

MUSICAL SURROUNDINGS

# PHONOMENA III

PHONOGRAPH PREAMPLIFIER



OWNER'S MANUAL

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

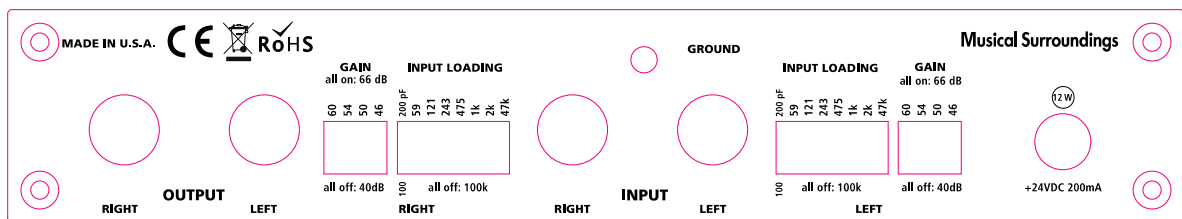
1.0) INTRODUCTION.....	3
2.0) EXTERNAL CONFIGURATION SETTINGS.....	4
2.1) BASIC GAIN SETTINGS.....	4
2.2) ADVANCED GAIN SETTINGS CHART.....	4
2.3) BASIC INPUT LOADING.....	5
2.4) ADVANCED INPUT LOADING SETTINGS CHART.....	5
3.0) POWER SUPPLY.....	6
4.0) INPUTS AND OUTPUTS.....	6
5.0) UNIT PLACEMENT.....	6
6.0) USING YOUR PHONOMENA III.....	6
7.0) WARRANTY INFORMATION.....	7

# 1.0) INTRODUCTION

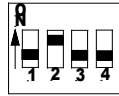
24 years in the making, the Phenomena III is our best sounding phono preamplifier value. A complete phonograph preamplifier with RIAA equalization, it amplifies the output signal of an MM or MC phonograph cartridge up to a nominal "line level". It is a discrete, dual-mono design, designed and made in the USA. The Phenomena III may be used with either moving-coil or moving-magnet cartridges. Its flexibility in gain and loading settings lets you optimize the performance of your phono cartridge and match volume levels with other source components in your system. The Phenomena III can be connected to a receiver or an integrated amplifier. If you use separate components, a line level control unit (preamplifier) is required before the power amp, since there is no volume control on the Phenomena III. The Phenomena III's internal power supply connects to an AC outlet with the supplied wall-mount transformer, and you can upgrade to our Linear Power Supply.

Installation and set-up of the Phenomena III is quite simple. It involves:

- a.) Setting the four external configuration settings (two for each channel) for Gain and Input Loading (see section 2).
- b.) Connecting to an AC power outlet with the supplied wall-mount transformer (see section 3).
- c.) Connecting the Audio Inputs and Outputs (see section 4)
- d.) Placing the unit (see section 5).



## 2.0) REAR PANEL CONFIGURATION SETTINGS



### 2.1) BASIC GAIN SETTINGS

The Phomena III offers the largest gain range (40 - 66dB) of our phono stages. To Set the Gain, there are two sets of four dip switches, located on the back panel (one set each for the left and right channels). Refer to your phonograph cartridge's instruction manual for the suggested Gain setting. Factory Settings are always 40dB for Gain.

Lower Gains (40 and 46dB) are effective for moving-magnet cartridges or very high output moving-coil cartridges (>2.0mV). Medium Gain settings (50 and 54dB) are ideal for medium-output moving-coils (.9-1.5mV). High Gain settings (60 and 66dB) work well with low-output moving-coil cartridges. To change settings, use a non-metallic object to push the switches UP for the ON position.

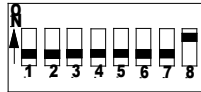
### 2.2) ADVANCED GAIN SETTINGS

Finer gain settings allow you to optimize the signal-to-noise ration of your system and match the output of your phono system to other source components

2.2) GAIN SETTINGS CHART				
SWITCH #	1	2	3	4
GAIN (dB)				
40	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF
46	OFF	OFF	OFF	ON
49.5	OFF	OFF	ON	OFF
52	OFF	OFF	ON	ON
54	OFF	ON	OFF	OFF
55.5	OFF	ON	OFF	ON
57	OFF	ON	ON	OFF
58	OFF	ON	ON	ON
60.5	ON	OFF	OFF	OFF
61.5	ON	OFF	ON	ON
63	ON	OFF	OFF	ON
64	ON	ON	ON	OFF
66	ON	ON	ON	ON

Always let the unit settle for 60 seconds after any configuration changes are made before listening. Slowly raise the volume after making any change. This will ensure that the unit is stable and will not damage your system if the configuration is not set correctly.

## 2.3) BASIC INPUT LOADING SETTINGS



### INPUT LOADING SWITCH

To set the Input Loading, there are two eight-position switches, one for each channel, located on the rear panel. Refer to your cartridge owner's manual to determine proper Input Loading settings. The factory setting for Input Loading is 47,000 (47k) Ohms.

Switch #1 controls capacitive loading, which is used with moving-magnet cartridges and has little effect on moving-coil cartridges. When using a moving-coil cartridge, try both capacitive loading positions to determine the effect. CAPACITIVE LOADING (SWITCH #1): OFF=100pF; ON=200pF.

Switches #2-8 control resistive loading, which is primarily used with lower output moving-coil cartridges. Most moving-magnet along with medium and high-output moving-coil cartridges use 47,000 Ohms. Low-output moving-coil cartridges typically use 2000 Ohms or less. Resistive loading at 10x the internal impedance of the cartridge is the recommended lowest loading. Check the chart below and select the lowest Input Loading value in the cartridge manufacturer's recommended loading value range. A lower resistive setting provides increased focus and tighter bass, while a higher setting provides more openness. Use a non-metallic object to select the preferred settings, pushing the switch UP to activate the ON setting.

## 2.4) ADVANCED INPUT LOADING SETTINGS

Finer input resistance settings allow you to optimize cartridge loading, especially for low internal impedance cartridges.

**INPUT LOADING SWITCH CHART**

SWITCH #	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<b>LOADING (Ohms)</b>	<b>100pF</b>							
	<b>200pF</b>							
<b>30</b>	X	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	OFF	OFF
<b>40</b>	X	ON	ON	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF
<b>50</b>	X	ON	OFF	OFF	ON	ON	OFF	OFF
<b>59</b>	X	ON	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF
<b>80</b>	X	OFF	ON	ON	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF
<b>100</b>	X	OFF	ON	OFF	OFF	ON	ON	OFF
<b>121</b>	X	OFF	ON	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF
<b>150</b>	X	OFF	OFF	ON	ON	OFF	ON	OFF
<b>243</b>	X	OFF	OFF	ON	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF
<b>280</b>	X	OFF	OFF	OFF	ON	ON	ON	OFF
<b>380</b>	X	OFF	OFF	OFF	ON	OFF	ON	ON
<b>475</b>	X	OFF	OFF	OFF	ON	OFF	OFF	OFF
<b>660</b>	X	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	ON	ON	ON
<b>1000</b>	X	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	ON	OFF	OFF
<b>2,000</b>	X	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	ON	OFF
<b>47,000</b>	X	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	ON
<b>100,000</b>	X	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF

### **3.0) POWER SUPPLY**

The Phenomena III connects to a wall outlet or power strip with the supplied wall-mount transformer. The optional Linear Power Supply provides cleaner power and eliminates noise. The unit will not operate without either the wall-mount transformer or the Linear Power Supply. It stays powered on at all times for best sound.

### **4.0) INPUTS AND OUTPUTS**

Please make sure that the volume control on your receiver, integrated amp, or pre-amp is turned completely down before plugging in the audio connections. Connect the phonograph cables of your turntable to the inputs of the Phenomena III, noting proper left and right connections. Attach the turntable's ground lead to the ground lug on the rear panel of the unit.

Using a high-quality interconnect cable, connect the outputs from the Phenomena III to the line-level input of your receiver, integrated amplifier or pre-amp, again noting proper left and right channels. **DO NOT PLUG THE PHENOMENA III OUTPUT INTO A "PHONO" INPUT.** Use the standard LINE IN jacks, as phono jacks include special circuitry that is not needed when using a Phenomena III phonograph preamplifier.

### **5.0) UNIT PLACEMENT**

The Phenomena III may be placed under your turntable if space allows or on a separate shelf in your audio rack. Please make sure that ventilation to the unit is not restricted, and that the unit is away from magnetic fields or noise from other components' motors, transformers, digital circuitry, or displays, especially if placed on top of another source or line-level component. If using the optional Linear Power Supply, do not stack the units.

### **6.0) USING YOUR PHENOMENA III**

If you have followed the above instructions, you are ready to play music. Simply cue down your cartridge on a favorite record and select the correct input on your receiver, integrated amp or pre-amp. Slowly bring up the volume control to be desired listening level, sit back and enjoy the music.

## 7.0) WARRANTY INFORMATION

This product is automatically warranted for 1 year from date of original purchase. Return the enclosed warranty card to us within 30 days with a copy of your sales receipt and the Phonomena III warranty will be extended for three years after purchase. The warranty covers parts and labor only; damage due to improper use, modifications or acts of nature are not covered. Warranty is valid only for the original owner and is non-transferable.

We do not assume any liability for any damage to any other component in the system due to a failure in the Phonomena III. If you believe your unit is malfunctioning, please contact the dealer where you purchased the unit or contact us directly:

Musical Surroundings

Telephone: (510) 547-5006 (x-101)

Fax: (510) 547-5009

Email: [service@musicalsurrroundings.com](mailto:service@musicalsurrroundings.com)

If the unit is needs to be returned for repair, contact Musical Surroundings at the above number and you will be issued you a Return Authorization (RA) number. You must then send the unit (packed in its original box) back to Musical Surroundings.