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## ACCORDION MICROPHONE SYSTEM

### Thank you for buying the K&K Accordion Microphone system!

This system consists of 3 miniature gooseneck mics (one single and one twin) and a dual channel preamp especially designed for use with miniature microphones.

Two mics are connected to one 1/4" plug. These twin-mics are for the treble side. Another single mic with 1/4" plug is for the bass side of the accordion.

The preamp has a beltclip and is supposed to be worn on your right hip area. Please clip it to your belt or pocket. A more detailed description of the preamp is provided on page 2 of this manual.

The mics should be attached with the self-adhesive "dual lock" fastening system mounted to the base of their goosenecks. This dual lock is like industrial-strength "Velcro", but it will basically never wear out when opened and closed repeatedly. Its adhesive surface is just good for one application, though.

**TIP:** The adhesion of the dual lock is very strong and its residue may be difficult to remove especially when the dual lock has been on the accordion for a long time. You can stick a piece of duct tape or masking tape to the instrument first and then attach the dual lock to the tape. The adhesion is not as strong this way, but it can easily be removed. Goo-Gone (check your hardware store) or simply WD40 is a good solvent to remove residue without damaging the finish of the instrument.

### Attach the mics to the following locations:

**Treble mics** (twin mics): one on the upper and the other one on the lower end of the treble grill. Both mics are technically identical but they have different cable length. Position the mic with the longer cable in the upper position (which are the lower tone keys) and the one with the shorter cable on the higher key position. You may have to experiment to find the best locations. We recommend to aim the mics towards the grill with about 2" distance between mic head and grill. Mount them in a way that the mic heads end up being about 10 to 12 inches apart.

Plug the treble mics into INPUT 1 of the preamp.

**Bass mic:** on the lower edge of the bass side also pointing towards the grill with about 3" distance. Make sure that it is not in the way of your hand.

Plug the bass mic into INPUT 2 of the preamp.



The *Accordion Microphone system Dual Channel Pro Preamp* is an extremely powerful yet small mixer in a belt clip box. It is designed for mixing the melody and bass side of your accordion system together into 1 output. It offers volume, gain and 3 band EQ for each channel.

The tone controls feature an extended range of +/- 20 dB, which exceeds many mixers on the market today. To keep the box as small as possible, the gain and tone controls are trimpots inside the unit (small potentiometers for adjustment with a supplied tiny screwdriver). During performance, the musician can conveniently balance the two channels on the volume control knobs.

**Before first use, please insert a 9-volt battery in the preamp.**

Open the access screw on the side of the box and remove the lid. Insert battery into designated compartment.

**Sound adjustment procedure:**

On the inside of the lid is a diagram for the internal trimpot controls. In the box you will also find a little screwdriver for the adjustment of the trimpots. It is attached with a Velcro fastener. Stick the screwdriver blade into the (white) center slot of a (black) trimpot to turn it. There is an arrow mark, which indicates the setting. The center setting (12 o'clock) on the EQ trimmers is flat, no boost - no cut. Watch the orientation of the trimmers as gain and mid on channel 1 are oriented differently! Gain is a pre-amplification-factor control on the beginning of the circuit, but note that all the way counterclockwise is not off but only the minimum provided pre-amplification.

The EQ and gain trimpots need to be adjusted by the customer to perfectly fit your instrument. We only set a rough factory setting, which is by no means perfect for your accordion and style.

In order to perform the sound adjustments properly, please use a good quality PA system (if possible) and plug the preamp into a 1/4" input of the mixing board. Set the mixing boards EQ to a flat (center) setting first. If you have difficulties to understand the intricacies of amplification technology please get help from your local music store or a local specialist as we cannot provide tech support on basic sound adjustment and signal chain procedure.

A combo amp can also be used but due to different tonal characters of the different models it makes it quite hard to determine a good neutral EQ setting to start with. Use a PA if possible.

Connect the mics into the corresponding inputs of the preamp and connect the preamps output via a **mono** ¼” instrument cable with the mixing board.

Adjust the gain trimpots of each individual channel on the preamp until both channels yield the about the same loudness. The treble side may need to be adjusted higher in gain as the bass side.

Adjust the EQ trimpots to your preference. There is nothing set in stone here, please do not hesitate to turn the EQ trimmers. You can always come back to a flat (center -12 o'clock) setting and start all over. Please make sure NOT to stand close to a speaker cabinet and NOT to point the mics directly towards the speakers as this will cause feedback.

The initial adjustment procedure will take some trial and error so please be patient and do not hesitate to experiment with EQ and with your position in relation to the speaker cabinet(s). Again, the trimmers inside the preamp are there to be used, please don't be afraid to turn them.

If you experience feedback even when standing away from the speakers, you have to determine if it is a high- or low-frequency feedback. If it is high frequency you have to turn down the treble EQ's. If it is a low frequency feedback, turn down the bass EQ's. You may also have to find out if the feedback is coming form the melody or bass side and adjust accordingly.

Feedback control adjustment can either be done on the preamp or on the amp or mixing board but we recommend to EQ the preamp so it provides a signal as clean and balanced as possible on a flat EQ setting on a good quality PA system.

Once you found your personal setting, close the lid and you are ready to go. Usually the EQ in the preamp has to be adjusted initially just once to balance the mics in respect to your accordion and PA or amp you are using.

After this initial setup you will just use the 2 volume pots on the outside to balance the volume accordingly.

**To switch the battery off, always unplug the OUTPUT on the preamp**

#### **Technical Data of preamp:**

Frequency response: 10 - 30,000 Hz

Inputs: 1 Mega Ohm

Output: 10 Kilo Ohm

Battery consumption: 3 Milli Amp about 60 hours

