

PLINIUS M15 LINE PREAMPLIFIER

Thank you for buying a Plinius product. This Preamplifier has been carefully designed and manufactured by hand and under normal circumstances will maintain its present high level of performance for many years to come. Please read this manual fully before you attempt to use the Model 15 as it does require some familiarisation before you add it to your music system.

Serial Number:

Date of Manufacture:

Final Test Certified by:

INTRODUCTION

The Plinius Model 15 Preamplifier is a continuation of the design philosophy embodied in all Plinius Amplifiers and involves the use of asymmetrical circuit topology as opposed to the more normal symmetrical approach. The Model 15 is a minimalist design using recently designed circuitry based on the SA Series of Power Amplifiers.

The Model 15 uses an "on board" power supply which consists of a large value toroidal transformer and a tightly regulated initial power supply system. The main power supply occupies a large circuit board located along with the toroidal transformer in a cabinet beneath the main circuit board and is isolated by an aluminium and Custom Wood shelf. This shelf is a sandwich construction 10mm thick and provides a high mass low resonance structure for the main circuit board.

The M15 Chassis is constructed in the main from 10mm aluminium with a 12mm aluminium front fascia. We have designed the chassis to be as resonant free as possible and this has great bearing on the 'sound' of the preamplifier.

CIRCUIT DESCRIPTION

The power supply consists of a low noise custom made toroidal transformer feeding a conventional diode bridge and capacitor input filter. The output of this is taken by a set of three terminal regulators which provide clean raw power for the main regulators. The main regulators are separated into those for the left and right channels. These regulators use a very sophisticated shunt system combined with a high impedance source. This allows a large degree of rejection of power supply borne noise. The output maintains a low impedance over a wide range of frequencies. Remote sensing of both supply rails and grounds ensures that the stages are provided with ideal conditions.

The Output section is an elegant balanced-bridge amplifier using a circuit topology close to that of the Plinius SA series of amplifiers. This circuit provides both In and Out of Phase signals to allow Phase switching and Balanced Output.

Every component used within the Model 15 has been chosen for sonic excellence and all signal cable is by Siltech. All switching is done by coin quality silver contact switches and the coupling capacitors are manufactured for Plinius by Hovland.

CONTROLS.

The volume control is an ALPS type and will accurately convey the source signals to the high level amplification stages.

The Balance Control when rotated alters the relative gain between the left and right channels. Rotating the control to the left shifts the image left and rotating it to the right shifts it right.

The Source Selector allows any of the inputs chosen to appear at the Main Outputs. All Inputs on the M15 are “high level” and will accept signals from normal CD, Tuner etc. The Phono Input is the same and can be used to connect a high quality external Phono Preamplifier ie. Plinius M14 or Jarrah.

The Phase Invert switch will change the absolute phase 180 degrees. Some recordings sound better inverted than they do in the normal position due mainly to the recording technique used. Usually this is 'felt' rather than heard and relates to the music being better focused and defined than before. Not all recordings are made the same way and so some experimentation is necessary to find out which is best for you.

The Mute Switch allows manual muting of the Model 15 Outputs. This switch does not override the automatic mute which is activated when the preamplifier is first switched on or when it is switched off. The Mute Switch should be used when changing discs and provides an instantaneous interruption to answer the 'phone etc. It is wise to leave the preamplifier in the 'Mute' position when not in use. This will prevent any unwanted signals reaching the amplifier.

Do not leave the Volume Control at a high level when the preamplifier is in the 'Mute' mode. Someone may use the system not realising the level is set and a high volume of signal may be sent to the amplifiers.

When the Model 15 is in the 'Mute' position the LED on the front will be slightly less bright than when operated.

INSTALLATION

The Plinius Model 15 preamplifier should be left switched on at all times. We have purposely fitted the Mains switch on the rear to discourage turning the unit off. If the Model 15 is switched off between listening sessions you will never hear just how good it really sounds. In our experience a 48 hour warmup period is required during which the sound quality will change quite dramatically. This change will continue for at least 72 hours after which the preamplifier will be at its optimum. This warmup period is a nuisance but the results are very worth waiting for.

While the Model 15 does not dissipate an inordinate amount of heat, it does require a reasonable amount of space to allow airflow. Do not place anything over the vent holes in the top panel and if placed in a cabinet there should be at least 50mm of clearance above the Preamplifier.

The Model 15 should not be stacked with another amplifier as hum could be induced through the Preamplifiers circuits. If you detect any hum try moving the amplifier around. If the hum level diminishes it has been induced from another source.

GROUND LIFT SWITCH

The M15 is fitted with a switch on the rear panel adjacent to the Phono Input Terminal. This is to allow the Signal Ground to be either connected to the Chassis Ground or to 'float' above Chassis Ground.

On some Amplifiers an earth loop or hum can develop if both Signal Grounds are connected to Chassis Ground. Due to the unique Input Selector arrangement, Plinius SA series Amplifiers require the driving preamplifier to have the Signal Ground at Chassis Ground for optimum performance.

SERVICING.

If the Top or bottom covers of the Model 15 Preamplifier are taken off for any reason, remove the mains Supply Plug first. The Voltages present on the circuit board could be harmful.

In the unlikely event that your Model 15 should require any service please take it firstly to your Dealer in its original packaging. He will then determine if the unit should be returned to the factory. Your Plinius Dealer has a good understanding of our Amplifiers and will be able to advise on any further installation requirements.

CLEANING.

A damp cloth is all that is required to remove dust and finger marks from the Model 15's anodised surface.