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## INTRODUCTION

Congratulations on your purchase decision! We at Rogue Audio truly believe that our amplifiers provide the “smartest” value in high-end audio. If you have never owned a vacuum tube amplifier you will be thrilled by the silky-smooth sound and incredible detail that only a tube amplifier can provide. And with the Sphinx hybrid integrated amplifier, you can be sure that you are getting the leading edge in hybrid technology. We at Rogue Audio are extremely proud of our products and want you to enjoy them to their fullest potential. So please, take the time to read through this short manual so that you can be confident that you have set up your amplifier properly.

**WARNING - This amplifier uses voltages that could cause injury or death. Never open the amplifier while it is plugged in, and always wait at least one hour after turning the unit off to unplug and open the unit. *Lethal* voltages can remain in the electronics after the unit is unplugged.**

**WARNING – This power connection for this amplifier requires a three prong grounded outlet. *Lethal* voltages can be present if amplifier is not grounded properly.**

**WARNING – This apparatus must not be exposed to dripping or splashing water. Do not place any liquid filled objects on this apparatus.**

## UNPACKING THE SPHINX INTEGRATED AMPLIFIER

**Tools required:** none

The Sphinx has been painstakingly inspected for cosmetic flaws during and after assembly. In order not to damage the cosmetic appearance of your amplifier it is important that you follow the unpacking instructions carefully.

1. Carefully lift the amplifier out of the interior box, and remove the plastic bag. The optional remote and power cord are located between the outer and inner boxes.
2. Save the packing materials. The packing materials and box have been carefully designed to protect your valuable equipment during shipping so you don't want to throw them away.

## INSTALLING THE SPHINX

### **Amplifier Location:**

The Sphinx runs exceptionally cool so it isn't a problem to mount it in a rack or inside a cabinet as long as there is an inch or more clearance on the sides and top.

### **Connecting the Sphinx to your loudspeakers:**

The Sphinx is equipped with 5 way binding posts that can accommodate spade, lug, or bare wire speaker cable terminations. **Do not over tighten the binding posts.**

### **Connecting the Sphinx to other components:**

The input connections to the Sphinx are made via RCA jacks on the rear of the amplifier. The following connections are available:

- RIAA equalized phono preamplifier input (phono)
- Line 1 (CD player or other line level source)
- Line 2
- Line 3
- Variable outputs (for a subwoofer or second amplifier)
- Fixed outputs (for a separate headphone amp or for recording)

### **Connecting headphones to the Sphinx:**

The Sphinx headphone jack provides for a ¼" or 6mm headphone connector. If you have headphones with a different size connector, you can use a suitable adapter. The headphones are intended to be used with the Sphinx in standby (yellow LED lit). If the tube section is powered on (blue LED lit) then sound will also come out of the speakers so you will need to mute the output (remote version only).

### **Connecting the Sphinx to the power outlet:**

Connect the IEC end of the detachable power cord provided to the amplifier, and plug the opposite end into corresponding outlet. It is recommended that both the Sphinx and all sources (CD, tuner, etc.) be plugged into the same wall outlet if possible (perhaps using a power outlet strip). This is to avoid creating a ground loop.

### **Connecting a subwoofer to the Sphinx:**

The Sphinx has one pair of variable outputs that can be used to drive a subwoofer. The variable outputs are buffered in order to eliminate any interaction between the subwoofer circuitry and the Sphinx.

## OPERATION OF THE SPHINX

*Powering up the System* - After all proper connections have been made, you are now ready to turn the Sphinx on. The main power on/off switch is on the rear of the amp. This “vacation switch” can be left on at all times and keeps the solid state portion of the amplifier in a standby state. The Sphinx uses very little power while in standby and will sound its very best if you leave this switch on at all times. If you are going to be away for an extended time period (vacation) you can turn it off. The yellow LED on the front panel indicates that this switch is turned on. The power button on the front panel energizes the tube section and takes the solid state circuitry out of standby mode. The blue LED indicates that the amplifier is in fully operational mode.

The Sphinx uses a “smart” turn on sequence that minimizes turn on transients and also lets the tubes warm up gently. When the power button is depressed a red LED will come on and after approximately fifteen seconds the yellow standby LED will go out and the red LED will turn blue. You are then ready to listen to music. Even with the timed turn on sequence it is best to turn your equipment on as follows:

- 1) Turn on all sources (CD, tuner, etc.) that you will be using.
- 2) Power up the Sphinx
- 3) Select listening source and play music

When powering down your system turn the amplifier off first.

Note – **Important!** After turning off the amplifier, wait at least one minute to turn it back on. Do not turn it on then off and then on again in quick succession. Doing this will not allow the power supply to discharge between on/off cycling and may result in transient noises.

*Switches and Controls*- The Sphinx is equipped with volume, balance, source, and an optional remote volume control.

- Volume – adjust gain
- Balance - left and right channel balance
- Source – selects source material (PHONO, Line 1, Line 2, Line 3)
- Power – on/off operation
- Remote Volume Control – The Sphinx is equipped with an optional analog remote volume control feature. The volume may be adjusted manually using the knob on the front panel, or by using the remote control if provided. A mute function is also included.

### Phono Preamplifier:

The Sphinx V3 includes a high performance phono section that is suitable for the vast majority of phono cartridges available today. It is user configurable and has adjustments for gain, and resistive loading. **The Sphinx is shipped with the gain set at 44dB and the loading set at 47K.** This set up is appropriate for most high output cartridges.

Before removing the cover to make any loading or gain adjustments, turn the power off on the Sphinx and let it drain down any voltages for at least 30 minutes. Leave the Sphinx plugged into the wall during this time so that the voltages can drain down properly. After the Sphinx has sat for at least 30 minutes disconnect the power cord from the wall or rear of the unit.

**WARNING - This amplifier uses voltages that could cause injury or death. Never open the amplifier while it is plugged in, and always wait at least 30 minutes after turning the unit off before unplugging the electrical cord and opening the unit. *Lethal* voltages can remain in the electronics after the unit is unplugged.**

**Resistive loading** – There are two sets of DIP switches (S65 and S67) for setting the resistive loading (one per channel). The four switches are labeled A,B,C and D. Figure 1 shows all switches in the off position (47K ohms). The loading options are provided below in Table 1.

**Resistive Loading Table**

1	2	3	4	resistance
on	on	on	off	30 $\Omega$
on	off	off	off	50 $\Omega$
off	on	on	off	75 $\Omega$
off	on	off	off	100 $\Omega$
off	off	on	on	230 $\Omega$
off	off	on	off	300 $\Omega$
off	off	off	on	1K $\Omega$
off	off	off	off	47K $\Omega$

**Table 1**

**Setting the cartridge loading** – The cartridge loading DIP switches are located towards the left hand side of the main circuit board (figure 1). It is important to point out that the cartridge manufacturers recommended loading should be considered as a starting point and not an absolute. Systems and turntable setups vary significantly and if you want to get the most out of your analog setup, take the time to find the settings that sound best in your system

**Setting the phono gain** - The two red slide switches are used to set the gain and are located towards the left hand side of the main circuit board (Figure 1). If the switches are placed in the “mc” direction (towards the rear and as shown) 60 dB of gain is provided which is best for cartridges of 0.4mV and up. You can use a lower output cartridge but you may not get sufficient volume. When the switches are placed in the “mm” position (towards the front) the phono provides 44 dB of gain which is suitable for moving magnet (MM) and high output moving coil (MC) cartridges. A setting of 60 dB gain and 47K loading is shown in Figure 1.

To access the phono adjustments remove the 10 cover screws using a #2 Phillips screwdriver and lift off the cover.

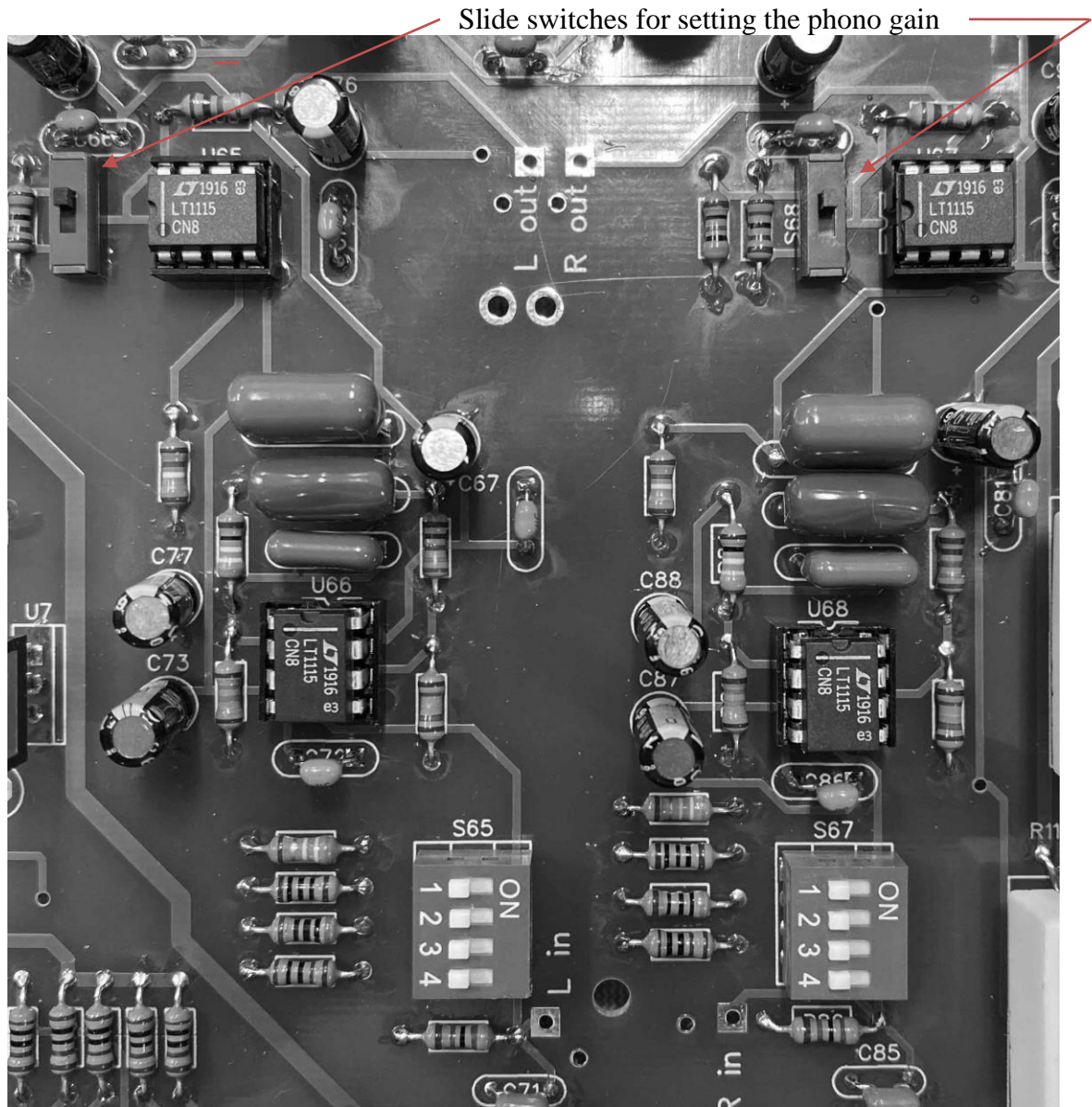


Figure 1. Phono preamplifier section

## **TROUBLESHOOTING**

The Sphinx has a variety of protection features that are intended to prevent damage to the amplifier and loudspeakers. These include thermal overload, over current protection, shorted output protection, etc... If the amplifier is hooked up improperly or misused these features will help (but not guarantee) to prevent damage.

*One channel out* – Check that the speaker wires are not shorting together either at the rear of the Sphinx or at the speaker binding posts.

*Both channels out* – Check that the speaker wires are not shorted together. Make sure the source (CD, phono, etc.. ) is operating and hooked up properly. Try a second source if possible. Turn off the standby switch on the rear of the Sphinx, wait five minutes and turn the standby switch back on to reboot the electronics.

*Both Channels drop out after prolonged playing at high volumes* – Turn the Sphinx off at both the front and rear switches and let it cool for an hour then restart.

If you have any questions or concerns about the operation of your Sphinx please call us at 570-992-9901 and we will be happy to help you.

## **OWNER AND WARRANTY REGISTRATION FORM**

Included with your amplifier is an Owner and Warranty Registration Form. Please take a minute to fill out this card and return it to Rogue Audio. This card must be returned within 30 days of purchase to validate the warranty.

## FUSE VALUES

Main fuse located inside (1) – 5 Amp slow blow  
Power Supply Fuses on PCB (2) – 5 Amp slow blow

## SPECIFICATIONS

output power	100WPC/8 ohms , 200WPC/4 ohms
frequency response	5Hz – 20 kHz $\pm$ 1dB
THD	< 0.1% typ, < 1% at rated power
input sensitivity	1.0 V RMS
dimensions	15 ½" W x 17" D x 5" H
weight	25 pounds (25 Kg)
shipping weight	30 lbs (27 Kg)
power requirements	115/230V - 50/60Hz



## **LIMITED WARRANTY**

### **Warranty Period**

This product has been manufactured under the highest standards of quality and workmanship. Rogue Audio Inc. (hereinafter "Rogue Audio") warrants this product against defects in material or workmanship as follows:

With the exception of vacuum tubes, Rogue Audio warrants to the original purchaser of this product all parts of this product against defects in material and workmanship for a period of three years from the date of retail purchase. Rogue Audio warrants the vacuum tubes for a period of six months from the date of retail purchase. Any defective parts will be replaced free of charge, excluding shipping and handling.

Proof of purchase in the form of a bill of sale or recited invoice which indicates that the product is within the warranty period must be presented to obtain warranty service. Rogue Audio suggests that the purchaser retain the dealer's bill of sale as evidence of the date of retail purchase.

### **What's Not Covered**

This warranty does not cover cosmetic damage or any damage that results from product misuse, product abuse, installation error, connection to an improper voltage supply, accident, improper maintenance, alterations, modifications not authorized in writing by Rogue Audio, lightning, power surges, or acts of God. Use of any other than Rogue Audio factory parts may void this warranty.

This warranty does not cover the cost of parts and labor which would be otherwise provided without charge under this warranty, obtained from any source other than Rogue Audio.

This warranty applies only to consumer use of this product and does not cover any product that is used in any trade or business, or in an industrial or commercial application.

This warranty applies only to the original purchaser of this product when purchased from an Authorized Rogue Audio dealer.

This warranty is valid only in the United States.

#### **YOUR RIGHTS**

ROGUE AUDIO LIMITS ITS OBLIGATIONS UNDER ANY IMPLIED WARRANTIES UNDER STATE LAWS TO A PERIOD NOT TO EXCEED THE WARRANTY PERIOD. SOME STATES DO NOT ALLOW LIMITATIONS ON HOW LONG AN IMPLIED WARRANTY LASTS, AND SOME STATES DO NOT ALLOW THE EXCLUSION OR LIMITATION OF INCIDENTAL OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES, SO THE ABOVE LIMITATIONS OR EXCLUSIONS MAY NOT APPLY TO YOU. THIS WARRANTY GIVES YOU SPECIFIC LEGAL RIGHTS, AND YOU MAY HAVE OTHER RIGHTS WHICH MAY VARY FROM STATE TO STATE.

### **To Obtain Service**

To obtain service, you must contact Rogue Audio and obtain a return authorization number. The product must be delivered to Rogue Audio in its original packaging prepaid at the following address:

**Rogue Audio Inc.  
545 Jenna Dr.  
Brodheads ville, PA 18322**