

179-160 / 179-170

Compressor/Expander Amplifier

DESCRIPTION

The NTP 179-160 combines the functions of three separate instruments in one: High-level signals are processed by the limiter function, the desired dynamic range is assured by the mid-range compressor/expander, and the low-level expander keeps the noise level down.

Despite the complexity of the front-panel functions, the engineer will soon familiarize himself with this compressor.

The compressor is based on high-quality VCA module manufactured by NTP, which provides facilities for extensive filtering of the control voltage, and this is no doubt the reason why the compressor has become famous for its „sound“.

Two otherwise identical versions are available: The 179-160 which is a single-channel device powered by 24V DC, and the 179-170 which is a dual-channel version housed in a 19", 1U mains-powered cabinet.

FRONT PANEL LAYOUT

- 1 Two or more compressors may be connected in VCA groups for stereo operation.
- 2 Max. gain introduced on lower levels (often termed „compression“) is continuously adjustable 0 to 20 dB. This switch also sets maximum attenuation in expansion mode.
- 3 Switch for compressor or expander mode selection.
- 4 Compression or expansion ratio is continuously adjustable in the range from 1.3/1 to 10/1.
- 5 The compressor attack time is adjustable from 0.1 ms to 100 ms.
- 6 The compressor recovery time is adjustable from 0.1 s to 6 s and includes an automatic programme-controlled release function.
- 7 The „Hold“ function is a rather unique feature of this compressor. This function ensures that the pumping effect can be avoided on voice signals.
- 8 Low-level noise is effectively handled by the high quality low-level expander gate.
- 9 While the attack time of the expander is fixed (fast), the recovery time can be chosen for the best results on various programmes.
- 10 Limiter, compressor, and expander operation is displayed in the built-in LED meter.
- 11 Preset functions such as limiter threshold, compressor reference level, output level and gate attenuation are accessible in the front panel. Finger-tip potentiometers are available on request.
- 12 By-pass switch. The transformer-balanced input and output stages remain active as does the LED display.

