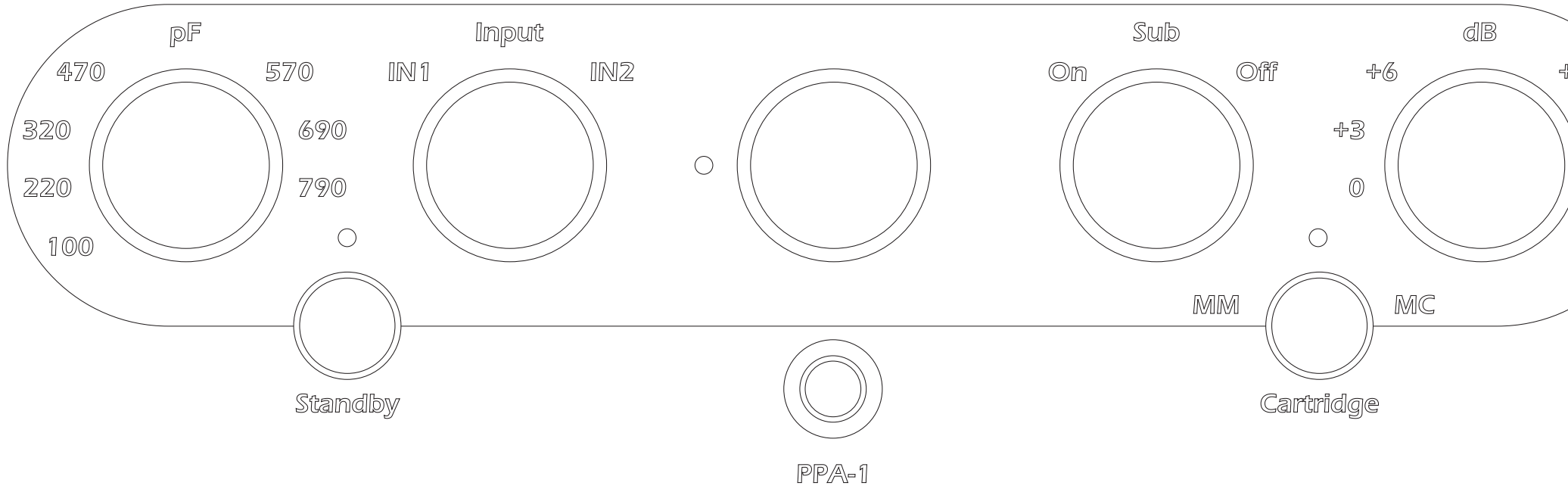


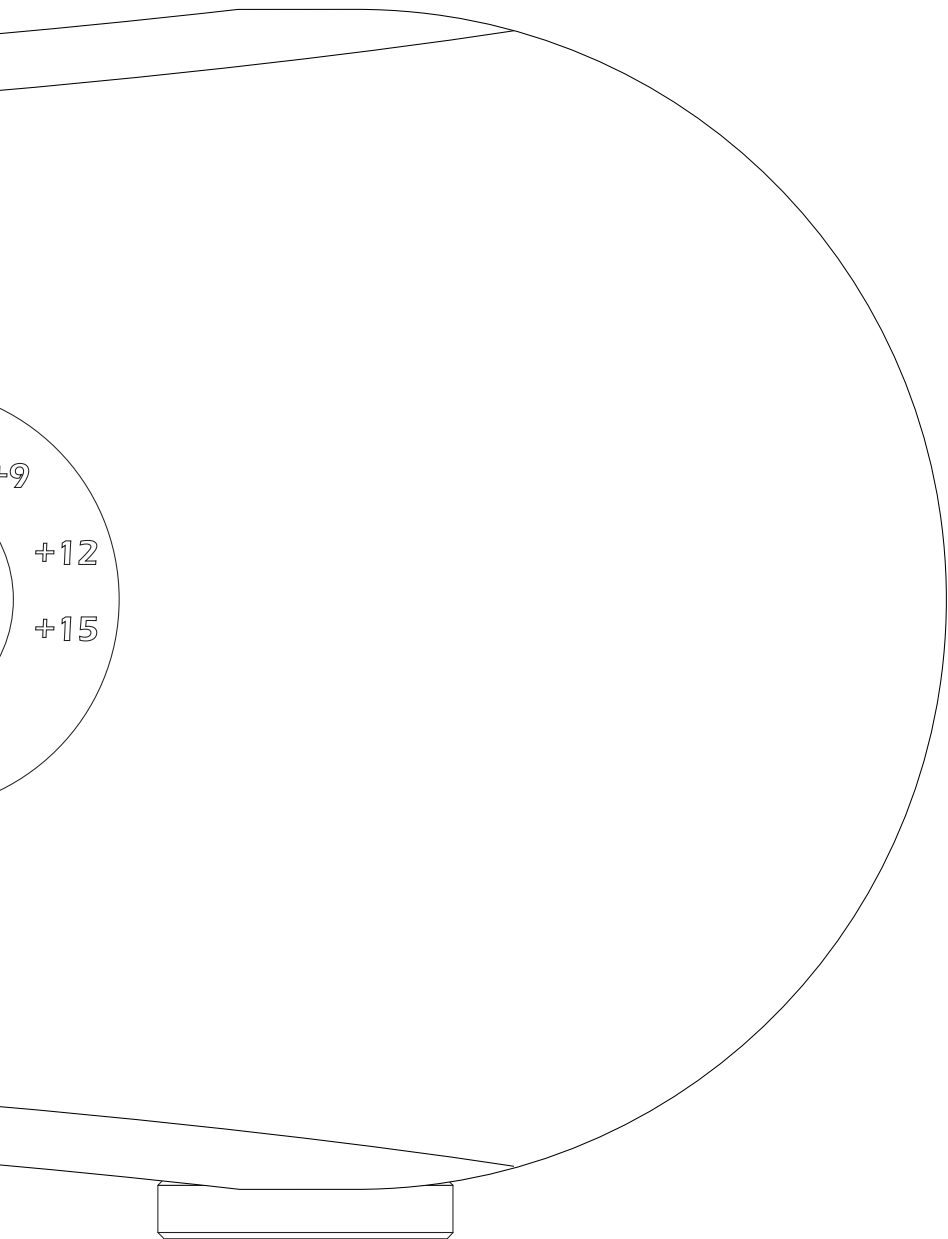


User Manual

PPA-1 Phono Preamplifier







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Don't Be a Stranger

Thank you for purchasing the Gato Audio PPA-1 Phono Preamp. We are absolutely confident that it will bring you many hours of listening pleasure.

We hereby cordially invite you to join the Gato Audio family by registering your product online. For new products, we offer to extend your factory warranty by three years on top of the two years we provide by law - in total five years warranty - if you choose to register. It's fast and easy and you can do it by typing this address into your internet browser or scan this code:



www.gato-audio.com/product-registration

You may also consider signing up for our newsletter to receive information about exciting new products, events and technical updates.

We are also present on several social media like Facebook, X, Instagram and LinkedIn. Tag your new Gato Audio gear with #gatoaudio. We would love to see it!

All this and more at www.gato-audio.com

Our very best,

Gato Audio

Package Contents

Please check that the following is included in the package:

- 1 Gato Audio PPA-1 Phono Preamp
- 1 Mains cable
- 1 Gato Audio PPA-1 remote control (RC-6)
- 1 CR2032 3 V battery
- This manual 😊

Safety First!

Mains Plug and Cable:

- Only use mains cables that adheres to safety standards - like the one included with this preamplifier
- Insert the mains plug fully into the mains outlet socket
- Do not defeat the ground connection
- Do not move the preamplifier around while it is connected to mains
- Do not place heavy objects on the mains cable or place the cable near high-temperature objects
- Do not use damaged mains plugs or socket outlets

Liquids:

Electricity and liquids are not a safe combination, therefore:

- When cleaning the preamplifier, remove the mains plug
- Do not handle the mains plug with wet hands
- Do not spray any liquid directly onto the preamplifier
- Do not place liquid containers above or near the preamplifier
- Keep liquids away from the preamplifier

...And:

- This is not a toy and should not be handled like one (by children OR adults)
- Do not remove the covers of the preamplifier (for service see page 14)
- Do not attempt to put foreign objects inside the preamplifier (for service see page 14)
- Do not cover the preamplifier with cloth, while it is connected to mains
- Do not place the preamplifier on sloped or unstable surfaces
- When the preamplifier will not be used for a long time, remove the mains plug
- Never connect or disconnect cables when the preamplifier is switched on
- This unit is made for indoor temperature (15-25° C or 59-77 °F). If it has been exposed to cold temperature, let it adjust itself to indoor temperature before use
- Make sure that your preamplifier is able to breathe by securing a minimum safe distance around the heat sinks of 100 mm or 4 inches



About the PPA-1

General Design

The PPA-1 is a sophisticated phono stage with a built in headphone amplifier, designed with maximum sonic performance and flexibility in mind. The Preamp features two separate and individually configurable inputs. Line stages for both MM and MC cartridges are available for both inputs as well as a wide range of extra gain and load settings can be applied.

Individual power supplies for the delicate analog circuits and the digital control secures a healthy separation of audio and logic. The PPA-1 features low noise voltage regulators and a well designed grounding that secures high dynamics and headroom as well as a low noise floor.

Current Mode MC

As a rarity we designed the MC input stage as current mode that differs from typical voltage mode circuits by having a low input impedance offering higher damping and minimizes noise and distortion. Any tendency of oscillation or peaky behavior of a cartridge is drastically dampened and not amplified throughout the rest of the preamplifier. Due to this special circuit design, the capacitive feature is disabled and cannot be selected for MC cartridges.

Voltage Mode MM

In contrast the MM input stage is voltage amplified as many MM cartridges offer relatively high output impedance and works best with a fix load of 47Kohm together with a selectable capacitance as offered by the PPA-1. Low noise amplification and equalizing circuits for the MM input is shared with that of the MC line stage.

Dedicated Headphone Amplifier

Enjoy the intimacy of the vinyl grooves directly in a pair of quality headphones via the front mounted 6.3mm jack. A separate and discreetly designed MOSFET headphone amplifier with analog volume control will ensure top notch performance, while the line level outputs automatically deactivate.

Setting Up Your PPA-1

Basic connection

Follow these steps for setting up your system in this sequence:

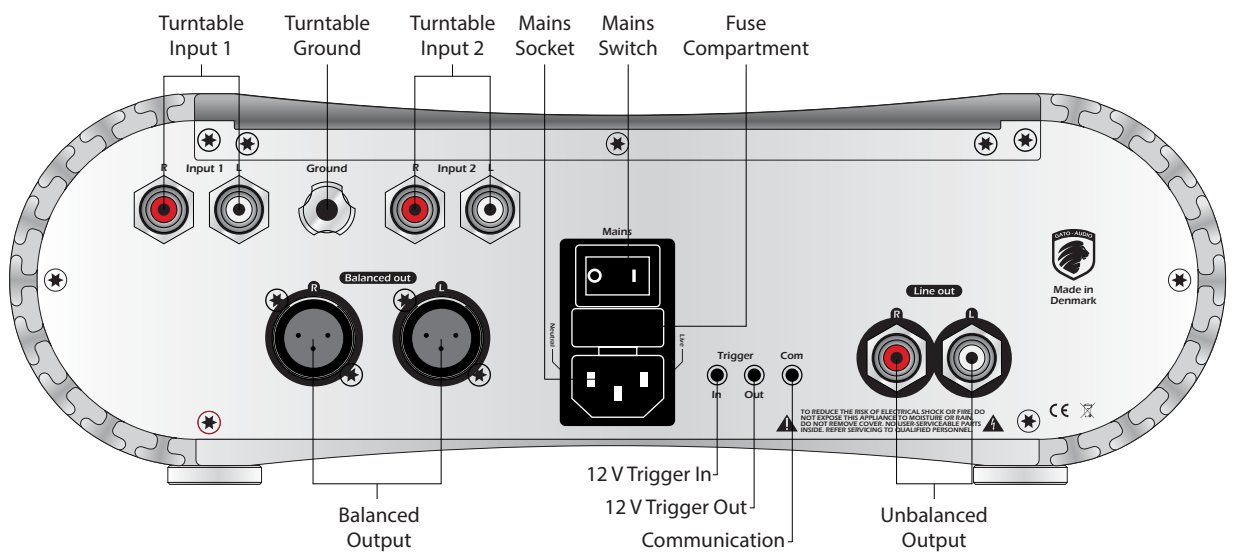
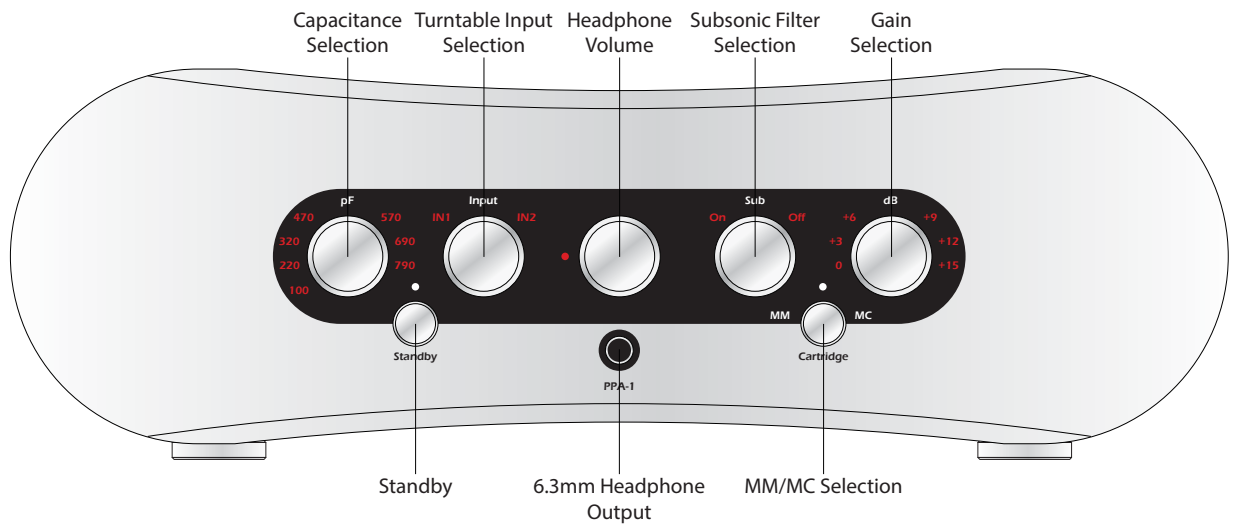
1. Place the PPA-1 as per the instructions on page 5
2. Connect inputs and outputs to the preamplifier
3. Connect ground from the turntable
4. Connect mains power cable to the preamplifier and turn it on
5. Select input and volume setting. Enjoy!

Connecting (Multiple) Turntables

The PPA-1 supports two turntables to be connected at the same time. Simply connect the turntables to each RCA input. If possible connect ground from the turntables to the ground terminal on the PPA-1.

Connecting Headphones

Connect the 6.3mm headphone jack to the front of the PPA-1, just below the volume knob. Turn the volume knob to activate the headphones and adjust volume level.



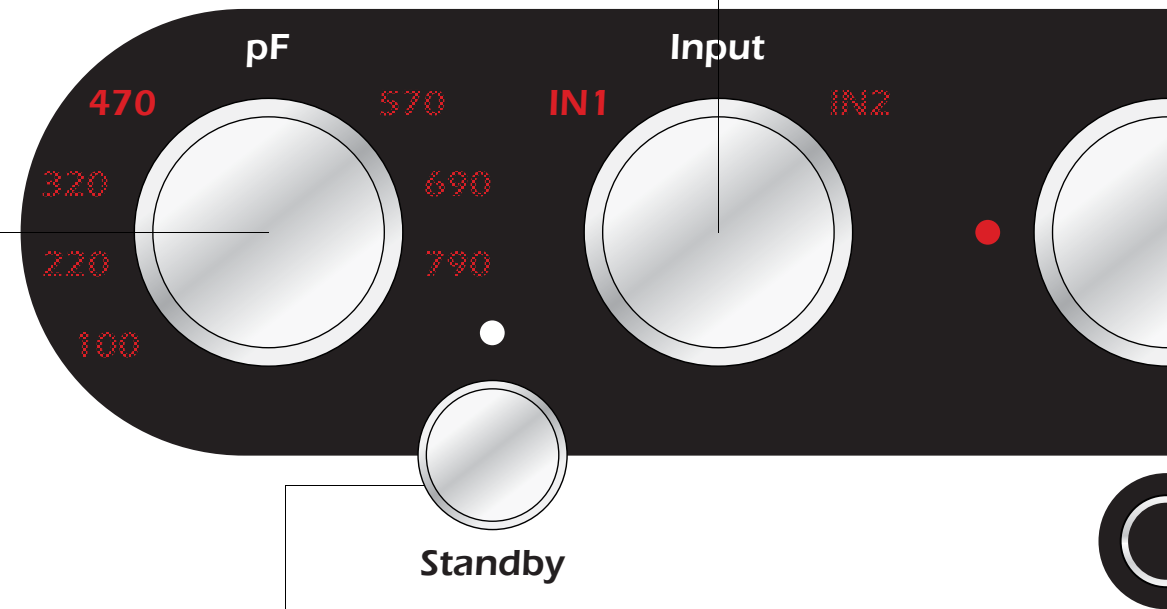
How Does it Work?

Input Selection

Use the Input button on the front panel to select between the two turntable input channels. Inputs can also be selected with the remote. All settings made (capacitance, subsonic, gain and cartridge) are automatically saved for each input and recalled when the input is changed.

Capacitance Selection

Select the desired capacitance level by turning the Capacitance knob marked with pF or use the remote control. Please find the recommended value in the technical documentation for your specific cartridge. Capacitance settings are only available for MM cartridges.



Power On & Standby

Use the mains switch on the back of the preamplifier to turn it on. The preamplifier is now in standby mode. Only the microprocessor and the standby LED are powered during standby. Therefore, the PPA-1 has an ultra-low standby power consumption of less than 1W.

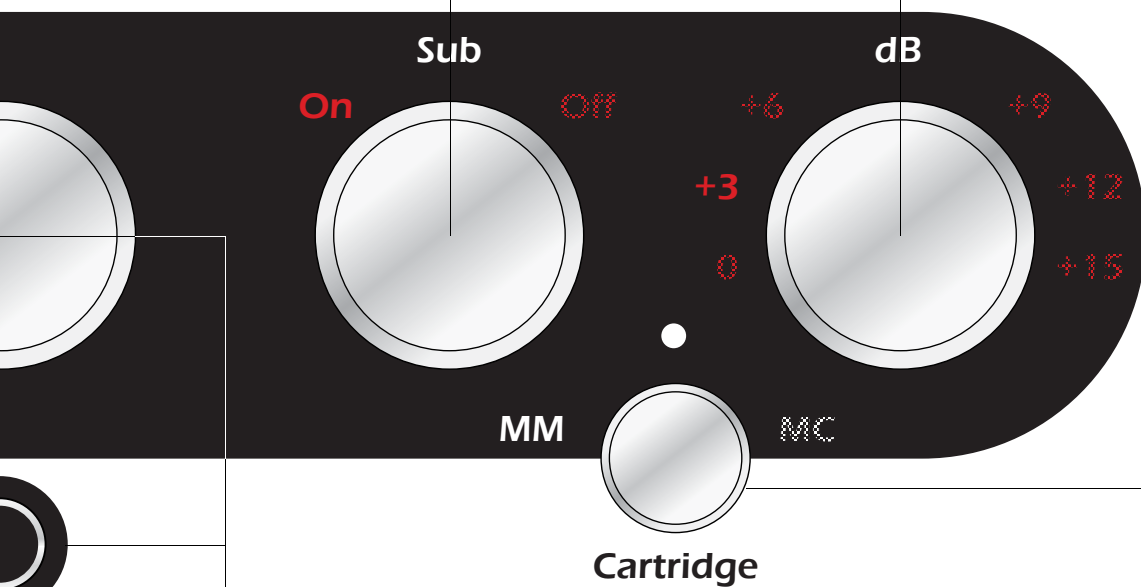
Activate the preamplifier by pressing On on the remote control or the Standby button on the front panel. When the preamplifier enters standby mode again, it will remember the selected input channel and settings.

Subsonic Filter

Activate the subsonic filter by turning the knob marked with Sub to On or use the remote control. Turn it to Off to deactivate it.

Gain Setting

Select the desired gain level by turning the Gain knob marked with dB or use the remote control.



Cartridge Type Selection

The PPA-1 supports both Moving Magnet and Moving Coil type cartridges. Select your cartridge type by pressing the cartridge button.

Enabling & Adjusting Headphone Volume

The volume knob controls both the volume of the headphone amplifier and switches the outputs between the line outputs and the headphone. Both outputs cannot be activated at the same time. Turn the knob all the way counterclockwise mutes headphones and activates line outputs. By turning the knob clockwise will mute the line outputs and adjust the volume to the headphones.



PF

75

Input

IN1

PPA-1



Sub

Off

+6

dB

MM

RC-6 Remote Control

The RC-6 is an infrared remote control for the Gato Audio PPA-1.

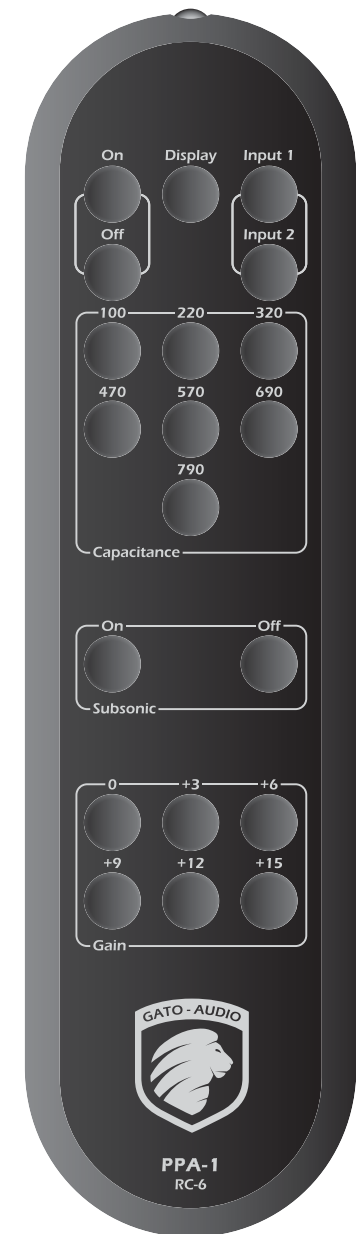
How to insert/replace the battery

The RC-6 runs on a standard CR2032 3 V button battery.

1. Remove the small lid on the bottom side of the remote
2. Insert or replace the CR2032 3 V button battery
3. Reinstall the small lid on the bottom side of the remote

Functions

- Standby** - Press the On button to exit standby
Press the Off button to enter standby
- Display** - Press the Display button to dim the display
Press it again to restore the display to normal
- Input** - Press the Input 1 or Input 2 button to select turntable input
- Capacitance** - Press any button in the Capacitance group to set capacitance
- Subsonic** - Press the On button in the Subsonic group to turn on the subsonic filter
- Press the Off button in the Subsonic group to turn it off
- Gain** - Press any button in the Gain group to set gain



Troubleshooting

The PPA-1 will not power up:

- Check the mains plug is securely fastened in the socket and mains switch is on.
- Check the mains fuse in the small compartment above the mains socket.

The PPA-1 powers up, but there is no sound coming from the speakers:

- Check the headphone volume knob is turned all the way counterclockwise.
- Check connections to your amplifier and speakers.
- Check connections to your turntable.

There is no sound in the headphones, but there is sound coming from the speakers:

- Check the headphone volume knob is turned up. This will enable the headphone amplifier.
- Check the headphone jack is securely fastened and pushed all the way into the socket on the front panel.
- Check the headphone cable is not damaged and well connected to the headphone itself.
- Check connections to your turntable.

There is a lot of humming in the speakers, when connected to one or two turntables:

Check that the turntables are properly connected with ground to the PPA-1. Ground loops and general grounding issues are common on turntable setups. Be sure to check your turntable manual for specific advice for your turntable. Check signal cables and grounding cables thoroughly in the whole setup.

The volume level is too low, and I have to turn my power amplifier all the way up to hear the music.

- Check that your cartridge setting is correct. Refer to the cartridge manufacturer if it is an MM or MC cartridge and adjust the setting of the PPA-1 accordingly.
- Check and adjust the gain setting on the PPA-1 to desired output level. +15dB is available for very low output cartridges.

Make it Last!

Please apply simple common sense to maintain the sound quality and lifespan of your new Gato Audio preamplifier. Here are a few guidelines:

- Regular care: Wipe the surfaces carefully by using a clean soft dry cloth
- Cleaning: If necessary, wipe the hard surfaces clean using a soft cloth dampened with window cleaning detergent. Then wipe the surfaces dry using a soft dry cloth
- Be careful never to use hot water or any type of concentrated detergent, solvent, thinner, or any other volatile substance on the surfaces, or you may cause permanent damage to the surface coating
- Keep the cabinet away from prolonged contact with rubber or PVC materials
- Do not expose the amplifier to direct sunlight or other heat sources

If All Else Fails...

...don't panic! Every Gato Audio product comes with a minimum 2-year warranty. You can also register your new product on our website and extend the factory warranty by three years to five years in total. Scan the code or type this address into your browser:

www.gato-audio.com/product-registration

This warranty does not cover damage or wear directly or indirectly caused by improper use, violence, tampering with or unauthorized access to or servicing of any part of the product.

If you are in need of service or repair, please do not hesitate to contact us at hello@gato-audio.com or visit our website www.gato-audio.com for more information.



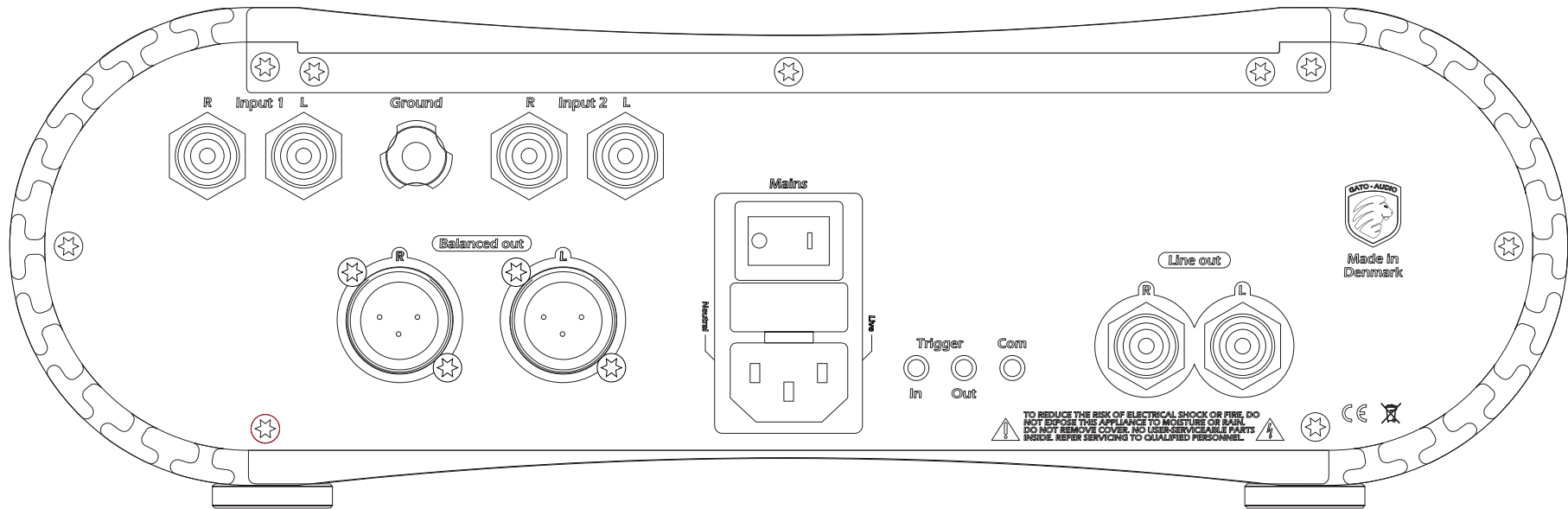
Technical Specifications

Maximum Output Level	Unbalanced: 6 V RMS, Balanced: 12 V RMS	Size & Power	
Gain (0 Db) 1 KHz	MM: 40 dB MC: 60 dB (depending on cartridge impedance)	Power Requirements	115 VAC or 230 VAC, 50 Hz/60 Hz
Gain Adjust	0 dB, +3 dB, +6 dB, +9 dB, +12 dB, +15 dB	Fuse	20 mm sand-filled, 1,6 AT
Input Impedance	MM: 47 K Ω / MC: N/A	Power consumption stdb/idle/max	< 1 W / 30 W / 60 W
Input Capacitance (MM)	100 pf, 220 pf, 320 pf, 470 pf, 570 pf, 790 pf	Dimensions (WxHxD)	325 x 105 x 420 mm / 12.8 x 4.1 x 16.5"
THD + N (2,2 V / 4,4 V)	0,015 %	Weight	10 kg / 22 lb
Signal to Noise Ratio (A Weighted)	80 dB		
Trigger	12 V in and out		

Connectors

Unbalanced Analogue Inputs, MM or MC	2 pairs of gold plated RCA
Unbalanced Analogue Output	1 pair of gold plated RCA
Balanced Analogue Output	1 pair gold plated XLR Neutrik
Unbalanced Headphone Output	1 pc 6,3 mm jack (with volume control)
Trigger, 12 V - in	1 pc mini jack
Trigger, 12 V - in	1 pc mini jack
Communication	1 pc mini jack





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