

PLINIUS

M14

Phono Preamplifier



INSTRUCTION MANUAL

REFINED AUDIO EQUIPMENT



MANUFACTURED WITH PRIDE IN NEW ZEALAND

CONGRATULATIONS on your decision to become the proud owner of this
Plinius M14 Preamplifier.

This manual has been prepared to help you understand the operation of your amplifier, and to provide information about its design and the variety of ways it may be used.

We have designed and manufactured this preamplifier to reproduce faithfully and accurately, your favourite music. With a little care and a full understanding of the operating recommendations in this manual, your Plinius M14 Phono Preamplifier will provide years of high-quality, trouble-free performance.

Serial Number:

Date of Manufacture:

Final Test Certified By:

**IMPORTANT: PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO READ THIS MANUAL
THOROUGHLY BEFORE USING YOUR PREAMPLIFIER.**

CONTENTS

Introduction	Page 3
Precautions	Page 5
Preamplifier Features – Front Panel	Page 6
Preamplifier Features – Rear Panel	Page 8
Installation and Operation	Page 10
Input/Output Connection	Page 11
M14 Features	Page 13
Specifications	Page 14
Index	Page 15
Contact Details	Page 16

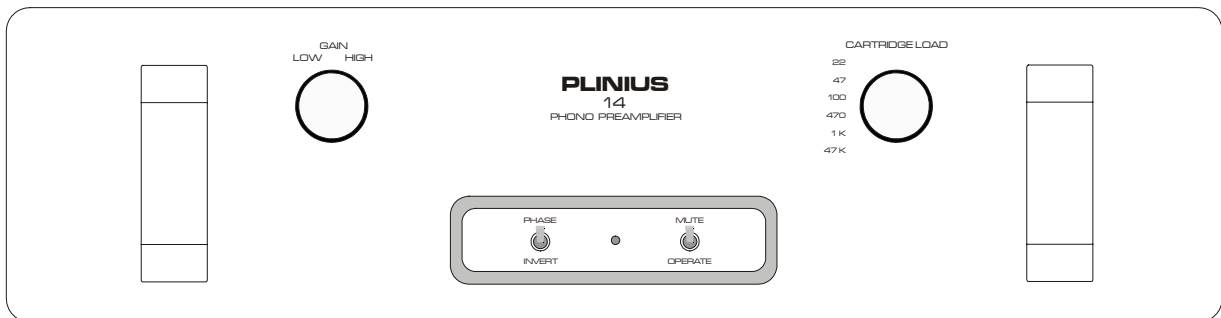
PRECAUTIONS

Please take special note of the following precautions before operating your new preamplifier:

- This preamplifier operates at hazardous voltage levels. We recommend that any work requiring removal of the lid or base be referred to a suitably qualified and experienced service technician.
- DO NOT attempt to connect any input of this preamplifier to its own outputs.
- DO NOT earth any output terminal or connect any of these terminals together without following the instructions in this manual or seeking qualified assistance.
- DO NOT place this preamplifier in any position where liquids or any foreign material may accidentally enter it.
- DO NOT connect any voltage source, short circuit, earth/ground or appliance (other than suitable audio preamplifiers) to the phono preamplifier output terminals.
- DO NOT connect any voltage source, short circuit, earth/ground or appliance (other than suitable phono turntable) to the phono preamplifier input terminals.

PREAMPLIFIER FEATURES – FRONT PANEL

The front of the Plinius M14 Preamplifier incorporates all the facilities you will require on a daily basis.



FRONT PANEL LAYOUT SHOWING GAIN AND CARTRIDGE LOAD KNOBS, PHASE AND MUTE SWITCHES, AND DISPLAY LED

DISPLAY LED

The Display LED will light whenever the Plinius M14 is operating. The LED will dim (to about half brightness) when the preamplifier is put into mute.

PHASE SWITCH

Use the phase switch to change the phase response of the Plinius M14 from absolute to inverted 180°. As labelled on the front panel, absolute phase is selected with the switch to the upper position, and inverted 180° phase is the lower position.

MUTE SWITCH

Use this switch to mute the output of the Plinius M14. The display LED will dim to show the phono preamplifier is in mute.

GAIN SELECTION KNOB

Use this knob to set the gain of the phono stage to suit your particular phono turntable. When changing the gain setting, the output of the Plinius M14 is momentarily muted to prevent any transient offset thump.

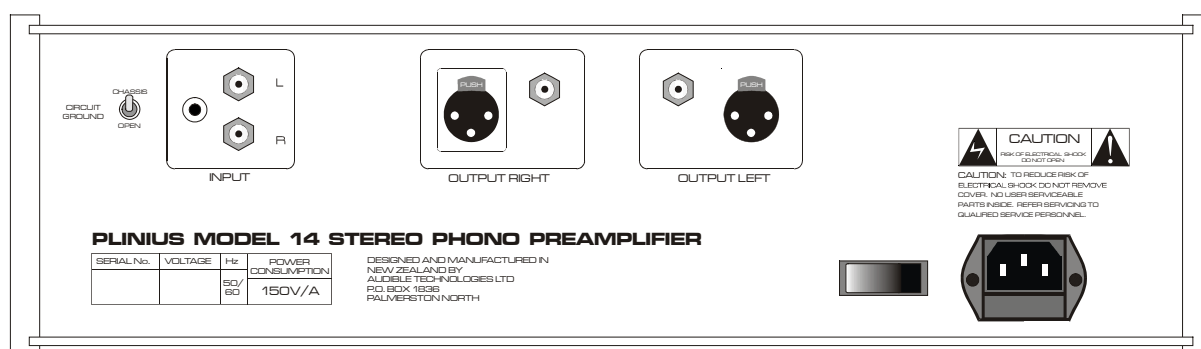
CARTRIDGE LOAD SELECTION KNOB

The phono cartridge load can be adjusted to suit your particular phono cartridge using this selection knob. Use the cartridge load selector to set the load to one of six impedance values; 22Ω , 47Ω , 100Ω , 470Ω , $1k\Omega$, or $47k\Omega$. In our experience $47k\Omega$ is a suitable 'all round' setting, although some cartridges seem to work well into lower values. Please consult your cartridge manufacturer literature for specific recommendations.

PREAMPLIFIER FEATURES – REAR PANEL

This panel incorporates all the terminals for connecting the input signals from your phono turntable, CD player, tuner, etc, and the outputs to the power amp and mains supply.

Please remember that your Plinius M14 Phono Preamplifier is a high quality electronic instrument capable of an exceptional level of performance. Be sure that you understand your system's requirements fully before you make any connection to this phono preamplifier.



REAR PANEL SHOWING INPUT AND OUTPUT TERMINALS, GROUND LIFT SWITCH, MAINS SWITCH AND MAINS SOCKET.

INPUT TERMINALS

The input terminals of your Plinius M14 Phono Preamplifier are standard RCA terminals for use with single ended signals from a phono turntable only. It is not wise to connect any other audio source (such as a CD player) to the inputs of the Plinius M14. Consult your **PLINIUS** dealer for further advice if required.

OUTPUT TERMINALS

Connections for preamplifiers are provided in the centre of the rear panel. Connections are available for both single ended (RCA type) and balanced (XLR type) cables. Note that the only time the outputs aren't 'live' is when the preamplifier is in mute.

GROUND LIFT SWITCH

This switch allows the signal ground to be disconnected from the chassis. In some installations a hum loop may exist due to duplicate ground paths from different equipment. Use this switch to remove the connection from 0V to ground thus allowing some flexibility in your particular set-up.

MAINS SWITCH

The heavy-duty rocker switch to the right of the panel turns the Mains/Line Power to the amplifier ON or OFF. Depress the right hand side of the switch to turn the amplifier on. The amplifier draws a moderately high current when switched on, so it is not good practice to rapidly turn the Mains switch on and off repeatedly.

MAINS POWER CORD IEC SOCKET

This connector is where the mains supply cable from your wall connects to the preamplifier. You will notice that a fuse holder is mounted within this connection, and it holds a mains fuse to provide surge and overload protection for your preamplifier.

EARTH POST

This is a chassis connected gold-plated earth post for use with certain phono turntables.

INSTALLATION AND OPERATION

PLACEMENT AND VENTILATION

Ventilation through and around your Plinius M14 Phono Preamplifier should be kept unimpeded, so ensure that the heat vents (slots in the lid) are not covered or restricted in any way. Also refrain from placing the Plinius M14 on top of other electronic equipment to avoid RF interference being introduced to the highly sensitive phono stage circuitry.

The Plinius M14 design incorporates a very high level of mechanical de-coupling of the input and output. However, it can still be influenced by acoustical feedback in the operating environment. The use of acoustic cones or a suitably spiked preamplifier stand or table, may further enhance the performance of this preamplifier. Consult your **PLINIUS** dealer for further advice if required.

MAINS VOLTAGE CONNECTION

Firstly, check that the mains supply voltage printed on the rear of this preamplifier is similar to the mains supply voltage in your area. If in doubt, please consult your **PLINIUS** dealer.

Mains supply power connection is via the supplied plug-in lead. A standard IEC socket connects the mains power at the preamplifier end, while a local mains plug is required at the wall end.

The wiring code used inside all Plinius product is:

Green to Earth/Ground

Blue to Neutral

Brown to Phase/Live

Should a 'local' plug need fitting to the wall end of the lead, ensure that a suitably qualified service technician wires the plug correctly.

IMPORTANT: DO NOT POWER UP YOUR PREAMPLIFIER UNTIL YOU HAVE CONNECTED YOUR INPUT/OUTPUTS CORRECTLY FOR YOUR SYSTEM, (AS EXPLAINED IN THE NEXT SECTION).

INPUT / OUTPUT CONNECTION

It is important that you connect your preamplifier (outputs) and phono turntable (inputs) to your Plinius M14 Phono Preamplifier correctly to ensure the preamplifier is not damaged, and sounds its best within your system. Now that you have read and familiarised yourself with the various connections on the preamplifier, as covered in previous sections, we will describe in detail the way in which you can connect the preamplifier to your system.

Connect your phono turntable to the inputs on the back of the Plinius M14. Make sure you connect the red coded cable to the red RIGHT RCA input, and the black (or white) cable to the black LEFT RCA input. Also make sure the RCA connectors are a snug fit and are inserted all the way in.

Now connect your preamplifier interconnects to the outputs on the Plinius M14, again ensuring you have left and right channels connected in phase.

If your phono turntable has an earth cable, this can be connected to the gold earth post on the back of the Plinius M14.

TERMINATION QUALITY

Quality of the connections must be examined to ensure that high-performance, trouble-free operation is enjoyed. Check that all interconnection cables are snug fitting and inserted all the way in. In the case of balanced XLR sockets, ensure that they click in positively.

PHASING (OR POLARITY)

It is important to achieve good stereo imaging in your listening room. By observing the wiring instructions above, each preamplifier/power amplifier/loudspeaker combination should be in phase. If you experience poor stereo image and/or a lack of bass, check that all interconnection cables and loudspeaker wires have been connected correctly. We recommend that you use one of the easily obtainable 'test discs' to help you ensure both phasing and channel orientation are correct. If in doubt, consult your **PLINIUS** dealer for advice.

To achieve a sound performance that is correctly aligned to your room, make sure all of the leads carrying signals for the RIGHT channel loudspeaker are connected to the RIGHT input/outputs on your power amplifier/preamplifier/CD player etc. Signals for the LEFT channel should be wired in a similar fashion.

CONNECTING THE MAINS SUPPLY

Now that your Plinius M14 Preamplifier is configured to your system correctly, the mains cable can be plugged into the IEC socket on the back of the preamplifier. Re-check all interconnection cables are fitted correctly. Flick the power switch on the back panel to the right. The display LED will light, and after approximately five seconds, the unit will be ready to operate.

ENABLING THE INPUTS/OUTPUTS

Use the Mute switch to operate the Plinius M14. You can now enjoy your new Plinius M14 Preamplifier.

WARM-UP PERIOD

You will find that the Plinius M14 will become noticeably 'warmer' in sound after being on for a period of time. We usually recommend waiting at least 72 hours before expecting the best quality of sound reproduction from your preamplifier. Also, as the Plinius M14 uses very little power while on, we suggest leaving the unit turned on (but in mute while not being used) so that it will always be at it's sonic best.

M14 FEATURES

MAINS/LINE FUSE

A Mains/Line fuse is fitted within the IEC socket on the rear of the preamplifier. A small drawer at the bottom of this socket may be removed (after the IEC plug is removed) by levering it out with a flat blade screwdriver. The fuse fitted should be rated at no greater than 5 amp normal blow.

IMPORTANT: DO NOT FIT A FUSE WITH A HIGHER RATING.

In the unusual event that this fuse should blow, you must first establish the cause of this failure (such as power surges, damaged mains cable, etc.) before replacing the fuse with one of the same rating and type. Should the preamplifier continue to demonstrate mains fuse failure, contact your **PLINIUS** dealer.

SPECIFICATIONS

- **FREQUENCY RESPONSE:** Phono RIAA network 20Hz to 20kHz ± 0.2 dB.
- **DISTORTION:** Typically $< 0.05\%$ THD at rated input level.
- **HUM & NOISE:** -70dB, A Weighted (input loaded).
- **INPUT SENSITIVITY:** 500 μ V nominal.
- **INPUT IMPEDANCE:** User selectable.
- **RATED OUTPUT LEVEL:** 500mV RMS into 10k Ω or higher.
- **HEIGHT:** 130mm (5")
- **WIDTH:** 490mm (19 1/4")
- **DEPTH:** 340mm (13 1/2")
- **WEIGHT:** 9.5kg (21lbs)

INDEX

Cartridge Load Selector	Page 7
Date of Manufacture	Page 3
Front Panel Layout.....	Page 6
Front Panel Switches	Page 6
Fuse Protection	Page 14
Gain Selector	Page 7
Ground Lift Switch.....	Page 9
IEC Power Connector.....	Pages 12,14
Input Terminals	Pages 8,11
Mains/Line Fuse.....	Page 13
Mains Supply Connection.....	Page 10
Mains Switch	Page 9
Output Terminals.....	Pages 8,11
Phase Function	Page 6
Phasing.....	Page 11
Placement.....	Pages 5,10
Rear Panel Layout.....	Page 8
Safety Precautions.....	Page 5
Serial Number	Page 3
Terminations	Page 11
Ventilation.....	Page 10
Warm-Up Period	Page 12

CONTACT DETAILS

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