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SLP 03 Vacuum Tube Balanced Preamplifier

The Cary Audio Design SLP 03 preamplifier is a blend of digital computer technology and pure vacuum tube, analog discrete circuitry. The SLP 03 consists of four (4) analog, 16 dB, line gain stages. Two separate gain stages are used for each of the two channels. One gain stage amplifies the positive phase (+180 degree) and the other gain stage amplifies the negative phase (-180 degree). Two stages for each channel equal the four active line circuits. All audio path signals are amplified through 12AU7 vacuum tubes in a Class A zero feedback circuit.



The front panel display is a Noritake vacuum florescent display with a blue lens in front. The display receives and displays the critical control functions from a Motorola CPU incorporated inside the Cary Audio SLP 03 preamplifier. The Motorola processor is the controller for all functions of the preamplifier.

Back to the analog side of things, there are a total of eight (8) fully regulated power supplies in the SLP 03 preamplifier. Separate supplies for each channel's analog circuit along with multiple power supplies for the Alphanumeric, Noritake display, along with dual supplies for the Motorola processor. To power the fully regulated power supplies the SLP 03 has two individual R-Core shielded power transformers. Dual power transformers, along with separate left and right supplies, make the SLP 03 a true dual mono preamplifier. In fact, the channel separation is in excess of 80 dB. This amount of channel independence is a major engineering design breakthrough in vacuum tube designs.

A word about cinema bypass is in order. We have discovered with previous Cary Audio preamplifier designs, when incorporating the cinema bypass, on occasion the user would forget that the system surround processor inputting to the preamp could be at a very high level. Thus when the preamplifier power switch is placed in the off position, the default would be a feed through of the processor signal and could blast the left and right channel loudspeakers. In the SLP 03 the cinema-bypass only functions when the SLP

03 is powered up with the volume gain setting set at number 47 on the display. The reading of 47 is unity gain. It might be noted in the SLP 03 one could have a single ended (RCA) processor input and through the SLP 03 have a balanced output to the left and right channel amplifiers.

Operating the dual 12AU7 vacuum tubes in a current source configuration, true balanced output is achieved with both single-ended (RCA) inputs or the balanced (XLR) input selection.

Considering the massive power transformers along with the multiple regulated supplies the SLP 03 will offer the ultimate sound reproduction when left on continuously 24/7. Tube life should be on the order of three years in the continuous duty mode.

The SLP 03, when combined with a solid state or vacuum tube power amplifier is capable of bringing outstanding musical reproduction into your home. The selected pair of dual triode 12AU7's vacuum tubes per channel offers true balanced vacuum tube warmth and realism. Convenience meets sound quality plus great industrial design in the Classic Series SLP 03 preamplifier.

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