PRIMO

ZERO FEEDBACK FULLY BALANCED VALVE PRE-AMPLIFIER INSTRUCTION MANUAL



Thank you for purchasing the Musical Fidelity Primo Valve Preamplifier.

This preamplifier uses our top quality, finely tuned balanced valve preamplifier circuits to deliver the absolute best in audio quality with no listener fatigue, or transistor harshness. In addition there is no global feedback which reduces feedback related artefacts in the music. The unit features five fully balanced signal inputs, which allow direct connection to balanced sources and outputs for the ultimate in dynamic range and low-noise performance. The power supply and associated mains transformer are screened off in a mu-metal enclosure to isolate the sensitive preamplifier circuits from mains noise and interference

This results in an astounding improvement in musicality and tonal neutrality and visually pleasing setup

Ease of use is augmented by the unit producing a trigger output to switch on any amplifier which accepts 5-12V trigger input, as well as trigger input which will automatically allow the preamp itself to be controlled from a trigger source.

The Primo Valve Preamplifier is designed to be partnered with all current and future AMS and TITAN products, connecting directly balanced inputs The Primo Valve Preamplifier is a perfect preamplifier for the 550K or 750K superchargers, and was designed with this in mind. It can be connected to the line level inputs of the Superchargers (or, recommended, the XLR input on the 750K) as a normal preamplifier. This combination yields one of the best amplification systems available at any price.

Used properly and carefully, it should give many years of outstanding musical reproduction.

Dust regularly with a soft duster or soft brush, but be careful when using cleaning or polishing agents - they may harm the surface finish.

If you have any questions about your audio system, Please consult your dealer who is there to help and advise.

MUSICAL FIDELITY

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IMPORTANT! (U.K. only)

This unit is supplied in the U.K. with mains lead fitted with a moulded 13 amp plug. If, for any reason, it is necessary to remove the plug, please remove the fuse holder and dispose of the plug safely, out of reach of children.

It must not be plugged into a mains outlet.

The wires in the mains lead supplied with this appliance are coloured in accordance with the following code:

Green and yellow	Earth
Blue	Neutral
Brown	Live

WARNING - This appliance MUST be earthed

As the colours of the wires of the mains lead of this appliance may not correspond with the coloured markings identifying the terminals in the plug, proceed as follows:

The wire which is coloured green-and-yellow must be connected to the terminal in the plug which is marked with the letter E or coloured green or green-and-yellow, or by the earth symbol :

The wire which is coloured brown must be connected to the terminal which is marked with the letter L or coloured red.

The wire which is coloured blue must be connected to the terminal which is marked with the letter N or coloured black.

If connecting to a BS1363 plug, a 13 amp fuse must be used.

WARNING:

ANY MODIFICATIONS TO THIS PRODUCT NOT EXPRESSLY APPROVED BY MUSICAL FIDELITY WHO IS THE PARTY RESPONSIBLE FOR STANDARDS COMPLIANCE COULD VOID THE USER'S AUTHORITY TO OPERATE THIS EQUIPMENT.

INSTALLATION PRECAUTIONS & USER INFORMATION

This new Primo Valve Preamplifier is designed and built to provide trouble-free performance, but as with all electronic devices it is necessary to observe a few precautions:

Heed all warnings shown on the back of the product.

Only connect the Primo Valve Preamplifier to a mains outlet having the same voltage as marked at the back of the unit.

Always ensure that when disconnecting and reconnecting your audio equipment the mains supply is switched off.

Position the mains lead and signal interconnects where they are not likely to be walked on or trapped by items placed on them.

Do not use near water, or place water-filled containers on the Primo, for example, a flower vase or potted plants. If water does spill inside, immediately pull out the mains plug from the wall socket and inform the dealer, who should then check the unit before further use. Entry of liquid into the Primo Valve Preamplifier is dangerous, and may cause electric shock or fire hazard.

Do not place the unit near direct heat sources such as radiators, direct sunlight or other equipment.

Dust regularly with a soft cloth or soft brush but be careful when using cleaning or polishing agents - they may harm the surface finish.

The electronics in modern hi-fi equipment is complex and may, therefore, be adversely affected or damaged by lightning. For protection of the audio system during electrical storms, remove the mains plugs and disconnect any aerial lead.

If after-sales service is required, to help the dealer identify the Primo Valve Preamplifier please quote the serial number located on the rear panel of the unit.



DANGER! HIGH VOLTAGE

Do not remove any covers or try to gain access to the inside. The voltages contained within can cause death or serious injury. There are <u>no</u> internal user adjustments or fuses to replace. All service work MUST be referred to an authorised Musical Fidelity agent.

Note: Unauthorised opening of the equipment will invalidate any warranty claim.



<u>DISPOSAL</u>

The crossed out wheeled bin label that appears on the back panel of the product indicates that the product must not be disposed of as normal household waste. To prevent possible harm to the environment please separate the product from other waste to ensure that it can be recycled in an environmentally safe manner. Please contact local government office or retailer for available collection facilities.

DISPOSITION

La poubelle sur roulettes barrées X, qui apparaît en logo sur le panneau arrière du produit, indique que celui-ci ne doit pas être traité comme un déchet domestique commun. Afin de protéger l'environnement, ce produit électronique devra être géré séparément et donc recyclé selon les nouvelles normes Européennes Rohs concernant les déchets d'appareils électroniques. Prière de contacter les services concernés gouvernementaux ou votre point de vente pour l'élimination et l'enlèvement de déchets électroniques équipés de composants électroniques.

DISPOSAL

La etiqueta cruzada hacia fuera del compartimiento que aparece en el panel trasero del producto indica que el producto no se debe reciclarse como basura normal de la casa. Para prevenir daños posible al ambiente separe por favor el producto de otras basura para asegurarse de que puede ser reciclada de una manera ambientalmente segura. Entre en contacto por favor a su oficina gubernamental local o a su minorista para las instalaciones disponibles de la colección.

RIFIUTI
L'etichetta del cassonetto barrato riportato sul retro
dell'apparecchio indica che il prodotto non deve essere smaltito
tramite la procedura normale di smaltimento dei rifiuti domestici.
Per evitare eventuali danni all'ambiente, separare questo prodotto
da altri rifiuti domestici in modo che possa venire riciclato in base
alle procedure di rispetto ambientale. Per maggiori dettagli
sulle aree di raccolta disponibili, contattate l'ufficio govenativo
locale od il rivenditore del prodotto.

FACHGERECHTE ENTSORGUNG:

Das auf der Geräterückseite angebrachte Label deutet darauf hin, dass das Produkt nicht mit konventionellem Hauskehricht entsorgt werden darf. Um Schäden und Verschmutzungen an Umwelt und Mensch zu vermeiden, muss das Produkt fachgerecht entsorgt und von anderem Abfall getrennt werden. Wenden Sie sich bei Fragen hierzu an Ihren Fachhändler oder an eine öffentliche Informationsstelle.

<u>AFVAL</u>

Het label op de achterzijde van dit apparaat, een afvalbak op wielen met een kruis doorgehaald, geeft aan dat dit apparaat niet samen met gewoon huishoudafval mag worden weggegooid. Om mogelijke schade aan onze leefomgeving te voorkomen dient dit apparaat, gescheiden van gewoon huishoudelijk afval, te worden afgevoerd zodat het op een milieuvriendelijke manier kan worden gerecycled. Neem voor beschikbare inzamelplaatsen contact op met uw gemeentelijke reinigingsdienst of met uw elektronica leverancier.

<u>HÄVITTÄMINEN</u>

Yliruksattua jäteastiaa kuvaava tarra tuotteen takalevyssä kertoo, että tuotetta ei saa käsitellä normaalina talousjätteenä. Ympäristön suojelemiseksi on tuote pidettävä erillään muusta jätteestä ja se on kierrätettävä ekologisesti kestävällä tavalla. Ota yhteyttä laitteen myyjään tai Pirkanmaan Ympäristökeskukseen lähimmän kierrätyskeskuksen löytämiseksi.

AFSKAFNING

Logoet med en skraldespand med kryds over på bagsiden af apparatet indikerer at dette produkt ikke må kasseres som normal husholdningsaffald. For at forebygge mulig skade på miljøet, bedes De separere dette produkt fra andet affald, og sikre at det bliver genbrugt på en miljørigtig måde. Kontakt venligst de lokale myndigheder eller din forhandler for oplysning om nærmeste tilgængelige opsamlingssted for elektronikaffald.

ΔΙΑΔΙΚΑΣΙΑ ΑΠΟΡΡΙΨΗΣ

ΤΟ ΣΗΜΑ ΜΕ ΤΟΝ ΔΙΑΓΕΓΡΑΜΜΕΝΟ ΤΡΟΧΗΛΑΤΟ ΚΑΔΟ ΑΠΟΡΡΙΜΑΤΩΝ ΣΤΗΝ ΠΙΣΩ ΟΨΗ ΤΟΥ ΜΗΧΑΝΗΜΑΤΟΣ

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ΠΑΡΑΚΑΛΟΥΜΕ ΝΑ ΕΠΙΚΟΙΝΩΝΗΣΕΤΕ ΜΕ ΤΗΝ ΤΟΠΙΚΗ ΥΠΗΡΕΣΙΑ ΑΝΑΚΥΚΛΩΣΗΣ Η ΜΕ ΤΟ ΚΑΤΑΣΤΗΜΑ ΑΓΟΡΑΣ ΓΙΑ ΠΕΡΙΣΣΟΤΕΡΕΣ ΛΕΠΤΟΜΕΡΕΙΕΣ.

Primo preamplifier

INTRODUCTION

Congratulations on the purchase of the new Primo Valve Preamplifier. The Primo is entirely valve based, with fully balanced *and* single ended signal paths from input via fully balanced input switches and balanced volume control right the way through to the balanced and single ended outputs.

It is recommended that, to obtain the best performance, the balanced features are used, to keep noise and interference to an absolute minimum, inherently allowing 6dB more headroom within the circuitry.

The single-ended side features our finely tuned and tweaked valve preamplifier circuits, for smooth sound coupled with low noise and virtually no distortion.

Great attention has been paid to internal layout, isolating each circuit section to prevent possible interaction.

The resultant performance achieved by this unit is among the best in the world. It has excellent signal to noise ratio, low distortion, wide bandwidth and dynamic range, with extraordinary resolution and fine detail.

CLEANING

Before cleaning the units, switch off power at the mains switch and remove the mains plug from the wall socket. Clean the cabinets and remote control unit using a moist cloth. Using solvents, white spirit or thinners is not advised, as they could damage the surface finish.

INSTALLATION

Position the Primo Valve Preamplifier on a stable, horizontal surface where there is no risk of it being knocked, or subjected to vibration such as from loudspeakers. This is of particular importance for the Primo, as all valves can be prone to some "microphony" and this could result in undesired feedback artefacts in the signal.

The Primo also features a high input impedance circuit which is <u>very</u> sensitive. Keep all mains and power supply leads well away from the input leads and sockets, and keep the input leads as far apart from each other as possible to avoid any crosstalk. <u>Unconnected</u> inputs may experience a certain amount of signal bleed through from adjacent <u>connected</u> inputs. This is normal for high input impedance, and does not indicate a fault.

POWER CONNECTIONS

The Primo Valve Preamplifier is supplied with a standard IEC mains cable which plugs into the IEC socket at the back of the preamplifier.

AUDIO CONNECTIONS

Inputs: Connect all sources to relevant input RCA or XLR sockets (see p.7 For more information).

Use good quality fully connected (signal and ground) coaxial phono cables for all RCA signal connections.

Fully balanced inputs (XLR) are available for connecting to suitable components. For these, we recommend any good quality straight-through connected balanced cables.

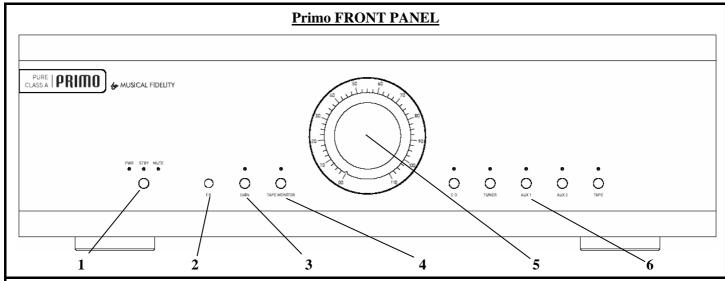
Outputs: Connect power amplifier(s) to the RCA sockets on the back panel marked as **LEFT** and **RIGHT** outputs

Fully balanced outputs are available for connecting to suitable components. For these, we recommend any good quality straight-through balanced cables

The **TAPE** output allows loop through of selected source signals for example, to pass on to recorder or monitor. It is also the ideal output to connect our headphone amps into.

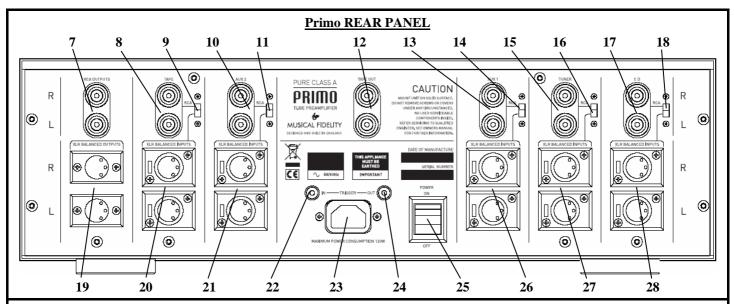
Primo preamplifier

FACILITIES AND CONNECTIONS



- 1. **ON/STANDBY** Button
- 2. IR RECIEVER lens
- 3. GAIN button

- 4. TAPE MONITOR button
- 5. **VOLUME** control
- 6. **INPUT** selector buttons



- 7. MAIN OUTPUT RCA sockets
- 8. TAPE RCA input sockets
- 9. **TAPE** Input type selector switch
- 10. AUX 2 RCA input sockets
- 11. AUX 2 Input type selector switch
- 12. TAPE OUTPUT RCA sockets
- 13. AUX 1 RCA input sockets
- 14. **AUX 1** Input type selector switch

- 15. TUNER RCA input sockets
- 16. **TUNER** Input type selector switch
- 17. CD RCA input sockets
- 18. **CD** Input type selector switch
- 19. MAIN OUTPUT XLR sockets
- 20. TAPE XLR input sockets
- 21. AUX 2 XLR input sockets

- 22. TRIGGER IN 3.5mm (mono) socket
- 23. **POWER INPUT IEC** from mains supply
- 24. **TRIGGER OUT** 3.5mm (mono) socket
- 25. MAINS ON/OFF switch
- 26. AUX 1 XLR input sockets
- 27. TUNER XLR input sockets
- 28. CD XLR input sockets

XLR Balanced input and output lead connections:



(for reference only, no XLR signal leads supplied)

Pin functions:

- 1 Ground (cable shield)
- 2 Normal polarity ("hot" or "+")
- 3 Inverted polarity ("cold" or "-")

Remote control Handset (supplied with the battery already installed).

The Primo remote control shown below enables functions from this unit to be operated from a convenient distance. Equivalent buttons on the remote control have the same functions as those on the front panel of the unit. Other functions are only available by remote control.

As the handset uses an invisible infra-red light beam, the front edge must be pointed directly towards the receiver window at the front of the player, without visual obstruction between them.

For reliable remote control operation, the Primo Preamplifier should also be positioned so that direct sunlight, fluorescent or other bright lights do not fall directly on the IR receiver lens (see P.7). Such light can interfere with remote control operation and/or maximum operating range.

If the range of the remote control greatly decreases, replace the battery, Lithium button type CR2450.

Please dispose of used batteries in accordance to local regulations.

PURE | PRIMO POWER – Switches unit to POWER standby mode. MUTE - Mutes outputs until pressed again MUTE VOLUME ▲ – increases VOLUME volume VOLUME **▼** – decreases VOLUME volume GAIN - Selects overall GAIN gain CD CD – Selects CD input TUNER TUNER – Selects TUNER input ΔΙΙΧ 1 AUX 1 – Selects AUX 1 input AUX 2 AUX 2 - Selects AUX 2 TAPE input TAPE – Select TAPE input MUSICAL FIDELITY

Changing the Battery

If the remote fails to operate the Primo functions correctly, or a substantial reduction in range is observed, the battery may be exhausted.

- 1. Remove the six screws in the base of the remote control.
- 2. Remove the base to gain access to the battery holder in the bottom left of the remote.
- 3. Gently Lift the spent battery from the holder.
- 4. Discard the spent battery according to local regulations.
- 5. Replace with a new CR2450 <u>Lithium</u> battery.

If there are any problems with changing the battery please contact the dealer for assistance.

RC5 codes used by this remote control

	HEX	DECIMAL
SYSTEM CODE FOR PREAMP	10	16
POWER	0C	12
MUTE	0D	13
VOLUME ▲	10	16
VOLUME ▼	11	17
GAIN	22	34
CD	01	1
TUNER	02	2
AUX 1	03	3
AUX 2	04	4
TAPE	05	5
		<u> </u>

<u>Important notice</u>- The remote control supplied is expensively machined from <u>solid aluminium</u>.

Please take great care of this remote control as it would be costly to replace.

STARTING

For all the inputs, there is a switch which selects the type of input being used (see P.7).

Each switch must be set according to the sockets being used. For an input using the RCA input sockets the switch should be in the RCA (up) position.

For an input using XLR, the corresponding switch must be set to XLR (down) position.

Once all connections are made, switch on the unit, using the **POWER** switch on the back of the unit. The standby LED will light on the front panel. Push the **ON/STANDBY** button, and the **POWER** and **MUTE** LEDs will light. Outputs are muted, for about forty-five seconds, so no sound will be heard until the **MUTE** LED goes out. The unit is now warmed up and settled, ready for use.

VOLUME

The volume should be adjusted for normal listening levels. This is done by turning the volume control up or down on the front panel. The volume level is readily identifiable on the dial for reference.

Adjusting the volume can also be achieved using the remote handset, using the volume up/down buttons (see p. 8).

GAIN

The gain is used to correctly set the amplification factor of single ended mode (RCA) inputs. Select input that is to be used in single ended mode. Press **GAIN** button so LED above is alight for input using single ended source.

The unit is designed to remember which inputs are set and which are not, even when unplugged. To "un-set" an input, simply select that input, and push the **GAIN** button again, to extinguish the LED.

Selecting the input **GAIN** can also be achieved using the corresponding button on the remote handset, (see p. 8) The remote **GAIN** button must be held in for about 3 seconds to enable/disable the additional gain. This is a design feature, to prevent accidental activation/deactivation. The front panel button operates normally.

MUTE (remote only)

The sound from the preamplifier may be muted by use of the **MUTE** button on the remote. Press once and **MUTE** LED will light indicating muted state. No sound will be heard from the speakers.

To return to listening; simply press the **MUTE** button again so **MUTE** LED is no longer lit.

<u>CD</u>

To use the **CD** input, connect **CD** player outputs to the **CD** input RCA or XLR sockets (see p.7). Select **CD** input using the **CD** source button so the LED above is lit.

Selecting the **CD** input can also be achieved using the corresponding button on the remote handset, (see p. 8).

TUNER

To use the **TUNER** input, connect **TUNER** outputs to the **TUNER** input RCA or XLR sockets (see p.7). Select **TUNER** input using the **TUNER** source button so the LED above is lit

Selecting the **TUNER** input can also be achieved using the corresponding button on the remote handset, (see p. 8).

$A\overline{UX1}$

To use the **AUX1** input, connect source outputs to the **AUX1** input RCA or XLR sockets (see p.7). Select **AUX1** input using the **AUX1** source button so the LED above is lit.

Selecting the **AUX1** input can also be achieved using the corresponding button on the remote handset, (see p. 8).

AUX2

To use the **AUX2** input, connect source outputs to the **AUX2** input RCA or XLR sockets (see p.7). Select **AUX2** input using the **AUX2** source button so the LED above is lit.

Selecting the **AUX2** input can also be achieved using the corresponding button on the remote handset, (see p. 8).

TAPE

To use the **TAPE** input, connect source outputs to the **TAPE** input RCA or XLR sockets (see p.7). Select **TAPE** input using the **TAPE** source button so the LED above is lit.

Selecting the **TAPE** input can also be achieved using the corresponding button on the remote handset, (see p.8)

RECORDING AND TAPE MONITOR

To record to tape, (or alternatively CD recorder, DAT, minidisk or computer soundcard analogue input) connect the tape out to the recorder line in. Press the input selector button on the front panel or remote control. This source will now be routed to the Primo Valve Preamplifier **TAPE OUT**, without any changes, for recording by tape deck.

The recording can be directly monitored through the loudspeakers by pressing the **TAPE MONITOR** button. Press again to return back to the input being recorded.

On some 3 head tape decks there is an additional tape/source switch which should be in the tape position for this to work. If in doubt, please consult tape deck operating manual.

Note - adjustment of the volume control has no effect on the recording level.

TRIGGER INPUT

The trigger input allows the preamplifier to be switched on by another device supplying between 5-12VDC trigger output. The trigger signal can be either polarity, + or –, but must be between 5 and 12V DC.

TRIGGER OUTPUT

The trigger output allows the remote triggering of other units that accept up to +12V DC trigger input. This includes our AMS and TITAN power amplifiers. On our amplifiers the trigger input automatically takes over the ON <u>and</u> off functions overriding the power amplifier ON/OFF button.

This trigger output also passes on the state of the trigger input. This allows both the preamp and following unit to be simultaneously controlled by an external trigger source.

<u>Note</u>: Triggering *will not* override the MAINS on/off buttons. If any of the apparatus does not trigger on check all MAINS SWITCHE(S) are set to ON

MUSICAL FIDELIT

Basic problem-solving with an amplifier is similar to troubleshooting other electrical or electronic equipment. Always check the most obvious possible causes first, such as the following examples:

Problem	Probable Cause	Remedy
No power when POWER button is	Mains power plug is not fully inserted	Plug in securely.
pressed	into rear socket or mains socket	
Unit(s) not coming on by trigger	Mains to unit(s) switched off	Check all units to be triggered have
signal	, ,	their MAINS SWITCHES set to ON
		The trigger will not work with them
		in the off position
	Trigger signal too weak or not present	Check Trigger signal, and trigger
	88 - 8 m m m m r r	sending unit
	Trigger leads disconnected or faulty	Check Trigger lead(s)
No sound	Mute function is still active	Press the MUTE button on the
110 Sound	iviate function is still active	remote control to cancel.
	Wrong connections between input	Check audio input lead connections
	sources and the unit	and correct source is selected
	sources and the unit	and correct source is selected
	Volume turned down	Check volume level
Sound cut(s) out	Loose connection	Check input and output connections
		When all has been double-checked
		reduce volume and switch unit back
		on.
Hum	Audio connector plug not fully	Insert plug securely
	pushed in	Check cable is connected at both
	The state of the s	ends.
	Incorrect input switch position	Check the corresponding input switch
	meen eet impat s witten pesition	is correctly set for RCA or XLR input
	Cable Fault	N.B. Some esoteric cables have
	Unsuitable Cable	internal wiring intentionally
	(e.g. cable grounds not connected)	disconnected/modified. For best
	(e.g. cable grounds not connected)	results on all inputs, please use good
		quality screened coax; signal <i>and</i>
		screens both separately connected at
		both ends.
No audio output, or too low level	Incorrect or missing connections	Check connections and make sure
output	meeticet of missing connections	they are secure.
Remote control does not work	Amplifier's POWER switch is set to	Set switch to on
Remote control does not work	off	Set switch to on
	Battery fitted the wrong way round	Insert battery correctly
	Battery is flat	Change battery for a new one
	Remote control is not pointed directly	Ensure there is no obstruction
	towards the front panel of the	between the remote control and
	amplifier	amplifier front.
	Interference from another source	Lighting such as fluorescent,
	interference from another source	incandescent, or even sunlight
		contains large amounts of infra red
		radiation. Ensure such sources are not
		shining directly on the infra red
		window as this could swamp the
		signal from the remote control.
		Also check the system and any other
		nearby remotes for stuck buttons
Remote control range has greatly	Battery is running out	Change battery for a new one.
reduced		
TO 0.1 00 .		

If none of these actions affect a cure, please contact the dealer, or an authorised Musical Fidelity service agent. Remember; never open the case of the Primo, as this will invalidate the guarantee.

Specification: Maximum Output Voltage 32Vrms

Output impedance 600 ohms THD + N, 20Hz to 20 kHz 0.0035% typical

Signal / noise ratio >119dB Input sensitivity for full 8V

output

Input impedance 150K ohms CT (centre-tapped)

Overload margin 30dB Channel separation 105dB

Frequency response 5Hz- 50KHz -0.5dB Power requirement: 115/230V (factory preset)

or 100V only

120 W maximum (operating)

<20W (standby)

Connections: Line level inputs 5 pairs line level RCA connectors

(Main unit)

5 pairs XLR (female) balanced line level inputs

Line level outputs 1 pair RCA preamp line outputs (level controlled by volume)

1 pair XLR (male) balanced outputs
1 pair RCA tape line outputs (fixed level

Tape outputs 1 pair RCA tape line outputs (fixed level) Trigger Input 3.5mm mono jack socket ± 5 to ± 12 V

Trigger Output 3.5mm mono jack socket +5 to +12V (tip +, sleeve -)

Power input: 3 pin IEC from mains

Accessories: Mains lead 10 Amp IEC type 1 off

Remote control PRIMO Preamplifier remote control 1 off

Batteries Size CR2450, Lithium button type 1 off (supplied, fitted)

Dimensions: Unit only

483mm 19 Inches Wide

150mm 6 Inches High inc. feet

410mm 16¹/₄ Inches Deep inc. volume control and rear panel sockets

Weight: 16.8kg, 37lbs

Dimensions: Unit in shipping carton

695mm 27½ inches 610mm 24 inches 385mm 15½ inches

Weight: 22kg, 44½lbs

CE

Musical Fidelity reserves the right to make improvements which may result in specification or feature changes without notice.

RELEASE	DATE	CHANGES
Issue 1	11 th March 2009	1 st issue