



VAC Renaissance Phono Stage

Operation & Maintenance Information



Valve Amplification Company

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SAFETY NOTICES, WARNINGS, AND CAUTIONS (ENGLISH)

The MAINS plug is used as the disconnect device. Disconnect the mains plug from the apparatus before servicing the unit.

Operate only from an AC MAINS SUPPLY of the voltage indicated. If voltage conversion is necessary it must be done at the VAC factory or by the importer.

The MAINS SUPPLY must be EARTHED. Do not defeat or remove the MAINS cord safety ground connection. Do not connect the mains cord to an outlet that is not properly earthed.

Provide adequate ventilation - allow at least 3 inches above and to each side.

Do not place in a completely enclosed cabinet.

Do not stack other equipment on top of the VAC unit.

Do not operate on carpet or any other surface that might block air flow. Do not impede air flow.

Keep all flammable objects away from the amplifier.

No naked flame sources should be placed on or near the apparatus.

Do not leave the apparatus unattended in operation.

Apparatus must not be exposed to dripping or splashing. Do not place objects filled with liquids on the apparatus.

This apparatus is heavy. Be certain to install it in a secure location from which it can not fall or tip over. Obtain appropriate assistance to unpack, move, and install the apparatus.

Never operate the apparatus without all covers and cages securely in place.

Vacuum tubes become hot enough to cause serious burns. Never touch a tube when the apparatus is on; it may take several minutes for it to cool down after the apparatus is switched off.

Do not touch a tube if the glass is broken; the internal structure carries high voltage. Unplug the apparatus and wait 30 minutes before attempting to remove such a tube.

Recommandations de sécurité (French)

Le câble d'alimentation est utilisée comme interrupteur principal. Débranchez le cordon d'alimentation de l'appareil avant d'intervenir sur l'appareil.

L'appareil ne doit être utilisé que sur la tension indiquée. Si un changement de voltage est nécessaire, il doit être effectuée par VAC ou par l'importateur.

L'appareil doit être relié à la terre. Il ne faut pas supprimer pas ou déconnecter la terre sur le cordon d'alimentation. Ne pas brancher le cordon d'alimentation à une prise qui n'est pas correctement mise à la terre.

Il faut assurer une ventilation adéquate - laisser au moins une dizaine cm au-dessus et de chaque côté de l'appareil.

Ne placez pas l'appareil dans un meuble complètement fermé.

Ne pas empiler d'autres appareils sur le dessus du VAC.

Ne pas utiliser sur un tapis ou toute autre surface qui pourrait bloquer la circulation de l'air. Ne pas faire obstacle à l'écoulement d'air.

Conservez tous les objets inflammables loin de l'amplificateur.

Aucune flamme nue ne doit être placée sur l'appareil ou à proximité.

Ne pas laisser l'appareil sans surveillance lorsqu'en fonctionnement.

L'appareil ne doit pas être exposé à des éclaboussures. Ne placez pas d'objet rempli de liquide sur l'appareil.

Cet appareil est lourd. Veillez à l'installer dans un endroit sûr d'où il ne peut pas tomber ou basculer. Faites-vous aider pour déballer, déplacer et installer l'appareil.

Ne faites jamais fonctionner l'appareil sans que tous les couvercles et les cages soient bien en place.

Les tubes chauffent suffisamment pour causer des brûlures graves. Ne jamais toucher un tube lorsque l'appareil est allumé, cela peut prendre plusieurs minutes pour qu'il refroidisse après que l'appareil est éteint.

Ne touchez pas un tube si le verre est cassé, la structure interne est traversée par des courants élevés. Débranchez l'appareil et attendre 30 minutes avant de tenter de retirer un tel tube.

INTRODUCTION

The VAC Renaissance is a high quality phono stage, inspired by the cost-no-object VAC Statement model.

Support is provided for high output MM & MC cartridges , and, via special wide band transformers, for low output MC cartridges. Variable loading is available in all modes.

There is no loop feedback. Equalization is of the passive method exclusively. All active elements are triode tubes, the purest, most linear amplifying devices yet invented.

The Renaissance Phono Stage is designed not to the latest fad but to substance, for the highest possible sound quality. Time spent familiarizing yourself with this manual will be well rewarded.

INSTALLATION

- 1) Provide adequate ventilation.
- 2) Do not operate on carpet or any other surface that might block air flow.
- 3) The chassis will become warm in normal use.
- 4) Do not allow the chassis to touch any metal parts, such as the frame of an equipment rack. This might create a parallel ground path that could degrade the sound of your system.
- 5) Input and output connections are via single ended RCA jacks.
- 6) Connect the power cable from the power supply to the preamplifier. Note that it has a locating key and a locking collar. Be sure to insert the connector properly, and fully tighten the locking collar (there is a slight 'click' feel when it has latched).
- 7) Connect the input and output cables.
- 8) Connect the power supply to the correct voltage source. The voltage may be selected by means of the removable selector card located underneath the fuse in the power connector. Remove the cards and reinstall so that the desired voltage may be read. Avoid power conditioners that float the ground pin. ALWAYS connect power cord to component before plugging it into an AC outlet, and make sure that unit's power switch is set to the "off" position before making the final connection. For best performance, try to route the power cord away from signal cables.
- 9) Pay close attention to power quality, and be aware that different power cords can alter the sound.

INPUTS & OUTPUTS (back panel)

There are three phono inputs. Main outputs are unbalanced via RCA jacks

OPERATION

Before turning the power switch to the "on" position, turn the associated line stage's volume control fully counterclockwise.

Allow the phono stage to warm up for a minute before turning up the system volume; failure to wait can cause a transient signal to be sent through your power amplifier. The volume should also be reduced when switching inputs or when cuing a record.

As with all high fidelity products, the sound characteristic of the VAC changes somewhat as it warms up. Best sound will be achieved after about 15 minutes of operation.

Any time that the VAC has not been used for a few weeks the sound may be different. This is also normal for high resolution audio equipment. Optimum sound should return after a few hours of operation, preferably with an audio signal.

Please note that although your VAC System has been run for 48 hours at the factory, it will continue to "break in" for approximately 200 hours. Also be aware that many components display the need for a new break in period after being transported in unheated cargo aircraft.

CONTROLS

The power switch is located on the back of the power supply.

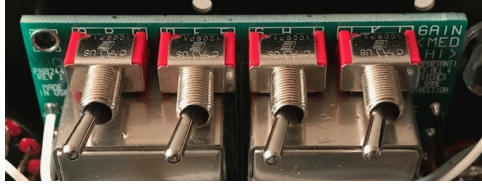
On the front of the audio chassis, there are:

- 1) Power indicator.
- 2) Mono/stereo switch.
- 3) Capacitive loading for MM phono input.
- 4) MM/MC (low gain/high gain switch).
- 5) Resistive loading for MC input.
- 6) Selector.
- 7) Logo intensity (from sn 1715201).

Note that the MM settings should be used with a high output MC cartridge.

MC GAIN SETTING (from s/n 1723701)

Inside, on the back panel, is the MC step up board, with four switches that set the step up at 18 or 24 dB. Set all four switches to the left for +18dB, to the right for +24dB. Follow the same precautions discussed under Changing Tubes when removing the cover.



Medium gain MC setting (+18 dB)



High gain MC setting (+24 dB)

Note: In the high gain setting, the resistive load is 25% of the marked values.

REPLACEMENT OF TUBES

Your preamplifier uses six tubes, all are type 12AX7. Like the tires of a car, they will eventually wear and require replacement. This is a simple and easy process.

DANGEROUS VOLTAGES EXIST WITH THIS COMPONENT. YOU MUST FOLLOW THESE STEPS TO PROTECT YOUR SAFETY. Before replacing tubes, all power must be turned off. Unplug the power cord from the wall, and remove all audio interconnect cables. Wait 30 minutes before removing the top cover. Install new tubes of the appropriate types firmly in their sockets, noting the location of holes in the socket and pins of the tubes, taking care to make sure that pin pattern corresponds to holes in tube socket. Reinstall the top cover before reconnecting the unit. **NEVER INSTALL OR OPERATE THIS UNIT WITHOUT ALL COVERS IN PLACE.**

In the event that trouble is encountered, check all signal, speaker and power connections. If the problem persists, follow all safety precautions stated earlier in this section, and check that all tubes are correctly seated in their sockets. If possible, try another tube. If the problem persists, please consult your VAC dealer or contact the factory directly.

For best performance we recommend that you use tubes specifically selected and tested by VAC for this application.

CARE OF CHASSIS

Your VAC chassis are finished in a durable textured powder coat paint, while the fascia has gloss paint. Cleaning with a damp cloth **WHILE THE AMP IS SWITCHED OFF AND UNPLUGGED** should suffice. Do not get cleaning solutions onto or into the connectors or controls.

When shipping your unit, be certain to wrap the amplifier in the cloth, tissue or plastic wrap in which it was originally packaged. Given the high gloss of the lacquered finish, make sure there are no ridges or sharp surfaces in those parts of the cloth which contact the faceplate. Use of a coarser cloth or failure to otherwise protect the faceplate may result in damage to the finish. VAC is not responsible for cosmetic damage resulting from improper care or packing.

WARRANTY

Your equipment is warranted for a period of thirty (30) days from the date of purchase. In addition, if the registration form is received by VAC along with a copy of your sales receipt from an authorized VAC dealer within this thirty days, the warranty will be extended to two (2) years (tubes excepted). It is the responsibility of the dealer and customer to determine suitability of this unit for a particular application. This warranty applies only to units sold in the United States of America through authorized VAC dealers and operated in the USA by the original owner. It covers factory service and, within the continental U.S., standard return shipping. For warranty information outside of the U.S. contact the importer of VAC equipment for your country. Units sold outside of the U.S. should still be registered with VAC.

Your questions and comments are always welcome. Contact:

Valve Amplification Company
1911 East Avenue North
Sarasota, FL 34234
Telephone 941/952-9695 Fax 941/952-9691
info@vac-amps.com

Detach and mail to the address above as soon as possible.

Renaissance Phono Preamplifier Registration Form

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____/_____-_____ e-mail _____

Dealer name _____ City _____

Salesperson _____ Purchase date _____ Serial Number _____

How did you first learn of VAC products? _____

What other brands/models did you consider? _____

What made you decide on the VAC? _____

What else would you like us to know? _____

Optional:

What magazines do you read regularly? _____

What are your hobbies (besides filling in warranty cards)? _____

What are your favorite types of music? _____

On what format? (CD, LP, DVD, SACD, MP3, etc.) _____