

**MANLEY**

**LABORATORIES, INC.**

# **OWNER'S MANUAL**

## **CONTROL MASTER PREAMPLIFIER**

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# INTRODUCTION

## THANK YOU!...

for choosing the Manley Laboratories CONTROL MASTER Preamplifier. Designed by David Manley, the Mastering Room LINE Preamplifier uses the best available parts with the shortest, cleanest, signal path possible. With the use of our own in-house C.N.C. milling machine, we can provide you with a superb sounding machine with elegant packaging. The design is completely DUAL-MONO with separate power supplies for each channel including two custom designed power transformers. The audio boards are also separate. All the wiring from the rear input connectors to the front selector switch and precision custom stepped attenuator is painstakingly hand wired using professional studio twisted pair shielded six-9's copper cable for optimum shielding and lo-noise characteristics, and although it would be much cheaper, easier, and faster to simply put these leads on several feet of printed circuit board traces like most everybody else does, we opt for purity of sound however many more hours it takes. The high-current line amplifier circuit employed here is one we have developed and refined over the years in our MANLEY Professional series. We hope you agree with us and hundreds of satisfied users and studios around the world that this circuit really delivers. Please take a few moments to read through this manual, there may be features and information about this preamplifier which you should familiarise yourself with.

Thank you again, and please enjoy!

## GENERAL NOTES

### LOCATION & VENTILATION

The CONTROL MASTER preamplifier must be installed in a stable location with ample ventilation. It is recommended, if this unit is rack mounted, that you allow enough clearance on the top and bottom of the preamp such that a constant flow of air can flow through the ventilation slots. We also recommend that the preamplifier be placed at least 10 inches away from its amplifier.

### WATER & MOISTURE

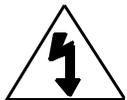
As with any electrical equipment, this preamplifier should not be used near water or moisture.

### SERVICING

The user should not attempt to service the preamplifier beyond that described in the owner's manual. Refer all servicing other than tube replacement to Manley Laboratories.

### SPECIAL NOTES

Tubes may become loose during transit. Straighten and press down each tube before plugging the preamplifier into the mains socket. Furthermore, do not touch the tubes after the preamplifier has been switched on, as the tubes do become very hot during operation and should only be handled after the power has been turned off and the tubes have cooled.



**WARNING!**



**TO PREVENT THE RISK OF ELECTRIC SHOCK  
DO NOT OPEN THE CABINET  
REFER SERVICING TO  
QUALIFIED PERSONEL**

## MAINS CONNECTIONS

Your preamplifier has been factory set to the correct mains voltage for your country. The voltage setting is marked on the serial badge, located on the rear panel. Check that this complies with your local supply.

Export units for certain markets have a moulded mains plug fitted to comply with local requirements. If your unit does not have a plug fitted the coloured wires should be connected to the appropriate plug terminals in accordance with the following code.

GREEN/YELLOW	EARTH	terminal
BLUE	NEUTRAL	terminal
BROWN	LIVE	terminal

As the colours of the wires in the mains lead may not correspond with the coloured marking identifying the terminals in your plug proceed as follows;

The wire which is coloured GREEN/YELLOW must be connected to the terminal in the plug which is marked by the letter E or by the safety earth symbol or coloured GREEN or GREEN and YELLOW.

The wire which is coloured BLUE must be connected to the terminal in the plug which is marked by the letter N or coloured BLACK.

The wire which is coloured BROWN must be connected to the terminal in the plug which is marked by the letter L or coloured RED.

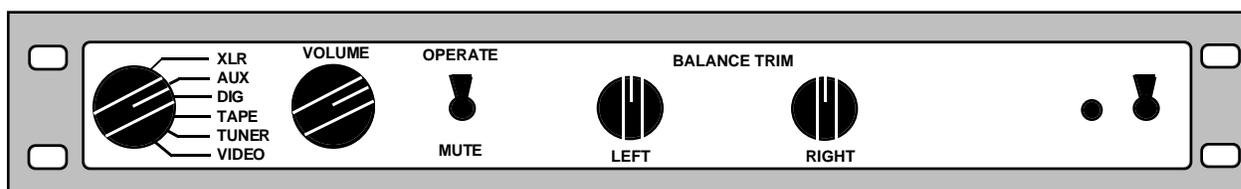
**DO NOT CONNECT/SWITCH ON THE MAINS SUPPLY UNTIL ALL OTHER CONNECTIONS HAVE BEEN MADE.**

## CONNECTING YOUR PREAMPLIFIER

Setting up your preamplifier is rather easy.

1. Please refer to page 7 diagram 2 for an illustration of the back of the preamplifier.
2. There are two sets of main outputs, one set UNBALANCED RCA and the other BALANCED XLR. The pin out for the XLR is as follows:  
PIN1 - ground  
PIN2 - POSITIVE going phase (+)  
PIN3 - NEGATIVE going phase (-).  
Connect either (or both for bi-amping) the XLR or RCA output to the input of your amplifier as required.
3. UNBALANCED inputs are found on RCA jack inputs and can be connected to any line level sources devices.
4. A pair of 3 pin BALANCED XLR INPUT is standard and can be used with a balanced source. The pin out for the XLR is as follows:  
PIN1 - ground  
PIN2 - POSITIVE going phase (+)  
PIN3 - NEGATIVE going phase (-).
5. The record output is not buffered and it is recommended that one have the tape feed plugged into the REC OUT only when actually recording. Care should be used when using a 3-head tape/monitor switch as this recout is not a tape loop.
5. On the left end of the back panel is a standard IEC mains connector. This should be connected to a standard 120 or 240 volt outlet.
6. Be certain that the voltage selector switch located next to the IEC mains socket is set for your voltage!!!
7. Power up the preamplifier FIRST and allow it to settle for a minimum of 30 seconds before powering up your amplifiers. Turn off your preamplifier and source components LAST when powering down a system.

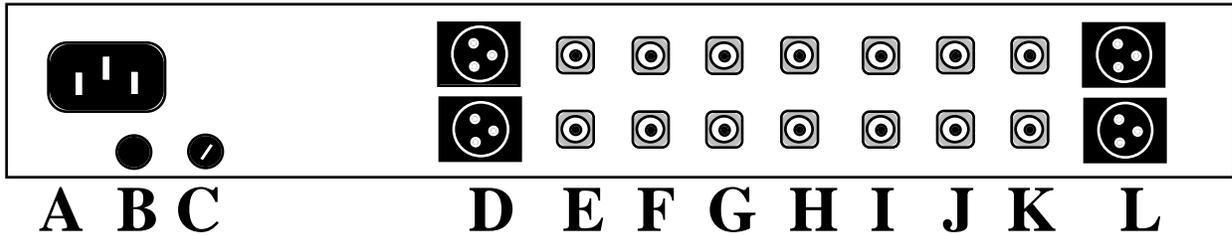
## FRONT PANEL



**A**                      **B**                      **C**                      **D**                      **E**   **F**

- A SELECTOR SWITCH** Switch to select between inputs. Counterclockwise: BALANCED XLR INPUTS, AUX (auxiliary), DIG (CD), TAPE, TUNER, VIDEO. NOTE: always turn volume control (level) down before switching selector switch to avoid surprisedifferences in source levels. NOTE: inputs which have nothing plugged in to them can pick up noise.
- B VOLUME CONTROL** Adjust the stereo input level of the selected signal.
- C MUTE / OPERATE SWITCH** Switch DOWN mute the selected input to the preamplifier.
- D BALANCE ADJUSTS** These very useful controls modify the gain of each channel by changing the line amplifier's feedback. When set to 12 o'clock (straight up) both channels will produce the same gain at optimum setting. Rotating the controls clockwise will increase the gain (lower feedback) and rotating the controls counterclockwise will reduce the gain (more feedback) of the corresponding channels with approximately 10 dB of total swing. Thus neither control will fully mute the signal. Different sound characteristics can be achieved with these controls to optimise the gain, speed, and slew rate of this preamplifier to your system, but small differences of level between two channels can be equalled or trimmed out with these controls when used as dual-mono balance controls.
- E LED POWER INDICATOR** Illuminates when the preamplifier is powered on.
- F POWER SWITCH** Switch up to turn on the power, down to turn the power off. Do not ever flip the power on and off and on and off rapidly-- you can damage the power supply.

## REAR PANEL



- A IEC MAINS SOCKET Standard IEC mains socket (120/240 VAC)
- B FUSE HOLDERS Right & Left channel fuses. Replace with 1A SLO-BLO fuse only.
- C VOLTAGE SELECTOR SWITCH Selectable to 110,120 / 220,240 VAC. Set to the proper voltage for your country.
- D OUTPUT (XLR) Left (upper) and Right (lower) output XLR's. BALANCED
- E OUTPUT (RCA) Paralled output to the Left and Right XLR outputs. UNBALANCED
- F RECORD OUTPUT Set at input line stage level.
- G VIDEO INPUT - Video, Line level input
- H TUNER INPUT - Tuner, line level input
- I TAPE INPUT - Tape, line level input
- J DIG INPUT - CD, line level input
- K AUX INPUT - AUX, line level input
- L BALANCED XLR INPUTS

## OPERATIONAL NOTES

### **SWITCHING ON**

The power switch is located on the right hand corner of the front panel. Flip the switch up to turn on the preamplifier and down to turn off the preamplifier.

### **RUNNING**

It is not recommended that you leave your preamplifier permanently switched on. This only wastes electricity and tube life. Your preamplifier has solid state rectification and reaches peak operating condition in approximately 30 minutes.

### **TUBE LIFE**

As with all tubes, their quality degrades with age. This is due to cathode emission, a natural process found in all tubes. We recommend that you have your preamplifier checked every 4-5 years, depending on usage. An excessive increase in noise level can indicate the need to replace a tube.

## SPECIFICATIONS

Vacuum Tubes:	2 x 5814's, 2 x 6414's
Gain (line stage)	6 dB
Input Impedance	100 Kohm line stages
Output Impedance	120 ohms
Power Consumption	33 Watts (275mA @ 120VAC)

# WARRANTY

All Manley Laboratories equipment is covered by a limited warranty against defects in materials and workmanship for a period of 90 days from date of purchase to the original purchaser only. A further optional limited 5 year warranty is available to the original purchaser upon proper registration of ownership within 30 days of date of first purchase.

Proper registration is made by filling out and returning to the factory the warranty card attached to this general warranty statement, along with a copy of the original sales receipt as proof of the original date of purchase. Only 1 card is issued with each unit, and the serial number is already recorded on it.

If the warranty registration card has already been removed then this is not a new unit, and is therefore not warranted by the factory. If you believe this to be a new unit then please contact the factory with the details of purchase.

This warranty is provided by the dealer where the unit was purchased, and by Manley Laboratories, Inc. Under the terms of the warranty defective parts will be repaired or replaced without charge, excepting the cost of tubes. No warranty is offered on tubes, unless:

1. a Manley Laboratories preamplifier is used with a Manley Laboratories amplifier, and
2. the warranty registration card is filled out.

In such a case a 6 month warranty on tubes is available with the correct recording of the serial number of the preamplifier on your warranty registration card.

If a Manley Laboratories product fails to meet the above warranty, then the purchaser's sole remedy shall be to return the product to Manley Laboratories, where the defect will be repaired without charge for parts and labour. The product will then be returned via prepaid, insured freight, method and carrier to be determined solely by Manley Laboratories. All returns to the factory must be in the original packing, (new packing will be supplied for no charge if needed), accompanied by a written description of the defect, and must be shipped to Manley Laboratories via insured freight at the customer's own expense. Charges for unauthorized service and transportation costs are not reimbursable under this warranty, and all warranties, express or implied, become null and void where the product has been damaged by misuse, accident, neglect, modification, tampering or unauthorized alteration by anyone other than Manley Laboratories.

The warrantor assumes no liability for property damage or any other incidental or consequential damage whatsoever which may result from failure of this product. Any and all warranties of merchantability and fitness implied by law are limited to the duration of the expressed warranty. All warranties apply only to Manley Laboratories products purchased and used in the USA.

Some states do not allow limitations on how long an implied warranty lasts, so the above limitations may not apply to you. Some states do not allow the exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages, so the above exclusion may not apply to you.

This warranty gives you specific legal rights and you may also have other rights which vary from state to state.

**WARRANTY REGISTRATION**

We ask that you please fill out this registration form and send the bottom half to:

MANLEY LABORATORIES  
REGISTRATION DEPARTMENT  
13880 MAGNOLIA AVE.  
CHINO CA, 91710

Registration entitles you to product support, full warranty benefits, and notice of product enhancements and upgrades. You **MUST** complete and return the following to validate your warranty and registration. Thank you again for choosing Manley Laboratories.

**MODEL CONTROL MASTER PREAMPLIFIER SERIAL No.** MRL \_\_\_\_\_

**PURCHASE DATE** \_\_\_\_\_ **SUPPLIER** \_\_\_\_\_

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*PLEASE DETACH THIS PORTION AND SEND IT TO MANLEY LABORATORIES*

**MODEL CONTROL MASTER PREAMPLIFIER SERIAL No.** MRL \_\_\_\_\_

**PURCHASE DATE** \_\_\_\_\_ **SUPPLIER** \_\_\_\_\_

**NAME OF OWNER** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY, STATE, ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_

**TELEPHONE NUMBER** \_\_\_\_\_

**COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS?** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_