

WyndSOR

PHONO PRE-AMPLIFIER Instruction Manual

Thank you for purchasing Creek's WyndSOR phono pre-amplifier.

To enable a signal from a turntable's pick-up cartridge to be heard through a modern hi-fi stereo system, it is first necessary to boost its level. In addition, since vinyl discs are recorded with a form of compression to squeeze all the dynamic information onto the disc, it is necessary to expand it again before it can be listened to. This frequency compression is known as RIAA equalisation. RIAA stands for Recording Industry Association of America and was formed in 1952. Although an American administration, it created a world technical standard that regulated the way in which vinyl discs were made. Frequency curves were devised to reduce the excursion of low frequencies and increase those of high frequencies, to enable all the information to be squeezed onto a microgroove recording and to reduce the inherent noise generated by the vinyl itself.

To correct the frequency levels to the original pre-recorded ones, the Phono pre-amp incorporates filters that are the opposite of those used in the recording studio, to flatten the frequency response.

The WyndSOR Phono Pre-amp is Creek Audio's finest quality Phono pre-amp, incorporating user selectable gain and cartridge matching capabilities. It is housed in an attractive new case with a simple control interface and display enabling everything from the front panel, without degrading the performance.

To power the WyndSOR Phono Pre-amp, Creek developed a new power supply, with +/-20V and +12V outputs to power both the critical analogue and digital circuitry. The WyndSOR Power Supply contains two separate, over rated, mains transformers and separate high quality regulators to maintain maximum isolation from the analogue and digital supplies.

It is connected to the pre-amp via a custom 5 pin power plug and socket, enabling the pre-amp to operate with low levels of 50/60Hz interference, since the noisy power supply transformer is situated in another case, which can be located up to its cable length apart.

Left and right channels are on completely separate multi-layer printed circuit boards fitted with solid high-grade RCA sockets for the input and output, and a 3-way connector as an alternative input. For the more adventurous, there is also a balanced input capability. Both styles of input connector can be used, however it must be noted that both sets of connectors CANNOT be used at the same time. When using balanced mode this requires the pick-up cartridge not to be grounded.

This semiconductor circuit is split into 3 separate stages, with precision RIAA equalisation, in each stage. A gain selectable balanced to unbalanced conversion stage precedes a passive 75us de-emphasis filter; active 318us and 3180us EQ is performed in a high grade op-amp and passive IEC low frequency roll-off follows. Finally another op-amp gain stage drives the output with 50 Ohm output impedance, so long interconnects to the main amplifier are not a problem. In addition, the pre-amp is completely DC coupled to eliminate sonically detrimental capacitors in the signal path and is monitored and controlled, in case of unwanted offsets, by a DC servo circuit. If a DC condition exceeds the servo's ability to correct an offset, a muting relay will stop any harmful DC from exiting the pre-amp. A dual voltage power supply allows the pre-amp to output up to 10 Volts RMS before clipping.

Moving coil and moving magnet cartridges from low to high output are catered for, together with the more unusual high gain moving coil types, which have characteristics similar to a low output moving magnet type. Matching of cartridges is an often overlooked fact in retrieving the best performance from your system. The pre-amp can select a wide range of values to better match your chosen cartridge.

The vacuum fluorescent user interface clearly indicates the gain, matching and other options - displayed in English. The display has 4 adjustable levels of brightness and can be completely turned off for minimum noise.

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OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

GLOSSARY

PARAMETERS – Refers to cartridge type, load resistance and capacitance, arm wiring and equalisation.

PROFILE – A set of parameters stored in memory with a name.

MAIN SCREEN

At start up, a CREEK AUDIO message is displayed for 2 seconds. Display brightness is restored to its last used value. Note: if the last used parameters are stored without a name, only the parameters will be shown. If the last used parameters are assigned a name (referred to as a profile), the name is displayed. However when the encoder is rotated, the screen is changed to display the parameters. While in the main screen, rotate the encoder to the right to see the active parameters. Rotate the encoder to the left to see name of current profile if available.

MAIN MENU

Hold the encoder button for at least 1 second to access the main menu. Rotate the encoder to choose from 6 menu items:

1. SELECT PROFILE
2. DISPLAY LEVEL
3. EDIT PARAMS
4. EDIT PROFILE
5. DELETE ALL
6. SW VERSION

Press the BACK button to return to the main screen at any time.

SELECT PROFILE

Rotate the encoder to navigate through the list of available profiles. When a profile is shown, press the encoder button briefly to see the parameters of that profile. Press it again to go back to the list of available profiles.

Hold the encoder button for at least 1 second to select a profile. SELECTING message will be displayed while the relays switch to the new settings. Once changes are complete, the SELECTION COMPLETE message will be displayed. Phono will automatically return to the main screen, showing the name of the newly selected profile.

DISPLAY LEVEL

Choose between 4 brightness levels by rotating the encoder button and press the encoder button briefly to confirm. Display will return to the main screen.

Note that if you select OFF for display brightness, the screen shows the main menu and only goes blank after you exit the main menu by pressing the BACK button. To see the screen again, hold the encoder button for 1 second to go into the main menu. Display will come on at minimum brightness.

Note that the mute button operates as usual when the display is switched off.

EDIT PARAMS

You can edit parameters in the following order. Rotate the encoder to see the available settings and press to confirm and move on to the next one

- Cartridge type
- Load resistance
- Capacitance
- Arm wiring
- Equalisation

There are some limitations to prevent DC offset occurring. If a low or medium MC cartridge is selected the load resistance will be limited to max 1k. For other gain settings, all load resistances are available.

After the last dialogue you will be prompted to save the new settings as a profile. If you choose YES, the name editing screen will appear. Refer to Editing Profile Names for this information. If you do not choose to save the parameters as a profile, they will be stored as current settings.

To save the current settings as a profile later, go through the EDIT PARAMS menu again without changing any settings. While editing the name of a new profile, hold the BACK button for 1 second to cancel creating a new profile and return to the main menu.

While inside this menu, press BACK to go one step back. If you are on the first dialogue and press BACK, you will be prompted to cancel the changes.

EDITING PROFILE NAMES

When entering the name use the encoder to scroll through the alphabet from A to Z,
then symbols ! " # \$ % ' () * + , - . /
then digits 0 – 9
then symbols : ; < = > ? .

You can enter a space by rotating the encoder one position anti clockwise from A.

Press the encoder button briefly to enter a symbol. Press BACK to erase a symbol. Hold the encoder for 1 second to finish editing the name and save it. Hold the BACK button for 1 second to cancel any changes to the name.

EDIT PROFILE

In this menu you can edit the name or parameters of an existing profile. Use the encoder to scroll through the list of available profiles. Use short click prompts to edit the name; long click prompts to edit the parameters. Hold the encoder button to edit the chosen parameters. The current name will be displayed and all normal name editing options are available. Hold the encoder button to confirm the changes. New parameters are stored in the same profile. Hold the BACK button to cancel all the changes and return to the list of profiles. Note that if you change the parameters of a profile that is not active, any changes will not become active until you select that profile.

You can delete a profile by holding the BACK button for one second. You cannot delete a profile that is currently active. Press the BACK button to return to main menu at any time.

DELETE ALL

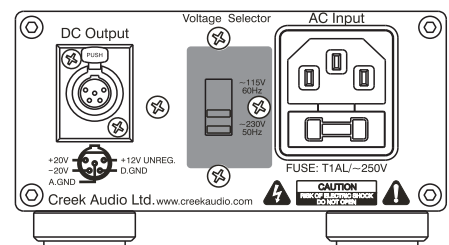
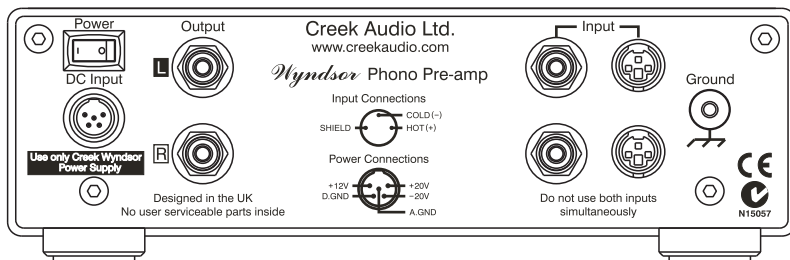
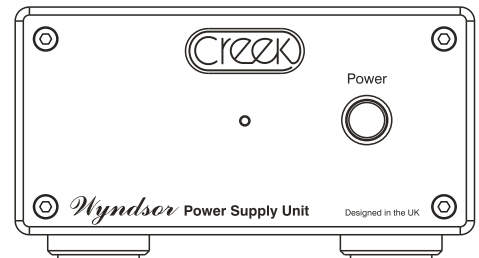
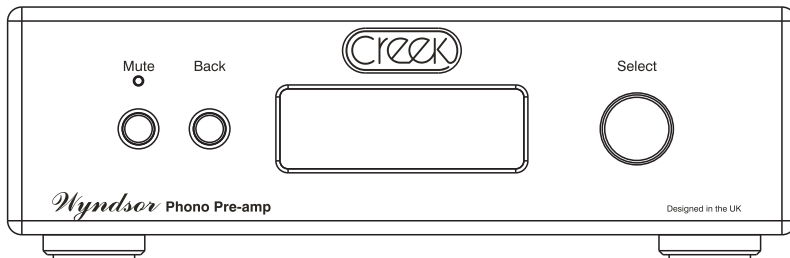
This function allows you to erase all profiles and reset current settings to factory defaults. If selected, a message DELETED will be displayed. No presets will be deleted until you select YES in this dialogue.

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SW (SOFTWARE) VERSION

This displays the current version of the software in the device. Updates, as they become available, can be installed via a replaceable electronic chip inside the case. Press any button to go back to the main menu.



A DIN plug is provided to enable the correct cable to be produced for balanced input connection. The wiring configuration is noted on the rear panel. Please consult your dealer if in any doubt. Additional information can be accessed from the FAQ section of the Creek Audio website.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

Gain	5 steps in dBs	40, 45, 53, 61, 70
Distortion		< 0.005 @ 1kHz
Frequency Response		0.5 Hz – 100 kHz (+/- 0.5dB)
IEC roll-off (7950us)		-3dB @ 20 Hz -6dB @ 10Hz
Noise in dBs in 5 gain settings		-92, -81, -79, -72, -62.5
Separation		< 93dB
DC Offset		< +/- 10mV
Input Capacitance		100pF, 440pF, 1.1nF, 1.4nF
Input Resistance		91R, 100R, 1k, 33k, 47k
Wyndсор Power Supply Unit		2 toroidal mains transformers and low noise regulators
Switchable Mains Voltage Selector		115/230V AC External

Specification subject to change without notice

WARRANTY

If within two years of the purchase date your Wyndсор phono pre-amplifier product proves to be defective for any reason other than accident, misuse, neglect, unauthorised modification or fair wear and tear, Creek Audio Ltd will, at its discretion, replace the faulty parts without charge for labour or return carriage within the U.K. This warranty is valid only within the U.K. and given in addition to statutory rights. Service enquiries outside the U.K. should be addressed first to the supplying dealer and or Creek distributor/importer. Warranties granted in these countries are entirely at the discretion of the distributor.

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