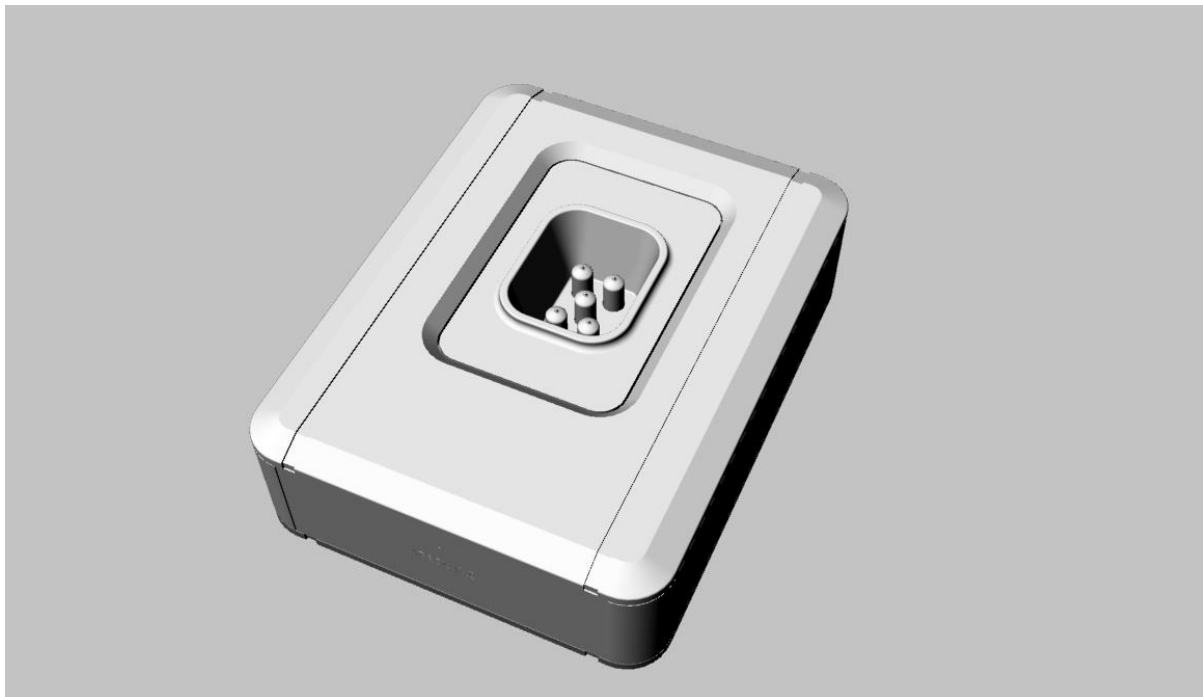


ABSOLARE Phono Stage

User Manual



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1. General Description

The Absolare Phono Stage is a dual chassis, direct-coupled input phono preamplifier with an all tube signal path and point-to-point construction. The first chassis contains the Signal Stage. The second chassis contains the separate Power Supply. Inside the Power Supply, transformers are also physically isolated from the DC regulators by an internal partition, to further reduce noise and hum. There are two dedicated heater and signal power transformers and also separate DC regulators for input and output sections of the Signal Stage. Two input channels with adjustable loading resistance are directly coupled to the input tubes.

2. Safety Issues and Warnings

- **Be sure the voltage setting of the unit matches the applied voltage to power input.** Operating voltage is fixed and must only be changed by an authorized service agent.
- **Do not touch tubes while operating.** Tubes are extremely hot devices and also contain very high voltages.
- **Do not open bottom covers.** There are no user serviceable parts inside either chassis, other than internal tubes and custom loading resistors.
- **Do not operate the unit without connecting and locking all DC power cables.**

3. Unpacking and Placement

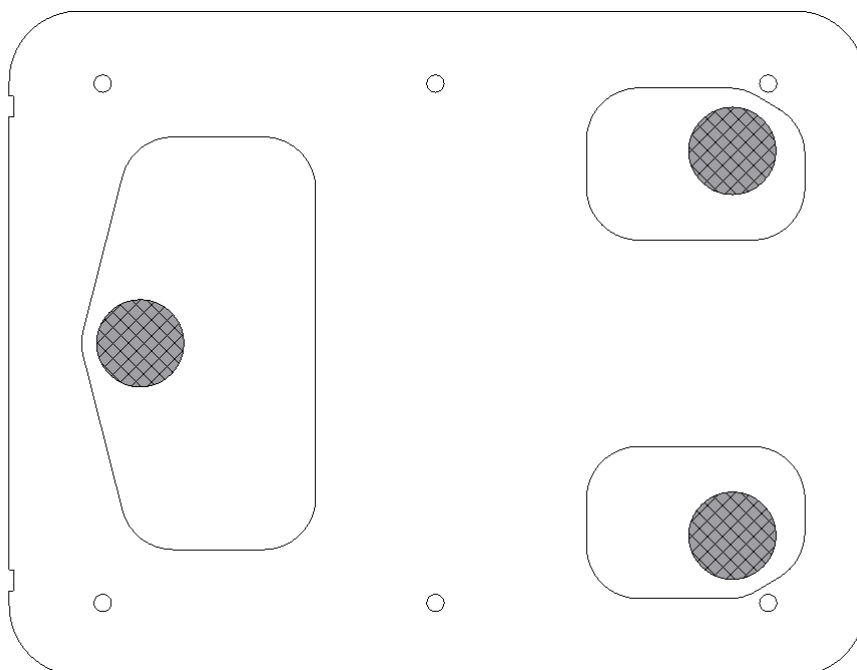
The Signal Stage and Power Supply units are contained in two separate boxes.

After opening the top cover of each box, remove the upper layer of hard foam material. You can then lift each unit from its box cradling them with the cloth that is underneath each chassis. Retain the cloth and all packing materials for future use.

Both the Signal Stage and Power Supply units become very hot during operation. You should always place them on support feet and leave at least 2 inches (5 cm) clearance above each Amplifier to allow sufficient ventilation.

Both the Signal Stage and Power Supply units are designed to be supported by separate support feet. They do not have support feet fixed in place. Feet can affect the sound quality significantly. Feet must be positioned underneath each unit in direct contact with the aluminum base plate – not the leather clad MDF covers. There are three areas where the aluminum base plate is exposed through openings in the leather clad MDF bottom plate. You can use either three or four feet.

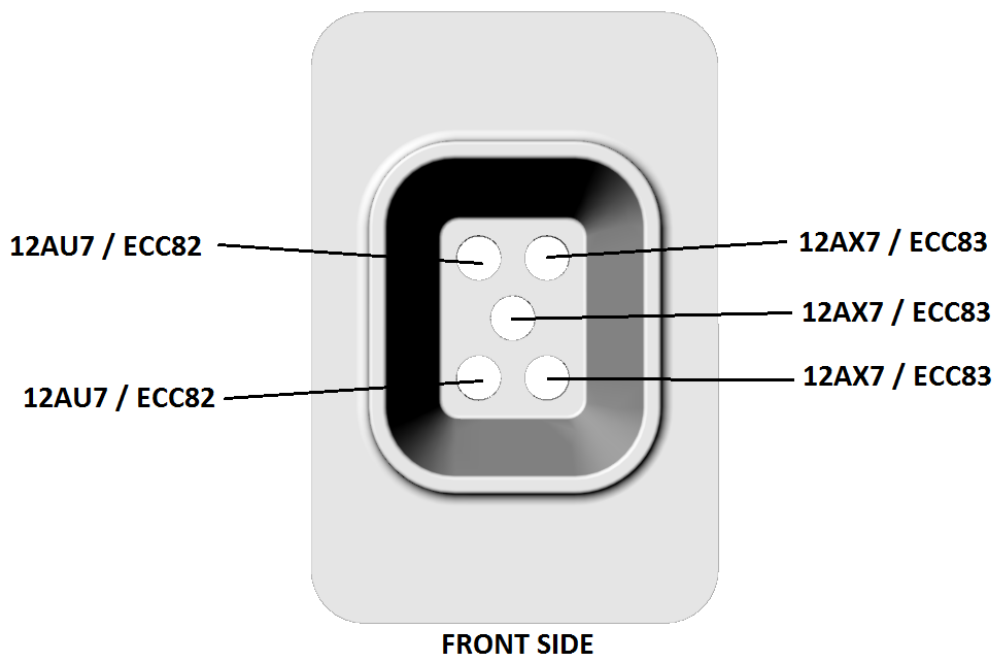
After each unit has been placed in its final position, they can be lifted in turn to locate the support feet – firstly lifting the back (for 2 feet) and then the front (for 1 or 2 feet) to be placed underneath the chassis. Adjusting their position will also affect the sound to varying degrees, depending on the type of rack, location or interaction with other equipment. For the most situations, the arrangement as shown in the diagram below is a good starting point.



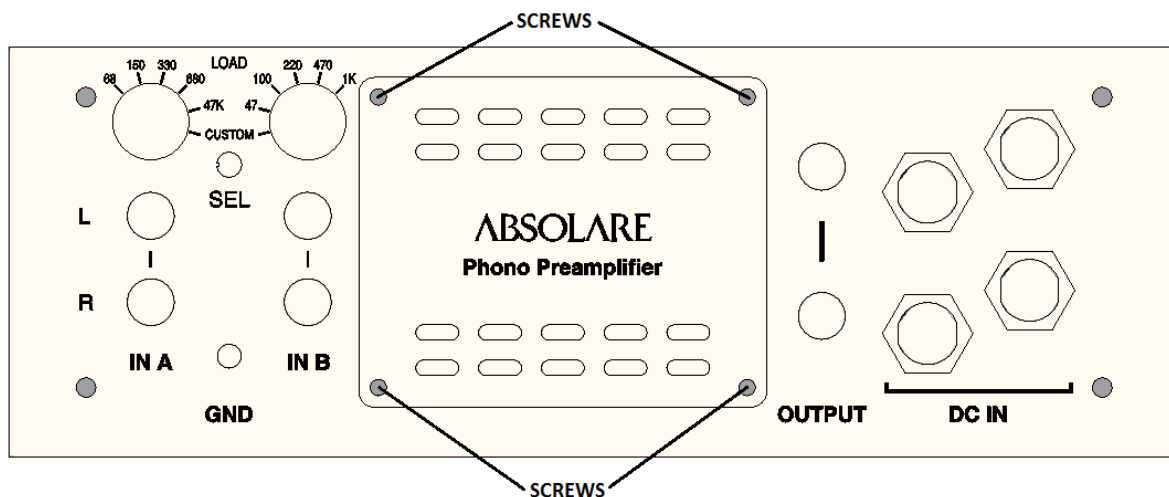
4. Installing the Tubes

There are total of nine tubes in the Signal Section. Five are visible within the upper recess on top of the chassis. Another four tubes are located inside the unit, accessible only by removing the small cover on the rear panel.

Placement of the upper tubes is shown below:

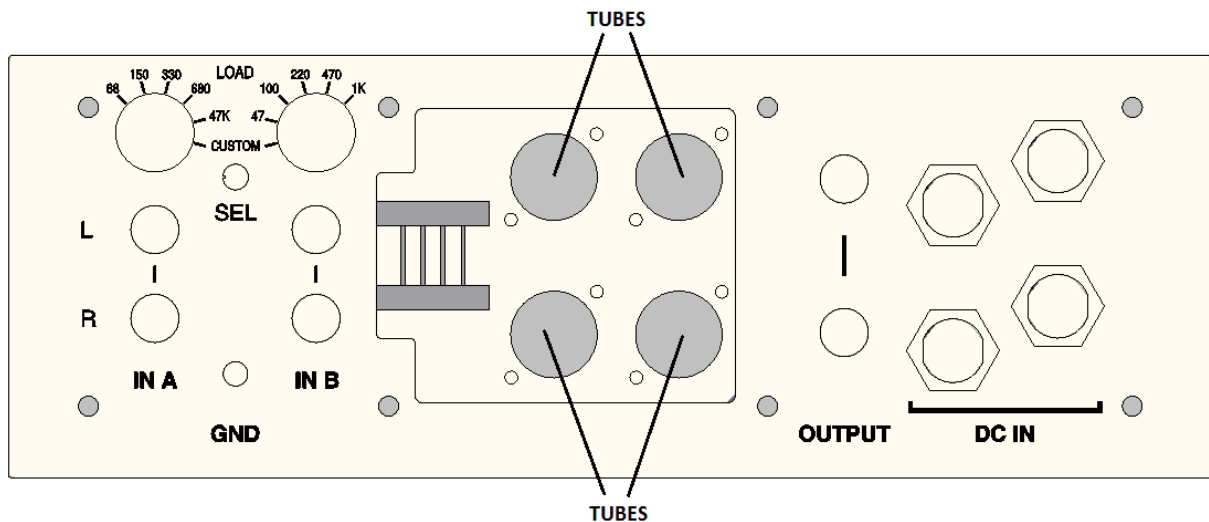


You may receive the unit with the internal tubes already pre-installed. If this is not the case, or you wish to replace them yourself, you should remove the four small hex screws on the corners of the small cover on the rear panel as indicated below.

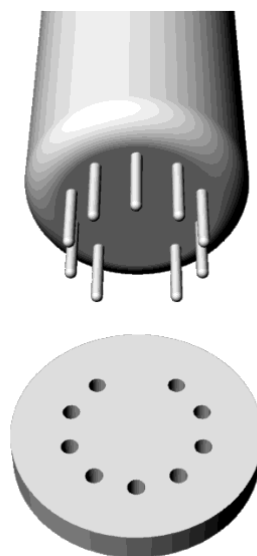


Once the small cover has been removed, four 6C45PI / WE417* tubes should be installed into the four sockets that are visible within the chassis. Please check for the correct orientation of tube pins before installing the tubes into the sockets.

*PLEASE NOTE: WE417 tubes have different pin configuration to 6C45PI tubes. You must either have the WE417 version of the phono stage, or use a conversion adapter. Otherwise the unit will not work and permanent damage may occur.



12AX7 / 12AU7 / 6C45PI tubes have one missing pin acting as a correct positioning key. Align the missing pin with the missing hole in the tube socket while inserting.



5. Connecting the Cables

5.1. Power cables

AC power input is via a standard IEC inlet socket. Operating voltage must only be changed by an authorized service agent.

There are four DC power cables connecting the Power Supply and the Signal Stage. Each DC connection has a different number of pins. The 2-pin cable connects to the 2-pin sockets, the 3-pin cable connects to the 3-pin socket etc. The DC connectors lock into the corresponding socket with a twisting ring. Connect and lock all four DC power cables before powering-up the system. Never connect or disconnect any power cable while the unit is operating. Some of the pins carry high voltages, so it is important to never touch any Power Supply DC Output sockets while the unit is operating. Also wait at least 30 seconds before disconnecting any cables after powering down the unit.

5.2. Signal Cables

You can connect two separate arms/cartridges to the Signal Stage at the same time. The selector switch between the inputs selects the active input channel. Ground point is common for both input channels.

6. Operating the Unit

6.1. General Operation

Absolare Phono Stage will be ready to operate 40 seconds after turning on the power but attain full performance after 15 to 30 minutes.

Signal ground and chassis/power ground is separate inside the Signal Stage and they are connected by a high pass filter to reduce hum and noise. The ground point near the inputs is connected to the chassis ground. The outside parts of the RCA output connectors are connected to signal ground.

There are no adjustments required other than cartridge loading. As you can connect two separate arms/cartridges to the Signal Stage at the same time, there are separate loading options for each input. To provide more levels in total and a better match for each cartridge, load values are not the same between channels. If the preset levels do not match the desired value exactly, you can install your own load resistors for each input channel (*see section 6.2. for installing custom resistors*).

There are five factory-fixed plus one custom load level for each input.

Custom resistors can be accessed via the input tube cover on the back of the unit.

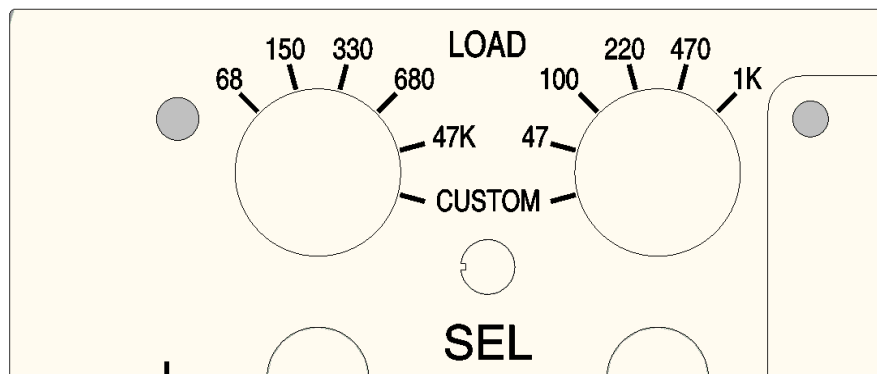
Custom level is short circuited as factory default.

Input **A** load levels: 68 Ω , 150 Ω , 330 Ω , 680 Ω , 47 k Ω , (custom installed value)

Input **B** load levels: 47 Ω , 100 Ω , 220 Ω , 470 Ω , 1 k Ω , (custom installed value)

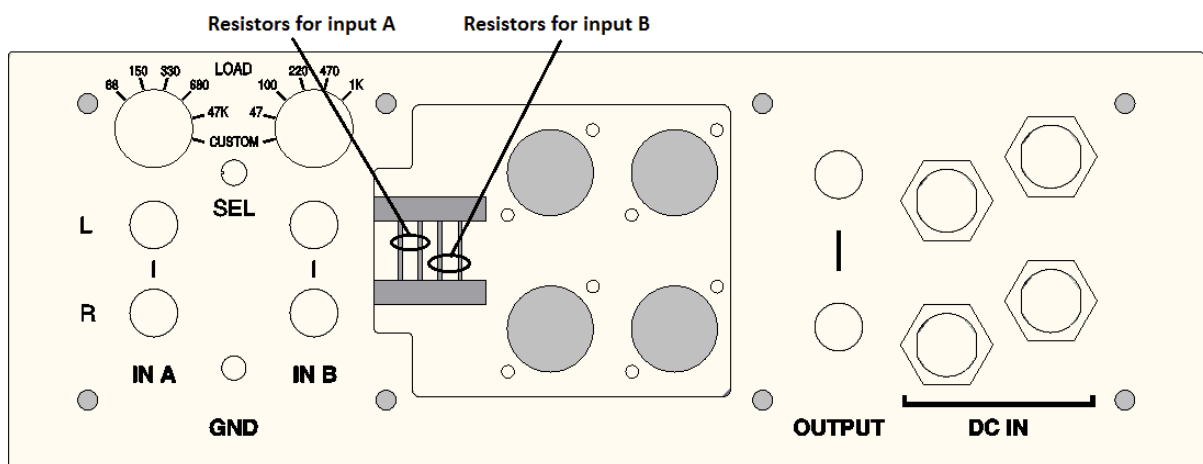
Input capacitance is fixed at 100pF.

You can use the 47K setting for MM cartridges.



6.2. Installing/Changing Custom Load Resistors

Custom load resistors are accessible from behind the small back cover. First you should remove the four hex screws on the corners of the small cover on the rear panel. Then you can change the resistors to any desired value. There are straight wires in place of the resistors as the factory default.



7. Troubleshooting and Maintenance

| | |
|--|--|
| Surface of the unit is dirty | - Clean with a slightly damp cloth |
| No power indicator light on both units | - Check AC line voltage, check the fuse of the Power Supply unit |
| Power indicator light on Power Supply but not on Signal Stage | - Check all DC power cords |
| Both indicator lights are on but tube heaters are not glowing | - Check all DC power cords |
| Both indicator lights are on, tube heaters are glowing, but no sound | - Check all DC power cords - Check the input selector - Check resistor loading (custom level is short circuited as factory default) - Check output cables |
| Noise / hum in the sound | - Check grounding of input cables - Check resistor loading (47K setting may increase noise) |
| Input selector does not work | - Check all DC power cords |

If the problem is persistent, contact your nearest ABSOLARE dealer.

8. Technical Specifications

- All tube signal path: 4 x 6C45PI (or 4 x WE417), 3 x ECC83 (12AX7), 2 x ECC82 (12AU7).
- Two box design: 1 Signal Section; 1 Power Supply.
- Separate transformers for heaters and signal power.
- Isolated transformer section within the Power Supply.
- Separate DC regulators for input and output section in the Signal Stage.
- Point-to-point construction.
- Two independent inputs (A/B) with input selector switch – 5 factory-fixed, 1 custom cartridge loading level for each input. Custom resistors can be accessed via input tube cover on the back of the unit.
- Input A loading: 68 Ω , 150 Ω , 330 Ω , 680 Ω , 47 k Ω , (custom value).
- Input B loading: 47 Ω , 100 Ω , 220 Ω , 470 Ω , 1 k Ω , (custom value).
- Input capacitance: 100 pF.
- Direct coupling to input (no step-up transformer).
- Gain: 61 dB fixed
- Output impedance: 325 Ω
- Bandwidth: 20 Hz – 20 KHz
- Standard RIAA equalization.
- Dimensions: 38.2 x 50 x 14.8 cm / 15" x 19.7" x 5.8" (W x D x H), per chassis, excl. feet
- Weight: 20 kg / 44lbs. (Signal) / 22 kg / 48 lbs. (Power Supply)

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