****

**Precision Ribbon Sound in Modular Form: AEA Launches RPQ503 Preamp and Snaqbox Chassis**

 *High-gain performance and flexible EQ for studio, stage, and mobile rigs*

**Pasadena, California, August 14, 2025 —** [**AEA**](https://aearibbonmics.com/) **today announces the launch of the** [**RPQ503**](https://aearibbonmics.com/aea-products/rpq503/)**, a 500 Series preamp and EQ module built on the third-generation circuitry of its celebrated RPQ3. Drawing on over 45 years of ribbon mic expertise and nearly three decades of in-house manufacturing, the RPQ503 delivers the rich, natural sound and clean, high-gain performance that engineers and artists have come to expect from AEA. Launching alongside the RPQ503 is the AEA** [**Snaqbox**](https://aearibbonmics.com/aea-products/snaqbox/)**, a portable and transparent two-channel 500 Series chassis. Both units will begin shipping on August 15 through AEA’s dealer network.**

**Next-Gen Clarity and Control**

RPQ503 builds on the legacy of the RPQ500, introducing an expanded EQ section and refined circuitry designed for clean, responsive performance. AEA’s CurveShaper™ EQ offers sweepable high and low EQ controls with up to ±20 dB of boost or cut, allowing engineers to shape tone directly at the front end of the signal path. Even with extreme settings, the EQ maintains a natural, flattering character — ideal for enhancing vocals, instruments, or ambient recordings. With 85 dB of clean gain and an ultra-high 68 kΩ input impedance, the RPQ503 is optimized for passive ribbon microphones while remaining fully compatible with dynamic and phantom-powered condenser mics.

“Our focus has always been on developing ultra-low noise, low-distortion preamps for those who demand high, clean gain,” said Julie Tan, CEO of AEA. “With the RPQ503, we’ve brought our best third-generation preamp design to the 500 Series format — making it a flexible and portable front-end for everything from intimate vocals to loud instruments.”

**RPQ503 Specs**

* 1-space 500 Series preamp module
* AEA third-generation preamp circuitry
* Ultra-high 68 kΩ input impedance (phantom power off)
* 7 to 85 dB of gain
* Sweepable low- and high-frequency EQ
* ±20 dB EQ boost/cut
* EQ in/out switching with center-detented gain pots
* +48V phantom power
* Polarity (phase invert) switch
* Mic/line input switching (line input bypasses mic pre)
* Dimensions (W×D×H): 1.5” × 6.8” × 5.2” (3.8 × 17.3 × 13.3 cm)
* Weight: 12 oz (0.34 kg)
* Price: $749

**Transparent Signal Flow**Built with separate linear regulators for each slot, the Snaqbox ensures complete power isolation between modules — preserving signal integrity across any configuration. Its rugged steel frame and clear or fluorescent acrylic side panels provide a visual window into the 500 Series signal chain, while the LINK/CASCADE switch enables internal routing between channels without the need for external cabling. Compact and durable, the Snaqbox is well-suited for use in studios, mobile setups, and live performance environments.

Compatible with all standard 500 Series modules, the Snaqbox supports a wide range of workflows — from housing AEA’s ribbon-optimized preamps to integrating third-party gear. Its compact form offers engineers and artists a practical yet expressive tool for customizing their signal path.

**Snaqbox Specs**

* 2-slot 500 Series chassis
* Durable steel housing with clear or fluorescent orange acrylic side panels
* XLR input and output
* LINK/CASCADE switch for internal signal routing
* External switching power supply
* Compatible with all standard 500 Series modules
* Power per slot: +16V @ 150mA, –16V @ 150mA, +48V phantom @ 13mA
* Dimensions (L×W×H): 7.4” × 3.3” × 5.9”
* Unit weight: 2.2 lb (998 g)
* Shipping weight: 4.6 lb (2.1 kg)
* Price: $299

**To learn more about the RPQ503 and the Snaqbox, or to find a dealer, visit** [**https://aearibbonmics.com**](https://aearibbonmics.com)**.**

**About AEA Ribbon Mics**

Founded in 1964, AEA began as a record label and mobile recording studio before expanding into microphone repairs and full-scale manufacturing. In 1998, AEA introduced the R44C — a faithful recreation of the iconic RCA 44BX — and has since developed a full range of microphones and preamps inspired by classic designs and built to modern standards. With a commitment to ultra-low noise circuitry, musical sound, and expert craftsmanship, AEA continues to push ribbon technology forward while honoring its legacy. All AEA products are proudly handcrafted in Pasadena, California**.**