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TOA D4/D4E

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I found this Mic Pre at Salvation Army - TOA - TA-956 - PIC	frank lyon	Low End Theory	11	17th August 2007 09:55 AM

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Rob Coates
Gear interested

Join Date: Dec 2007
Posts: 18

TOA D4/D4E

Has anyone ever used a TOA D4/D4E. It's a 10 channel rack mount mixer from the 80s. I've used it for the mic preamps for years and always thought the preamps sounded good. I recently decided to upgrade however, and got one of those Modded Behringer tube pres with the Burr Brown op amps. When I got it and tried it out, there was no comparison. It didn't even come close to the quality of the TOA pres. I sent it back and got an ART MPA Gold. Again, no comparison. The TOA sounded way better. I then upgraded the tubes to NOS RCA Mullards. The MPA sounds way better but still not as good as the TOA. The TOA D4 preamps are incredibly smooth, warm, and detailed compared to the MPA Gold with the RCA tubes. It's solid state but has more warmth (at least to my ears) than the MPA Gold with tube upgrade. I don't see how this can be but it is. These units retailed for around a thousand back in the 80s, so I'm guessing quality components were used.

Quote

Rockingham01
Gear interested

Join Date: Jan 2009
Posts: 1

You're right, Rob. I've had my pair SINCE the '80's and couldn't be happier. At the time, TOA was a company with excellent products, but a weak marketing concept, so unless you had your ear to the ground, you wouldn't know the quality. I had close associates who owned pro audio stores recommend these, and I had never heard of these items previously. Unfortunate that these are no longer made. I also own a pair of TOA 280ME near field monitors, which are excellent, and also out of production.

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