# AEA Ribbon Mics FC2




AEA Ribbon Microphones will debut the FC2, a two-channel tube preamplifier, at the 2026 NAMM Show. Designed in collaboration with analog designer Fred Forssell, the FC2 brings a refined cascoded hybrid topology to AEA's preamp line, offering natural warmth, linear operation, and the clarity engineers expect from modern high-performance front-end design. Attendees are invited to visit Booth 15616 from January 22–24 for a hands-on look.

Unlike traditional tube designs that emphasize coloration, the FC2 focuses on the natural warmth and depth that tubes can provide when operated in their most linear region. It delivers a clear, dimensional sound that preserves the character of the microphone and source.

At its core is a cascoded hybrid design that keeps tubes operating in their sweet spot throughout the entire gain range. This delivers the three-dimensional imaging and richness associated with tubes, but with a purity and transparency that rivals top solid-state designs. The FC2 stays fully balanced from input to output, which differentiates it from the rest of the AEA preamp line and is one of the reasons this unit sounds so pure.

The FC2 is a modernized evolution of the legendary Forssell Technologies FetCode, redesigned by its creator, Fred Forssell. This marks the tenth preamp collaboration between AEA and Forssell—a decades-long partnership celebrated in the FC2's distinctive 10-sided knobs. Each collaboration has pushed the boundaries of what ribbon microphones and pristine amplification can achieve together, and the FC2 represents the culmination of that journey.

A precision Grayhill stepped switch provides 10 to 55 dB of primary gain in consistent, repeatable increments. An output trim adds 0–10 dB of fine adjustment, while a dedicated +10 dB boost switch provides additional gain when required. Together, these controls offer a total of 10 to 75 dB of gain, accommodating everything from hot condensers to the quietest ribbon microphones.

Built for long-term reliability, the FC2 uses premium Neutrik connectors, Grayhill rotary switches, and NKK toggle switches selected for durability. A rear-panel



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voltage selector (115/230V) ensures global compatibility, and the entire unit is engineered to become a dependable part of any studio’s signal chain.

FC2 Specifications:

- 2-channel cascoded hybrid tube/JFET preamplifier
- Cascoded 12AX7/JFET Stage 1 with 12AU7 differential Stage 2
- 10–55dB stepped gain (Grayhill switch)
- 0–10dB output trim
- +10 dB boost switch (total gain range: 10–75 dB)
- Fully balanced topology throughout with 1:2 input transformer
- P48 phantom power
- Polarity reverse
- Mute switch
- 0dBu and +22dBu LED indicators
- Front End Overload LED
- 115/230V switchable power
- Made in the USA

The FC2 preamp will be previewed at the 2026 NAMM Show and is expected to begin shipping in Spring 2026.

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