

ELECRAFT PR6-10 Receive Preamplifier for 6 and 10 M

Owner's Manual

Revision A, June 13, 2013

Copyright © 2013, Elecraft, Inc. All Rights Reserved

Introduction

The PR6-10 is a high-performance, low-noise preamp that can be used with the Elecraft K3 or other transceivers. It's especially well-suited for the K3, which has exceptional dynamic range, yet can benefit from additional gain for weak signal work. The noise figure of the preamp itself is typically 0.7 dB. Power for the PR6-10 can be obtained from any 11 to 14 VDC supply. When used with a K3, the PR6-10 can be powered from the 12 VDC accessory output.

When used with the Elecraft K3, the K3 must be equipped with the KXV3 option. The PR6-10 can be connected directly to the KXV3 RX ANT IN/OUT jacks on the K3's rear panel where it can be switched in automatically by the transceiver on the desired bands. A second pair of jacks is provided on the opposite side of the PR6-10 to allow use of the K3's normal RX ANT IN/OUT signal path when the preamp is not in use.

The PR6-10 can be strapped permanently ON, or it can be turned on and off externally from an open-source/open-drain logic signal. When used with an Elecraft K3, the DIGOUT1 control line on the 15-pin ACC jack can be used to enable the preamp on the desired bands. Refer to *Control (CTRL) Input* on the next page and the K3 Owner's manual CONFIG menu description for DIGOUT1 details.

The PR6-10 is housed in a rugged, custom-machined enclosure.

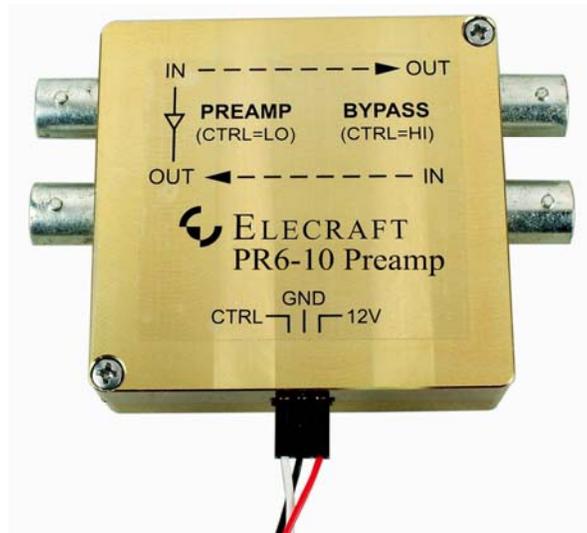


Figure 1. Elecraft PR6-10 Low-Noise Receive Preamplifier.

Elecraft • www.elecraft.com • 831-763-4211

Specifications

Frequency Coverage:	22 - 54 MHz
Noise Figure:	< 0.7 dB typical
Gain:	20 dB nominal
IMDDR:	> 100 dB typical (when used with an Elecraft K3 transceiver)
Power Requirements:	11 to 14 VDC: 13.8 VDC @ 70 mA nominal
Size:	Case: 2-1/4" x 2-5/16" x 3/4" (5.72 x 5.87 x 1.91 cm)
Weight	3 oz (90 grams)

Installation and Operation

Elecraft K3

The BNC connector spacing matches the rear-panel RX ANT connectors so the PR6-10 may be attached to the K3 using the supplied male-male BNC connectors as shown in Figure 2. A prewired cable is supplied that connects to the K3 as follows:

- Power is taken from the K3 12 V jack on the rear panel: red (12 V) to the center pin and black (GND) to the shell. Power to the PR6-10 will be switched on and off along with K3 using the front panel POWER button.
- The Control (CTRL) input is optional (see below) when the DB-15 connector is attached to the ACC connector on the K3. The white CTRL wire is connected to the DIGOUT1 signal at pin 11 of the ACC jack on the K3 rear panel through the DB-15 connector (See Figure 2). If you already have a cable connected to the K3 ACC port for a transverter or band decoder, remove the DB-15 from the cable and add the wire to pin 11 of the existing connector.

Control (CTRL) Input

When the control (CTRL) is used and jumper P2 is removed (see Figure 3), the K3 may be configured so that the preamplifier is switched on only when the desired bands are selected on the K3. Since power is switched off on other bands, the bypass connections are active and the preamplifier does not draw power. Configure the K3 as follows:

- Select the band where you want the preamp active and set CONFIG: DIGOUT1 ON. Make sure it is OFF for all other bands. Note: If a KAT3 ATU is installed, the DIGOUT1 setting will be stored per-antenna (in addition to per-band). Be sure to turn DIGOUT1 ON only for antennas that require the gain provided by the PR6-10. You can tap ANT while you're in the DIGOUT1 menu entry, if applicable.
- On the bands you selected for preamp operation, tap RX ANT to enable the preamplifier.

If the control (CTRL) line is not used and jumper P2 is installed (see Figure 3), the PR6-10 will be switched into the circuit when the RX ANT button is pressed. The bypass antenna connections are not available unless power is removed from the PR6-10.

Other Receivers and Transceivers

The cover label on the PR6-10 identifies the signal, power and control connections.

- The preamplifier is switched into the circuit by applying +12 VDC to the unit if jumper P2 is installed or, if jumper P2 is removed, by applying +12 VDC and grounding the CTRL input. Jumper P2 is shown in Figure 3.
- If used at a transceiver RF output, limit the RF power passing through the PR6-10 to 15 watts in bypass. RF power must not be present when relays switch.
- The coaxial lines may carry up to 13.8 VDC as well as RF to power an external device when it is in bypass mode. Blocking capacitors isolate the preamplifier circuit from the d-c voltage.

NOTE: A CABLE WITH A DB-15 CONNECTOR FOR THE K3 ACC JACK AND A MALE RCA CONNECTOR FOR THE K3 +12 V JACK IS SUPPLIED WITH YOUR PR6-10. IF YOU HAVE A TRANSVERTER OR BAND DECODER ALREADY CONNECTED TO THE K3 ACC JACK, REMOVE THE DB-15 CONNECTOR AND ATTACH THE WIRE TO PIN 11 IN YOUR EXISTING CONNECTOR.

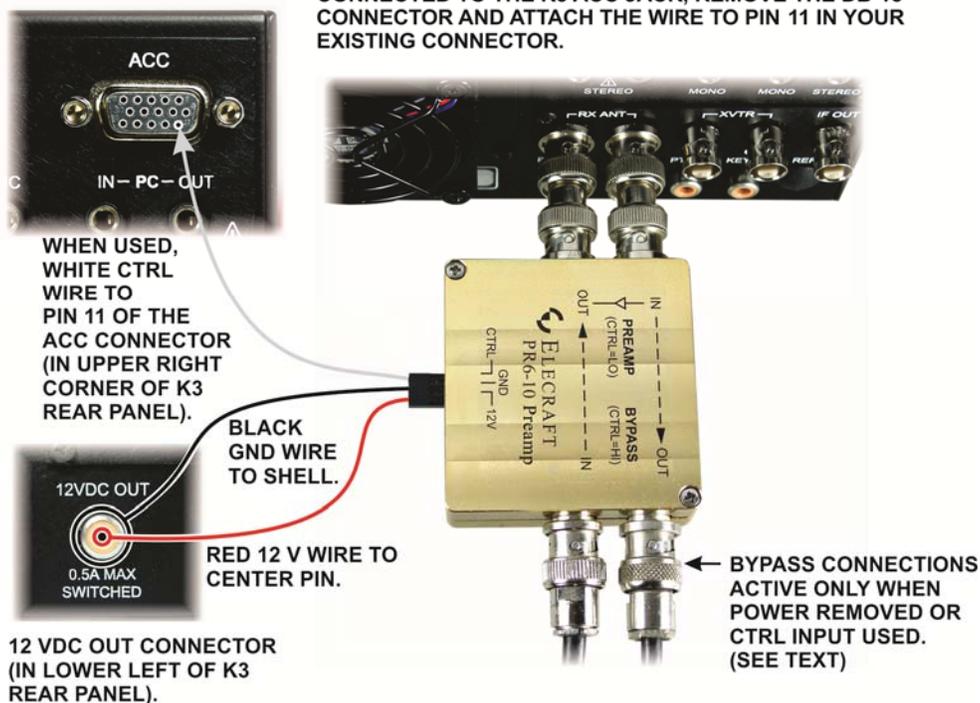


Figure 2. PR6-10 Mounted on Elecraft K3.

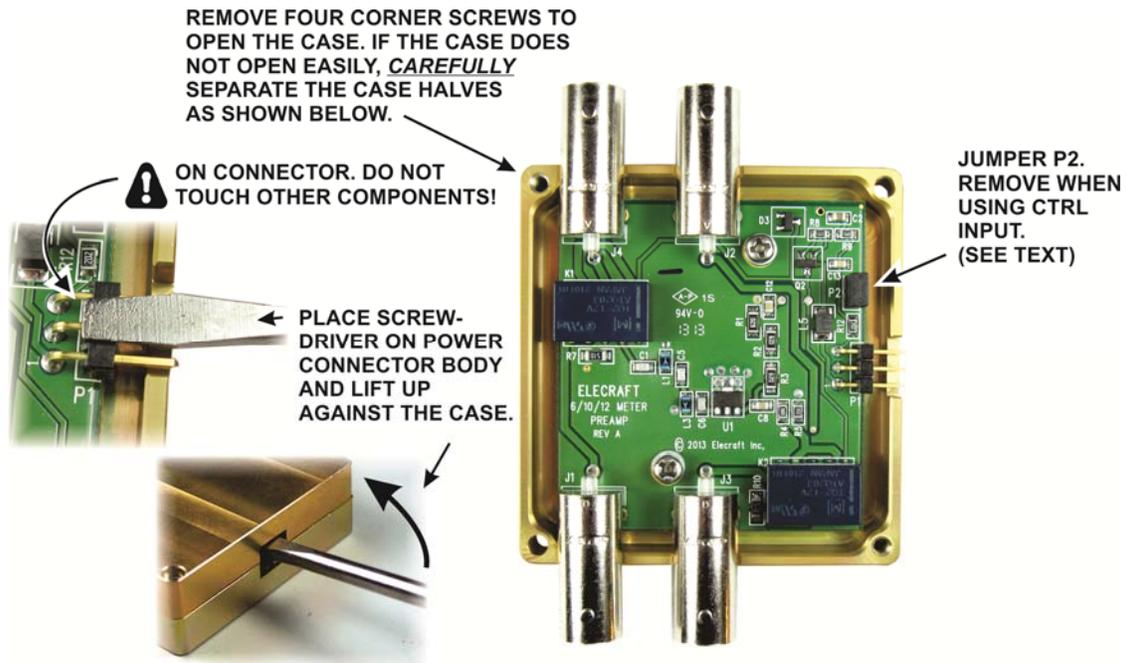


Figure 3. Jumper P2 Location.

Circuit Description

The schematic diagram of the PR6-10 is shown on the next page.

U1 is a Minicircuits PGA-103+ microwave monolithic integrated circuit (MMIC) that provides low noise performance from HF to the lower microwave bands.

The input high pass filter (C1, C5, C6, L1 and L3) protects the PR6-10 from strong signals in the lower HF range.

The output circuit is entirely resistive. The absence of reactive components helps assure stability.

The remaining circuitry is provided to switch the PR6-10 in and out of signal path and to switch power to the PR6-10 on and off as required.

There are no factory or user adjustments.

Customer Service and Support

Technical Assistance

You can send e-mail to k3support@elecraft.com and we will respond quickly – typically the same day Monday through Friday. If you need replacement parts, send an e-mail to parts@elecraft.com. Telephone assistance is available from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. Pacific time (weekdays only) at 831-763-4211. Please use e-mail rather than calling when possible since this gives us a written record of the details of your problem and allows us to handle a larger number of requests each day.

Repair / Alignment Service

If necessary, you may return your Elecraft product to us for repair or alignment. (Note: We offer unlimited email and phone support, so please try that route first as we can usually help you find the problem quickly.)

IMPORTANT: You must contact Elecraft before mailing your product to obtain authorization for the return, what address to ship it to and current information on repair fees and turnaround times. (Frequently we can determine the cause of your problem and save you the trouble of shipping it back to us.) Our repair location is different from our factory location in Aptos. We will give you the address to ship your kit to at the time of repair authorization. *Packages shipped to Aptos without authorization will incur an additional shipping charge for reshipment from Aptos to our repair depot.*

Elecraft 1-Year Limited Warranty

This warranty is effective as of the date of first consumer purchase (or if shipped from the factory, the date the product is shipped to the customer). It covers both our kits and fully assembled products. For kits, before requesting warranty service, you should fully complete the assembly, carefully following all instructions in the manual.

Who is covered: This warranty covers the original owner of the Elecraft product as disclosed to Elecraft at the time of order. Elecraft products transferred by the purchaser to a third party, either by sale, gift, or other method, who is not disclosed to Elecraft at the time of original order, are not covered by this warranty. If the Elecraft product is being bought indirectly for a third party, the third party's name and address must be provided at time of order to ensure warranty coverage.

What is covered: During the first year after date of purchase, Elecraft will replace defective or missing parts free of charge (post-paid). We will also correct any malfunction to kits or assembled units caused by defective parts and materials. Purchaser pays inbound shipping to us for warranty repair; we pay shipping to return the repaired equipment to you by UPS ground service or equivalent to the continental USA and Canada. For Alaska, Hawaii, and other destinations outside the U.S. and Canada, actual return shipping cost is paid by the owner.

What is not covered: This warranty does not cover correction of kit assembly errors. It also does not cover misalignment; repair of damage caused by misuse, negligence, or builder modifications; or any performance malfunctions involving non-Elecraft accessory equipment. The use of acid-core solder, water-soluble flux solder, or any corrosive or conductive flux or solvent will void this warranty in its entirety. Also not covered is reimbursement for loss of use, inconvenience, customer assembly or alignment time, or cost of unauthorized service.

Limitation of incidental or consequential damages: This warranty does not extend to non-Elecraft equipment or components used in conjunction with our products. Any such repair or replacement is the responsibility of the customer. Elecraft will not be liable for any special, indirect, incidental or consequential damages, including but not limited to any loss of business or profits.