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Introducing the Warpspeed V8 R2X and V4 X2R ©

Five years and counting. Warpspeed designs have been leading the way to firsts since. The very first Balanced input-output stereo preamp (V8 series) using optocouplers was introduced in 2010 alongside its Unbalanced stereo, single or multi-input siblings (V4 series). The first also that are battery powered.

Two years later in 2012, the first 6-channel Unbalanced V24 was introduced...each channel's level can be independently and finely adjusted against the other five channels; the main volume control can then be adjusted without affecting the relative balance of each channel; it also has a stereo only audio function that turns off the other four channels when not in use for movies. I have one unit in the field located in the Midwest. It was relatively hard to build but with extreme patience very doable. I have since retired it from the model line-up, but for an offer I can't refuse maybe I can resurrect it.

The chassis design also went through a front and rear panel make-over. After starting out with old-school woody front and rears for three years, the death of my artisan woodworker in 2013 brought the all-aluminum designs. These afforded me flexibility and efficiency in layouts, graphics and colors. It can be fun but it can get expensive fast.

2013 also was the birth of the WarpCore 9, a D-cell 9V battery supply that can power two Warpspeed boxes. It came about after the Warpspeed got reviewed at 6moons and Srajan Ebaen admitted it needs a properly finished look without batteries hanging off its backside. The WarpCore 9 sports an LED lit DC voltmeter to monitor battery voltage; battery access for replacement is easy with access at the rear panel. Again, aluminum panels and CNC machining made it possible. The batteries in the early proto that I have in my system have not been replaced in 2 years plus change and it reads 8.5V.

During this time the WarpSquid control circuit also evolved from getting a L-R channel Balance Control (transWarp); growing more tentacles (V24 and QuaDrive); to current limiters for maximum power efficiency and current stability to drive the LED linearly, thereby taking advantage of the LDR's inherent logarithmic response curve –no shaping is ever required. Add to it an efficient, precision circuitry that thrives on battery power; efficient matching and use of optocouplers with minimal rejection rate; also the first of its kind, and this always brings a smile to my face -can variably attenuate music from eardrum busting levels to pure silence! Attenuation is still Marianas Trench deep at -113 dB or less; no muting circuit is necessary even on high gain/high efficiency systems.

After the stroll down memory lane...I would like to introduce a couple of new designs that I think will fit the needs of some audiophiles. This I believe are again firsts in optocoupler design.

The V8 R2X is a stereo XLR-in to XLR-out like a typical V8 but has an extra stereo RCA-in that can be switched to accommodate an Unbalanced source. In other words it can function as RCA-in to XLR-out. There is no gain component path that it goes through so the requisite 6dB difference compared to an XLR-in is there.

The other is the V4 X2R. It is a stereo RCA-in to RCA-out like a typical V4 but has an extra stereo XLR-in that can be switched to accommodate a Balanced source. XLR-in to RCA-out and again with the 6dB difference.

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These two latest designs can afford an audiophile a chance to listen to what he may think (or a reviewer thinks) is a great Unbalanced source in his otherwise Balanced system without the prejudice of an extra gain/buffer stage. The same with a Balanced source to an otherwise Unbalanced system...most Balanced sources also have Unbalanced outs but what the heck! It is available if you need it.

Like all Warpspeed designs, all signal paths go through the LDRs only and its component leads. It may be the shortest signal path in all of audiodom. No switches, no relays, no extra LDRs, or even lengths of jumper wires –just solid solder connections between LDRs and in/out jacks. There is no electrical common connection between DC power/control circuitry with signal circuitry...totally independent. No extraneous circuitry with high frequency signals associated with microprocessors and IR signals. Plain old-school flipping of switches and twirling of the knobs are all we need. I guess I'm stuck to Leonardo da Vinci's "Simplicity is the ultimate sophistication" mantra.

Lastly, I'll make this short and sweet...LEDs are diode junction devices like all semiconductors and such are more voltage dependent than current. Give it just the right forward bias voltage and it will start to conduct current.

The Warpspeed did it the right way and still does.

Warpspeed model lineup:

- V4 1-in, 2-out (parallel) RCA; stereo volume control with balance control
- V4x2 2-in, 2-out (parallel) RCA; stereo volume control with balance control
- V4x3 3-in, 2-out (parallel) RCA; stereo volume control with balance control
- V4 X2R 1-in RCA, 1-in XLR, 2-out (parallel) RCA; stereo volume control with balance control **(New)**

- V8 1-in, 1-out XLR; stereo volume control with balance control
- V8.1 1-in, 2-out (parallel) XLR; stereo volume control with balance control
- V8.2 2-in, 1-out XLR; stereo volume control with balance control
- V8 R2X 1-in RCA, 1-in XLR, 1-out XLR; stereo volume control with balance control **(New)**

- V12 1-in, 2-out (parallel) RCA; 1-in, 1-out XLR; stereo volume control with balance control
- V16 2-in, 1-out RCA; 1-in, 1-out XLR; stereo volume control with balance control
- V24 6-in, 6-out RCA; 6-channel level control with main volume control **(No longer made)**

- WarpCore 9 2-out; 9 volts D-cell battery supply