

CLASSÉ AUDIO

4/4L

PREAMPLIFIER

4/4L

OWNER'S MANUAL

CLASSÉ DESIGN PHILOSOPHY

1. REPEATED LISTENING DESIGN SESSIONS:

Fine tuning of sound by exchanging and mixing of parts (transistors, capacitors, wiring, PCB boards etc.), and adjusting many specific operating voltages within proper engineering ranges, producing an overall sonic recipe giving the most natural harmonic realism of music typical of instruments in a live performance.

2. UPGRADABLE SINGLE CIRCUIT DESIGNS:

All Classé products (all preamps and all amps) share exactly the same circuit design philosophy (excluding moving coil and moving magnet phono circuits). This means all amplifiers and all high level circuits of the preamps benefit from the same design goals. Similar circuits are then tailored to different power levels etc. Differences between less expensive models and more expensive models are parts quality and compliment, power supply extravagance and the amount of filtering etc., as well as features and packaging.

This means that for years Classé has been constantly sonically fine tuning and technically upgrading this circuit design and its application, thus reaching a very high level of natural musical enjoyment, as well as excellent reliability which benefits all models - least expensive, most expensive, preamps and amplifiers alike.

3. EXTREME LONG LIFE IN REAL WORLD CONDITIONS:

Choosing the best attainable quality parts and materials combined with the advantages of the two above-mentioned areas provides Classé owners with years of proven trouble free reliability and musical enjoyment.

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UNPACKING & SET-UP

Your new preamplifier has been carefully wrapped in heavy gauge plastic, packed in semi-rigid foam and contained in a special box. To remove the unit, open and spread the top flaps of the box. By its sides, lift out the entire unit with the foam pieces intact. Remove each foam side by pulling straight out. Remove the plastic wrap and inspect the unit for any concealed damage. Apart from this owner's manual, please ensure the following has also been included:

- 1) Detachable linecord
- 2) 5/64 in. Allen key for top cover
- 3) (PHONO MODEL) Resistor kit for Moving Coil gain adjustment.
- 4) (REMOTE CONTROL OPT. ONLY) Control unit. (Allen key and Batteries AAA X 3 included).

Please report any damage or missing parts to your dealer promptly.

This preamplifier, being capable of very high gain, must be located in a position free of any hum-inducing magnetic fields. (This also applies to turntables and interconnect cables.) Positions adjacent to power amplifiers, A.C. line filters, or regulation devices should be avoided. Ideally, a few feet should separate the preamplifier from the power amplifier. As well, keep low-level interconnect cables away from the power amp and separate from A.C. line cords.

Heat generated by the preamplifier is negligible. Air space around the unit need not be a concern.

Check the Serial Number sticker on the back of the unit for the correct operating voltage. Regardless of voltage, the fuse rating should be 1 AMP SLO-BLO.

A.C. LINE POWER

The preamplifier has no power switch. Its low power consumption and improved sonics from always being ON led to the omission of an ON/OFF switch. In fact, while thoroughly musical shortly after turn-on, this preamplifier will exhibit "sonic growth" during its first 300 hours of use.

For optimum sonic performance, you should consider use of the optional CLASSE REFERENCE A.C. LINECORD. Consult your dealer regarding this accessory.

CAUTION: There is no auto-muting circuit. If connections to the power amplifier have already been made when connecting the preamp to the A.C. line, make sure the MUTE switch is in the ON (down) position. This will prevent any turn-on surges from reaching the power amplifier and possibly the loudspeakers. Similarly, make sure the MUTE switch is ON again when removing A.C. line power.

SAFETY FEATURE: (With optional Remote Control) The preamplifier is designed with an Auto-Muting Circuit which engages and is indicated by a FLASHING GREEN LED when the unit is first connected, or after an A.C. power failure. After 15 seconds the STEADY GREEN LED signals that the unit is in STANDBY mode (Note: MUTE is ON during STANDBY mode).

CAUTION:

"FLOATING THE GROUND" OR DEFEATING THE GROUND ON A 3-PRONG LINECORD MAY CREATE A SHOCK HAZARD. CONNECT ALL INTERCONNECT CABLES BETWEEN THE ELECTRONICS BEFORE CONNECTING THE A.C. LINECORDS TO THE WALL OUTLETS. THIS WILL REDUCE THE POTENTIAL SHOCK HAZARD. SEE ALSO THE WARRANTY SECTION OF THIS OWNER'S MANUAL.

INPUTS

The input jacks are clearly marked on the back of the 4/4L. The following inputs are provided: PHONO (PHONO MODEL ONLY), BALANCED, CD, TUNER, AUXILIARY, AUXILIARY 2 (LINE MODEL ONLY), and TAPE.

PHONO (PHONO MODEL ONLY)

The PHONO input can accommodate both magnetic or moving coil cartridges of varying output. Set the toggle switch (located in between the left and right input jacks) to MM for magnetic or MC for a moving coil cartridge. In the MC position, gain of the Moving Coil stage is factory preset at 22dB which matches perfectly with most typical MC cartridges. With the resistor kit (included), the gain can be adjusted from 20 to 40db, in order to optimize system gain, and low noise while using other less typical MC cartridges. (Note: The MC gain is in addition to the standard MC gain of 35dB.) To change the MC gain, proceed as follows:

- 1) Make sure the MUTE switch is ON (down position or Steady GREEN LED in optional Remote Control unit).
- 2) Disconnect the A.C. linecord from the wall outlet.
- 3) Remove the top cover with the Allen key supplied.
- 4) Locate R7 and R48, which are the MC GAIN setting resistors for the left and right channels respectively. Remove the resistors and replace them with newly selected ones, according to the following chart:

GAIN	COLOR CODED RESISTOR (or) NUMERICAL RESISTOR	
20 dB	(Brown,Black,Black,Black,Brown)	1000F
22 dB(standard)	(Brown,Red,Purple,Black,Brown)	1270F
24 dB	(Brown,Blue,Green,Black,Brown)	1650F
26 dB	(Red,Brown,Green,Black,Brown)	2150F
28 dB	(Red,Gray,Purple,Black,Brown)	2870F
30 dB	(Orange,Gray,Orange,Black,Brown)	3830F
32 dB	(Green,Brown,Brown,Black,Brown)	5110F
34 dB	(Purple,Blue,Gray,Black,Brown)	7680F
36 dB	(Brown,Brown,Green,Brown,Brown)	1151F
38 dB	(Brown,White,Blue,Brown,Brown)	1961F
40 dB	(Yellow,Red,Red,Brown,Brown)	4221F

Silver solder is provided in the kit for this purpose. THE RESISTOR KIT IS FOR SETTING THE MC GAIN WHICH WILL OPTIMIZE LEVELS, NOISE, AND EFFICIENCIES OF LESS TYPICAL MC CARTRIDGES.

- 5) Having completed the resistor changes, replace the top cover.

BALANCED, TAPE, HIGH LEVEL INPUT INFORMATION

The BALANCED INPUT is a true differential high level input, wired as follows:

PIN 1: GROUND

PIN 2: POSITIVE (NON-INVERTED) SIGNAL

PIN 3: NEGATIVE (INVERTED) SIGNAL

It may be used with CD players that have a balance output, or any other high level, balanced source.

The TAPE IN of the 4/4L should be connected to the LINE OUT or TAPE OUT of the tape deck. The TAPE input does not appear on the selector switch. It is activated by the TAPE switch. (See FRONT PANEL CONTROLS: TAPE SWITCH.)

OUTPUTS

The 4/4L has both regular (single-ended) and balanced outputs. Both are working at all times, and may be used separately, or simultaneously.

TAPE OUTPUT

Whatever input is selected by the INPUT SELECTOR will be fed to the TAPE OUTPUT jacks. This should be connected to the TAPE IN or LINE IN of the tape deck.

REGULAR OUTPUTS

Simply connect your regular interconnects to the RCA output jacks marked REGULAR MAIN OUT on the back of the 4/4L.

BALANCED OUTPUTS

A balanced power amplifier and balanced interconnects are also required. For use with balanced power amplifiers other than Classé, the wiring of the 3-pin XLR connectors must be wired as follows:

PIN 1: GROUND

PIN 2: POSITIVE (NON-INVERTED) SIGNAL

PIN 3: NEGATIVE (INVERTED) SIGNAL

If the pin configuration of the power amplifier differs from above, the balanced interconnects must be modified to accommodate the different power amp.

Having confirmed the correct connections, plug the XLR connectors of the balanced interconnects into the locking XLR connectors on the rear panel of the 4/4L marked BALANCED MAIN OUT. (To remove the connectors, press the tab above the connector.)

FRONT PANEL CONTROLS

INPUT SELECTOR

This selects one of the five inputs connected to the preamp, except TAPE IN (see Tape Switch below). The switch is silent and will prevent pulses when switching positions. However, it remains good practice to reduce the volume control level or put the MUTE switch ON when changing the input selection.

TAPE SWITCH

In the SOURCE position, the preamp will process the signal as chosen by the INPUT SELECTOR. In the TAPE position, the preamp will process the TAPE INPUT signal, overriding the INPUT SELECTOR.

BALANCE CONTROL

The custom BALANCE control permits equal output of each channel in the centre (detented) position without additional loading to the signal. When shifted to the left or right, it merely attenuates the opposite channel.

VOLUME CONTROL

The VOLUME control varies the level of both channels simultaneously. With optional Remote Control feature the VOLUME control can be operated from remote using the hand held remote control unit or manually turning the control knob at the preamp.

MUTE SWITCH

This is a manual mute switch which completely cuts the preamp output in the MUTE ON position. The PLAY position allows the signal to pass to the power amp. Caution: make sure the MUTE ON position is engaged when making or changing any connections to the preamp. This includes all inputs and outputs, as well as the A.C. linecord.

With optional Remote Control feature, switching between PLAY and MUTE can be done by either manually pressing the MUTE/PLAY switch down momentarily on the preamp or pushing the MUTE button on the hand held unit. The PLAY (or MUTE OFF) and MUTE ON selections are indicated by the STEADY RED or GREEN LED respectively at the preamp.

NOTE: WHEN THE PREAMP IS IN THE MUTE POSITION, AND THE VOLUME CONTROL IS TURNED UP USING THE REMOTE CONTROL UNIT, THE PLAY MODE IS AUTOMATICALLY SELECTED.

CLASSÉ 4/4L LIMITED FACTORY WARRANTY (North America only).

Classé Audio Inc. warrants this preamplifier to be free from defects in materials and workmanship for a period of FOUR YEARS from the date of manufacture provided that any claim in virtue of this warranty be made in writing within such period.

Subject to all of the conditions stated herein, A LIMITED FACTORY LIFETIME WARRANTY IS EXTENDED ONLY TO THE ORIGINAL OWNER WHO PURCHASED THE PREAMPLIFIER IN NORTH AMERICA AND WHO CLAIMS UNDER THIS WARRANTY IN NORTH AMERICA.

IMPORTANT: WARRANTY REGISTRATION, AND A COPY OF THE "AUTHORIZED DEALER BILL OF SALE", MUST BE RECEIVED AT THE CLASSÉ FACTORY (address below) WITHIN TWENTY (20) DAYS OF PURCHASE, TO VALIDATE THIS WARRANTY.

In the event of failure of this preamplifier, resulting from defects in materials and workmanship, Classé Audio Inc. will repair, recalibrate, or at its discretion, replace the unit providing that all the conditions contained in this warranty are met.

In order to initiate service of any kind, it is necessary to OBTAIN PRIOR FACTORY AUTHORIZATION, AND SHIP THE UNIT PREPAID TO THE CLASSÉ FACTORY. For units coming from outside Canada, contact the factory for our forwarding address. Units shipped directly to our Canadian address from outside the country will be stopped at the border, causing extensive delays or return of the unit to the sender.

The warranty shall be void and of no effect in the event of any of the following:

- 1) Operation not in accordance with this manual;
- 2) Accident, abuse, tampering, or unauthorized modification, as determined by Classé Audio Inc.;
- 3) Removal, defacing, or falsifying the serial number plate;
- 4) Shipping without the complete factory packaging;
- 5) Transfer or sale of this preamplifier by the original owner;
- 6) Non-compliance with any of the other conditions hereof.

CLASSÉ AUDIO INC. SHALL NOT BE LIABLE FOR ANY SPECIAL, INCIDENTAL, OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES ARISING FROM OR RELATING TO THE SET-UP, OPERATION, FAILURE, TROUBLESHOOTING, OR REPAIR OF THE PREAMPLIFIER AND/OR ANY OTHER EQUIPMENT USED THEREWITH.

THIS WARRANTY, ALL CLAIMS MADE IN VIRTUE HEREOF, AND ALL ISSUES RELATING TO ANY SUCH CLAIM SHALL BE GOVERNED BY THE LAWS OF THE PROVINCE OF QUÉBEC.

CLASSÉ 4/4L
SLIMLINE BALANCED PREAMPLIFIER
FEATURES
AND
SPECIFICATIONS SHEET

4 FEATURES:

Slimline chassis, no handles, balanced inputs, balanced outputs, regular outputs, MC/MM phono, tuner, tape, CD, AUX inputs, volume, balance, mute. Available in both Satin Black, and Soft Shadow Silver finishes.

4L FEATURES: Same as above except 2 AUX inputs and no Phono.

REMOTE OPTION: Both 4 and 4L models are available with remote control option, featuring adjustments for Volume and Mute.

4/4L SPECIFICATIONS:

Frequency Response:		20 Hz to 20 KHz +/- 0.1dB 1 Hz to 150 KHz, -3 dB
Maximum Output:		18 Volts
Sensitivity:	Line:	120 Millivolts
	Magnetic Phono:	3 Millivolts
	Moving Coil Phono:	0.1 Millivolts
S/N Ratio ('A' Weighted):	Line:	95 dB
	Magnetic Phono:	85 dB
	Moving Coil Phono:	85 dB
Input Impedance:	Line:	50 KOhms
	Magnetic Phono:	47 KOhms
	Moving Coil Phono:	Adjustable into 47 KOhms
Output Impedance:		Less than 1 Ohm
Gain:	Line:	18 dB
	Magnetic Phono:	35 dB
	Moving Coil Phono:	22 dB (Adjustable 20 dB - 40 dB)
Power Requirement:		50 Watts
Dimensions:		22" x 19 1/2" x 10 1/2" 19" x 12 3/8" x 3 5/8"
Weight:	Gross:	18 lbs gross
	Net:	13 lbs net

WARRANTY REGISTRATION

You must fill out and return the form below, along with a copy of the authorized dealer bill of sale, to the factory within twenty (20) days of purchase. This will allow us to provide expedient service, information regarding updates and new products, and validate the Classé warranty.



4/4L SERIAL NUMBER _____ PURCHASE DATE _____

AUTHORIZED DEALER _____

PURCHASER'S NAME _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE/PROV. _____

COUNTRY _____ ZIP/POSTAL CODE _____

I BECAME AWARE OF THIS PRODUCT BY: _____

(DEALER, MAGAZINE, FRIEND, ETC.)



SEND TO: CLASSÉ AUDIO INC.

Product Registration

5070 François Cusson

Lachine, Quebec, Canada

H8T 1B3