

# UNIVERSAL AUDIO

## SOLO Series Manual



[www.uaudio.com](http://www.uaudio.com)

analog ears | digital minds

**Thank you** for purchasing the SOLO/610 or SOLO/110 Mic Pre and DI! The SOLO mic preamplifier series brings the best of Universal Audio's preamp designs to the single channel format. The SOLO provides all the UA tone, U.S. hand-built quality and audiophile components people have come to expect from UA-and its portable design allows it to be conveniently used in the studio, desktop or stage. The all-tube SOLO/610 provides the silky vintage warmth of the original UA 610 console used by artists ranging from Sinatra to Van Halen. The SOLO/110 (derived from the flagship Precision 4110 and 8110) provides lightning-fast transients and remarkable tonal versatility, from ultra clean to colored.

**Microphone Preamplifiers** have a critical role in the signal chain of recording, second only to the microphone itself. The basic principle is to amplify a microphone level signal up to a useable line level. In the same way that different microphones can provide varied sonic results, different mic pres can also display various sonic nuances. But more importantly, upgrading to a good quality mic pre can make a huge difference in the overall quality of your recordings. The SOLO series preamps will flatter the cheapest to the most esoteric microphones each with their own signature sound.

**Direct Input (DI)** plays an important role in the recording chain too, if an electric instrument is going straight to the recorder without the use of an amplifier. The basic principle is to amplify an instrument level signal up to a useable line level. It is very common to use a DI when recording instruments like electric bass or electric guitar-- either independently, or in combination with an amplifier. The SOLO series features a DI input plus Thru, which allows the unaffected signal to also be sent to your amplifier while also being sent straight to your recorder at line level. The SOLOs are an excellent way to DI your favorite instrument alone, or with an amplifier.

**Tonal Variety** is where both the SOLO/610 and SOLO/110 really shine. As with the multi channel cousins of the SOLO, the Gain and Level controls offer a useful range of tonal shaping. Gain and Level structuring allow both the SOLO/610 and SOLO/110 to achieve clean settings, to rich harmonic coloration. A lower Gain setting (0 to 5 range) with the Level output set appropriately for the input of your recording source delivers a cleaner sound. Higher gain settings (5 to 10 range) with the Level output set appropriately for the input of your recording source will increase the harmonic enhancement. With the SOLO/610, increasingly high gain settings drive the 12AX7 tube input stage; while with the SOLO/110 increasingly high gain settings drive the solid-state FET input stage.

The LO-Z/ Hi-Z switch (see SOLO/610 or Solo-110 Front) allows for impedance matching or additional tonal variety. Traditionally, the impedance of a mic preamp should be approximately 10 times that of the microphone output impedance. (See "Lo-Z/Hi-Z" bullet for details) You may use this as a guide, or simply use this feature to taste. There are no rules.

**Rack mounting the SOLO** can be done with the use of a standard rack mount shelf. Up to three units may fit side by side occupying a total of 3RU worth of rack space.

# SOLO/110 Front



**1** **POWER** – blue LED illuminated when SOLO is powered on

**2** **SIGNAL** – tri-color input LED shows signal (green) near-clipping (amber) and clipping (red)

**3** **GAIN** – *higher* GAIN settings allow for more input stage coloration, *lower* GAIN settings allow for a cleaner sound. If unit clips (see signal indicator) use less gain

**4** **LEVEL** – controls final signal output if input clips at recording destination, use less LEVEL

**5** **MIC/DI** – switches between rear mic input and front DI input

**6** **Lo-Z / Hi-Z** – impedance switch to best suit the output impedance of source on the MIC (500 ohm or 2.0k ohm) or DI input (47k ohm or 2.2M ohm) **Hi-Z** ideal for mics (condenser) and instruments (active) with high output **Lo-Z** ideal for mics (dynamic) and instruments (non-active) with low output

**7** **+48V/Off** – provides +48V Phantom Power for condenser mics

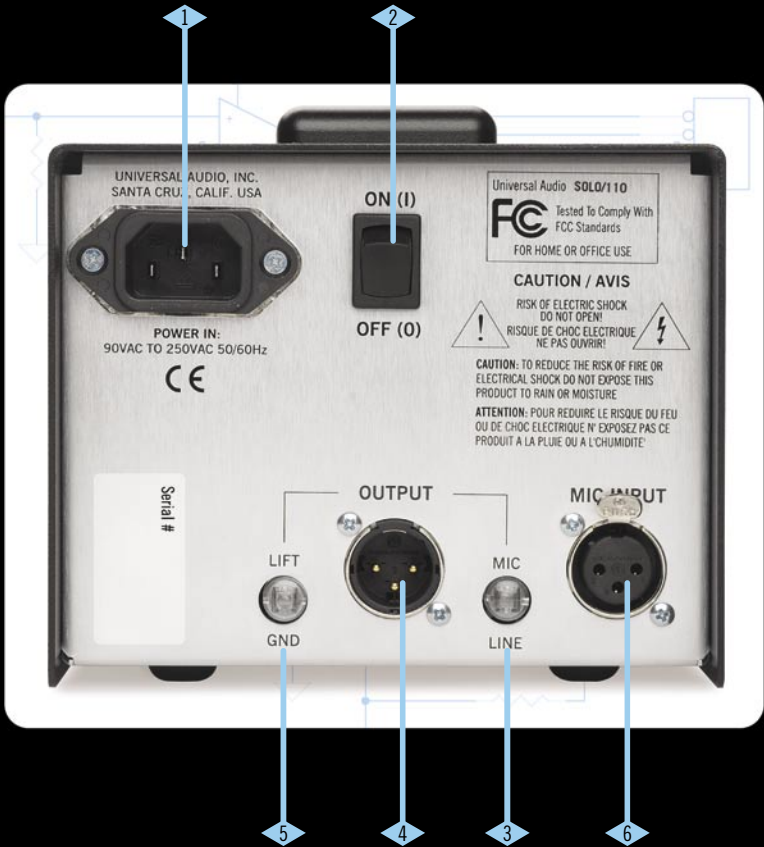
**8** **LO CUT/FLAT** – provides high pass filter at 100 Hz (rumble filter) use when mic handling or mic stand/floor noise is an issue

**9** **OUT $\phi$  / IN $\phi$**  – allows phase flip of 180 degrees, useful in multi-mic recordings, especially drums

**10** **DI INPUT** – sends instrument level signal into SOLO via standard 1/4 inch cable

**11** **THRU OUTPUT** – sends original instrument signal “thru” to a guitar or bass amplifier

# SOLO/110 Rear



**1**  
**IEC POWER CONNECTION** – supplies electricity to the SOLO; included power cable connects here

**2**  
**POWER SWITCH** – powers SOLO unit on or off

**3**  
**MIC/LINE** – use LINE when sending signal to a line level input (ADC, tape machine); use MIC when sending signal to a mic level input (mixer, 2nd preamp)

**4**  
**OUTPUT** – sends amplified sound out of the SOLO to your recorder or mixer

**5**  
**LIFT/GND** – use Gnd (Ground) under normal circumstances; use LIFT if unwanted noise or hum is present

**6**  
**MIC INPUT** – sends microphone signal into the SOLO via standard XLR mic cable

# SOLO/610 Front



**1**  
**POWER** – blue LED illuminated when SOLO is powered on

**2**  
**SIGNAL** – tri-color input LED shows signal (green) near-clipping (amber) and clipping (red)

**3**  
**GAIN** – *higher* GAIN settings allow for more input stage coloration, *lower* GAIN settings allow for a cleaner sound. If unit clips (see signal indicator) use less gain

**4**  
**LEVEL** – controls final signal output if input clips at recording destination, use less LEVEL

**5**  
**MIC/DI** – switches between rear mic input and front DI input

**6**  
**Lo-Z / Hi-Z** – impedance switch to best suit the output impedance of source on the MIC (500 ohm or 2.0k ohm) or DI input (47k ohm or 2.2M ohm)  
**Hi-Z** ideal for mics (condenser) and instruments (active) with high output  
**Lo-Z** ideal for mics (dynamic) and instruments (non-active) with low output

**7**  
**+48V/Off** – provides +48V Phantom Power for condenser mics

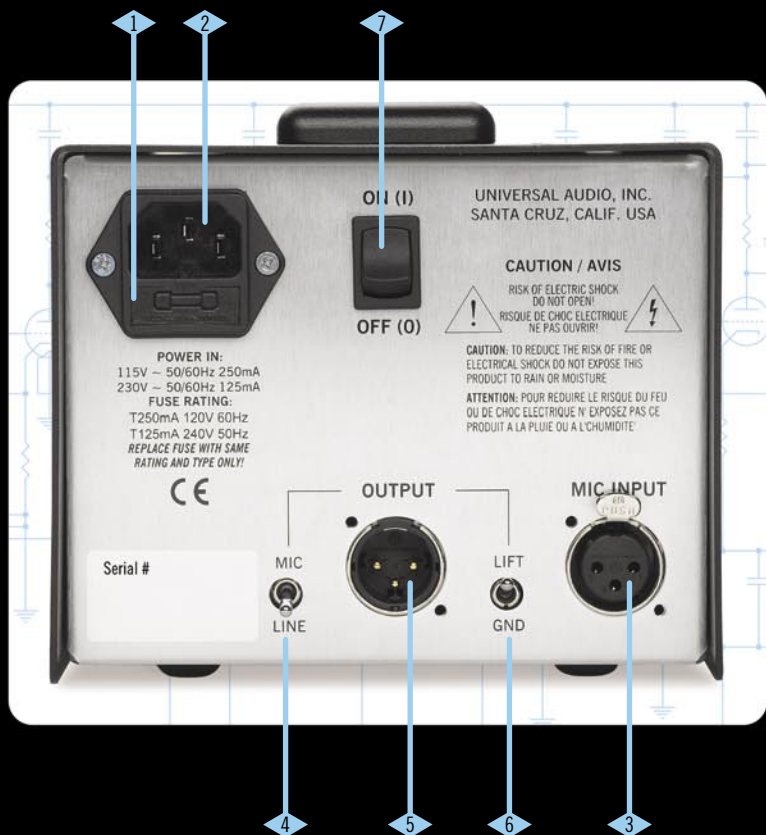
**8**  
**LO CUT/FLAT** – provides high pass filter at 100 Hz (rumble filter) use when mic handling or mic stand/floor noise is an issue

**9**  
**OUTØ / INØ** – allows phase flip of 180 degrees, useful in multi-mic recordings, especially drums

**10**  
**DI INPUT** – sends instrument level signal into SOLO via standard 1/4 inch cable

**11**  
**THRU OUTPUT** – sends original instrument signal “thru” to a guitar or bass amplifier

# SOLO/610 Rear



**1 FUSE – IMPORTANT!** The SOLO/610 requires a fuse change in the event that the unit will move from 110V usage to 220V usage or vice versa. (250mA for 110V, 125mA for 220) In addition, a jumper must be moved internally (see [uaudio.com/solo](http://uaudio.com/solo)). **Disconnect unit from electrical source and wait at least five minutes before opening the SOLO!**

**2 IEC POWER CONNECTION** – supplies electricity to the SOLO; included power cable connects here

**3 MIC INPUT** – sends microphone signal into the SOLO via standard XLR mic cable

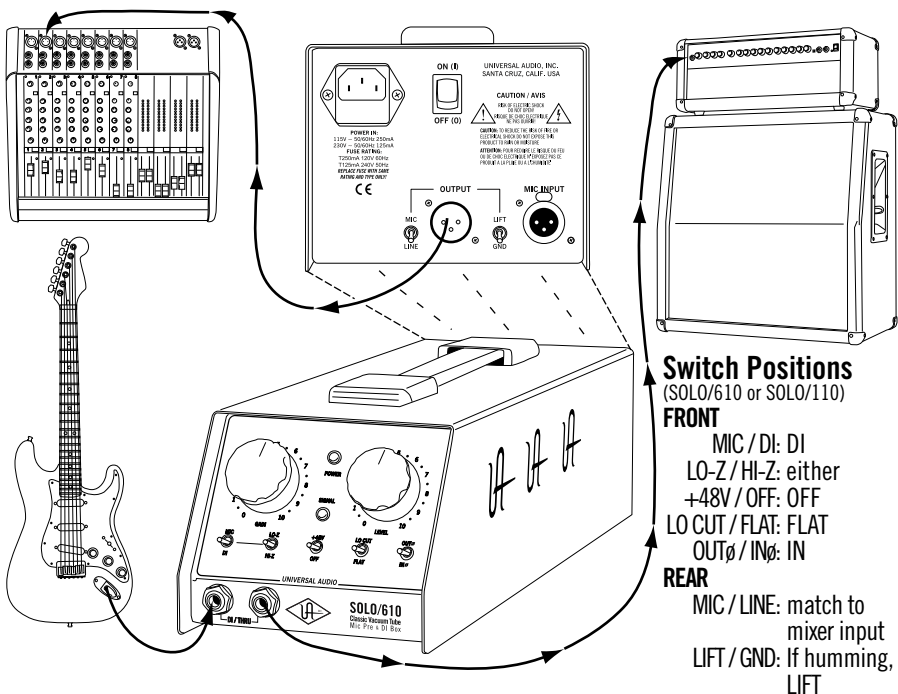
**4 MIC/LINE** – use LINE when sending signal to a line level input (ADC, tape machine); use MIC when sending signal to a mic level input (mixer, 2nd preamp)

**5 OUTPUT** – sends amplified sound out of the SOLO to your recorder or mixer

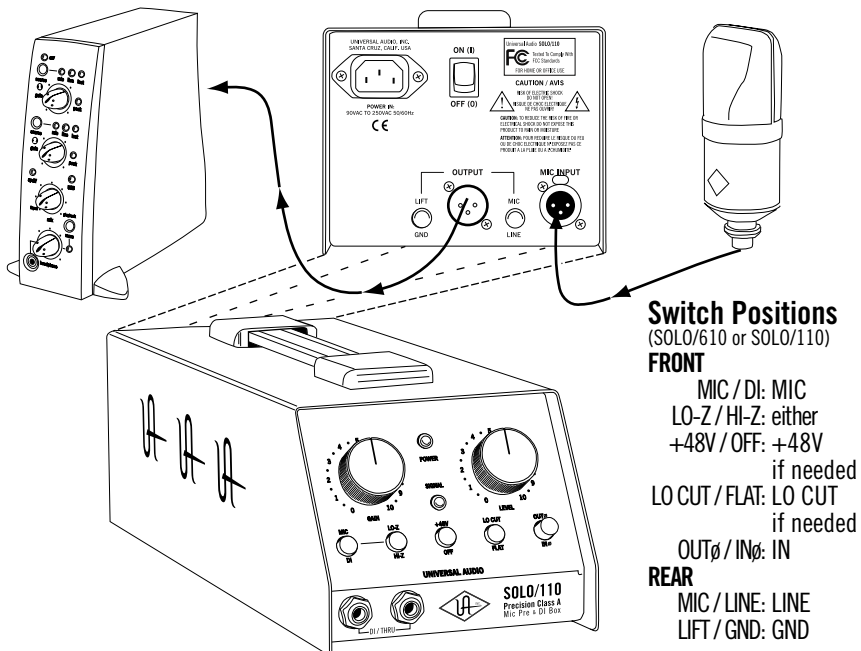
**6 LIFT/GND** – use Gnd (Ground) under normal circumstances; use LIFT if unwanted noise or hum is present

**7 POWER SWITCH** – powers SOLO unit on or off

# Typical SOLO/610 or SOLO/110 Instrument Setup



# Typical SOLO/610 or SOLO/110 Microphone Setup



## Universal Audio History

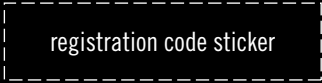
Bill Putnam Sr. was awarded the 2000 Technical Grammy for his multiple contributions to the recording industry. He was highly regarded as a recording engineer, studio designer/operator and inventor. Putnam was considered a favorite of musical icons including Frank Sinatra, Nat King Cole, Ray Charles, Duke Ellington, Ella Fitzgerald and many, many more. Universal Recording in Chicago, United and Western in Los Angeles (now Ocean Way and Cello) all preserve elements of his room designs. The companies Putnam started, Universal Audio, Studio Electronics, and UREI, built products that are still in regular use decades after their development.

In 1999 Bill Jr. and James Putnam re-launched Universal Audio with two goals: Reproduce classic analog recording equipment designed by their father and his colleagues, and to research and design new recording tools in the spirit of vintage analog technology. Today Universal Audio is fulfilling that goal, bridging the worlds of vintage analog and DSP technology in a creative atmosphere where musicians, audio engineers, analog designers and DSP engineers intermingle and exchange ideas every day. Analog or digital, UA remains committed to the "hand assembled" ideal that has been forgotten by many audio manufacturers. Whatever the endeavor, every project taken on by the UA team is driven by its historical roots and a desire to wed classic analog technology with the demands of the modern digital studio. For more info on Bill Putnam and the Universal Audio legacy, explore our company info at: [www.uaudio.com/company](http://www.uaudio.com/company)

**Warranty** for the SOLO and all Universal Audio hardware is one year, parts and labor.

**Registration** of your product ensures you are guaranteed to receive any promotional benefits you are entitled to through UA's regular marketing programs and you'll also receive immediate customer service in case you have any questions or issues with your new product.

## IMPORTANT: Your Unique Customer Registration Code



registration code sticker

Register your new SOLO and receive a gift from UA! To register your SOLO and enter your registration code, please go online to: [my.uaudio.com](http://my.uaudio.com) and follow the directions to create an account. If you already own a UAD-1, you can simply add the SOLO hardware registration to your existing account and enter the required information including serial number and registration code in the required fields.

My Universal Audio ([my.uaudio.com](http://my.uaudio.com)) enables you to register your Universal Audio products, and gives you access to Universal Audio's online store. In addition, you'll be able to subscribe to product announcements, UA Webzine ([www.uaudio.com/webzine](http://www.uaudio.com/webzine)) information, and be eligible for Universal Audio's special promotions!

## Customer Service ([www.uaudio.com/support](http://www.uaudio.com/support))

Universal Audio is committed to providing fast, friendly and informed customer support. Our Product Specialists are active users of our products and experienced recording musicians. If you have a problem or question relating to any our products, we're here to help! Please call or email us and we will do our utmost to promptly resolve your problem.

**Customer Service/Tech Support:** 877-MY-UAUDIO or [support@uaudio.com](mailto:support@uaudio.com)

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