

JoeMeek TwinQ2

Dual Recording Channel

JoeMeek gear has always been about adding a nice vintage vibe to your recordings without having to pay through the nose. Does the new Q2 deliver the goods?

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Joe Meek is a familiar name in the production world — the story of the legendary producer of 'Telstar' is well known — and his name lives on in the form of a company making outboard gear based, albeit very loosely now, on

JoeMeek TwinQ2 £1199

PROS

- Sounds good both technically and artistically.
- Compressor is very versatile.
- Digital output included as standard.

CONS

- No obvious cons, though a non-parametric EQ is always going to lack precision.

SUMMARY

This device combines all that we love about the JoeMeek line and, while not exactly cheap, it packs a lot of punch for the price.

Meek's designs. The company itself has undergone significant changes since we reviewed the Ted Fletcher-designed TwinQ dual channel strip back in SOS December 2001. Following Fletcher's departure, that model was replaced with a significantly different design bearing the same name. If you now visit the JoeMeek web site, you'll find the details of that model still listed, and will also notice that the model has been discontinued — but only because it has been replaced by the TwinQ2!

Overview

Although visually very similar to its immediate predecessor, this preamp and processor combo features many improvements, all of which were implemented by design engineer Allan Bradford (who I remember from his time with 3G mixers, many years ago). The 2U dual-channel 'console strip' format, control layout and retro round meters are exactly as before, but inside the box the Cinemag microphone input transformer is now placed

permanently in the Mic input circuit, and an 'Iron' switch now provides the option to feed the line input through the transformer, to add a little coloration, if desired.

Essentially, there are two channels behind the exotically sculpted green front panel, each comprising a mic/line/instrument preamp (with up to 60dB of mic gain available), an optical compressor, which has evolved from the original JoeMeek design but has been refined to be more controllable, and a 'Meequaliser' console-style EQ section. Both the instrument and line-level gains have been tweaked, and the peak LED now comes on at +16dBu, which is 2dB below Full Scale Digital for the built-in (24-bit, 96k A-D) converter.

The mic preamp is built around the respected Burr-Brown chip. It offers an EIN figure of -128.5dBu (unweighted) and sufficient headroom to handle up to +24dBu before clipping. Distortion is a reassuringly miserly 0.001 percent, until the compressor

