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# Api 3124

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11th December 2011

API Audio 3124+ by [Marogru](#)

## Sound Quality



## Ease of use



## Features



## Bang for buck



## Overall:



This was my second High End standalone preamp set. I wanted more versatility form my Soundcraft ghost and [Aurora GTQC](#).

These preamps blew me away.

First, a foolproof solid 1U design that is very intuitive and accessible.

Second, the sound:

The preamp is clean, has a lot of headroom but the magic start to happen when it's driven hard.

I have used it on female and male vocals with tube and solid mics.

The pre sounds nice complementing tube mics for voice

giving a good counterpart the the warm sound.

I have used it also on Snares, Bass drums, Overheard, bass and in all cases it had a great transparent sound.

As for drums you have to be careful, because even with a pad, 57 on a snare drum and minimum gain, it can overload your AD (Lynx [Aurora](#) in my case). So I made myself 6dB pads for them that I use also on full mixes.

I also used the line input to record bass and it came out a little bright for me but if you are looking for that it's not a problem.

I found also another use to it. Driving full mixes through the mic inputs.

You have to calibrate the levels with a mono signal first. Then you can drive hard and hear the wonderful trafo compression kick in. Remember to have at least 6 dB pads to have the drive advantage before overdriving the AD.

So, if you need a High End 4 preamps with clear sound that can be nicely overdriven, this is a set for you. As I'm a mixer I do not need some more preamps but If I would have to buy more I surely would consider another 3124.



23rd December 2011

API Audio 3124+ by [IGive'nTakeInfo](#)

## Sound Quality



## Ease of use



## Features



## Bang for buck



4 mic pre's

4 DI's

phantom power

phase reverse

pad

mic-line switch

LED meter on each channel

it's a go-to for percussive instruments and loud guitar cabs. DI great on gtr and bass.

## Overall:



No bulky external power supply (points). I think they could price it around \$2200 instead of \$2500. But it sounds great and does the job! I'm getting another one when I can afford it 😊



24th December 2011

API Audio 3124+ by [Kris Bang\\_Boom](#)

## Sound Quality



## Ease of use



## Features



## Bang for buck



API's 3124 based on the classic [API 312](#) mic pre and is famous for the 2520 opamps it that makes up for alot of the tone of the [API 3124](#). The 3124 means just that four [312](#) mic pre's and all have HI-Z 1/4 inch inputs for line sources.

The [312](#) pre reacted well with all of my mics , the LDC where large and focused but the api gave a quick open sound to them and if pushed the api could some grit but quickly can become



shrill if you are not careful.

The dynamic mics where great sharp sounding giving drums a snap

Overall:



they need,

but more for kick toms and rooms not snare for me.

Even ribbon mics worked great just tons of clean API gain with little noise amazing on heavy guitars.

I find the pre's and the line ins to be rather transparent until you drive the pre hard,

something that can happen easy with snares and guitars.

On the downside it does not seem to have the same drive when you hit the -20 pad something I found I needed more than I thought.

Maybe API could rework things for the pad to be -10 and -20 this would suit the studio better.

Not as much mojo as some might want but with 4 channels best bang for you buck in the mic pre world.

Always holds its value and is made well and simple,

a piece you will see for years to come.

Kris Bang Boom



6th January 2012

API Audio 3124+ by [allof6foot6](#)

Sound Quality



Ease of use



Features



Bang for buck



For anyone wanting serious attack, punch, and complimentary coloration for their drums, the [API 3124+](#) delivers. I use [Audix D1's](#), [D2's](#), [D4's](#), and [D6's](#), along with [SM57's](#), [AT4040's](#), and [AKG535's](#) on my kit. The API makes everything sound bigger and better. In the right room, I have achieved excellent drum mixes with just 4 mics: kick, snare top, and two overheads.

Recording guitar cabs with the [API 3124+](#) is as easy as it gets. Place your mics, dial them in, and you're in for a real treat. Marshall's and Les

Paul's never sounded so good.

Overall:



The VU meters on each channel make the [API 3124+](#) very easy to dial in. I definitely prefer the API's infinitely variable gain compared to competitors such as the [Daking Mic Pre IV](#). It's build quality is top notch - smooth, rugged, and dependable.

At \$2500, 4 preamps of this quality is a solid bargain. My ONLY complaint about my API 2134+ is the lack of inserts on each channel. Even though the four 1/4" holes covered by plastic are labelled "INSERT" on the back panel, they are BLANK! Even my [Daking Mic Pre IV](#) has inserts, and at a lower price point to boot. To get 4 [312](#) pre's with inserts on each channel, buyers have to cough up considerably more money for the API 3124MB. If you don't need inserts, buy the [API 3124](#) and never look back. 😊



6th January 2012

API Audio 3124+ by [Salty James](#)

Sound Quality



Ease of use



Features



Bang for buck



Overall:



Features: Aside from the above all the other features are cool.

Bang for the buck: Sonically it is cool. \$500 a pre and it is built well.



Great sound! Basically exactly what you want from a pre: it very very mildly tames harsh high and it hold the weight on the bottom.

Terrible ease of use IMO: The gain structure is pretty hard to work with. Any source with any volume at all requires the use of the pad and the pad totally changes the sound -maybe the pad should be after the preamp and not before it so we could actually hit the thing!! I use mine with a shure pad on the output so I can hit it harder if I want. This is where the real meat is on the drums, not on just hitting the -20 pad and putting the pot at 9:00.

API should totally come out with one that has a output control on each channel. And not the the 3124mb+. It has the output pots on groups levels..🤔



6th January 2012

API Audio 3124+ by [IM\\_](#)

Sound Quality



Ease of use



Features



Bang for buck



One of the best mic pre's ever made.

Sounds deep with open top, not as bright as [512c](#). But this one couples with **many** other mic pre's, you get much of air, contours of the sound are not carved - always vanishing. It has a great image and beautiful and light release.

The D.I. sounds great.

If you didn't find your sonic palette yet, it's a good preamp to start with.

Overall:



One of the few non-tube mic preamps through which music sounds expensive and posh.

I put 7 for features as the other, MB model is my favorite: you have a much more flexible routing system and can make a true analog zero-latency monitoring for the artist. Also you can mix 3 mikes into a stem and record onto a single track.



19th January 2012

API Audio 3124+ by [DDBass](#)

## Sound Quality



## Ease of use



## Features



## Bang for buck



I'm a believer in buying something once - not starting cheap and then progressively buying better versions of the same thing until I get what I REALLY want. That's why when I was assembling my home studio, I saved my sheckles and bought the [API 3124+](#). I have used it for everything - drums (of course), Leslie cab, guitar and bass cab and even the output of a DI's bass. Everything sounds the way it should with nice, musical coloration. I'm not a big fan of trendy sounding mixes - I like organic, 70's sounding mixes and the API (along with some good mics) are the perfect front end.

## Overall:



Yes, the price is a bit steep but the cost of admission to the good things in life often is.

The only other mic pre I use is a stereo pair of "gold bricks" - the coveted vintage UA 1108's. Yes they sound great too but there some applications where I just prefer the API.

Here's my favorite application: a mic'd Leslie using a matched pair of [Neumann KM 184](#)'s into the API. With only slight level tweaking I was able to dial in that classic Boston/Foreigner Hammond sound in no time.

Pick one up - you won't be sorry!



API Audio 3124+ by [monkeyxx](#)

## Sound Quality



## Ease of use



## Features



## Bang for buck



## Overall:



is more transparent and excellently musical.

I owned an [API 3124+](#) for about a year, until I started building my own preamps from kits, and then modifying from there. Two of the 2520s in the 3124 failed within as many months, and had to be mailed back to API for replacement. It was a painless transaction, but, I didn't like the failure rate.

I also found that substituting in a GAR2520 on each channel made this the most beautiful sounding preamp I have ever heard, opening up and smoothing out the response at the same time. The modern API 2520 is a bit aggressive sounding, has a sort of hype in the mids. The GAR2520

I did have to pad the outputs every time I recorded drums or electric guitar at loud volume. The front panel pad changes the sound somewhat, you have to hear it for yourself. After this unit, I am "an API guy." I was always attracted to the forward midrange, and was surprised at the full low end. The 3124 has a muscular and elegant sound. With the GAR2520 this could be my desert island front end.

If you are after a different kind of API sound then Classic Audio Products of Illinois should be considered. I also found that the VP312 can be modified to sound very much similar to the 3124+ by using Cinemag transformers and the appropriate zobel network, along with a DC blocking coupling capacitor between the op amp and the output transformer. These are also more affordable. Seventh Circle Audio also sells an API inspired module.



29th June 2013

API Audio 3124+ by [Ward Pike](#)

## Sound Quality



## Ease of use



## Features



## Bang for buck



Any studio should have at least 4 channels of [API 312](#) preamps and this unit is 4 in 1, as the name [312/4](#) suggests.

Very punchy with great detail. Not as crisp as some such as the Sytek, but a full commanding sound of the source. Cleaner low end response than many [1073](#) variants. Responds very well to the typically used drum mics when put in position to gain low-end proximity ([MD421](#), [409/609/906](#), [SM57](#), [Beta 57](#), [TLM102](#), [MD441](#), [EV 408/308/468](#) series etc)

## Overall:



You need a pad on each output however, to be able to use it with higher gain settings. Success with the Audio Technica ones here. Adjustable 10db 20db and 30db stepdowns. Will build an output control interface in a single rackspace to put directly beneath mine soon.

For drums, percussion, guitar cabinets and acoustic guitars being used in a dense mix.



21st December 2013

API Audio 3124+ by [Doc Goodin](#)

## Sound Quality



## Ease of use



## Features



## Bang for buck



I owned the 3124 for a about year, it runs really hot so you will need some output attenuators.

## The Good

It sounds damn good on distorted Electric guitars and good on drums and bass. My favorite use for the 3124 was Overheads on Rock drums. It was nice and punchy on Toms, Snare and decent on kick, but not my favorite.

## Overall:



## The Bad

For clean guitars I could never really find the sweet spot. I just wasn't a fan the 3124 with cleaner sources. For vocals it could be cool if wanted some real hair on the vocals, but again if you want clean look else where.

## The Verdict

I would give it 3 stars! I got mine for \$2000 which at \$500 a channel is pretty sweet! They also hold their value pretty well.

For the overall sound quality I would really give 3.5 Star. For drum overhead alone I would give 5 Stars... it really does rock there! The DI is good for keys and decent for bass.

My expectations might have been a little too high for drums. The 3124 is punchy, if you want low end look at Neve Flavors.

## The End

I sold the 3124 and bought into the Gearslutzy hype with Classic API and got a couple VP28s. They have two gain stages and a nice High Pass Filter. You can make good recordings with the 3124 and people do. As with all recording gear neither is the end all and be all, but the VP28s are closer to what I had in mind when I bought the 3124.



19th June 2014

API Audio 3124+ by [psykostx](#)

## Sound Quality



## Ease of use



## Features



Once you figure out how to set this thing up it's amazing. There's +20dB of gain that you can't get rid of though, and that's what seems to trip most users up. The pad is also AFTER this +20dB so it's really no help if you're overloading the circuit before you even use the gain knob. If you put -20dB pads in line before the input, you start to have noise problems later...BUT... if you use it properly you do not need any pads

Bang for buck



at all. For dynamic mics with bass roll-off selectors, I'm fairly certain this is the best sounding mic pre there is...

Overall:



Once the LED meter lights up (green) you're already cutting it pretty close as far as overdriving the circuit.

These are difficult to set up, but once you've learned how to set them up and what mics to use, the 3124+ is the only tool for the job in my opinion...

Don't use the gain knob, don't use the pad... do use dynamic mics with selectable bass curves and do use low output ribbon mics.

The sub bass response on this pre creates sounds with very lifelike attack. The midrange is present, and the highs are rolled off. A sound very suited to dynamic mics, enhancing them in the correct areas and downplaying their faults.

Kick drums, toms, and even darker snare sounds shouldn't be recorded through anything else if you're using dynamic mics. This pre is the real thing for dynamic mics... you won't want to change your tone at all once it's to disk, but if you do, the signal will be quality enough that it can withstand heavy eq without sounding dead.

Recommended mics... Sennheiser [MD421](#), Shure [Beta57](#), E/V [RE20](#) ... any dynamics really...

Not recommended are large or small condenser mics... unless you enjoy sound induced migraine headaches. There may be some exceptions depending on impedance and frequency response characteristics... but why bother, for most dynamic mics this is THE studio preamp.

On a final note, once you calibrate this with your DAW meters and use the right mics, it's the perfect front-end to use with the [Waves API Collection](#) as the analog emulation will match up with the behavior of the preamp. It's incredible sounding with all the right pieces in place around it, delivering an album quality sound EVERY time.



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