

One major addition to Little Radiator vs. the original hardware is the Mix control. This allows the unprocessed (dry) signal to be mixed in with the processed (wet) signal. The 0% to 100% range corresponds to the output level percentage of the processed audio. The Mix control allows for parallel processing to occur directly within Little Radiator without the need for external bussing.

BIAS

The Bias switch selects between two subtly different styles of distortion based from saturation characteristics observed in different 1566A units. Bias set to "ON" is the more distorted of the two modes. Keeping the Bias control set to "OFF" results in a more accurate simulation of a pristine hardware unit, and has gentler saturation characteristics.

NOISE SWITCH

The 1566A has a significant amount of circuit noise even at low saturation levels and we decided to model and include this noise for Little Radiator. However, you can eliminate this modeled circuit noise by switching the Noise switch to the down (disengaged) position.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

SUPPORT INFORMATION

Now that you've taken the time to learn all about Little Radiator, have fun, experiment, and make greatness! If our plug-ins helped you take your production to the next level, let us know, we'd love to hear from you and what you were able to create with our software.

If along the way however you should run into any hiccups or anything unexpected, we offer free technical support for all registered users.

Our FAQ contains many helpful answers. you can find it at:

http://support.soundtoys.com

If you need further support you can find our Customer Support contact form at:

https://www.soundtoys.com/forms/support

You can also reach our support staff by e-mail at:

support@soundtoys.com

If neither of those options work for you, our office can be reached via telephone at:

1-800-COOL-EFX

Please have the following information available to help assist our support team:

- The product version and serial number
- The version number of your audio system (e.g ProTools 11.2.1, Cubase 8.0.5, Logic 10.2.0, Cakewalk Sonar X3)
- Your interface/hardware (e.g. Mbox Pro, Apogee Quartet, RME Fireface, etc.)
- Your computer and operating system info (e.g. MacPro OS X 10.9.5, Windows 7 SP1, Windows 8.1, etc.)
- A detailed description of the problem

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