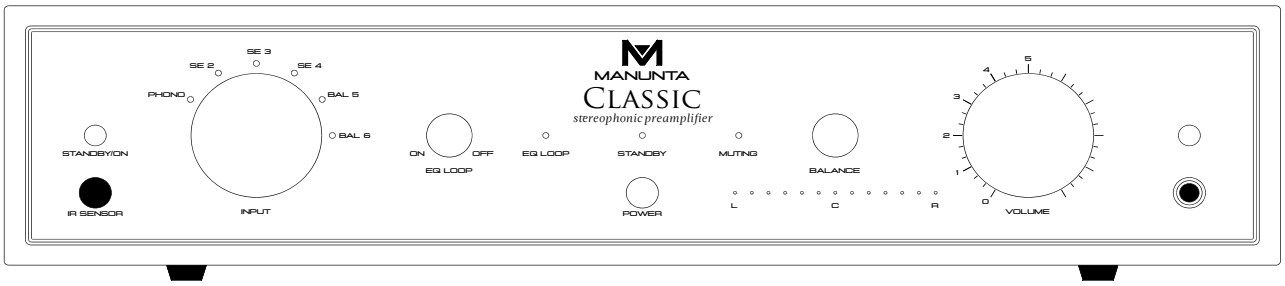
MANUNTA

Classic Preamplifier

User Manual



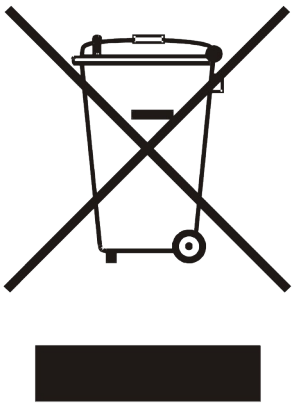
REV. PrA – 9/2025

Warning!

Modifications or alterations not authorized by the manufacturer may void compliance with CE regulations and making the appliance no longer suitable for use. The manufacturer declines all responsibility for damage caused to people or things as a result of improper use or malfunction of an appliance subject to unauthorized modifications.

This appliance complies with CE regulations: CEI EN 55022:2009 Class B (Radiated Emissions), CEI EN 55024:1999, CEI EN 55024:A2/2003, CEI EN 55024:IS1/2008 (Radio Frequency Electromagnetic Fields, Immunity Test to Magnetic Field 50Hz and Electrostatic Discharge – ESD).

For correct operation of this device, all connections to other devices in the system must be made with all devices turned off. Failure to comply with this rule may cause damage to the Classic Preamplifier.



The label above, visible on the shell of the appliance, indicates that the product, at the end of its use, cannot be improperly managed as general waste, but must be treated as an electrical and electronic appliance by an adequate disposal system in accordance with regulations from the WEEE directive (or WEEE, Waste of Electrical and Electronic Equipment directive).

Once the product has been recycled appropriately, potential damage to the environment and human health, which could be caused by disposal as general waste, will be avoided. Appropriate reuse of materials also reduces resource waste. For more in-depth information on the disposal of this product, please contact M2Tech Srl.

WARNING: The information in this manual is believed to be reliable and accurate. M2Tech reserves the right to change or modify this information at any time, without notice. Dear customers, we invite you to ensure that you are consulting the most recent version of this manual.

Dear Customer,

Thank you for purchasing the Classic Preamplifier. You have acquired a top-quality stereo preamplifier with numerous unique features, designed to achieve maximum performance when used with other M2Tech products.

The Classic Preamplifier implements a suite of unique technological and functional solutions designed to maximize listening pleasure:
- a discrete amplifier stage equipped with Lundahl output transformers capable of driving even the most demanding active speakers with very long connecting cables. Naturally, the Classic Preamplifier will drive any power amplifier with ease;
- a wide range of inputs, including two balanced inputs and a phono input switchable between MM and MC (the latter with input impedance adjustment), typically found only in higher-end and more expensive products;
- a signal processing loop that allows for easy integration of equalizers and room acoustics correctors;
- a highly transparent headphones amplifier with a 6.35mm jack output;
- an extremely refined power supply featuring a low-noise, high-dynamic-range toroidal transformer and low-noise regulation stages;
- trigger input and output for easy integration with other system components or multi-room controllers;
- a Wi-Fi interface for smartphone app control.

The Classic Preamplifier was designed to deliver outstanding performance in high-end systems.

We're confident the Classic Preamplifier will fully meet your expectations: your hi-fi system will experience an incredible increase in sonic performance, so prepare yourself now for a whole new listening experience!

Marco Manunta, CEO

Please note the serial number and date of purchase of your Classic Preamplifier below for future reference:

S/N: _____ Purchase date: _____

INDICE

1. Opening the Packaging and Positioning the Appliance

Place the box on a table and open it with a cutter or knife, being careful not to damage the internal box. Take out the inner box and open it. The following items are included in the package:

- one Classic Preamplifier;
- an infrared remote control;
- two AAA batteries;
- one power cord.

If one or more items are missing, contact your dealer.

Remove the Classic Preamplifier from the stratocell and place it on a stable base, away from heat sources. Avoid direct sunlight. Leave ample space around the appliance to ensure adequate ventilation.

The Classic Preamplifier features Class A circuitry and draws approximately 30W even without a signal. Therefore, adequate air circulation is recommended.

Do not allow smoke, humidity, dirt, or water to reach the device. Please note that any signs of abuse will void the warranty.

Do not place the device on thick carpets, inside a box, or inside a piece of furniture, or in close contact with curtains.

2. Front Panel

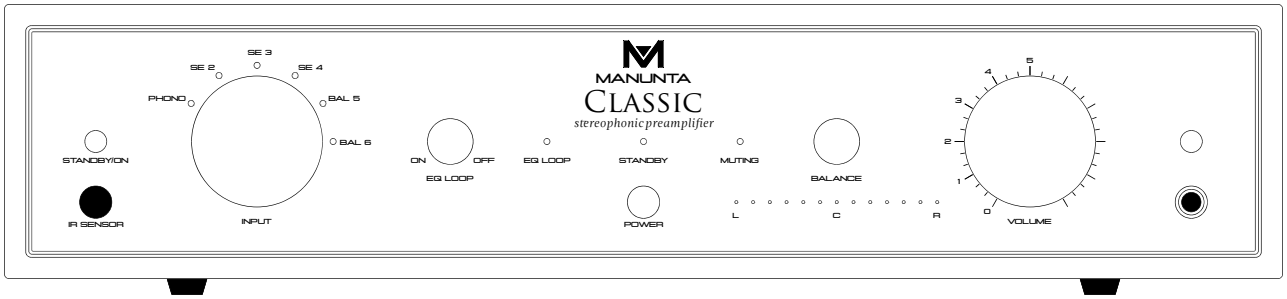


Figure 1

Standby button. This button puts the device into standby (low-power standby) when you're not listening. When the device is in standby, it can be reactivated by pressing this button again, using the ON/OFF button on the included remote control, or using the ON/OFF command on the smartphone app. If the device is completely off, this button has no effect.

Remote control receiver ("IR SENSOR"). Do not cover this port to avoid interfering with the reception of commands from the included infrared remote control.

Input selection knob (left). Use this knob to select the input you want to listen to. The selected input is indicated by a lit amber LED.

Equalizer loop knob ("EQ LOOP"). This knob operates a two-position rotary switch with automatic return. A slight counterclockwise rotation activates the loop, a slight clockwise rotation deactivates it. The loop status is indicated by an LED (see below).

EQ Loop LED. Lights when the EQ Loop is active.

Standby LED. Lights when the Classic Preamplifier is in standby.

Mute LED (“MUTE ON”). Lights when the Classic Preamplifier is muted.

Balance Knob (“BALANCE”). This knob operates a two-position rotary switch with automatic return. A slight counterclockwise rotation shifts the listening level balance by 1 dB toward the left channel, a slight clockwise rotation shifts it by 1 dB toward the right channel. The balance status is indicated by a strip of LEDs (see below).

Balance LED. When the listening level is not the same on both channels, i.e., when the balance has been adjusted, a lit LED indicates the balance status. For example, if the third LED to the left from the center is lit, the left channel will be 3 dB louder than the right channel. When all LEDs are off, both channels produce the same listening level.

Volume knob (right). Use this knob to adjust the music listening level.

Mute button (“MUTING”). Pressing this button silences the preamplifier, reducing the listening level to one-tenth of its normal level, without having to adjust the volume knob. This is useful when you need to momentarily pause the music, for example, to answer the phone, but do not want to alter the optimal listening level. Pressing the button again restores the previously set listening level.

Headphone jack (“HEADPHONES”). Connect a 6.35mm stereo headphone jack to this jack. When a headphone jack is inserted into this jack, the speaker output is automatically disabled.

Power switch (“POWER”). Press to turn the unit on. Press again to turn it off.

3. Back Panel

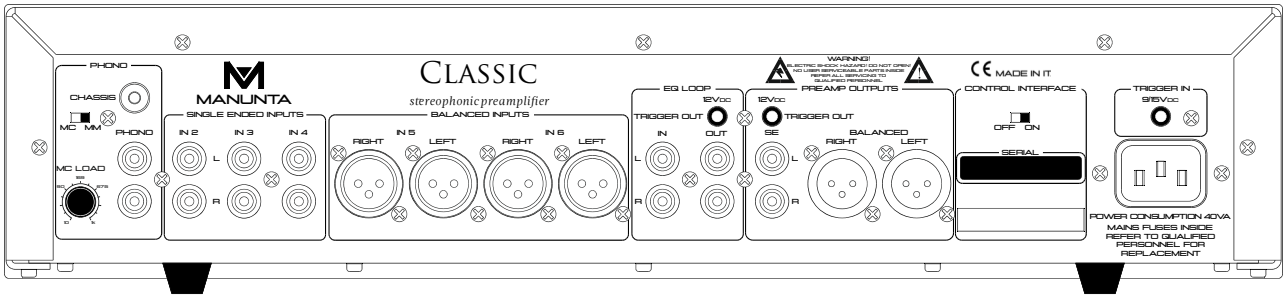


Figure 2

Phono Input. This input accepts the signal from a turntable cartridge. You can connect either a high-output moving magnet (MM) or a low-output moving coil (MC) cartridge. The mode is selected using the switch at the top left of the input connectors. The terminal above the connectors is used to connect the turntable's ground wire to eliminate hum. The knob to the left of the input connectors allows you to set the input impedance in MC mode only between 10 ohms and 1 kOhm. RCA female.

Single-ended inputs. Connect high-level sources with single-ended outputs to these inputs. RCA female.

Balanced inputs. Connect high-level sources with balanced outputs to these inputs. XLR female.

Equalizer loop ("EQ LOOP"). This input/output pair allows you to send the selected input signal to an equalizer or signal processor and reintroduce it into the preamplifier after appropriate processing. The loop can be activated and deactivated at will using the corresponding knob on the front panel for real-time comparisons of the processor's action. This loop can also be used to connect a recorder. RCA female.

Single-ended preamp output. Connect the single-ended input of your power amplifier or active speakers to this output. RCA female.

Balanced preamp output. Connect the balanced input of your power amplifier or active speakers to this output. XLR male.

Control interface. This Wi-Fi interface allows you to control the amplifier via a smartphone app provided free by M2Tech for both iPhone and Android. When not in use, it can be deactivated by using the slide switch above it.

Trigger input and outputs. The trigger input can turn on the amplifier using the activation voltage sent by another component in the system. Similarly, the trigger outputs can turn on another component in the system using the voltage sent by the Classic Preamplifier. For example, you can use one of the trigger outputs to activate the power amplifier connected to the Classic Preamplifier and the other to activate the processor connected to the equalizer loop. Or, you can use the two trigger outputs to activate the two active speakers connected to the Classic Preamplifier. 3.5mm jack.

Power input. Connect the included power cable to this connector.

4. Remote Control

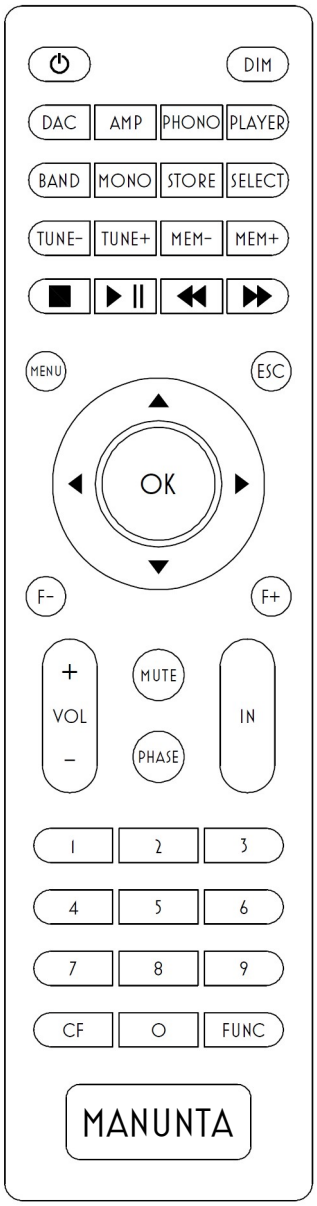


Figure 3

The Classic Preamplifier comes with a versatile remote control that allows you to adjust all its controls, as well as control other M2Tech products from the Classic and Rockstars series.
Please note that when a command is sent to the Classic Preamplifier, the "AMP" button flashes green. If one of the "DAC," "PHONO," or "PLAYER" buttons flashes, the Classic Preamplifier will not receive the command. In this case, press the "AMP" button to select the appropriate command codes for the Classic Preamplifier.
Below is a brief description of the buttons used for the Classic Preamplifier.

Standby button: allows you to send the Classic Preamplifier to standby (long press) and activate it.

DIM: LED brightness adjustment.

AMP: instructs the remote control to send commands using the phono code.

IN+/IN-: input selection.

VOL+/VOL-: adjustment of the listening volume.

F+/F-: adjustment of balance.

MUTE: activating and deactivating mute.

FUNC: activating and deactivating the equalizer loop.

Numeric keypad: with keys 1 to 5 you have direct access to the input with the same number.

4. Connecting and Powering the Device

WARNING: All connections between the Classic Preamplifier and other equipment in the system must be made with all equipment turned off. Failure to do so may cause damage to the Classic Preamplifier or other equipment.

WARNING: To ensure compliance with European electromagnetic compatibility regulations, use connection cables no longer than 2 m, both between the sources and the Classic Preamplifier and between the Classic Preamplifier and the speakers.

Refer to Chapter 2, "Rear Panel".

Connect the cables to the power amplifier or active speakers to the Classic Preamplifier's output connectors.

WARNING: The single-ended and balanced outputs can be used simultaneously, for example, to drive two power amplifiers configured for passive bi-amplification, but it is not advisable to connect both output pairs to the same amplifier unless it is equipped with an input switch. Many power amplifiers have single-ended inputs connected directly to one of the poles of the balanced input connectors. In this case, connecting both outputs to the power amp could damage the preamplifier.

If you have one, connect a turntable to the Classic Preamplifier's phono input. Set the phono input mode selector to "MM" or "MC" depending on the type of cartridge installed on the turntable.

CAUTION: To avoid switching noise that could damage the amplifier and/or speakers, use the phono input mode selector when the Classic Preamplifier is off.

Connect other sources to the other single-ended inputs and/or, if you have sources with balanced outputs, to the balanced inputs.

If you want the Classic Preamplifier to be triggered by another device or multi-room controller, connect a mono cable with 3.5mm jack plugs between the Classic Preamplifier's trigger input and the trigger output of the other device. Similarly, if you need to send the trigger signal to another device, connect a mono cable with 3.5mm jack plugs between one of the Classic Preamplifier's trigger outputs and the other device's trigger input. The two trigger outputs are perfectly equivalent.

NOTE: The trigger input operates in parallel with the main power switch, so the main power switch must not be pressed if you want the trigger to activate and deactivate the Classic Preamplifier via AC power. If the Classic Preamplifier's main power switch is pressed, the trigger will affect the amplifier's standby mode.

Connect the included power cable to the Classic Preamplifier's power jack and a power outlet.

Use the front-panel power switch or the trigger input to turn the Classic Preamplifier on.

5. Cleaning the Appliance

The Classic Preamplifier should be cleaned with a soft, slightly damp cloth. Do not use alcohol or other detergents, as this may damage the unit.

Be careful not to drip liquid inside the unit. Any liquid dripping inside the unit will void the warranty.

Be careful not to scratch the aluminum front panel or damage the silkscreen.

6. Headphones Amplifier

The Classic Preamplifier features a refined discrete headphone amplifier. This carefully engineered solution delivers outstanding performance even with demanding headphones.

A sensor in the headphone jack ensures that when a headphone jack is inserted, the preamplifier outputs are deactivated, ensuring that headphone listening is not affected by the sound from the speakers.

7. Using the equalizer loop

Sometimes it may be desirable to perform signal processing before sending it to the speakers. For example, you may want to correct the speaker's frequency response, or perform room acoustic correction using a dedicated digital device with analog inputs and outputs (DRC).

For this purpose, the Classic Preamplifier is equipped with an output and an input that allow you to send the signal from the selected source out of the device, to the processor or equalizer input, and reintroduce it into the preamplifier from the processor's output. The correct connections are: from EQ LOOP OUT to the processor input and from the processor output to EQ LOOP IN.

While any processor can be inserted between the preamplifier output and the power amplifier input, the Classic Preamplifier solution offers two advantages: the ability to bypass the processor at any time to evaluate the effectiveness and accuracy of its intervention, and the fact that in this configuration, the processor operates with a signal of moderate maximum amplitude, thus avoiding the risk of overloading the processor.

Another way the equalizer loop can be used is to connect a recorder. Although recorders are now obsolete, the Classic Preamplifier user may own and use one. In this case, the recorder can be connected as follows: EQ LOOP OUT to the recorder input ("REC" or "TAPE IN") and EQ LOOP IN to the recorder output ("PLAY" or "TAPE OUT"). To listen to the signal coming from the recorder, the "EQ LOOP" function must be activated, while to listen to any other input, it must be deactivated. If you are using a three-head recorder, you can compare the original signal to the one recorded on the tape during recording by deactivating and activating the EQ LOOP function respectively.

8. Trigger

The Classic Preamplifier accepts 12VDC trigger signals. A trigger signal can be used to automatically activate the Classic Preamplifier from another device (a source or a multi-room or home automation controller), so that the entire system is turned on and off via the power control of the device generating the trigger signal.

The trigger signal activates a relay placed in parallel with the main power switch, so the Classic Preamplifier will always be on if the trigger signal is present on its input, regardless of whether the main power switch is on or off.

The only difference between the main power switch being on and the trigger signal being applied and then removed is that, when the trigger signal is removed, the Classic Preamplifier will go into standby as if the corresponding button had been pressed, and will exit standby when the trigger signal is applied again.

The Classic Preamplifier also features two trigger outputs that provide 12VDC to drive the trigger input of two other devices (for example, the Classic Power Amplifier or another external power amplifier and a signal processor), so that they turn on when the Classic Preamplifier is turned on. This voltage is activated when the Classic Preamplifier is turned on or exits standby, and is removed when the Classic Preamplifier is turned off or put into standby.

9. WiFi interface

The Classic Preamplifier features a WiFi interface that allows you to connect to your home WiFi network and control it via the smartphone app available for iOS and Android. If there's no local WiFi network, the Classic Preamplifier's interface acts as an access point, generating its own network to which your smartphone can connect. This option is active the first time you turn on the device and can be accessed at any time by holding down the "MUTING" button when turning it on. Once your smartphone is connected, you can enter your WiFi connection information and then instruct the Classic Preamplifier to reset the interface to connect to the network. Pressing the "STANDBY" button when turning it on resets the interface if you need to connect to a different network.
When the interface is not in use, you can deactivate it using the dedicated switch located next to it on the rear panel.

10. Precautions for Use

Please pay close attention to the following instructions to protect the device and your safety.

Never short-circuit the positive and negative terminals of the RCA output connectors, or any two contacts of the XLR connectors of the balanced outputs: this will very likely damage the preamp circuit.

Similarly, never short-circuit any two of the three pins of the headphone connector, as this could damage the headphone amplifier.

Never connect the preamplifier to a power outlet with a voltage different from that indicated on the amplifier's packaging label: this could blow the power protection fuses or damage the amplifier.

Be careful not to spill liquids inside the preamplifier.

After moving the preamplifier from a very cold and humid environment to a warmer one (for example, from the trunk of a car to your living room), wait for the preamplifier to reach room temperature before turning it on.

If you suspect that one of the appliance's internal fuses is blown, do not attempt to operate the appliance yourself and contact a qualified technician to replace the fuse and inspect the appliance: very often, fuses blow following more or less visible damage to the appliance's circuits.

11. Technical Features

Gain:	12dB
Maximum output voltage:	$10V_{rms}$ (single-ended output)
	$20V_{rms}$ (balanced output)
Residual noise:	$4uV_{rms}$ (20Hz-20kHz, volume fully CCW)
	$9uV_{rms}$ (20Hz-20kHz, volume at -12dB)
SNR:	112dB (line, A-weighted, balanced output, volume at -12dB, V_{in} $1V_{rms}$)
	80dB (phono MM, A-weighted)
	72dB (phono MC, pesato A-weighted)
Phono sensitivity (for $500mV_{rms}$ out):	$5mV_{rms}$ @ 1kHz (Phono MM)
	$0,5mV_{rms}$ @ 1kHz (Phono MC)
Input impedance:	47kOhm (line, single-ended)
	20kOhm (line, balanced)
	47kOhm (Phono MM)
	10Ohm-1kOhm adjustable (Phono MC)
THD+N:	0,04% ($1V_{rms}$ out, volume at -12dB)
TIM:	0,08% ($1V_{rms}$ out, volume at -12dB)
Mains voltage:	110-130V_{AC} or 220-240V_{AC} (internally set)
	50/60Hz
Power requirement:	35VA
Fuses:	slow blow, 1A ($230V_{AC}$) or 2A ($115V_{AC}$)
Mains input:	IEC socket
Size:	420x90x300mm (w x h x d)
Weight	9kg (device and ancillaries)
	12kg (packed)