

ABSOLARE Preamplifier

User Manual



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1. General Description

The Absolare Preamplifier is a single chassis line stage preamplifier with an all tube signal path and point-to-point construction. Inside the chassis, mains transformers and DC regulators are physically isolated from the signal section by an internal partition, to further reduce noise and hum. Balanced (XLR) and unbalanced (RCA) versions are available. Balanced version has 4 input channels and unbalanced version has 4 input channels as well.

2. Safety Issues and Warnings

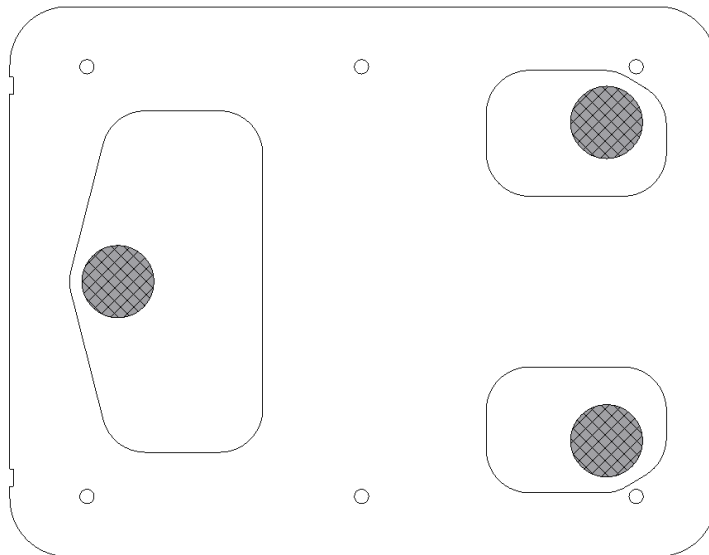
- **Be sure the voltage setting of the unit matches the applied voltage to power input.** Operating voltage is fixed and must only be changed by an authorized service agent.
- **Do not touch tubes while operating.** Tubes are extremely hot devices and also contain very high voltages.
- **Do not open bottom covers.** There are no user serviceable parts inside the chassis.

3. Unpacking and Placement

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

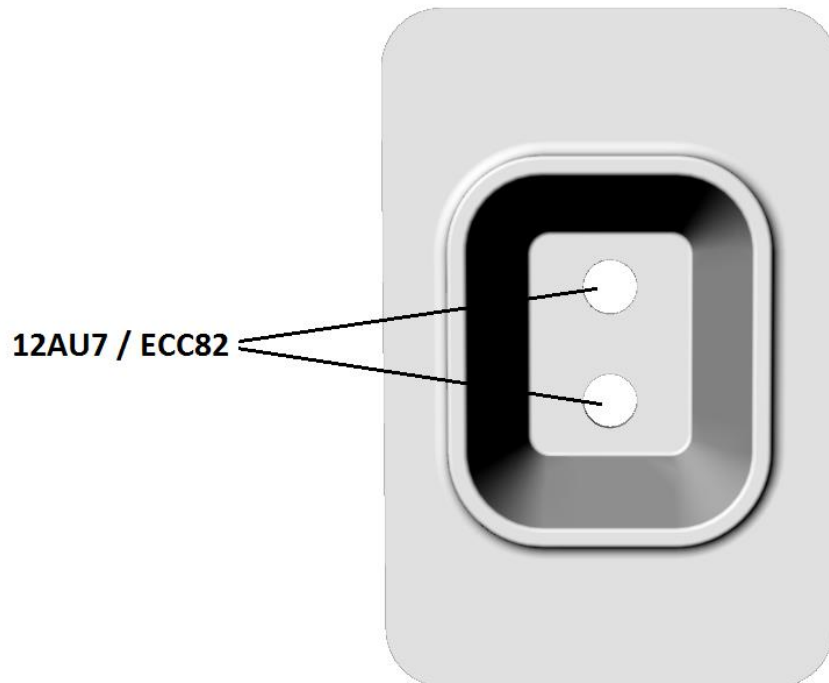
The Absolare Preamplifier is designed to be supported by separate support feet. They do not have support feet fixed in place. Feet can affect the sound quality significantly. Feet must be positioned underneath each unit in direct contact with the aluminum base plate – not the leather clad MDF covers. 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 the Preamplifier has been placed in its final position, it 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.

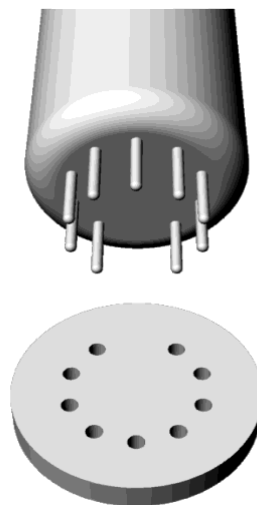


4. Installing the Tubes

There are two 12AU7/ECC82 twin triode tubes in the Preamplifier.



12AU7 / ECC82 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 cable

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

5.2. Signal Cables

You can connect 4 unbalanced (RCA) or 4 balanced (XLR) sources at the same time. The selector knob on the left-hand side switches between the input channels. Output is single-ended RCA or transformer balanced XLR depending on the version.

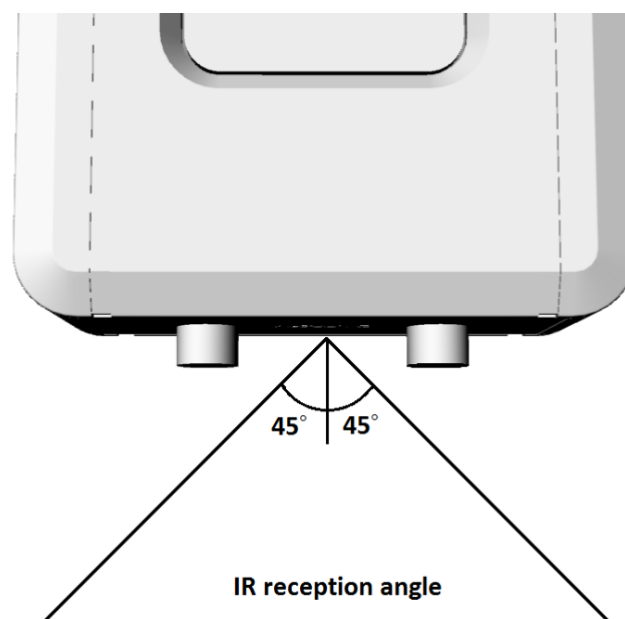
6. Operating the Unit

The Absolare Preamplifier will be ready to operate seconds after turning on the power but attain full performance in 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 outside parts of the RCA connectors are connected to signal ground. Balanced (XLR) version has transformer balanced input and output on pins 2 and 3; pin 1 is connected to the chassis ground.

There are no adjustments required for the preamp.

With the motorized remote control option, you can change the volume setting with the IR remote control. Operating angle is approx 45°.



7. Troubleshooting and Maintenance

Surface of the unit is dirty	- Clean with a slightly damp cloth
No power indicator light	- Check AC line voltage, check the fuse
Both indicator lights are on, tubes are glowing, but there is no sound	- Check the input selector position - Check input and output cables
Noise / hum in the sound	- Check grounding of input cables

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

8. Technical Specifications

- All Tube, Zero Feedback, Single-Ended Architecture
- Bandwidth: 20Hz – 20kHz within +/-0.2 dB, 10Hz – 45 kHz +/- 1.0 dB
- Tubes: 2 x 12AU7 (ECC82 or compatible)
- Input: 4 in RCA and XLR Models; 2 RCA + 2 XLR in RCA/XLR Model
- Input Impedance: 100 k Ω
- Output: 2 RCA or 2 XLR; 1 RCA + 1 XLR in RCA/XLR model
- Attenuator: 48 steps with discrete resistors, remote controlled
- Output impedance: 750 Ω
- Gain: 18 dB
- Dimensions: 38.2 x 52.6 x 14.8 cm / 15" x 20.7" x 5.8" (W x D x H), excl. feet
- Weight: 21 kg / 46 lbs., net

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