

RSE audio (feat. Charles de SANCERRE)
8 channels Line Attenuation + mic input access
Thought and designed for my mic preamp 500 modules
MAKING OF !

It all started when [Kane D Williams](#), a member of the Facebook group « [500 Love](#) » wrote a post about [RSE Audio](#) (Ukrainian maker).

Here : <https://www.facebook.com/groups/500love/permalink/4098436413586883/>

The post stated that RSE was promoting a new DI available at a really good... let say ridiculous price (\$1).

I already had a few interesting DI's :

- [Countryman type 85](#) and [type 85s](#) (very satisfied) (-15/-30 db) (recommended by Avedis himself)
- [Radial Pro48](#) (not recommended... not satisfied) (-15db)

I was using these DI's in order to attenuate the signal coming from my [Digi192](#) going into my [Avedis MA5](#) preamps. (I mostly use my 500 modules as inserts)

Thing is, I own 4 units of MA5 and am planning on buying at least 4 more.

I was a bit annoyed with :

the necessity to buy a "large" amount of quality DI's (space + \$\$\$)

the amount of cables and adapters I had to add (loss of signal + \$\$\$)

I then found and tried [Triton Audio "AirHead"](#).

Really nice product... reasonable price and no cable !

But... I was not satisfied with the amount of attenuation (-15db)... and what if I want to switch and use the Mic-pre... with a mic.

Thanks to this group... and Kane D Williams, i saw this post about RSE's DI's and thought that I could ask RSE if they would be willing to build a module "in and out" with higher attenuation... at a reasonable price considering the amount of money I already invested in these DI boxes.

On the 26th of april 2021, I contacted Roman SHEVCHENKO, owner of RSE.

About the same period, still looking for solutions, I found out about the [AVEDIS LPZ-2 module that offered 2 channels of attenuation dedicated to his MA5 for \\$99](#) (+taxes+shipping+custom ?).

I was like HOLD UP ! WAIT A MINUTE !!!

I have to admit that I was and still is highly convinced by AVEDIS products (MA5 x4, e27 x3, and on my way to get more) and over-convinced by the service provided by the man and his team. But...

- I needed 8 channels.
- I needed to be able to still and easily have access to the mic input without the attenuation
- I wanted less cables in the back
- RSE is located in the EU which meant less fees (postal and custom)

The contact with Roman (RSE owner) went well. I decided to give RSE a try.

We started with a single channel attenuation.

Roman sent me pictures of the single channel box on the 3rd of may 2021.



03 MAI À 14:52

As you can see, it is a basic box with xlr male/female, a switch for level of attenuation and a switch for ground lift. I opened it and found the multi-wired transformer. The design was... very basic. But hey... it was just a “test box”.









After exchanging about my needs,

- 8 channels
- 1 unit rack
- being able to switch from Line Input (2 levels of attenuation) to Mic input (no attenuation) on the front panel
- DB25 in the back panel

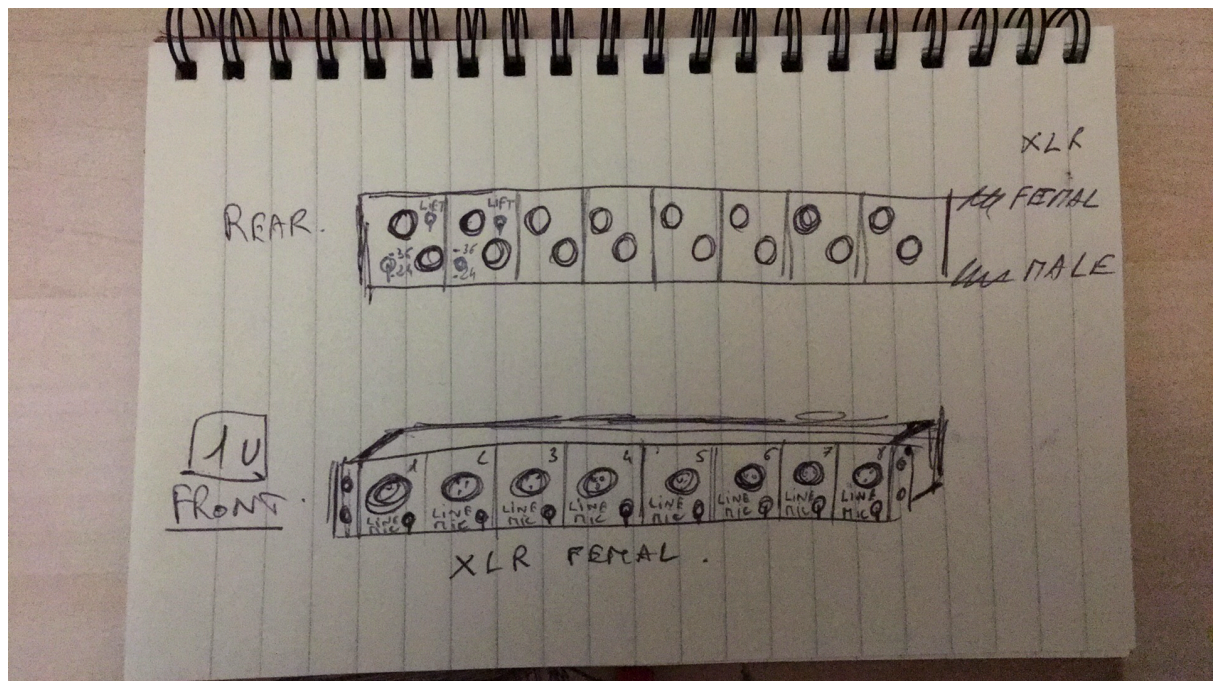
Roman made a proposal : \$500

We agreed on the price.

I told him to take his time since there was no hurry.

I then started to send pictures of my ideas.

A first draft without the DB25, thinking it would make too much “micro soldering” work and less possibility to repair or modify.

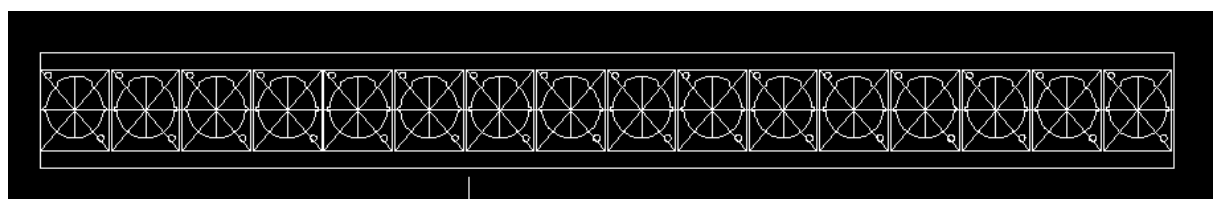


Roman reassured me and advised “point to point” wire communication would be feasible as well.

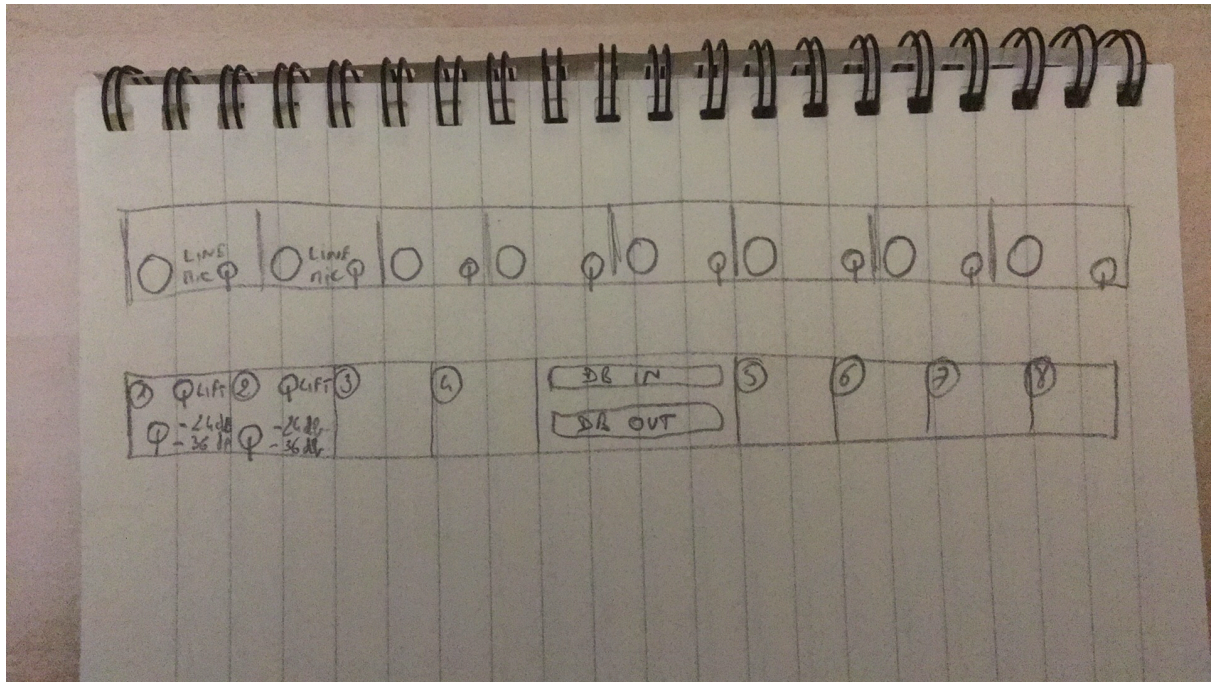
Concerning the XLR connectors, he told me he preferred ROXTONE compared to NEUTRIK.

I hesitated but followed his choice. I choose metal over plastic.

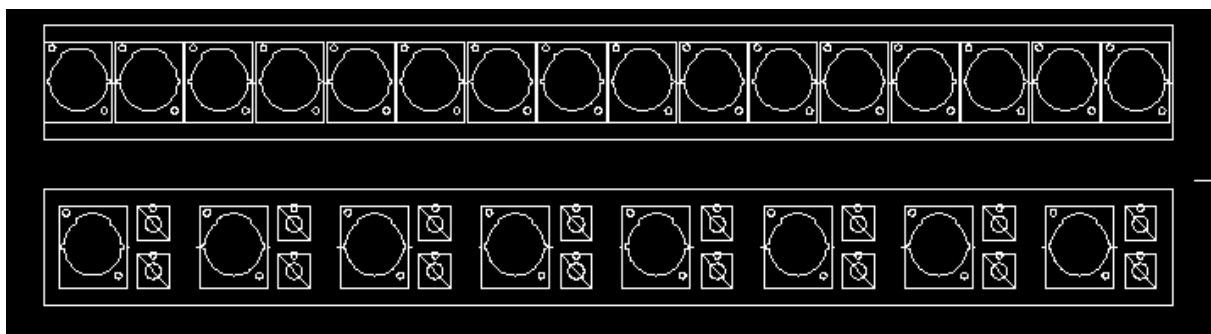
On the 12th of May 2021, Roman sent me a first image in order to visualize the position of the XLR's



I sent a new drawing including DB25



Almost at the same time, Roman sent me a simulation of both side



After playing with Photoshop, late at night on the 13th of may 2021, I sent this (front panel) :



Come on... RSE is from Ukraine !

Then I sent that one (back panel)



**There is a major mistake on the back panel.
I still can't believe I did that.
Roman tried to alert me... I just did not get it. My mistake.**



Roman Shevchenko



What about db25 to XLR?

Yes, a few

But I'll have to buy db25 to
db25 to go from the DIGI192 to
your unit



Ok, there are few pinout
standards for db25, could you
check which one do you have?

DIGIDESIGN

And HOSA

These are TASCAM standard
I think



Check it please to
avoid difference



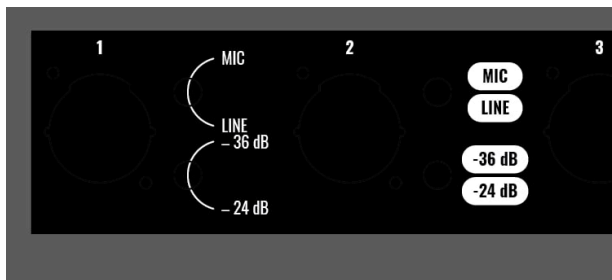
16 MAI À 18:46



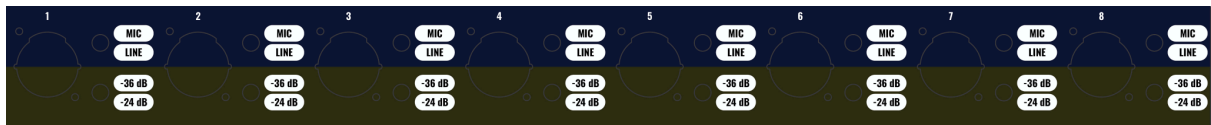
Aa



On the 18th of may, Roman sent an updated simulation of the front panel :

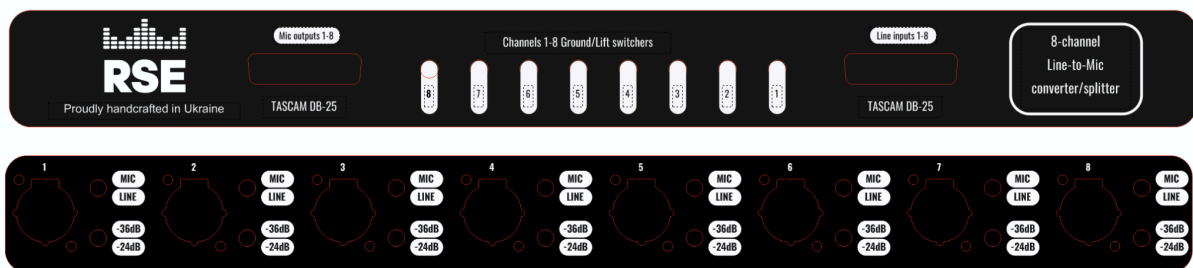


Then another one :



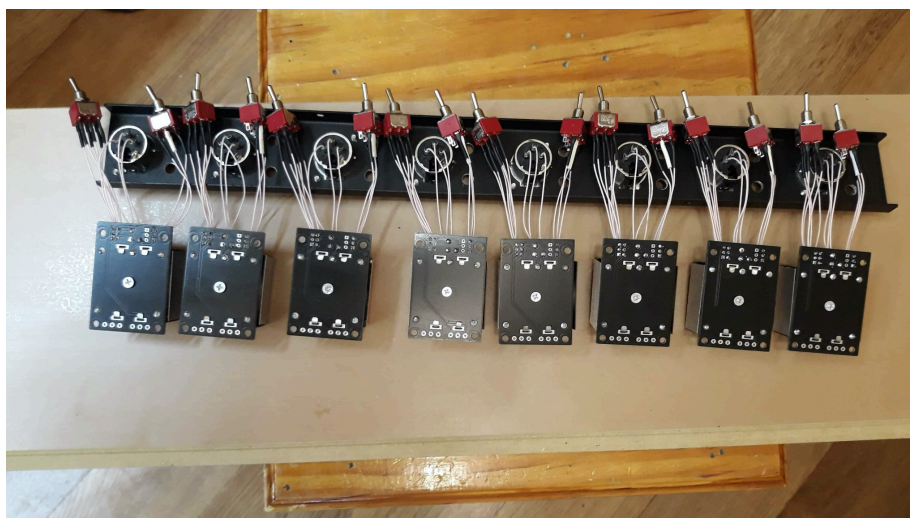
On the 26th of may, he announced that he bought the “multicore for 8 channels”.

On the 1st of June 2021, he sent me his final version of the design :



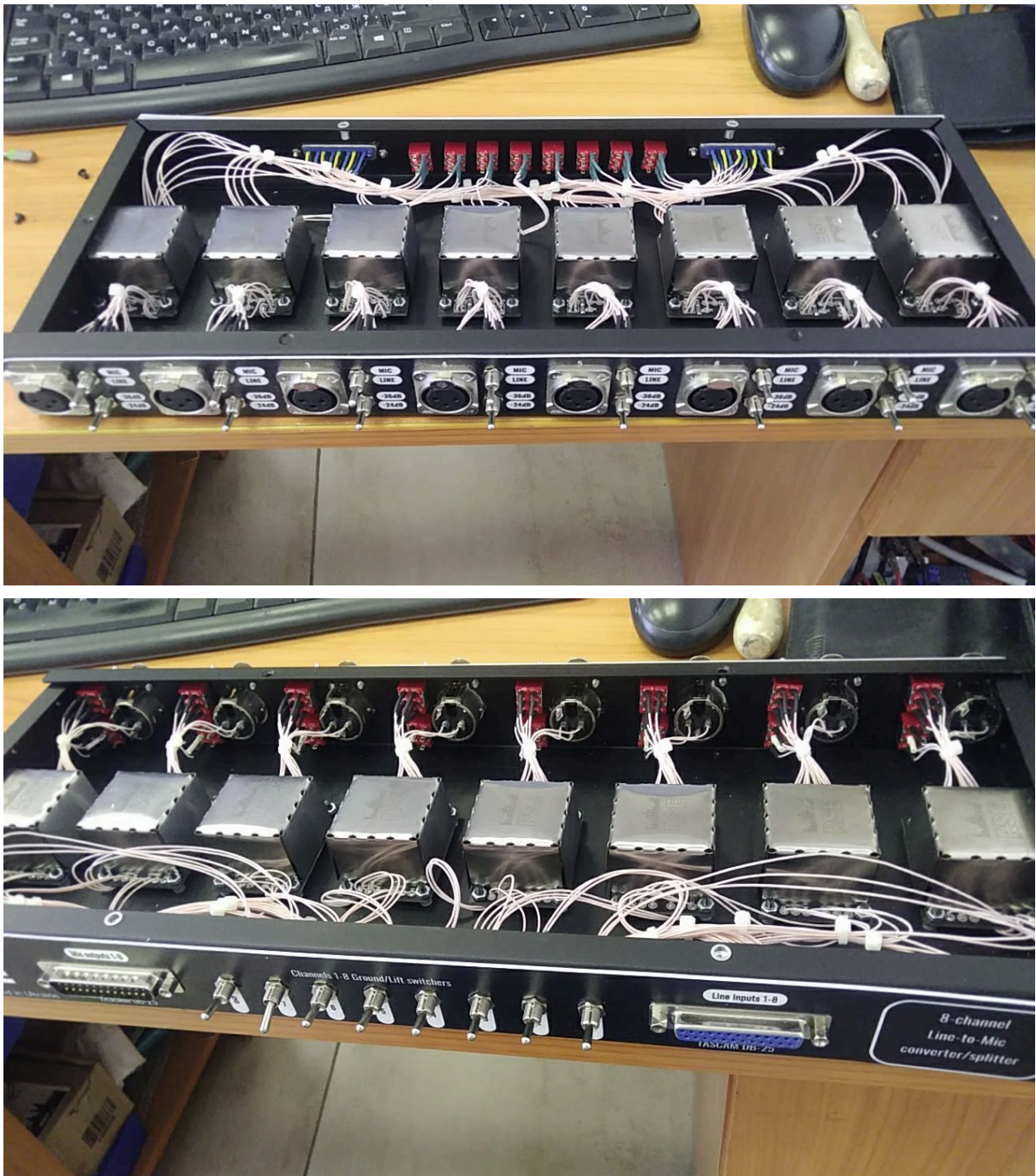
I still prefer my “Ukrainian” version ;)

On the 25th of June 2021, Roman sent me more pictures





On the 30th of June 2021, more pictures :



The mistake is here... right in front of my eyes... and I just don't/can't see it.

Once again, Roman is trying to let me know there is something wrong...

Free 4G 17:57 100 %



Roman Shevchenko



It's waiting for a complex testing. Without the db25 to xlr cord it's impossible, but on other hand building one needs a time.



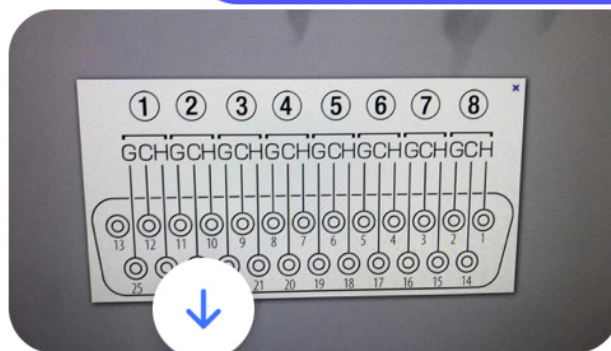
30 JUIN À 22:46

Are you saying there are many sorts of db25 ?

Ok i see there are 3

But the the rascal format is the one used for music

Rascal -> TASCAM

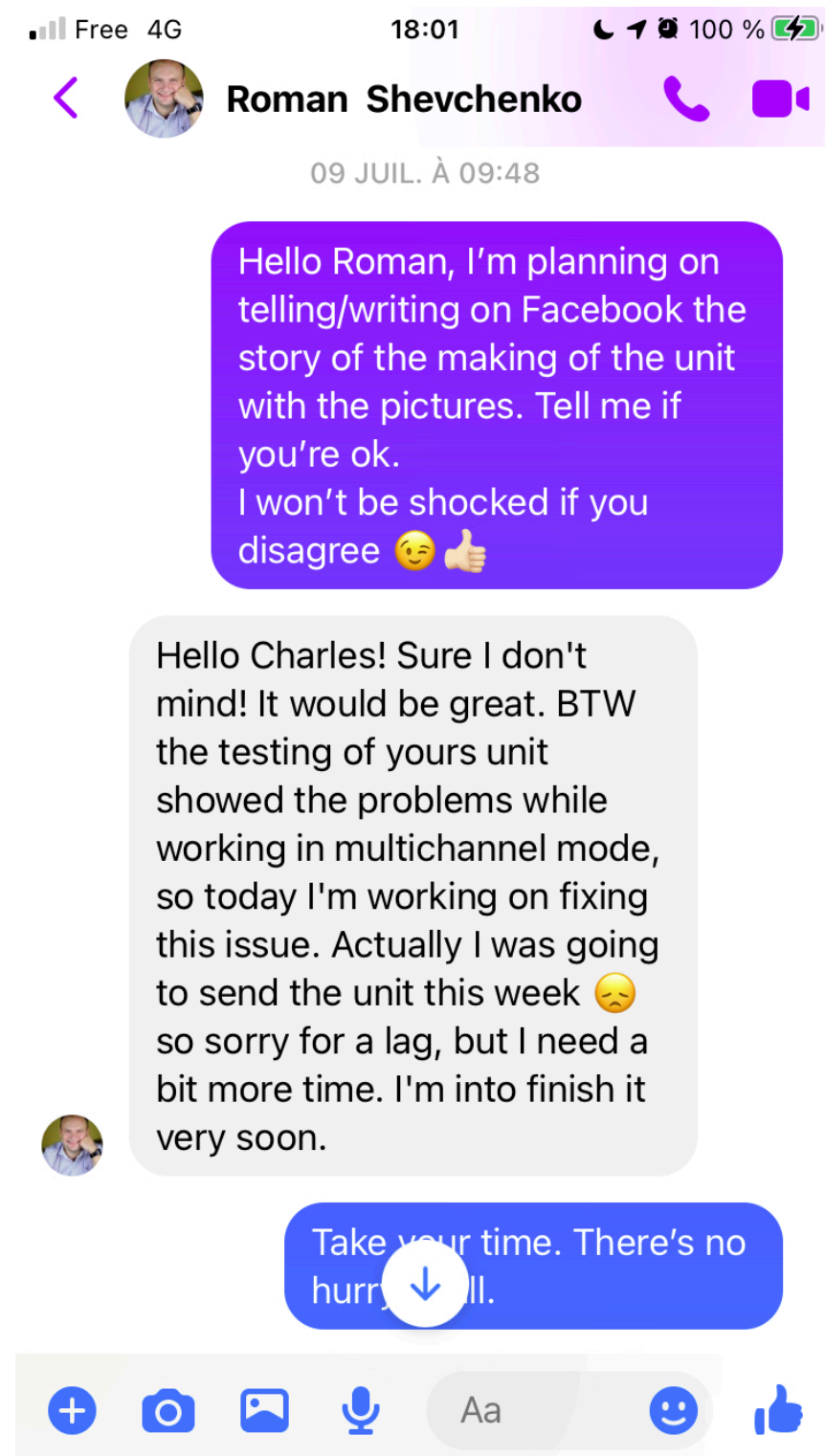


Aa



How much I appreciate transparency !

Where most would have just invented something to justify a delay, or would have just shut the ..., fearing to look bad. Courage & honesty. Pretty rare these days.



And then...



09 JUL. À 16:09

Hi! I have a question for you. I missed with some calculations and now I have the transformers with ratio -20dB and -32dB. But on the front panel is written -24dB and -36dB. Now I can't change the transformers, but can change the front panel or you can just keep in mind, that number on the front panel are incorrect. What shall we do?

also if you really need, I could deassemble the transformers and rewind them to get -36dB, but -20dB I can't change

Well, that is where you wonder.

Where you start telling yourself : "I won't have the unit I asked for, paid for."

But that is, as well, where you have to remember that this unit is just unique.

That someone has taken the time to create something I was not able to make.

The time spent on this unit was huge compared to what I paid.

-20db vs -24db

Well, after the first tests, I am satisfied. Very.

You know what, Roman would not have mentioned it... I would not have known. Fact.



09 JUL. À 17:00

Yes please, I really want -36db

I trust Avedis's choice of reduction. He choose these levels for the MA5.

ok, I'll do it

Great. Thank you

Roman sent me a last picture with the “Serial number” CDS0001



On the 27th of July 2021, Roman informed me of the shipping number

On the 29th of July 2021, I received the unit.

I left for holiday. Frustrated since I couldn't even test it.

On the 27th of August I received the solution to my mistake



Not only with my MA5's, it works like a charm with the [API 512c](#) and the [STAM 312-5+](#) !

Thank you Roman.

Charles de SANCERRE