

## AlexB: Preamp Color Suite

AlexB ([www.alessandroboschi.eu](http://www.alessandroboschi.eu)) also offers a huge range of programs, some of which (his latest 4KD and MWD compressors, for instance) push the boundaries of what's currently capable with Nebula. For me, the sumptuous Preamp Color Suite quickly became a favourite, offering emulations of 39 different highly regarded solid-state and tube preamps. Of course, the names have been disguised, but most enthusiasts will quickly recognise what's being modelled from names such as 'A-Meck', 'Portsilk' and 'VocBocs'. Some are offered without their input transformers or with them for a little more saturation and low-end roll-off, while others offer several captures with different front-panel filter/EQ settings.

Nebula is exceedingly good at capturing the sound of preamps, and this is a beautifully recorded collection offering a surprising amount of tonal variation between the various devices, from the hardness of 'AN81' to the warm bottom end of 'MTP std'. As expected, the tube models offer more character, and with the Telefunken V72 you even get both solid-state and tube versions. While you can tweak the sound with Nebula's Drive control, some preamps are also supplied in clean and driven versions for more real-world accuracy. I was surprised by the amount of extra 'snap' between the 'Focus8 Cln' and 'Drv' versions. I've ended up using PCS a lot just recently, and at just €20 it's a steal!



AlexB's Preamp Color Suite samples a host of desirable preamps, including this classic Telefunken V72 tube model.

## Acustica Nebula Pro 3.5 €139

### PROS

- V3.5 offers lower latency and even better audio quality than previous versions.
- Many of the latest third-party libraries sound truly stunning.
- Installing and using Nebula is now considerably easier.

### CONS

- Interface still a bit clumsy.
- Occasionally rather heavy on CPU.
- Bundled library could still do with a cull to raise the overall standard.

### SUMMARY

Nebula now offers some beautiful high-end analogue sounds via its third-party libraries, and while some may not get on with its idiosyncratic interface and working methods, it's fabulous value for money for those prepared to put in a little effort.