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It's got to be Christmas, and I must have been a very good boy. I've recently been playing with the Daking mic pre, and it has convinced me just how different preamps can sound. (For some thoughts on that subject, check out my sidebar on mic/preamp interactions (page 79).)

I used the Daking as a mic preamp for vocals and acoustic guitar, and also as an outboard mastering equalizer, since it includes an excellent 4-band switchable frequency EQ with low- and high-cut filters. My first reaction was, "This thing's got gain." I could actually hear my fingerprints scraping six inches in front of the mic. And there was