

# Signature Mk IIa / Signature SE Preamplifier

Not long ago, the Signature Mk IIa was the finest preamplifier you could buy. In production since 2000, this enduring classic marked the introduction of the basic, fully balanced, zero-feedback, transformer-coupled Class A1 triode topology found in all contemporary VAC preamplifiers. Even from this early form, it preserves and reproduces the emotion and vitality of music and maximizes the performances of the associated source components and power amplifiers.



Download individual images  
from the VAC Media Room.

## Features

The Signature's line stage has no coupling capacitors to detract from the purity and detail of the hand-wired circuit. With no loop feedback, the output is stable and free from dynamic interactions with the load. Six standard line inputs (five when phono is fitted) are present, as well as a fully balanced Cinema Bypass input.

The optional six-tube phono stage is sensitive and quiet, compatible with low-output, moving coil cartridges. Gain is adjustable, as is resistive loading. Electrostatic decoupling prevents the heater circuits from "talking" to each other, a

common cause of lost detail. A separate power transformer is used, eliminating any disturbance of the delicate phono signal by the powerful line stage.

The VAC logos are backlit in an elegant blue in normal operation, and display red when the mute is activated. These are set in the heirloom-quality sculpted 3/8" faceplate.

The Signature SE (Special Edition) upgrades the input transformers to the premium designs used in the Statement and Master ranges.

## Reviews

*"A Music-Lover's Delight ... imaging isn't good or even very good, it is out of this world; and it's out of the speakers. I wouldn't call it three-dimensional, I'd call multi-dimensional with instruments on the (invisible) soundstage in revealing focus ... its dynamic range — was beyond compare and it was quite evident that the VAC's presence heightened the system's musical caliber." The Inner Ear Magazine, February 2010.*



Valve Amplification Company

1911 East Avenue North  
Sarasota, FL 34234  
Telephone (941) 952 9695  
Fax (941) 952 9691  
vac-amps.com

## Specifications

*\*Specifications subject to change without notice.*

SIGNATURE MK IIA Optional MM/MC phono stage with user adjustable loading	
GAIN	12 dB
INPUTS	3 sets RCA line input 2 sets balanced/RCA selectable inputs 1 set RCA cinema bypass input Optional 1 MM and 1 MC (or additional line input if phono is not fitted)
OUTPUTS	2 sets RCA 2 sets balanced XLR (EIA "pin 2 hot" studio standard)
TUBES	2x 12AU7 2x 8416, 7308, 6922, E88CC, ECC88, 6DJ8, (or 12DJ8 twin triodes)
ABSOLUTE PHASE	Correct from all inputs to all outputs
FREQUENCY RESPONSE	Flat over audio band -3 dB bandwidth 5 Hz - 210 kHz
THD	<0.009% @ 1 kHz, 1 V RMS
MAXIMUM OUTPUT	> 8 V RMS
OUTPUT IMPEDANCE	< 150 ohms, 20 Hz - 20 kHz, static (i.e., not dependent upon feedback)
MAXIMUM INPUT	Infinite signal (attenuation precedes the gain circuitry)
RECOMMENDED OUTPUT LOAD	>300 ohms
POWER	External power supply, detachable umbilical cable, detachable IEC power cord
CINEMA BYPASS	Yes
VOLTAGE	May be ordered for 100v, 120v, 220v, or 230/240v operation
VOLUME CONTROL	A custom engineered VAC motor drive system allows the volume to be adjusted by remote control.
ILLUMINATION	Illuminated logo may be switched off
FINISH	Hand-rubbed gold-flake gloss black lacquer with chrome knobs standard. Hand-rubbed metallic gloss silver lacquer with chrome knobs special order with additional cost.
WARRANTY	Two years parts and labor, excluding tubes (USA, see manual for full details)
DIMENSIONS (H X W X D)	Audio chassis (not including knobs and connectors): 5.5 x 18 x 14.5 in. (14 x 45.7 x 36.8) Power supply (not including connectors): 14.5 x 18 x 3.9 in. (36.8 x 45.7 x 9.9)
SHIPPING WEIGHT	With phono: 61 lbs. (27.7 kg.)

PHONO STAGE (OPTIONAL)	
TUBES	6x 12AX7
GAIN	44 dB MM 64 dB MC
FREQUENCY RESPONSE	RIAA standard +/- 0.2 dB (20 Hz - 20 kHz) -3 dB bandwidth 10 Hz - • 80 kHz
CHANNEL SEPARATION	> 80 dB @ 1 kHz
MAXIMUM INPUT	> 130 mv @ 1 kHz, MM > 13 mv, MC
MC LOAD IMPEDANCE	selectable, 470, 300, 250, 200, 150, and 100 ohms
MM LOAD IMPEDANCE	selectable, 47k, 30k, 25k, 15k, and 10k ohms
OVERLOAD	117MV @ 1kHz = 8 volts RMS output; 460MV @ 10kHz
RESIDUAL NOISE	Less than 3MV at output (s/n ratio greater than approx. 69db)



Valve Amplification Company

1911 East Avenue North  
Sarasota, FL 34234  
Telephone (941) 952 9695  
Fax (941) 952 9691  
vac-amps.com