

alembic f-1x electronic instrument preamplifier operating guide

WARNING: TO PREVENT ELECTRICAL SHOCK OR FIRE HAZARD, DO NOT EXPOSE THIS APPLIANCE TO RAIN OR MOISTURE. KEEP LIQUIDS AWAY FROM ALL ELECTRICAL CONNECTIONS.



The Alembic F-1X is a high quality, musical instrument preamplifier and crossover unit. It is intended for use primarily with bass and keyboard instruments. The F-1X features include a tube input stage (12AX7 tube), a buffered low level effects loop, the classic three band EQ used on the Alembic F-2B preamplifier, and a two way variable crossover designed for maximally flat response through the selection of the selected crossover region (when used in a bi-amped system). In addition a transformer coupled, balanced “direct” output is provided on the front panel for use with external mixing consoles.

- A) **INPUT JACKS** Input #1 is high gain, and the most frequently used. Input #2 pads the signal by 6dB and is recommended for use with very “hot” basses or keyboards to prevent overload of the input stage. Two instruments may be played simultaneously by using both jacks, the signals will be equally weighted.
- B) **BRIGHT SWITCH** Adds boost in the extreme treble range when the switch is pushed up. Effect diminishes at very high settings of the volume control.
- C) **VOLUME** Regulates level of full-range and crossover outputs. Will not affect effects level or direct out level when pre/post switch is set on “pre” (see G below).
- D) **TONE CONTROLS** bass, middle, and treble controls are passive interactive type. This means that when you adjust one, the others are also affected. A very wide range of responses are possible, and there is no absolutely flat setting, though 2-10-2 (bass, middle, treble) on the indicator dial comes closest. If you want to hear midrange frequencies, be prepared to leave the middle knob set at or near 10. Experimentation is encouraged; if, for example, you desire more bass tone, try turning down the middle and treble controls then readjust the volume setting, rather than just adjusting the bass control. This same advice applies to the other tone controls as well.
- E) **DEEP SWITCH** This is a contouring control that cuts the lower midrange while preserving the lowest frequencies. It is useful for cleaning up a “muddy” sounding instrument and is activated by pushing the switch up. Adjust volume as necessary.
- F) **DIRECT OUT** A 3-pin XLR jack for feeding signals to a mixing console via a standard microphone cable. Transformer coupled and balanced, low-impedance.
- G) **PRE or POST EQ SWITCH** Affects only the direct out. Selects either the return signal from the effects loop (pre) or the signal that is affected by the volume and tone controls (post).
- H) **ISO or GND SWITCH** Affects only the direct out. In gnd position, pin 1 of direct out is connected to F-1X chassis ground. In iso position, chassis ground is lifted. Useful for eliminating hum and noise in some situations. Experimentation is encouraged.
- I) **CROSSOVER FREQUENCY** Affects crossover outputs only. Selects frequency of operation such that (a) ABOVE this frequency, output from LOW PASS decreases at 12dB per octave and (b) BELOW this frequency, output from HIGH PASS decreases at 12dB per octave. The crossover is designed for flat response in this region of overlap.
- J) **HI LEVEL** Adjusts signal level of HIGH PASS output by +/- 10dB to match speaker cabinets of equal efficiency.
- K) **POWER SWITCH** Turns preamplifier on. Allow approximately 20 seconds for 12AX7 tube to warm up. Located on the back of the unit as most players use power conditioners in their racks.