MP 475 Spring ’02 Mic Pre Comparison
There are ProTools Sessions CDs available for checkout on the studio office

Mic preamps used:
*Solid State Logic Console
*Martech MSS-10
*Summit M-210
*Presonus MP-20
Grace 101
GT Electronics Vipre
* denotes stereo for the piano recordings

Please keep in mind these are less than scientific comparisons and there may be variables due to levels and digital resolution at low levels.
None of the recordings are level matched and were done in the following manner.

First up, all stereo mic pre’s were recorded using Earthworks TC 40 mics with the Diskclavier piano playing the same selection for each pass.
The first set of recordings are with Berklee’s standard Canare brand cable (an excellent cable used in pro studios) into mic pre’s and out to ProTools. In the case of the SSL pre’s, the simplest path was Insert Send to ProTools in.
The next set of stereo recordings was with the mic pre’s plugged into an A/C Power Conditioner (the SSL and Summit were not done in this manner since the power connections are not easily accessible)
The last set of recordings were done with Monster brand mic cables instead of Berklee’s. There should be little discernible difference between the cables, but either of them compared to cheap brands (Whirlwind or Belden) would definitely be audible.

After all the recordings were done, all the files were slipped to start at the same time. Be sure to aurally match levels between the examples as closely as possible for the fairest listening comparison.

The next round of recordings is much less scientific in approach: A recorded guitar track was sent to an amplifier and re-mic’ed with a cardioid Shure KSM 44 8 to 12 inches in front of the speaker. There is a ProTools track of the original guitar for reference, and there is a much more random timing between all the examples. In practice, choosing a guitar mic is usually less than subtle, so choosing a mic pre may fall in the same category (you will probably want to line them up to do a A/B comparison). For this comparison, all of the mic pre’s were represented since some of the ones available were not stereo models. Of those, the GT Vipre is the most unusual as it has adjustable settings
for impedance and rise time. Examples of the extremes of these settings are included.

Enjoy!