Because of its specially designed signal path, the VTB-1 can be used to both feed and monitor a recorded track using its Insert Jack. The insert point is after the HPF, but directly before the Blend Control. The signal feed from the insert jack is before any tube circuitry, so the recorded signal will always be an SS-only signal. The Playback output from the Recorder uses the return path of the insert jack which directly feeds the Tube Blend control and then the Output Level pot. By using the Blend control, the user can add the desired amount of Tube Sound at the final mix stage instead of when tracking. This allows for more variety during mixdown and contributes to less finger-pointing when it’s decided that the sound you originally recorded is not really what you want now.
Because of its specially designed signal path, the VTB-1 can be used to generate two distinct outputs by using its Insert Jack as an additional output. The insert point is after the HPF, but directly before the Blend Control. The signal feed from the insert jack is before any tube circuitry, so the additional output will always be a SS only signal. The insert cable needs to be wired as a “Borrow Cable” by tying the Tip and Ring connections together. This allows the insert signal to feed the outside world but still continue through the VTB-1 in its normal way. By using the Blend control, the user can add the desired amount of Tube Sound to the main (Enhanced) outputs while still having a clean, all solid-state output also available.

NOTE: The VTB-1 meter is calibrated for Pro level operation (+4dBu). The meter may stay in its lower ranges when driving semi-pro gear (-10dBV levels). If your equipment has a level-select switch, set it for +4 operation for best results and quietest operation.
Often, when recording, additional control is desired when tracking a signal. Most external processing gear is designed for line-level operation and will not operate properly if fed directly from a microphone-level input signal. The VTB-1 provides an Insert Jack at line-level strength to properly interface to most gear. The Insert send-point is directly after the SS preamp and Hi-Pass filter sections, the return-point feeds the Tube Blend control. The Insert Jack is a 1/4" TRS jack and is wired as Tip= Insert-send, Ring= Insert-return, Sleeve= Ground. The nominal operating level at this point is approx 0dBu. When a compressor is being used, use the Meter (IN) to monitor the internal level and use the Gain control to set the SS preamp to a conservative level (keep levels below 0 on the meter). This leaves more headroom in the first, critical stage. Then use the controls of the external compressor to keep the dynamics within the desired range.

**NOTE:** The VTB-1 meter is calibrated for Pro level operation (+4dBu). The meter may stay in its lower ranges when driving semi-pro gear (-10dBV levels). If your equipment has a level-select switch, set it for +4 operation for best results and quietest operation.

**Add an equalizer, compressor or other equipment to the signal path before recording.**