

THANK YOU!

microphone choices are out there, and we are honored that you have given us a chance. We craftsmanship, feel, appearance, and most importantly, sound. We make our microphones care, our products should last a lifetime of use and beyond.

CHAD KELLY

United Studio Technologies, LLC.



REGISTER YOUR PRODUCT

Before we begin, please take the time to visit www.unitedstudiotech.com to register your product. To ensure you receive proper and uninterrupted warranty support for your product, please register your unit within 14 days from purchase.

UPDATES TO THIS MANUAL

Occasionally we may have updates to this man manuals can be downloaded at www.unitedstudiotech.com. For your convienence, every page of this manual displays the version number at the bottom of the page.

SAFETY

Warning: To reduce the risk of electric shock, do not open the device as there are no user-servicable parts inside. Refer servicing to qualified personnel!

- 1. Read and keep these instructions; heed all warnings, and follow all instructions
- 2. Do not expose this device to rain and moisture.
- 3. Clean only with a dry cloth.
- 4. Servicing is required when the device has been damaged in any way
- 5. Always connect with a standard 3 pin XLR (male XLR to female XLR) cable that is in good working order.
- 6. Always fully connect microphone cable on both ends before engaging +48v Phantom Power.
- 7. Always disengage +48v Phantom Power and give the microphone a few moments to fully discharge before disconnecting the microphone cable
- 8. DO NOT pass this microphone signal directly through a TT (tiny telephone, tip-ring-sleeve) or TRS (1/4 inch, tip-ring-sleeve) patchbay! A preamp, of course, can be followed by a patch bay; just not a microphone signal.
- 9. This microphone ships with a silica gel packet. Do not discard it; this ensures that moisture/humidity does not accumulate on the mic capsule diaphragm and that no part of the device begins to oxidize. If the silica package becomes lost or discolored, replace it with a new, good quality silica gel packet.



UT Twin87

Twin-Circuit Condensor Microphone

PRODUCT SERVICE

WARRANTY SERVICE

United warranties this product to be free from defect in materials and workmanship for one year from date of purchase, for the original purchaser to whom this equipment is registered. This warranty is non-transferrable.

This warranty is void in the event of damage incurred from unauthorized service to this unit, or from electrical or mechanical modification to this unit. This warranty does not cover damage resulting from abuse, accidental damage, misuse, improper electrical conditions such as miswiring, incorrect voltage or frequency, unstable power, disconnection from earth ground (for products requiring a 3 pin, grounded power cable), or from exposure to hostile environmental conditions such as moisture, humidity, smoke, fire, sand and other debris, and extreme temperatures.

United will, at it's sole discretion, repair or replace this product in a timely manner. This limited warranty extends only to products determined to be defective and does not cover incidental costs such as equipment rental, loss of revenue, etc. Please visit us at www.unitedstudiotech.com for more information on your warranty, or to request warranty service.

This warranty applies to products sold in the United States of America. For warranty information in any other country, please refer to your local distributor for United Studio Technologies. This warranty provides specific legal rights, which may vary from state to state. Depending on the state in which you live, you may have rights in addition to those covered in this statement. Please refer to your state laws or see your local retailer for more information.

NON-WARRANTY SERVICE

contact us about setting up a repair or for more information.

If you have a defective unit that is With the proper care, your United outside of our warranty period or gear should last a lifetime and provide conditions; we are still here for you a lifetime of enjoyment. We believe and can get your unit working again the best advertisement we can have for a modest service fee. Please visit is a properly working unit being put us at **www.unitedstudiotech.com** to to great use. Let's work together to make it happen.

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CHAPTER 1: NOW LET'S GET STARTED!

1.1 CONNECTIONS AND POWER

The UT Twin87 requires 2 things in order to the cable is properly working... properly function: a 3 pin XLR cable, and 48V phantom power.

Sorry, we had to spell that out.

output jack on the bottom of the UT FET47. Then connect the cable to your recording device, preamp, or mixing console. Ensure that will be required for operation.

The first is simple; plug the XLR cable to the Engage 48V phantom power on your device. If your device does not provide 48V phantom power, an external, dedicated power supply

1.2 HARDWARE CONTROLS

Pattern select - omnidirectional, cardioid, and The UT Twin87 is a multi-pattern, large diafigure of eight.

In cardioid mode, the UT Twin87 takes the microphone out of the pattern select circuitry all together and decouples the rear diaphragm, a mod or setting sometimes referred to as 'true cardioid'. This has some performance advantages over normal 'switched', or active cardioid which still goes through the pattern select circuitry. Signal level and signal to noise ratio are slightly enhanced.

Modern/Vintage - This setting allows the user to choose between the earliest 87-style microphone circuit and the more modern reproductions.

HPF - gradual slope rumble filter tuned for voice broadcast. 12 dB down at 80hZ

-10dB pad - attenuates amplifier section by 10dB to provide greater headroom for loud sources.

phragm, transformer-balanced condenser microphone designed for a very wide range of recording studio applications. Its operation is fairly straightforward. As with any microphone; the more attention given to setup and placement, the better the results will be. The UT Twin87 features a high pass filter for eliminating subsonic information such as floor vibration and rumble, and a -10 pad for use in very loud sound pressure situations such as kick drum, guitar amplifiers, and especially loud vocalists.

HOW TO KNOW IF YOU NEED THE PAD ENGAGED?

It is good practice, unless you are certain you will need it, to start without the pad engaged. You will know you need the pad if the signal is distorted, clipping, or 'flatlined' even after properly spacing the microphone from its source. The pad will allow for an additional **Chapter 1: Now Let's Get Started!**

these situations.

WHEN TO ENGAGE THE HIGH PASS FILTER?

In studio recording, we feel it is usually good ing the HPF causes no audible loss to the 'body' of the source signal; it is safe to engage. practice to record an audio source at 'full bandwidth' and to precisely tailor any ban-If it does feel that it takes something away, dlimiting in the modern workstation. This and if the application is professional recordprovides much more accuracy than a single ing, then best to not engage the switch and switch on a microphone can provide; and the tailor the signal at a later point in the process. switch at this point is more a carryover from an earlier time. There are a number of sound sources, however, where one can be fairly WHEN TO USE A POP FILTER? sure that frequencies below the switch cutoff frequency are not going to play a major part It is generally good advice to use a pop filter in the makeup of the audio source, or at least any time you are recording a vocalist. You not in the finished (edited/processed) form should always get the best pop filter you can, that the audio track will take. This includes one that is as sonically neutral as possible. voice, guitar, drum overhead, and possibly Once you have found the proper distance for some acoustic instruments. This is particuspacing a vocalist from the microphone; the larly true of live voice broadcast (podcast, rapop filter can be set in place to properly maindio broadcast) and narration (books on tape, tain that spacing. etc). Because low frequencies have very large



Select. Right side controls are for Modern/Vintage.



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10dB of headroom in the amplifier circuit for waveforms, a high pass filter on the microphone can sometimes reduce the chances of clipping or allow a slightly hotter signal to be captured, without the damage from moving microphone stands, doors, and rumble from nearby traffic, etc. As a general rule, if engag-

Fig. 1: Front of the UT Twin87. Left side controls are for Pattern Fig. 2: Rear of the UT Twin87. Left side controls are HPF. Right side controls are Pad.

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1.3 Using the Vintage/Modern Modes

1.3 USING THE VINTAGE/MODERN MODES

To protect the capsule and circuitry, the UT Twin87 gently raises and lowers capsule polarization voltages; therefore please allow about ten seconds to fully stabilize when switching to Modern or Vintage modes.

63v. The modern setting yields a slightly hotter, brighter, more articulate sound, while the vintage setting offers a slightly warmer, softer, and smoother tone.

The Modern/Vintage switch allows selection between the circuit design and sound of the earliest version of the 87 style microphone and the much later reproductions. This feature works by changing both the circuitry for the high-Z and de-emphasis components, as well as adjusting how the capsule is polarized. In Vintage mode, the capsule is polarized directly with phantom power voltages (48v), while in modern mode, an FET boost circuit is employed to raise capsule polarization to

When Vintage/Modern modes are changed, the UT Twin87 will require roughly 10 seconds to morph between sounds. This is normal in all operations, as the circuitry makes significant configuration changes in order to replicate both variations in extreme detail.

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1.4 MITIGATING "REAL WORLD" PROBLEMS

While your UT Twin87 should provide clean, trouble-free operation in just about any given situation; we'd like to take a moment to go over some real-world problems we've encountered in our combined years of experience, and how best to navigate through them.

NOISE. AND RADIO

Though rare, we've encountered this issue with other microphones in the past. Usually the result of operating near a radio broadcast station or other large antennae. Though sometimes these situations cannot be 100% resolved; they can usu-

INTERFERENCE, ally be reduced down to an acceptable level by reducing the amount of exposure the signal path has to the source of interference. This means using the shortest length of microphone cable possible, avoiding the use of audio snakes or in-wall connections; especially if unsure of the length or quality of that wiring. Sometimes re-posiof great benefit. Snake cables (both in-wall and free-standing) with a shared foil shield are the worst of all in this situation: as the foil shields on individual channels can branch out to act as an antenna to pick up signals from the air. Not all microphone cables are created equal; and if there were ever a case for a very well constructed microphone cable with really low noise and good CMR (common mode rejection), this is one. It's also crucial to ensure the mic cable has a proper and dense enough shield, with 100% shield coverage, and is terminated properly to pin 1 on both ends. While we don't recommend specific brands here, some general advice is that a braid shield will have small gaps in the shield due to the braid geometry which. though usually OK, in highR-FI (radio frequency interference) environments, are not ideal. A thick woven shield is better, and a shield that is coupled with a layer of foil or conductive plastic is better yet; ensuring total shield protection. Double-shielded microphone cable is the best of all. for high-RFI environments. BUZZ, HUM, AND GROUND LOOPS Though rare, microphones along with all electronics can misbehave when not properly grounded. Like most phantom-powered condenser microphones,

tioning a mic or cable can be



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the UT Twin87's XLR pin 1 grounds the microphone chassis and circuit. This pin mates to the pin 1 XLR input of vour preamp, console, or recording interface, and from there to the earth around on the IEC power connector for that device. Things become tricky if this device itself does not have a 3-pin standard IEC power cable, but instead uses a 2 pin 'wall-wart' or 'line-lump' supply. In some cases, you may have a small interface which has no power supply, relying on bus power from a computer's USB, firewire, or Thunderbolt connector. This situation is sometimes referred to as 'vicarious grounding', where a ground connection is passed through several devices through various analog and digital cables before finally connecting to the 'house aroundina'. Computers, unfortunately, can be a source of significant EMI (electro-magnetic interference). While these situations cannot always be fully remedied, especially with field recording; at least being aware of these potential issues when setting up and selecting equipment can spare vou from the worst of these effects. For instance, if your interface, laptop, preamp, etc. all have no earth ground, which is entirely possible with laptop recording; you may intentionally select a device to connect in the chain that

the microphone can ground to. An example of this would be connecting an outboard preamp or other processor to the interface. so long as it has a 3 pin IEC power cable that is plugged in and an audio connection such as XLR or TRS that can connect to the interface. This will 'ground' the interface, even if the piece of outboard gear is not being used in the signal chain. Additionally, well constructed and shielded digital cables, particularly with robust ferrite rings clamped on one or both ends, can help reduce any noise contamination from a digital device into the microphone. In any case, for safety and good operation, it cannot be recommended that the UT Twin87 be operated in a situation where there is no access to earth ground to around the microphone's pin 1 connector.

BUZZ, HUM, AND GROUND LOOPS

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1.5 ENGAGING THE RF FILTER

screw bottom bell counterclockwise from base of microphone, then gently slide out brass body tube.

The RF filter should be engaged when used in radio broadcasting, or when radio interference is an issue. The UT Twin87 ships with the RF filter disengaged by default. To engage the filter, lower switch positions 1 and 5, and



Fig. 1: RF Filter Engaged



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UNITE

To access filter dip switch, un- and 4 (see Fig. 1). To bypass the RF filter, raise switch positions 1 and 5, while lowering positions 2, 3, and 4 (see Fig. 2). Switch position 6 should always be lowered.

The RF filter present on later incarnations of the 87type design is a source of much controversy, with some claiming it to be a useful problem solver, while others claim it detracts from the raise switch positions 2, 3, sound. The UT Twin87's filter

section has been ever slightly 'sweetened' by our choice of higher grade components, and selectable for use in both Modern and Vintage modes. While exceptionally subtle, a trained ear will detect a slight focus of the upper top end when the filter is engaged, with wide but definite 'bookends' placed on the sound field. With the filter disengaged, the top end may appear more natural, open, and extended.

Fig. 2: RF Filter Bypassed

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Chapter 2: About the UT Twin87

CHAPTER 2: ABOUT THE UT TWIN87

2.1 RECREATING TWO CLASSICS

The updated 'Modern' version of this design was introduced in 1986, and featured many design updates which were simply not practical to implement in the original version. One such update was the inclusion of an RF filter to help the mic perform inside of broadcast facilities or in loca-

ity. Another feature added was the inclusion of a voltage boost circuit to provide a constant and higher polarization voltage to the capsule, making up for any shortcomings caused by direct polarization from phantom power. A 'golden reference' specimen of this design was also studied tions with a high amount of RF activ- as a basis for the UT Twin87, when set

2.2 GETTING THOSE SUBTLE DIFFERENCES RIGHT!

The circuit design of the UT Twin87 is no aimmick or mere emulation of the attributes of a classic microphone - it is a faithful and meticulous recreation of two distinct circuit paths. which took several years of research and prototyping to get just right. We meticulously analyzed both circuits, between the two. Those differences were subtle; yet real and guan-

tifiable. They mainly related to the two different methods and voltage levels by which the capsule was polarized, as well as subtle differences in component values and tolerances within the de-emphasis and High-Z sections. We implemented both of these distinct layouts faithfully, onto teasing out the subtle differences their own boards, and selectable by switch. From there, we follow that selection with a faithful reproduction of

2.3 TO FILTER OR NOT TO FILTER...

There has definitely been much discussion over the RF filter utilized in the later 'AI' versions of the classic cirthe mic will sound more open and natural without this filter, all oth-

RF filter on the UT Twin87 ships from the factory in the 'off' position. We wanted to do more than provide this cuit. While the need to have such a filter if you need it; however, we also filter in high-RF environments is not wanted to make it sound good. We disputed, some have claimed that ever so slightly played with the filter curves and used much nicer components than are often found on such er things being equal. Others have filters (WIMA audio grade film caps claimed that the difference is in- and wirewound inductors opposed audible. We do agree that if you do to cheaper ceramic caps and more not NEED the filter engaged, then it generic components), so that this filis probably best to go through the ter, when engaged, would, with luck, least amount of circuitry;, hence the provide a sweetening effect rather



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to Modern mode.

Both the vintage and later editions of this microphone have become a modern classic and a go-to for creating clear, articulate, punchy vocal tracks that cut through a mix, across many different styles of music.

the amplifier section from the classic design, followed by an output transformer section of our own design, but inspired by the larger incarnations of the '87 output transformer. We developed our output transformer specifically to be large enough and wound in such a way as to provide a silky output without any real restriction of the low end or dynamic range.

than be detrimental. We believe we have accomplished this, and the filter, when engaged, will provide just the ever slightest top end emphasis and sweetening, while putting subtle 'bookends' around the audible frequency range. Keep in mind that this filter technically operates FAR outside of human hearing, and thus its 'secondary effects' on the sound you do here are going to be extraordinarily subtle. In the end though, this still makes for a very interesting sonic experiment.

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24 ONE MORE MOD FOR GOOD MEASURE...

circuitry and decoupling the rear

In our research into this design, we are wholly devoted to vocal produc- tern circuitry, improving the signal by learned of a certain modification tion and voice-over work, where the done to the circuit which 'shorts' the other pattern options will simply ly mode by disabling the pattern imentation, we determined that we could implement this mod into the diaphragm. This results in a slight UT Twin87 without interfering with improvement in the signal-to-noise the other two polar patterns. When ratio and output of the microphone, the UT Twin87 is set to cardioid, it under-the-hood mod for the enthusiand can be worth it for studios which disables the rear diaphragm and pat- ast, included free of charge.

simplifying the circuit path. Essentially, the microphone becomes a more mic into a permanent, cardioid-on- never be needed. After some exper- simplified cardioid design. As with the Modern/Vintage switch, it likewise takes a few moments to stabilize when enabling and disabling the pattern circuitry. This is just one more

2.5 MESH MATERIAL

headbasket design aimed at min- the original headbasket exactly: same imizing the sonic influence of the mesh gauges, laid down in the same of sonic profile. This is one step often microphone body on the sound, one order. This ensures that, while the critical step we took was to identify overall effect of the headbasket-cap- scious mic reproductions. and locate the exact original mesh sule interaction has been reduced, gauges of the classic design. We have whatever filtering effect the headbas-

While the UT Twin87 employs a new recreated the 3 layer mesh makeup of ket had on the original microphone has been exactly reproduced in terms overlooked on more budget con-

26 THE UT SERIES CAPSULE AND IMPLEMENTATION

duction of the classic K87 capsule the '87 style microphone. Our capsule engineered so that the wire terminais an insulated, dual backplate design, tions for the capsule are kept at the skinned with 24k gold sputtered, 6 mi- shortest possible length. This, in concron NOS PET film (Japanese Mylar).

with a very fine-strand, silver-plated found in the earliest incarnations of teflon wire, and the microphone was est possible levels. junction with very good insulation of

The UT Twin87 uses our own repro- The UT Series capsule is terminated the capsule mount, reduces any induced loss or interference to the low-

27 MAKING THE RIGHT TRANSFORMER

We prototyped several transformers and inductance of the earlier specduring the development of the UT Twin87, opting for a part that is somewhat larger than that found in most specimens, with excellent bandwidth, good shielding, and a mostly neutral but just slightly softer/silkier finish to it. Our UT Series transformer former can have a restricting effect

polished sound.

2.8 A HOLISTIC DESIGN APPROACH

The UT Twin87 represents several years of research and development, to attempt to capture the essence of former designers — ensuring every not just one; but two of the most beloved condenser microphones, and recreate them in a single package through several iterations of PCB de- to emphasize specific, critical composign, mechanical designs, capsule design, transformer options, and so on. most of their investment and atten-We worked with the best microphone tion: and not to spend much time on



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imens we measured; but is a design of its own and delivers a very smooth,

Having determined that the lamination size and stacking of the transmatches the turns ratio, impedance, on low frequencies, we made ours

somewhat larger than most found in this type of circuit.

Our UT Series Twin87 transformers are made to our exact specifications in the US, and made from mostly USsourced raw materials.

circuit engineers, capsule engineers, mechanical engineers, and transstep of the way that we maintained direct and personal control over everything that went into our product. nents where a manufacturer placed

the rest of a circuit. From the onset, we didn't want this approach. Every component in a design affects quality, and a chain is only as strong as its weakest link. We looked at every resistor, capacitor, transistor, connector for the modern recordist. We went It's a common approach these days and switch. We labored over picking the right thin film resistor here or tantalum and polystyrene capacitor there. Everything matters. This is our approach to gear design.

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CHAPTER 3: WAXING PHILOSOPHICAL

3.] ROOM ACOUSTICS

Probably no factor in recording is as important as room acoustics. No matter how good a microphone and other equipment may be; recording in an untreated room is usually a recipe for disappointment. Drums will sound brash and cheap, vocals hollow and cavernous. Reflections from untreated and parallel walls of ordinary homes and commercial The second solution is more localized. If you spaces create a comb filtering effect that can wreak havoc on audio fidelity, and almost never work in favor of the recordist. Fortunately, of 'vocal shield' or portable vocal baffle will these issues can be remedied sufficiently on sufficiently decouple the microphone from a home budget and do not require booking its rear wall reflections and deliver an amaztime in a professional studio.

are a number of affordable acoustic panel and foam solutions on the market which do a satisfactory job. It is not necessary to over-treat preamp, or interface. The importance of taka room; but the needs of every room are different. It is worth taking the time to research, room reflections cannot be overstated. understand the problems of your room, and

decide how lively or deadened you want your room to be. Typically, it is more than sufficient to treat a room with just the minimal needed to make the room sonically neutral. If you can do this, then you will have a room that is acceptable for tracking, editing, and mixing.

only plan to record voice, perhaps you don't need to treat the room. Any of various brands ing improvement to the sounds you are able to capture. This one investment can often The first solution is to treat the room. There make the difference between a recording that sound professional and one that does not; regardless of the quality of microphone, ing a bit of time to isolate the mic from its

3.2 MICROPHONE CHOICES AS AN ARTIST'S PALETTE

One of the joys for those who get to sometimes work or record in a big studio is the great microphone selection that professional facilities often have available. These impres- For all the expense and grandeur, what this condensers, as well as dynamic and ribbon phones with different pickup configurations

microphones. They will usually have both vintage specimens as well as new designs.

sive collections are usually amassed over a truly boils down to is merely a studio's abililong period of time, and often include fine ty to pick the right microphone for the right specimens of tube, solid state, transform- application; pulling from a palette of options er-coupled, transformerless, large diaphragm, that range from very dark to very bright, medium diaphragm, and small diaphragm with many many shades in between. Micro-



and amounts of off-axis rejection, for the opposite kind of selection and microphones with unique to help bring out top end and textures that may complement a articulation. A microphone with given situation, such as smooth- some degree of neutrality usualness or warmth. Every voice has a ly guarantees that it will work on slightly different sibilance range, the widest possible range of sitand sometimes one can find a uations with good results. These mic whose presence peak does are not hard and fast rules, but not emphasize those sibilant fregenerally hold true. quencies. Some microphones are better for male vocals, some for Any great mic locker begins with female. As a general rule, profes- one mic, and the UT Twin87 is an sional producers and engineers excellent first choice as well as a tend to pair a microphone to an welcome addition to a more esartist that brings out qualities tablished studio's collection. With lacking in the source, or de-em- its big, fairly neutral sound and phasizes qualities the source slightly forward midrange preshas too much of. For instance, a ence; the UT Twin87 is the perfect brighter and thinner voice ben- studio 'workhorse' microphone to efits from a darker microphone use in a variety of ways throughwhich has more girth and body. out a session. A deep, powerful voice can call



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CHAPTER 4: TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Type	Condenser Microphone
iype	
Diaphragm	Dual-diaphragm, 6 micron, 24k gold sputtered Mylar (PET film)
Capsule	UT Series, 34mm brass, insulated dual backplate K87
Power Supply	+48v Phantom Power (via XLR)
Ground	Pin 1 XLR (required)
Frequency Response	20 Hz - 20 kHz
SPL	117dB (no pad), 127dB (with pad) @ .5% THD
Polar Pattern	Cardioid, Figure 8, Omni
Output Impedance	27 Ω
Amplifier Type	Field Effect Transistor
Self Noise	<10dB (cardioid setting, no pad, no HPF)
Output	Custom-wound UT Series transformer, made in USA
Body	Nickel electroplated, solid milled brass
High Pass Filter	80hZ (12dB down point)
Pad	-10dB
Connector	24k gold plated XLR, pin 2 HOT, pin 1 GND
Mount	Suspension type shock mount (included)
Dimensions	Height: 220mm / 8.6" Diameter: 55mm / 2.2" Shockmount Depth: 190mm / 7.5"

CARDIOID PLOTS



OMNI PLOTS



FIGURE 8 PLOTS



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OUR STORY IS YOUR STORY.

Every musician and audio engineer has to start somewhere. We start with the entry-level gear we can afford, and work our way up to using the best of the best gear.

In today's age, we all have the luxury of simulating all of the best classic gear directly in a DAW — but is a simulation as good as the real thing? Sure, we think plenty of it is great, but it never settles our need for the original gear. With the rise of software-variants of classic gear, quite a few companies have taken to selling the "original" as a hardware recreation — but very sadly, many of us have seen we're not being sold the real thing by these companies. And to top it all off, the best classic gear is getting older, less reliable, and more expensive — even finding truly great technicians to work on them has gotten to be very difficult.

We at United are working hard to make sure everyone can finally access gear built like the original classics, with zero compromise. We have put everything we have into our products — from conception, custom parts, New Old Stock parts, and in many cases final assembly and testing that is done by hand in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

CAVE DAUGHDRILL Vice President / Co-Founder / Pinball Fanatic

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CHAD KELLY President / Co-Founder / Barista / Music Director



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Welcome to the United family!

Don't forget to register your product at **www.unitedstudiotech.com**