



VAC Statement 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 débiller, 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.

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INTRODUCTION

The VAC Statement is the world's finest Phono preamplifier. Its unusual topology, premium parts, and flexibility make it a pleasure to hear and operate.

Support is provided for high output MM & MC cartridges , and, via two sets of special wide band transformers, for two different output levels of low output MC cartridges. Balanced operation is supported for low output cartridges, as is variable loading in all modes. The output stage is, in effect, a small Class A₁ power amplifier, capable of driving loads as low as a few hundred ohms. This is a stark contrast to normal source components, which may claim low output impedance but completely collapse when asked to deliver current. The Statement circuit has an internal 300 ohm output load, and is loading with virtually any external load, delivering an effortless, musical performance.

There is no loop feedback. All active elements are triode tubes, the purest, most linear amplifying devices yet invented. Output matching is accomplished by way of superb output transformers. As a side benefit, different output grounding configurations are possible, optimizing performance into either balanced or single-ended loads, and allowing ground loops to be broken.

The massive chassis is machined from quarter inch thick aluminum plate and plated with layers of copper, nickel, and chrome for potent RF rejection. The half-inch thick fascia has a hand rubbed gloss lacquer finish.

The audio circuitry and power supply are completely hand wired.

The Statement 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 connection is via single ended RCA jacks or XLR jacks (which can be from balanced or unbalanced sources). Output can be on RCA or XLR jacks, and can be set for balanced or unbalanced loads, with or without ground connection at the preamplifier.
IMPORTANT: READ THE SECTION ON "OUTPUTS & GROUNDING SWITCH". Connect line level inputs (CD, Tuner, Tape, etc.) to the appropriate RCA input jacks on the rear panel.
Note: with the exception of Phono (when fitted), all inputs are "line level"
- 6) Connect the power cables from the power supply to the preamplifier. Note that each has a locating key and a locking collar. Be sure to insert the connector properly, and fully tighten the locking collar.
- 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.
- 10) Set the logo illumination switch to bright or dim.

INPUTS (back panel)

There are four phono inputs. MM cartridges must use the RCA jacks; low impedance MC cartridges may use the RCA or balanced XLR connections (if your tonearm wiring permits). The Balanced/SE switch for each input must be set accordingly to the correct mode.

The XLR phasing is positive polarity on pin 2, negative polarity on pin 3.

OUTPUTS & GROUNDING SWITCH (back panel)

This is a three position switch. The extreme positions are labeled “SE” and “BAL”. The center position is “FLOAT”, and can be used with either balanced or single-ended power amplifier inputs.

Main outputs are available as unbalanced via RCA jacks or fully balanced via XLR jacks. You may use either set, *but not both simultaneously*. The GROUND switch must be set correctly for the output configuration being used. Incorrect setting will result in either excessive buzz, or cause distortion of frequency response and output.

For control preamplifiers amplifiers with RCA input jacks, you will normally use the “SE” setting. You may also choose “FLOAT” if it is necessary to break a ground loop.

For control preamplifiers with XLR input jacks, you must determine if the input is truly balanced, or if either pin 2 or 3 is actually tied to ground (unbalanced XLR).

For true balanced inputs you may choose between “BAL” and “FLOAT” for lowest hum level.

For control preamplifiers with unbalanced XLR inputs, select “FLOAT”. If the amplifier ties pin 3 to ground, you may also use “SE”. Do NOT use “XLR GND”.

OPERATION

Before turning the power switch to the “on” position, turn the associated line stage’s volume control fully counterclockwise.

Allow the preamplifier 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, operating the various Balanced/SE switches, 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.

REPLACEMENT OF TUBES

Your preamplifier uses two tube types.

The front six tubes are type 12AX7.

The rear two tubes are type 6DJ8; you may use the following types: 6922, 7308, ECC88, E88CC.

Do NOT mix brands or versions of tubes.

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 machined aluminum for superior electromagnetic performance, and finished in chrome, gloss paint, and glass. 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.

A Word About Tubes in General

Tubes are like the tires on a car; they will eventually need replacement. Murphy's Law states that a tube will probably fail right at the start of a long holiday weekend. Therefore, many audiophiles keep a spare tube of each type on hand, just in case!

VAC can test tubes for concerned customers.

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.

Statement 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.) _____