

fPre

Multi-Mode Preamplifier

VST3 plugin for Windows

Six preamps in one plugin. You will hear something before you touch Gain at all, because the input stage, gain element and output stage colour the signal even at unity.

Installing it

This zip holds three things: a **.vst3** file, this guide, and the full PDF manual. Copy the **.vst3** into:

C:\Program Files\Common Files\VST3

Then restart your recording software, or find the rescan button in its plugin preferences. It will not appear until you do.

Your browser may warn you while downloading, because the file is new and unsigned. Choosing Keep is safe.

Getting a sound in two minutes

- 1 Put fPre on a track.
- 2 Pick a mode. British is the best all-rounder to start with.
- 3 Turn Gain up until you like what you hear.
- 4 Bring the level back with Output, or press Gain Match.
- 5 A/B against Bypass.

Clean is your reference throughout. If you cannot tell whether a mode is helping, switch to Clean, match the level, and switch back.

New to preamps?

A preamp is the first thing a microphone or instrument signal meets, and it is where quiet signals are made loud enough to work with. Every one leaves a fingerprint while it does it: weight from the transformers, thickening from the gain stage, a slight softening of the very top.

Low gain settings are mostly clean with a little weight. High settings push into saturation, which thickens the sound and rounds the transients. There is no wrong setting. Turn it up until you like it, then match the output level.

Louder almost always sounds better, which makes it easy to fool yourself. Match your levels before you decide whether a setting is an improvement.

You do not need the rest of it

fBox is a whole studio, but nothing in it depends on anything else. Every plugin works on its own, on one track, in whatever software you already use. **fBox Console** is a 32-channel mixing desk and **fBox Rack** is a channel strip that hosts other plugins. Both are worth having and neither is a hub the rest runs through. Leave them until you want them.

The full manual is in this zip and goes far deeper, control by control. Installation help is at fboxaudio.com/install.html. Stuck on any step? Email info@fboxaudio.com and tell us exactly which one.