

DRAWMER

PRELIMINARY INFORMATION

1969 Mercenary Edition

“a really bitchin’ stereo compressor...”

...with balls!”

Fletcher, Mercenary Audio, USA



When Ivor Drawmer rose to the challenge of outspoken US producer/engineer ‘Fletcher’ of Mercenary Audio to build a special version of the famed Drawmer 1960 (used by Eric Clapton, Madonna, Sheryl Crow, Stevie Wonder, Bryan Adams and thousands of artists around the world) - both sides joined forces and the 1969 Mercenary Edition was born!

The 1969 Mercenary Edition is a new product that derives from a collaboration between two of the audio industry's most established names, Drawmer (UK) and Mercenary Audio (USA).

Based on Drawmer's original 1960 Mic Pre-Amp/Tube Compressor (itself inspired by the classic Fairchild 670), the 1969 offers a host of new features, and more impressively - a completely new sound!

Retaining the concept of twin mic pre-amps, the 1969 uses 'Burr-Brown' op amps for a *silkier* sound - and a Phase Reverse switch available in Instrument, Mic and Line modes increases versatility. The 1969 employs true Stereo Link operation with channel one's Threshold, Attack and Release controls becoming master to both channels. Stereo Link also offers a *BIG* position which retains bass frequencies by rolling off the detection signal at 100Hz minimizing undesirable *pumping* during compression. Output Gain make-up can be independently controlled on each channel.

The 1969 Mercenary Edition incorporates new tube circuits designed to add *warmth* to mic/line signals, and the instrument (DI) pre-amp has its own tube stage enabling classic *overdrive* effects when inserting guitar, bass and other instruments - true to the original Drawmer 1960 design.

- 2 mic/line pre-amps with variable gain, 48V phantom power, filters and phase reverse
- Instrument tube pre-amp with variable gain, EQ, phase reverse and brightness boost
- 2 soft-knee tube compressors with variable threshold, attack, release and output gain
- True stereo link operation with *BIG* position for retaining bass frequencies
- Side chain access and side chain listen facility
- VU metering of gain reduction and output levels
- Individual +4dB/-10dB inserts • Balanced +4dB XLR input/output connectors

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“The 1960 is still used by a lot of my clients, but it wasn't the *sound* I was personally looking for. We use a lot of vintage classics at Mercenary - original sounds not replicated by any currently manufactured devices. I wanted something that would hold up against the best of the best in tracking and mixdown, something that delivers stunning clarity and detail - the result is the 1969 Mercenary Edition.”

Fletcher - Producer/Engineer, Mercenary Audio

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“Although there are many thousands of satisfied 1960 users out there, it was suggested that a similar product with different characteristics could also have its own place in the market by fulfilling the varying needs of artists, engineers and producers - particularly those in the US who are accustomed to a certain kind of sound. Where the original 1960 is known for its *raunchy, British* sound, the 1969 reflects the *cleaner and brighter* qualities one could associate with the classic *American* sound. The 1960 will continue performing alongside the new 1969 - it's just a question of taste.”

Ivor Drawmer - Technical Designer

