

▶ **NUGEN AUDIO LOUDNESS TOOLKIT 2**

**Loudness Toolkit 2 is NUGEN Audio's latest version** of their loudness metering/measurement and correction toolkit. By combining program and short-term or momentary loudness corrections, the Loudness Toolkit 2 is essential for reliably meeting loudness compliance standards as mandated for post-production and broadcast audio streams.

The three tools in Toolkit 2 are: ISL 2 True-Peak Limiter, LM-Correct 2 Quick-Fix and the VisLM-C and VisLM-H 2. They run as plug-ins and work in Macs and PCs in AAX, RTAS, VST2, VST3 and AU formats and also as AudioSuite processors for Pro Tools plus the LM-Correct 2 and VisLM run as standalone processors.

The ISL 2 inter-sample True Peak limiter controls true peak audio levels for audio files from mono up to 7.1 surround sound files. It offers a choice between using either the ITU-R B.S. 1770 standard or the afclip for Mastered for iTunes+™.

LM-Correct 2 will perform, in faster than real-time, both loudness analysis and correction. Both the standalone and AudioSuite versions work the same to correct both program, short-term and momentary loudness issues. The VisLM-H Loudness Meter has a resizable GUI that will expand for an "across the room" visual presentation great for any control room.

The Toolkit 2 sells for \$949 MSRP with an upgrade path for current users of earlier versions of VisLM, ISL and LM-Correct. [nugenaudio.com](http://nugenaudio.com)



◀ **API 535-LA LINE AMPLIFIER**

**The API 535-LA Line Amplifier is their console's 325 booster card** packaged in a 500-module. The 535-LA supplies either a gain boost from 6dB to 45dB or a gain loss and that is the key to its utility. It can both amplify or attenuate incoming and outgoing signals and provide API's trademark sound in the process.

The 535-LA has a balanced input, a polarity switch, a -20dB pad for incoming signal attenuation and an Output Ratio toggle switch for three different output transformer windings and levels of gain.

I liked that there are separate "Cal" or calibration pushbuttons for both the input and the output stages that switches the front panel controls over to recessed trim pots. The API 535-LA is useful anywhere signal levels need adjusting such as from keyboards, audio playback and processing devices without level controls.

I tried two 535-LA Line Amplifiers as buffer amplifiers for recording a Waldorf synthesizer's line level output directly into Pro Tools. I connected the synth's output to the patch bay TT inputs of the studio's 500 rack with pair of 535s installed.

The Output Ratio control is handy for quickly establishing gain staging from the Waldorf's hot output and the Clip LED monitors for potential overloading of both the 2520 output the 2510 input amps.

I found the 535-LA to be super quiet, transparent and solid sounding. The 535-LA sells for \$595 MSRP. [apiaudio.com/product.php?id=139](http://apiaudio.com/product.php?id=139)

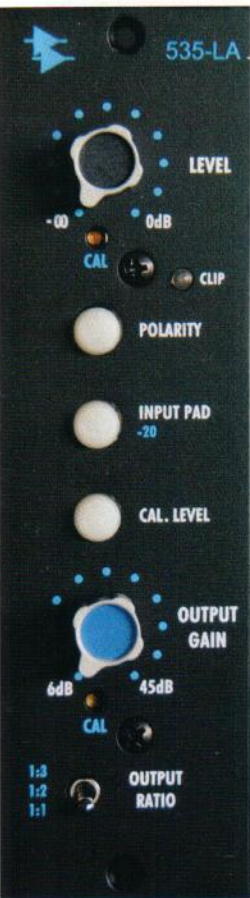
▶ **YAMAHA REVSTAR GUITAR LINE**

**Yamaha's new Revstar electric guitars come in seven different models** each taking on the style and feel of a different café racer motorcycle. In the '60s, café racer bikes were very popular on the streets of both Tokyo and London.

There are wild color combinations and finishes that fit the sleek Revstar body design, and the hand-wound pickups and specialized materials also perfectly match each instrument's character. I liked the Dry Switch for coil splitting and how these guitars draw upon the whole 50-year history of Yamaha Guitars.

Yamaha Revstar Guitars will sell in a price range starting at \$629 MSRP for the Model RS320 to \$1,549 for the RS820CR. (Model RS820 shown)

[4wrd.it/RevStar](http://4wrd.it/RevStar)



▲ **SBS DESIGNS ISO-Q2 STUDIO VERSION**

**The studio version of SBS Designs' Iso-Q2 Advanced Isolator & Focusing Equalizer** has now been updated with resettable gain controls making it easier to recall previous settings.

Key to its design is the way the Iso-Q2 handles its three bands of equalization. The front panel has separate Bass Frequency and Mid-High Frequency sweep controls that set the exact lower and upper crossover frequencies between the bass frequency and high frequency equalizer sections on either side of the central mid-range equalizer.

The low frequency sweeps from 50Hz to 400Hz, and the mid-high frequency sweeps from 3.1kHz to 12.6kHz. It gets fun when I figured out that the bass, mid-range and mid-high gain controls are unity at the straight up position but range from off to +15 dB of boost.

The Iso-Q2 has balanced XLRs input and output connectors as well as unbalanced inputs and outputs on RCA jacks. There are also RCA jack connections for a selectable unbalanced loop insert path along with a rear panel master gain control.

The Iso-Q2 Studio Version is made in the U.S., distributed by MV Pro Audio and has a 10-year warranty. It sells for \$2,195 MSRP.

[sbsdesigns.com](http://sbsdesigns.com)

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