

DEMOGRAF AUDIO

Hector

A transformer-volume preamplifier in two versions: tube or solid-state

Made by Dmitriy Gubchenko. Every unit ships with a Manufacturing Record stating its country of origin and a bill of materials.

Sound

Any — it is designed to add nothing of its own

Hector is a preamplifier built in two versions: tube and solid-state. Both share one platform: a Demograf Audio transformer volume control (TVC) on a Swiss stepped mechanism in a wooden chassis, with inputs selected by an Elma rotary switch.

The tube version is built with vintage EL8, AL4 or ML6 tubes; the tube type is chosen with you at order time. The solid-state version has no tubes. Either suits sources and amplifiers that need more level or drive.

Either version can be built dual-mode, with relays that switch the active stage out: the TVC then works alone as a passive preamplifier, with nothing powered in the signal path. A passive-only TVC, with no mains connection, is built too. The version is chosen at order time; both come with remote control, and balanced XLR inputs and outputs and an external power supply are options. The transformer volume control is inspired by the Stevens & Billington TX-103.

Inspired by the Stevens & Billington TX-103 passive volume control

Materials & build

Inputs are selected by an Elma rotary switch; the output selector is a toggle switch.

- Tube version: vintage EL8, AL4 or ML6 tubes
- Solid-state version: no tubes
- Dual-mode (either version): relays switch the active stage out, the TVC works alone (passive)
- Passive-only TVC: 1 × RCA in, 1 × RCA out, no mains connection
- Balanced XLR inputs and outputs optional
- External power supply option for the tube and solid-state versions

COMPONENT	MANUFACTURER	COUNTRY OF ORIGIN
Transformer volume control (Swiss mechanism)	Demograf Audio	Own manufacture
Input selector	Elma	Switzerland
Connectors (option)	Neutrik	Liechtenstein
Internal wiring: Proprietary “RareCoreFusion” Alloy	Demograf Audio	Own manufacture

Signal path

Tube: Input **RCA** → Selector **Elma** → Volume · active stage **TVC · tube** → Output **RCA**

Solid-state: Input **RCA** → Selector **Elma** → Volume · active stage **TVC · solid-state** → Output **RCA**

Specifications

Preamplifier type	Two versions: tube (vintage EL8, AL4 or ML6 tubes) or solid-state; dual-mode switching to a passive TVC optional; passive-only TVC available
Inputs & outputs	RCA — one pair in, one pair out (balanced XLR optional)
Output selector	Toggle Switch
Volume control (Attenuator)	Custom-built Demograf Audio TVC with Swiss Mechanism (fully customisable per client's choice)
Selector mechanism	Premium Elma rotary switch
Internal wiring	Proprietary “RareCoreFusion” Alloy wire (other options available)
Mains	Not required for a passive-only version; tube and solid-state versions: 100 / 120 / 230 V — set at order time, plug to match (NEMA, Schuko, BS 1363 / type G)
Weight	From 2 kg
Dimensions (W × D × H)	From 350 × 250 × 110 mm
Origin	Made in Kazakhstan by Dmitriy Gubchenko

Options

Preamplifier type

- Passive Transformer Volume Control (TVC) — no Remote Control Suite
- Passive Relay-Switched TVC Preamplifier — with Remote Control Suite
- Active Solid-State Preamplifier — with Remote Control Suite
- Active Tube Preamplifier — with Remote Control Suite
- Dual-Mode Relay-Switched TVC — Switchable Active Solid-State Stage & Remote Control Suite
- Dual-Mode Relay-Switched TVC — Switchable Active Tube Stage & Remote Control Suite

Component upgrades

- Premium Global-Brand Connectors
- Reliable High-Quality Neutrik Connectors
- AMRG Resistors & Cardas Solder / Wiring Kit
- Additional RCA Inputs
- Additional RCA Outputs
- Additional XLR (fully balanced) Inputs
- Additional XLR (fully balanced) Outputs
- External Power Supply (PSU) for Enhanced Audio — Active versions only
- Vintage EL8 Tubes — Tube Preamp versions only
- Vintage AL4 Tubes — Tube Preamp versions only
- Vintage ML6 Tubes — Tube Preamp versions only

Mains inlet, outlets & contacts (active versions)

- AC Input: Standard Spec — IEC C14 Chassis Input
- AC Input: Heavy-Duty Spec — IEC C20 High-Current Inlet
- AC Output: European Standard — Schuko (Type F)
- AC Output: US / Japan Standard — NEMA 5-15R (Type B)
- AC Output: British Standard — BS 1363 (Type G)
- AC Output: Universal Interface — Direct IEC C13 Outlets
- Contacts: Pure Copper Unplated (Organic & Balanced Tone)
- Contacts: Gold Plated e.g. Furutech FI-09(G) (Warmth & Rich Midrange Texture)
- Contacts: Rhodium Plated e.g. Furutech FI-09(R) (Fast Transients & Fine Detail)

Finish & chassis

- Standard Configuration (Classic Custom Wood Chassis)
- Priority build
- Precision-Milled Metal Chassis (CNC milling)
- Contoured Bent-Metal Enclosure
- Exotic Hardwood Chassis
- Glass-Integrated Aesthetic
- Premium Wood Inlays & Accents
- Solid-Billet Metal Enclosure
- Advanced Galvanic Finishing
- Custom Dimensions & Form Factor
- Parameter Status Display

Regional version

- 230 V — Schuko plug (Europe)
- 120 V — NEMA plug (North America)
- 100 V — NEMA plug (Japan)
- 230 V — BS 1363 / type G plug (UK · Middle East)

Photographs













Questions & answers

Is the Hector tube or solid-state?

Both: Hector is built in a tube version, with vintage EL8, AL4 or ML6 tubes, and in a solid-state version; you choose at order time. In passive mode (a dual-mode unit with its active stage switched out, or the passive-only TVC) there are no tubes and no power supply in the signal path.

How is the Hector serviced?

Each unit ships with its own measurement report. The circuit is kept simple and serviceable, and Demograf Audio gear is serviced for as long as parts exist.

How is it delivered?

Shipping and insurance are paid by the buyer and shown as a separate line in your quotation. Every unit is packed for long-distance transport in heavy-duty flight cases and a wooden crate.

Which mains voltage and plug?

A passive-only Hector does not connect to the mains. The tube and solid-state versions are built for 100 V, 120 V or 230 V mains with the matching plug (NEMA, Schuko or BS 1363 / type G); the voltage is fixed at order time.

How long does the Hector take to build?

Build time is six months or more from the queue deposit, depending on the configuration and the queue; delivery takes from one month after completion. The atelier builds seven instruments a year. A priority build is available for an extra 50% of the price: your unit is moved ahead in the build queue.

Ordering

- Built individually, to order. A 50% deposit places the unit in the build queue.
- Build time is six months or more, depending on the configuration and the queue.
- One-year warranty; after it, paid repair. Every unit ships with its own measurement report.
- Configuration, prices in your currency and the seller for your country: demografaudio.com
- E-mail: shop@demografaudio.com.