

QUICK START!

READ THIS!! The TCL-2 operates with lethal operating voltages -- the voltage inside the TCL-2 can kill you. Never, under any circumstances, remove the top cover. Refer to a qualified electronics technician any and all servicing, tube replacement, and other operations which require the top cover to be removed.

Congratulations on your purchase of the Millennia Media TCL-2 with Twin Topology. The TCL-2 is the result of meticulous listening tests on numerous circuit, topology, and packaging designs. Your TCL-2 is a finely tuned instrument intended for critical professional applications — we feel it is the world's most sonically neutral analog EQ. With the emergence of 24+ bit digital audio, recording engineers are faced with a new requirement for undistorted dynamic range. The TCL-2 meets this challenge exceptionally well.

Before connecting power to the TCL-2, assure that the rear panel voltage selection fuse block switch is set correctly. In the USA, the TCL-2 is shipped with the voltage selection block set to 100-120 VAC. At this voltage setting, a pair of 1 amp 5 x 20 mm slow blow fuses have been factory installed. If you change the voltage selection block to 200-240 VAC usage, be sure to change both fuses to 500 milliamp (0.4 amp) slow blow types.

The TCL-2 enclosure measures 19" wide x 3.5" high x 12.5" deep and is designed for mounting into a standard 2U, 19" equipment rack. If the TCL-2 is mounted in a road case or other rack which is prone to strong vibration or shock, it is recommended that the rear of the TCL-2 be supported or otherwise reinforced to withstand such conditions. The TCL-2 requires adequate ventilation. To assure proper air circulation and operation, leave at least one rack space open above and below the TCL-2.

The TCL-2 is designed on a common ground topology. For high quality operation, and for your own safety and the safety of others, do not defeat the purpose of the earth grounding pin on the A/C power cord!

TCL-2 REAR PANEL

(1) INPUTS "In 1 (Left), In 2 (Right)"

Conventional 3-pin female XLR input jacks for all balanced or unbalanced line level signals. Input impedance is greater than 10k ohms when "10 dB" gain range switch is engaged (+/- 10dB), greater than 40k ohms when gain range switch is disengaged (+/- 20dB), and greater than 100k ohms when optional balanced inputs are installed. Standard TCL-2 line input is unbalanced using pin 1 as chassis ground, pin two as signal, and pin 3 tied to audio ground.

(2) OUTPUTS "Out 1 (Left), Out 2 (Right)"

Conventional 3-pin male XLR output jacks. Output is unbalanced. Pin 1 is chassis ground, pin 2 is signal, and pin 3 is tied to audio ground. J-FET topology output impedance is 55 ohms. Vacuum tube output impedance is 150 ohms.

(3) EARTH/AUDIO GROUND JUMPER

A barrier terminal which ties earth ground to audio ground. If ground "hum" loops are experienced when using the TCL-2, removing this jumper may help. Using this jumper, the integrity of the chassis/earth ground connection is never compromised.

(4) AC VOLTAGE MAINS SELECTION "100-120" or "200-240"

A power entry module with a removable fuse holder block. This fuse holder block is selectable for 100 to 120 Volt or 200 to 240 Volt worldwide mains powering. The fuse block contains two fuses — one fuse is in series with the hot power line while the other fuse is in series with the neutral power line. Both fuses *must* be installed. To change the mains voltage selection, remove IEC power connector and assure that the TCL-2 is not connected to mains power. With a non-conductive tool, gently pry the fuse block away from the power entry module. Remove the two fuses and replace both with type as shown below. Slide out the internal PC Board, turn it over, and reinsert the PCB so that the desired AC mains voltage appears in the viewing window. Double check that the fuses installed correspond to the AC mains voltage range which appears in the viewing window. Gently push the fuse block back until flush and snug.

FUSES:

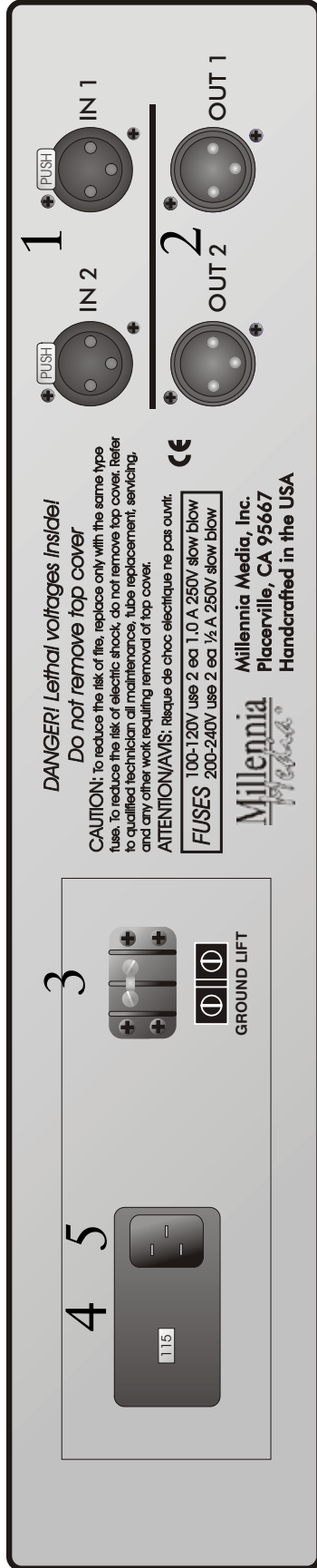
For 100-120 VAC mains, use 5x20mm, 1A, slow blow, 250V, Littelfuse 239 or equivalent.

For 200-240 VAC mains, use 5x20mm, 500 mA, slow blow, 250V, Littelfuse 239 or equivalent.

(5) POWER ENTRY "IEC Power Receptacle"

An IEC-type AC line-power receptacle for use with removable cords. Use only the power cord provided with the TCL-2 unit or equivalent U/L approved type SV, SVT, SJ, or SJT AC power supply cord. *Do not defeat the third pin earth ground!* If ground lifting is desired, remove the Earth/Audio Ground Jumper strap (item number 3, above).

NOTE: Units configured for 200-240 do not have a power cord included. Contact your dealer or distributor for a cable appropriate for your country.



TCL-2 "Twincom" Rear Panel

TCL-2 FRONT PANEL

(1) THRESHOLD CONTROL “THRESHOLD”

Conductive plastic rotary potentiometer offering variable compression threshold. When fully CCW, the compression threshold is least sensitive. Threshold range is approximately -20 dB to +20 dB. Threshold is most sensitive when control is turned fully CW.

(2) ATTACK CONTROL “ATTACK”

Conductive plastic rotary potentiometer offering variable attack timing. When fully CCW the fastest attack is achieved (2mS). When fully CW the slowest attack is achieved (100mS).

(3) RELEASE CONTROL “RELEASE”

Conductive plastic rotary potentiometer offering variable compression release timing. When fully CCW the fastest release is achieved (100mS). When fully CW the slowest release is achieved (3 seconds).

(4) RATIO CONTROL “RATIO”

Conductive plastic rotary potentiometer offering variable compression ratio. When fully CCW the lowest and most gentle ratio is achieved (1.4:1). When fully CW the highest and most pronounced ratio is achieved (30:1). A compression ratio of approximately 10:1 (or higher) is typically called “limiting.” All TCL-2 controls are available optionally with “detented” action, offering loggable resetability for mastering recall. Contact the factory for details.

(5) CHANNEL IN SWITCH “CH IN”

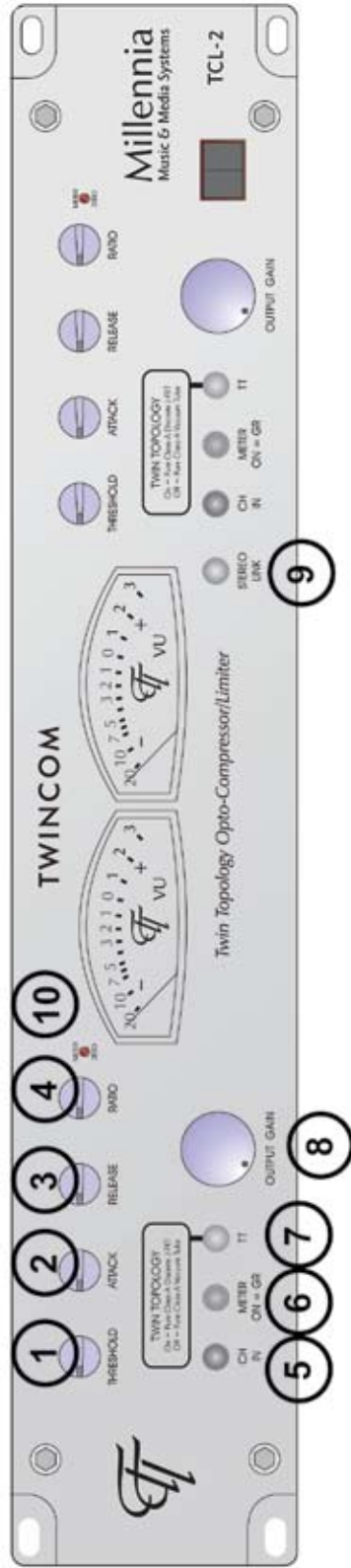
Pushbutton switch which selects channel status. When switch is depressed and corresponding LED is illuminated, audio signal will be processed by dynamics functions. When switch is not depressed and LED is not illuminated, audio signal is not processed by dynamics functions. This is not a “hard-wire” bypass. Audio signal is always in the active circuit path regardless of this switch’s status.

(6) METER FUNCTION SELECT SWITCH “METER ON=GR”

Pushbutton switch which selects meter function. When switch is depressed and corresponding LED is illuminated, meter indicates the amount of gain reduction. When switch is not depressed and LED is not illuminated, meter indicates output level (0 VU = +4 dBu).

(7) TWIN TOPOLOGY SELECT SWITCH “TT”

Pushbutton switch which selects the corresponding channel as a complete vacuum tube compressor or a complete solid state compressor. Not a gimmick. Twin Topology is designed around two world-class, musically optimized Class-A amplifiers — one amplifier is based on twin triode vacuum tubes, while the other is based upon all discrete J-FET servo amplifiers. Like having two distinctly different compressors in one chassis. When switch is depressed and LED is illuminated, the channel is operating as a solid state compressor. When the switch is not depressed, the channel is operating as a vacuum tube compressor. Because of the TCL-2’s unique shunt design, the dynamic processing chain leaves little or no detectable signal path artifact when in-circuit.



TCL-2 "Twincom" Rear Panel

(8) OUTPUT GAIN CONTROL “OUTPUT GAIN”

Conductive plastic rotary potentiometer offering variable output gain level. When fully CCW the output gain is fully attenuated (off). When fully CW, the output gain is at maximum. Up to 10 dB of make-up gain is available when fully CW

(9) STEREO LINK SWITCH “STEREO LINK”

Pushbutton switch which selects the stereo link function. When switch is depressed and LED is illuminated, both channels will respond to the channel with the highest compression activity. When the switch is not depressed, each channel’s dynamics operates independently. The side-chain controls (threshold, attack, release, ratio) remain individually adjustable and are not stereo linked. Stereo tracking can be tightened by reducing the ratio setting of the channel driving hardest. The following set-up procedure will help balance a linked stereo image.

(9A) STEREO LINK BALANCING

A) Apply a steady 1 KHz to one channel of the TCL.

B) Set the attack, release, and ratio controls for identical settings on both channels.

C) Make sure the stereo link switch is in the “Out/Off” position.

D) With the meter in GR mode, increase the Threshold control until you reach the desired amount of GR as shown on the meter.

E) Depress the Stereo Link switch. Note... the amount of GR shown on the meter will probably decrease. Simply increase the threshold until you again achieve the desired amount of GR as shown on the meter.

F) You should now see the same amount of GR on BOTH meters. If you do not, adjust the ratio control(s) on one or both channels until you do.

(10) METER ZERO ADJUST “METER ZERO”

Trimmer potentiometer behind front panel hole which adjusts meter zero set-point. Adjust this trimmer only after TCL-2 has reached a stable, warmed-up condition.

(11) METERS

Large (and very expensive!) Sifam true audio level meters offering superb ballistics and accuracy. A custom back-lit dial face provides oversized numerals for clear readability. Backlighting also provides a pilot light function.

(12) POWER SWITCH “POWER”

Rocker switch for switching AC line power on and off.

NOTE:

The TCL-2 Twincom is based on pure Class-A all vacuum tube and pure Class-A discrete all transistor amplifier designs. Both topologies perform best after reaching a stable, warmed-up condition. All TCL-2 factory adjustments have been performed when unit is fully warmed-up; at least one-half hour after turning unit on. During TCL-2 warm-up period, user may find that certain adjustments may drift slightly, including the 0 dB meter reading when in “GR” (Gain Reduction) mode.

TCL-2 GENERAL SPECIFICATIONS

THD + Noise, 20 Hz - 30 kHz	< .01%, typ .002 %
Frequency Response -3 dB (SS)	Sub 2 Hz to beyond 100 kHz
Frequency Response -3 dB (VT) Maximum	Sub 2 Hz to beyond 100 kHz
Input Level	+30 dBu (VT or SS)
Maximum Output Level	> +32 dBu (VT or SS)
Input Impedance	25,000 ohms (VT or SS)
Output Impedance (SS)	< 5 ohms
Output Impedance (VT)	< 300 ohms
Recommended Load (important)	> 300 ohms (SS), > 3,000 ohms (VT)
Noise (20 Hz - 22 kHz)	-87 dBu (SS), -82 dBu (VT)
Common Mode Rejection Ratio	> 50 dB, > 75 dB typical, 100mV to 20 kHz
XLR Polarity	Pin 2 positive polarity. Pin 1 = ground

DYNAMICS PARAMETERS

Threshold Range	-20 dBu to +20 dBu, continuously adjustable
Attack Range	2 mS to 100 mS, continuously adjustable
Release Range	00 mS to 3.0 sec, continuously adjustable
Compression Ratio Range	Min: 1.4 to 1, Max: 30 to 1, continuous
Dynamics Bypass on Each Channel?	Yes
Meter Gain Reduction -or- VU Switch?	Yes
Stereo Link Switch?	Yes
Twin Topology Selection Switch	Switch In = FET Amplifiers Switch Out = Vacuum Tube Amplifiers

ELECTRO-MECHANICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Power Consumption	55 Watts, nominal
Power Requirements	100VAC to 240VAC, 50/60Hz, selectable
Fuses (2 required)	2 ea 1A with 100-120VAC mains (5x20mm, slow-blow, 250V) 2 ea 500mA with 200-240V mains (5x20mm, slow-blow, 250V)
Internal DC Power	+350V+28V -28V +12V
Dimensions	19"Wx12.5"Dx3.5"H
Net Weight	25 pounds

Millennia Media reserves the right to change specifications, delivery, and pricing without notice.

TCL-2 PHILOSOPHY & DESIGN

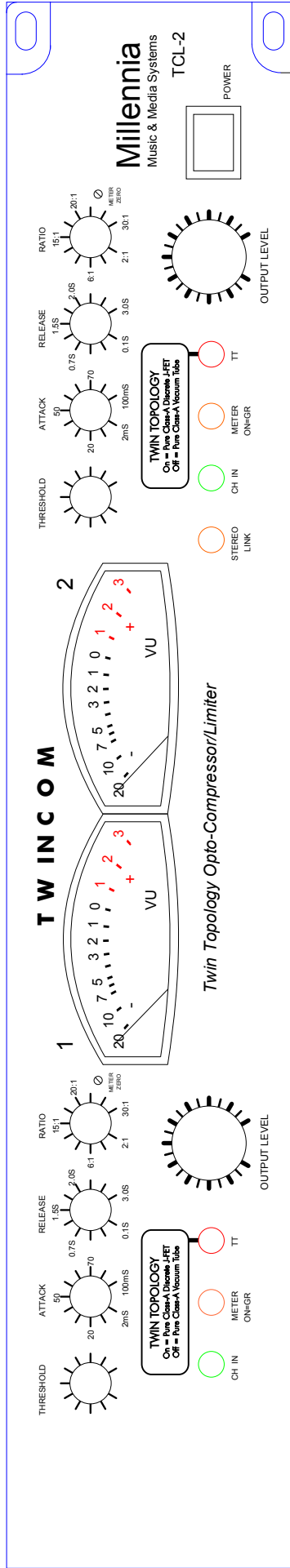
The TCL-2 Twincom is an entirely balanced topology from input to output, meaning that pin 2 and pin 3 have their own, discrete, mirror-matched amplifiers. Even when the TCL-2 is used with unbalanced signals, the internal circuitry remains balanced. These mirror-matched amplifiers are comprised of both vacuum tubes and discrete J-FETs, each topology selectable via a front panel Twin Topology switch.

Dynamics control is achieved via a passive precision-matched resistor network in which a matched LDR array (light dependent resistor) is used as a shunt element between the positive and negative legs of the network. Thus, the audio present at the output of the unit has not passed through an LDR or VCA. Avoiding LDRs and VCAs in the audio path results in improved (more accurate, minimally colored) sonic performance.

Because of TCL-2's unique design qualities, it is best suited for applications offering a balanced high-level (+4) source and a balanced bridging load (3,000 ohms, or greater). Operating the unit in a -10 dBu nominal environment may not provide adequate drive for optimal use. When wired to an unbalanced destination, the output XLR connector pin 3 should remain floating (unconnected). See the suggested unbalanced interface cable wiring configurations shown later in this manual.

All TCL-2 design decisions have been made towards the goal of absolute sonic neutrality and timbre purity:

- 1.) No audio transformers. The vast majority of professional vacuum tube audio equipment uses audio transformers. Yet, as someone once said, "there is no transformer that sounds like no transformer." For this reason, Millennia avoids audio path transformers and relies on other, "less colorful," coupling techniques.
- 2.) Lower, tighter gain and threshold structure. Because less inherent amplifier gain generally translates into heightened sonic reality, the TCL-2 is designed with a modest 20 dB of overall gain; 10dB available as make-up gain. The threshold range (-20 to +30 dB) is similarly structured for optimal sonic performance. Due to this optimized gain structure, compression or limiting of very-low-level signals (less than -20 dBu at the input) is not possible, whereas compression or limiting of very-high-level signals (+30 dBu at the input) is possible.
- 3.) No bypass relays or audio path switching. Input signals are always in-circuit, thus avoiding the need for switched / relay signal bypass (read: audio path switch points degrade over time). When the TCL-2 is "bypassed," only the actual dynamics side-chain control is removed from circuit. The audio signal remains in-circuit (via tube or solid state amplifier).
- 4.) Single amplifier design. In keeping with Millennia's minimalist philosophy, the TCL-2 is designed around a single audio path amplifier. This amplifier acts as input buffer, dynamics follower, and output driver. The amplifier is mirror imaged so that single but mirror-matched amplifiers follow both pin 2 and pin 3, respectively.



DATE: _____

PROJECT: _____

STUDIO: _____

ARTIST: _____

SONG: _____

LOG: _____

NOTES: _____



Millennia Music & Media Systems - TCL-2 Template

Millennia Music & Media Systems □
 &DSLWROHH
 LDPRG6SULIV&D
 T 530-647-0750
 WHFK@mil-media.com
 www.mil-media.com



World Wide Warranty

We will repair our products, free of charge, in the event of defect of materials or workmanship for two (2) years following date of purchase.

This limited warranty covers failures due only to defects in materials and workmanship which occur during normal, intended use and does not cover damage which occurs in shipment or failures which are caused by products not supplied by Millennium Media.

This limited warranty does not cover failures which arise from accident, misuse, abuse, neglect, mishandling, misapplication, faulty installation, improper adjustment, alteration or modification of product, incompatibilities, line-power surges, acts of God, or service performed by anyone other than Millennium Media or its authorized agent.

Limits and Exclusions – There are no express warranties except as listed above. Millennium shall not be liable for special, subsequent, incidental, consequential, or punitive damages, including, but not limited to: damage to recordings, broadcasts, microphones, mixing consoles, or any associated equipment, downtime costs, loss of goodwill, or claims of any party dealing with purchaser for such damages resulting from the use of this product. All warranties express and implied, including the warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose are limited to the applicable warranty period set forth above.

Vacuum tube and bulb failures are not covered under warranty. Shipping costs to/from factory are not covered under this warranty. International warranty law may vary from country to country, and Millennium will abide by the law of each country from which the product was initially sold.

For North American repairs and service, contact Millennium (tech@mil-media.com) to obtain a Return Authorization number. Please include your shipping address, daytime phone number and description of the problem. Outside of North America, please contact your local Millennium Distributor.

Discarding Units

In the event that any Millennium equipment manufactured after July 1, 2006 needs to be discarded, you must return it to Millennium, at our headquarters in California, USA. Please contact the distributor in your country or Millennium directly for instructions. We will make arrangements to have the equipment shipped to us at no cost to you, and we will dispose of it in a manner that complies with whatever regulations are in existence at that time.

6411 Capitol Avenue
Diamond Springs, CA 95619
T 530-647-0750
sales@mil-media.com
www.mil-media.com

The TCL-2 is hand-crafted in the USA
Manual printed in the USA