

# ORIGIN LIVE PHONO STAGE MANUAL

**\*\*\*\* IMPORTANT - Plug the 5 pin plug from the power supply into the phono stage BEFORE you plug in the power supply box to the mains or damage can occasionally occur.**



## Introduction

Thank you for your purchase of the Origin Live Phono Stage. This high-end, stand alone phono pre-amplifier is meticulously designed and packed with innovative thinking that places it well ahead of the rest of the field.

You should expect unrivalled sonic qualities, with low noise, and high performance through this unique and ground breaking phono pre-amplifier. At least a month is required to run the electronics in to obtain best performance. Most of the gains are experienced in the first few days and then the improvements are more gradual. This process takes place all the time that the phono stage is powered up so leave it on - you do not need to play records for running in although this speeds things up.

Please read these instructions to ensure that you get the most from your investment and avoid any equipment damage. Pay special attention to underlined text.

## **WARNINGS & SAFETY**

Do not open the phono stage box. You will not get it back together again properly as the fit up is complex. THERE ARE NO USER-SERVICEABLE PARTS OR FUSES INSIDE the boxes.

To reduce the risk of fire or electrical shock, do not expose to rain or moisture.

Clean only with a dry cloth. Do not place flammable material on top of or beneath the component.

If the provided plug does not fit into your outlet, consult an electrician for replacement of the obsolete outlet.

Protect the power cord from being walked on or pinched.

Unplug this apparatus during lightning storms or when unused for long periods of time.

Lower the volume to zero or turn off all systems' power before connecting the Origin Live phono stage to any other component.

If repair is necessary please contact your authorized dealer, distributor, or Origin Live.

## **INSTALLATION**

First think about the location for your Phono stage. Keep it away from strong magnetic fields such as those produced by transformers in other equipment, particularly power amplifiers. This is necessary due to the very high sensitivity of the phono stage which amplifies low level electromagnetic signal.

Plug the 5 din pin plug from the power supply into the phono stage BEFORE you plug in the power supply box to the mains.

Once this is done, you can connect it to the mains wall socket. We recommend you try this first and avoid any mains conditioners you may have.

Use high quality interconnects between the phono stage and your pre-amplifier or integrated amplifier - the Origin Live interconnect range are ideal for this purpose - the shorter the better - around 1m is ideal. It is best to leave the Phono Stage powered at all times. Once powered, the front panel blue LED should be lit. Initially set the front panel gain control to the lowest setting - i.e. fully anti-clockwise.

## **Connecting your tonearm**

Next connect the tonearm cables to the phono stage. Turntables typically have a pair of RCA style connections that should be plugged directly into the Phono Stage inputs. Most arms have a separate ground wire and this should be connected

to the rear panel binding post labelled with the earth symbol as in the rear panel illustration. If your arm does not have a separate ground wire, it may be advisable to run a separate wire from a metallic point on the arm to this terminal. Cartridges are very sensitive to hum and grounding can help lower this - if you look at our web site under “support” then “technical support” then “tonearms”, there is a lengthy section on how to solve hum problems.

## Connecting to your amplification

Both balanced (XLR) and unbalanced (RCA) outputs are available and can be used either separately or together for a dual feed if you like. Do not connect the phono outputs into a phono input on your amplifier or it will overload the amp and can cause damage. Instead, connect the phono stage output interconnects to any high level input on your amp, such as CD, Tuner, aux, tape inputs etc.

Once the Phono Stage has been connected to both the turntable and pre-amp or integrated amplifier, reduce the volume setting to zero and plug in the phono stage power supply to the mains.

Changing the gain setting switch on the phono stage can send thumps through the system, so it is best to always reduce your amp volume setting to zero when changing this setting.

Depending on the type of cartridge you are using, moving coil or moving magnet, set the gain and impedance settings as follows.

## Moving magnet cartridge settings

For all moving magnet cartridges and high output moving coils set Resistance to 47K, Capacitance to 0, Gain to MM high. This usually delivers best performance but occasionally gain set at “MM low” can be used for amplifiers that are easily overloaded on their inputs. Always reduce volume to zero when switching gain and then re-adjust the volume.

## Moving coil cartridge settings

For moving coil cartridges it is best to set the variable switches by listening to the results of different settings - the following comments should prove helpful

**Resistance** - Many moving coil cartridges sound best with Resistance at 10 ohms however you should also try 33, 100 & 470. Increasing resistance can tend to give a harder sound and increased sensitivity (i.e. volume).

Raising the resistance increases the high frequency output of the coil. Many moving coil cartridges will sound bright at the higher resistance settings and so require either a lower resistance setting or careful adjustment of the VTA (vertical tracking angle) of the turntable to reduce the brightness. Lowering the base of the arm tends to produce a less bright sound.

**Capacitance** - Most moving coil cartridges sound best with capacitance at 47nF however you can try 100pF, 330pF & 1nF.

**Gain** - Moving coil cartridges have differing outputs - there is no “right” setting for gain as it is a balancing act between cartridge output and your amp quality. The optimum setting will only be arrived at by listening. When doing comparisons always make sure you adjust your amp volume such that the speaker volume is the same in all listening comparisons. You need to adjust this as the volume will increase as the gain setting is increased towards the MC high setting. In our estimation it is usually best to use the MC high setting as this gives you the maximum benefit of the high quality amplification in the phono stage.

If the sound is occasionally strained or distorted on loud peaks, it is likely you have selected too much gain.

## The bass setting switch

The bass gain can be adjusted slightly to cater for various room acoustics. The zero setting gives a flat output response from the phono stage. The minus figures reduce bass output and the positive figures increase it. The best setting for your room can be arrived at as usual by careful listening at the various settings.

Once again, thank you for choosing Origin Live and we wish you many hours of enjoyable listening.

