

Manual for

MARK II PREAMP

CAREFULLY READ THIS MANUAL BEFORE USING THE DEVICE! THE MANUAL IS PART OF THE DEVICE. IT CONTAINS IMPORTANT INFORMATIONS FOR OPERATION AND USAGE.

- Do never expose the device to rain or humidity. This will cause damage to the device.
- Repairs need to be done by qualified technicians only.
- Do not manipulate any jacks
- Do always shut off the device completely before cleaning. Wait till it is completely dry before connecting it to the power supply.



This device conforms EMC 89/336/EEC and LV 73/23/EEC

Assembled in Germany by

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CONCEPT & USAGE

The **MARK II Preamp** was developed for Mark II Piano explicitly.

The **MARK II Preamp** is based on FERRO, our standalone preamp for all vintage keys. It comes with a Rhodes-typical 2-band Baxandall-EQ, a switchable lowpassfilter as well as an optical stereo-tremolo (which will be called "Vibrato" in the following for nostalgic reasons) with switchable modulation waveforms.

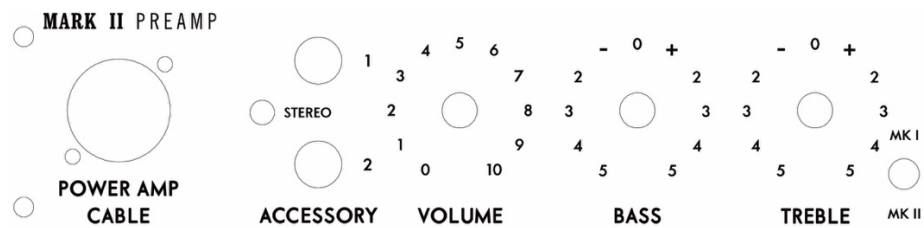
Furthermore we have integrated a powerful DSP with a total of eight effects. This enhances the musical possibilities greatly.

The **MARK II Preamp** was made as a "drop-in"-replacement for Rhodes Suitcase Pianos and so it needs a power supply. If you want to use this preamp with your stage-version of a Mark II, we are offering **SideTwix**. **SideTwix** is a power supply for all 5-pin preamps. It comes with a headphone amp as well.

ATTENTION: The power supply *needs to be completely switched off* when connecting the preamp. When making the connection while the power supply is switched on it is very likely that you damage the preamp.

Connect first, power on second.

FUNCTIONS



POWER AMP CABLE:

Jack for the 5-pin cable to the power supply / **SideTwix**.

ACCESSORY 1 & 2:

This is an effect loop. The loop comes circuitry-wise **after** volume, bass and treble control and the lowpass-switch. This means, the jacks are without function if the unit is not powered up.

Accessory 1 is the output (send), accessory 2 is the input (return).

Different from the original Rhodes preamp the instrument is still audible when using jack 1. On the **MARK II Preamp** the effect loop will be engaged as soon as you are using jack 2 as well.

We have integrated an automatic stereo-detection. This allows you to use stereo effects within this fx-loop. The preamp detects if a mono-plug (TS) or a stereo-plug (TRS) is inserted and will accordingly switch internally. There is an indicator LED showing what the preamp has detected. Please note that it may take a few seconds for the LED to switch off after removing a plug from the jack.

VOLUME:

Control for volume.

BASS:

Control for low frequencies.

TREBLE:

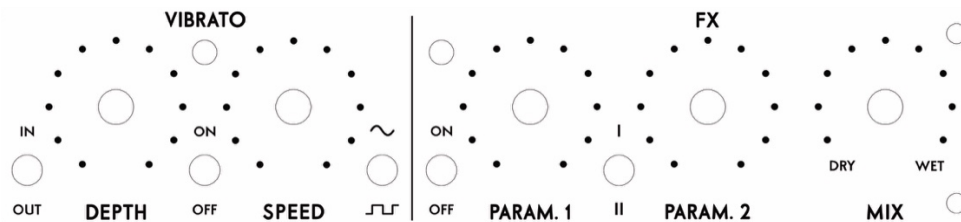
Control for high frequencies.

MK I / MK II:

This is a toggle switch for the tone color. While in the **MK I**-position high frequencies will be cut, the **MK II**-position gives you more sparkle. With flat EQ settings there won't be a big difference between these two settings. Anyway the more you boost the high frequencies using the treble control the more audible it will be.

Advice:

Put the treble control to max and switch between these two settings while playing in the mid / upper register. You'll notice that the **MK I**-position gives you the 70s sound while the **MK II**-position is way more sparkling and reminds of the 80s



IN / OUT:

Switch for changing the phase of the vibrato. **IN** means mono, well known from Wurlitzer Pianos or guitar amps. **OUT** means stereo. This is what you probably expect from a Rhodes preamp.

DEPTH:

Control for the depth of the vibrato modulation.

ON / OFF:

Switch for engaging the vibrato.

NOTE: We have integrated a 2-color LED. Red is the left, green the right channel. When the vibrato is switched off both channels are running on half volume, so both LEDs light with half power as well. That means although the vibrato is switched off, the LED will still be on. The LED is useful as a power indicator since it always shows something when the MARK II Preamp is powered on.

SPEED:

Control for the speed of the vibrato.

SHAPE:

Switch for changing the waveform of the modulation.

While the square wave is the classic Rhodes modulation, the sine wave gives you a wider and softer modulation.

ON / OFF:

Switch for engaging the effects section.

NOTE: This switch interrupts the audio path to the DSP. The DSP itself will still operate though. This gives room for experimentation. You could for example use a delay and adjust the feedback so that its going endless. Now set the switch to "OFF". You will still hear the delay. You can adjust the volume by using the MIX control and you can play over this tapestry of sound. All controls that are circuitry-wise in front of the DSP will not have any effect to the delayed signal. Have fun!

PARAM 1.:

Control for changing the first effects parameter.

I / II:

Switch for toggling between two effect programs.

PARAM 2.:

Control for changing the second effects parameter.

MIX:

This control mixes the dry Rhodes signal with the DSP signal. It can act as a volume potentiometer for the DSP unit as well.

APPENDIX: DSP

The DSP comes with eight effects:

1. Shimmer Reverb
2. Stereo Delay
3. Stereo Delay + Reverb
4. Plate Reverb
5. Chorus
6. Vibrato
7. Phaser
8. AutoWah

On the faceplate you can choose between two of them (see above).

We configure the **MARK II Preamp** so you can switch between Shimmer Reverb and Stereo Delay.

Anyway if you wish to change those programs please follow these steps:

- Remove the preamp from the namerail.
- Remove all potentiometer knobs.
- **Loosen** all potentiometers. **Unscrewing is not necessary!**
- **Loosen** both Accessory-jacks. **Unscrewing is not necessary!**
- The switches can be left mounted.
- Now you can remove the shielding case by pulling it up.
- On the right side on the PCB you will see two pinheaders with one jumper on each.
- The left pinheader sets the effect for "I" on the frontpanel.
- The right pinheader sets the effect for "II" on the frontpanel.
- Each position on the pinheader stands for one program.
- By changing the position of the jumper you can change the program.

For testing purposes it is okay to leave away the shielding case. Tighten all potentiometers and accessory-jacks. Now you can try the different effects and see what you prefer. If you have made your decision, please follow the steps above in reverse order.

APPENDIX: Power-Up Delay

The **MARK II Preamp** comes with an electronic power-up delay to prevent audible pops. It takes about two seconds after power on for it to boot.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS:

Output impedance: ca. 100 Ohm each channel

Powersupply: +15V @ 120mA , -15V @ 70mA

Weight: 1400g