

FAQ

Q: Is the mic preamp in the Vt-737sp the same as the AD2022 or M5?

A: No.

The Vt-737sp and the AD2022/M5 are completely different microphone preamps based on alternate design theories. The Vt-737sp is a vacuum tube preamplifier and the AD2022/M5 are 100% discrete transistor based solid state preamplifiers (no tubes). The AD2022 and M5 use the same base preamplifiers - a dual cascaded symmetrical twin gain block. The AD2022 is a third generation microphone preamp based on the M5. All Avalon microphone preamps run in Class A mode and use discrete electronics for amplification. Tube preamplifiers provide an alternate selection of harmonic tones in comparison to solid state designs.

Wynton Morro, Avalon's designer uses vacuum tubes to achieve a very unique and "easy" sound. However, to get 100% pure sound, the preferred design is solid state.

Vt-737sp Vacuum Tube



Now, all of the Vt-737sp owners might be thinking that they may have bought the wrong preamp. On the contrary, the Vt-737sp is a fabulous unit. It was the first and is still the best "Direct Recording Channel" or "Channel Strip" on the market for any price!

The Vt-737sp was specifically designed as a tube preamp and has the unique sound that only tubes can deliver. The Vt-737sp has the most clarity, power, and control of any tube preamp available. It is, "the swiss army pocket knife for recording."

AD2022 Pure Class A Discrete

Avalon believes that the AD2022/M5 is a higher performance and more transparent microphone preamp than Vt-737sp. The AD2022 has more detailed highs, better low-end extension and is lower noise.

The sonic differences between the Vt-737sp and the AD2022/M5 can be compared to a spot light for the Vt-737sp, and a flood light for the AD2022/M5. The Vt-737sp has a more "close-up" round sound, while the AD2022 has a detailed, open sound that includes more of the subtle sub-harmonics and room reflections.

The Vt-737sp has the necessary, high performance functions built-in to handle real-world recording demands: preamp, compressor and parametric equalizer.

Should you trade in your Vt-737sp for an AD2022 or M5? No, but you might need both preamps in your arsenal. Try both preamps and experience for yourself the real difference in their sonic personalities.

Below is a table comparing the Vt-737sp and AD2022/M5.

Comparison Table

	Vt-737sp - vacuum tube	AD2022 & M5 - discrete Pure Class A
Topology	Vacuum tube mic and instrument preamp (Class A), tube opto-compressor and discrete parametric EQ (4 tubes).	Pure Class A, 100% discrete solid state mic and instrument preamplifier (135 discrete transistors - no "op amps").
Unique Features	Mono "channel strip" - dual tube preamp, classic tube opto compressor, four-band discrete parametric EQ, frequency dependent compression, link jack for stereo operation.	Dual mono, selectable input impedance, +64dB gain in 4dB steps with variable output fine trim, variable high pass filter, ultra high voltage power supply, low noise -126dBu EIN.
Sonic Character	"close-up" sound, EQ delivers smooth highs and deep powerful lows, compressor is transparent and musical.	Extreme clarity, smooth extended highs, liquid mid-range, controlled deep bass, captures everything in the room.
Applications	Vocals, guitars, bass, keyboards, synths. Flexible compressor and EQ for a variety of vocalists and instruments. Can be used as a compressor/equalizer for mixdown and mastering. "The swiss army pocket knife for recording."	Exceptional for vocals and acoustic instruments to capture the entire sound image including the room. Use with all types of microphones including ribbons. Achieve different tones from microphones using variable input impedance.
Users	Christina Aguilera, Orgy, Motley Crue, Snoop Dogg, Bob Dylan, The Crystal Method, Michael Jackson, Phil Collins, Puff Daddy, Crazy Town, AC/DC, Disney Productions....	Celine Dion, Whitney Houston, Abby Road, Babyface, Alanis Morissette, Stevie Wonder, Don Henley, Hit Factory, Blue Man Group, Chung King Studios, Mariah Carey...