



AUDIOPAX

MODEL 5

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Introduction

Thank you for purchasing an **Audiopax Model 5**, the fourth generation of our award-winning preamp that is the result of combining a unique topology with the best audio components available - absolutely unique equipment.

Audiopax preamps redefine the role of these components in an audio system, directly and controllably embodying the concept of “synergy” among their components. They are the only preamps in the world to incorporate the **Timbre Lock**® technology, which allows the adjustment of minimal distortion perceived in the system as a whole and during the listening of it, breaking away from the conventional concept of single component measurements. Because of this, its inclusion in systems is often described as “magical”, revealing all the nuances, dynamics, intentions and emotions of music and musicians, something usually only present in live performances.

Other features and innovations also contribute to the maximum performance of the systems in which they are inserted: the absolute lack of feedback, a unique Mosfet topology where this solid-state element is effectively used as a tube (that's why many consider the inclusion of an **Audiopax** preamplifier as “the tube” element in their systems) and an innovative use of inductive loads (as opposed to conventional resistive loads), where the perceived final dynamics are raised to levels hardly ever achievable by any other market preamplifier. It is no wonder that **Model 5** has amassed an impressive number of excellent reviews, awards and “*Best of the Show*” at the world's leading audio shows.

Extensive frequency response, exceptional low-level resolution, visceral dynamics and tremendous immunity to load shifts. Refinement and innovation bring your new preamp to the reference category.

Installation

Your **Model 5** is shipped in a single box containing:

- The preamp unit
- The external power supply
- Two dc cables
- A remote control
- A small antenna for remote control reception
- Reserve fuses

Your manual is available for download on our website: www.audiopax.com.

Model 5 should be installed in a location with natural ventilation and at least 10 cm (4 inches) of free space above its handles (use in enclosed cabinets could endanger its components and void your warranty). Both the preamplifier and its power supply must be installed away from equipment that may generate electromagnetic interference (such as power conditioners) and the power unit must be at least 50 cm away from the main chassis.

Recommendations for its installation and use:

- Install it with all system equipment turned off. Also, make sure that the power on/off and standby switches of the power supply and preamplifier are turned off.
- Connect the source and the preamplifier with the two supplied dc cables. The colors of the cable connectors match the colors of the cabinet connectors and there is no possibility of reversing these cables, which are only pluggable in the correct position.
- At the power supply module: Install the supplied antenna into the corresponding input and set the grounded/ungrounded switch to the grounded position.
- On the preamplifier module: Select both rear switches to the upper position ("unbalanced" and "High Gain").
- Make all necessary audio input and output connections.
- Connect the AC power cord using the proper voltage - **Model 5** can be supplied for 120V or 230V, but you cannot change this selection on your own (contact **Audiopax** if necessary).
- We recommend that the power supply be continuously turned on and all on/off operation be performed by the preamplifier front panel "standby

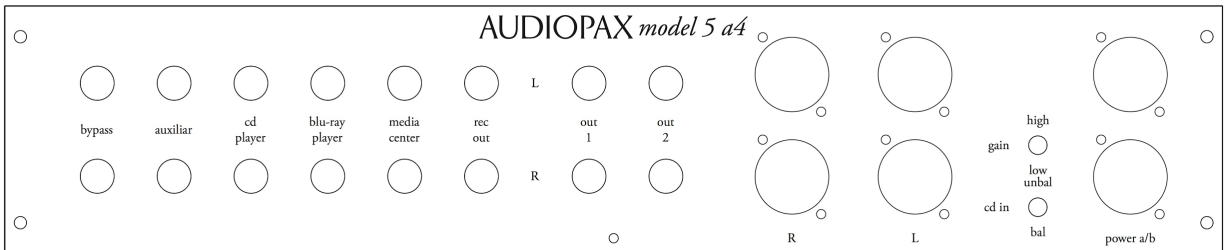
on/off" switch, except when it is recommended that the entire system be turned off (such as during trips).

- After power-up, **Model 5** will need 30 minutes to reach its thermal stabilization, which will guarantee its best performance.

Some important notes:

- Bypass input does not go through volume control (it will always have maximum gain) and it is available to allow easy integration of **Model 5** into a multichannel system without the need for cabling changes. If it's not used in this mode, we recommend the use of short circuit RCA caps in these inputs, avoiding unwanted noise in the case of standby off or power off. It will be switched to output in three situations:
 - Manually by the channel selection front switch.
 - Automatically when the pre is turned off, either by the front panel "standby" switch, the power supply "on/off" switch or due power failure shutdown (eg unplugged from the ac cable).
 - The cd player input can also be used with 3-pin (XLR) connectors by simply switching the "unbalanced/balanced" switch on the back panel of the preamplifier to the "balanced" position.
 - The three outputs (two RCA and one XLR) operate simultaneously and any of them can be used.
 - 3-pin input and output (XLR) can be "pseudo-balanced" (only an XLR cable adapter, but operating as unbalanced) or transformer balanced, the latter being a **Model 5** option.
- Both inputs and outputs follow the white/red and upper/lower conventions for left/right channels.

Back Panel



From left to right:

- bypass** switchable input manually (via channel selection front switch) or automatically (in case of power failure, **standby off** or **power off**)

- auxiliary** switchable input via channel selection front switch
- cd player** switchable input via channel selection front switch
- blu-ray player** switchable input via channel selection front switch
- media center** switchable input via channel selection front switch
- rec out** channel selection output but with no change through volume control (always at maximum).

- out1 / out 2** preamp outputs
- xlr - right out/in** output (top connector) and input (bottom connector) 3-pin (XLR) - right channel
- xlr - left out/in** output (top connector) and input (bottom connector) 3-pin (XLR) - left channel

- gain** preamplifier gain selection switch: 18dB (high) and 9dB (low). **ATTENTION: to avoid noise in your loudspeakers please only change this setting with the amplifier turned off or with bypass input selection (manually or automatically)**

- cd in** unbalanced and balanced selection for cd player input
- power a/b** connectors for power supply

Turning on your Model 5

When **Model 5** power is turned on by using the power on/off switch of the power supply, the front LED of the power supply should light but not the front LED on the preamplifier, as it remains for 40 seconds in its previous state (switched to bypass input). After this period (and with the front panel switch on standby on) the preamplifier led will also light up and the input will be switched according to the front panel selection.

As initial setup we recommend the following positions:

- Put the Power Supply Unit rear switch to its "*grounded*" position. The ungrounded position should only be used to test for potential system grounding problems that may cause noise (such as "ground loops"), that is, even if its use apparently resolves some kind of problem, it is important that the original electrical problem be corrected to allow you to return this switch to its normal (grounded) position.
- Put the "*Gain*" switch on the back of the preamplifier to high.
- Put "*cd in*" switch on the back of the preamplifier for unbalanced for the use of RCA input cables or balanced for the use of XLR input cables.
- Put **Timbre Lock**[®] potentiometers and volume at minimum (zero) position.
- Be sure that the "*Standby on/off*" switch at the preamp is in its off position before connecting the power supply.

It is also always recommended that the preamplifier be turned on before the power amplifiers.

The Timbre Lock[®]

Every audiophile has heard and used the term "synergy", which represents the perfect match between the parts of a system. It is a continuous pursuit of the high-end audio market, justifying numerous tests and equipment changes. This demand is usually based on trial and error processes and often gives any audiophile not only the expenses associated with continuous exchanges but also frustrations rather than only good results.

Timbre Lock[®], a unique innovation of **Audiopax**, can be considered a control that acts on exactly one of the most important parameters that define our impression of "synergy" among the components of a system: the joint behavior of its distortions. They are present in all **Audiopax** preamps and amplifiers and replace the "trial and error" process of continuously changing equipment and parts of a system with a set of simple potentiometer adjustments. **Model 5** preamp follows the same **Timbre Lock**[®] concept originally developed for **Model 88** but with a different implementation.

Sound effects do not operate in the domain of frequency response, as in today's little-used tone controls, but rather operate in optimizing the residual harmonic distortion spectrum amid the preamplifier, amplifiers, and speakers. Because of this, its final effect is difficult to define and inherently dependent on the system itself. Improvements in instrumental tone perception, micro-dynamics, general definition, low-frequency impact and articulation, and even more subjective factors such as emotional involvement and the real sense of the presence of musicians in your listening room are often observed.

It is impossible to predict the optimal configuration for each case, as the result will be dependent on the systems and the listening rooms themselves. Adjustments should, therefore, be made through comparative hearings by the users themselves. Remember that since the **Timbre Lock**[®] also acts on the final gain of the preamplifier it is very important to balance the volume levels during the tests with the volume control.

The adjustments are very dependent on the characteristics of the speakers and also on the amplifiers used but we can have the following list as an initial reference:

- Class A tube amplifiers (like all **Audiopax** amplifiers) tend to perform best with the **Timbre Lock**[®] set to low (between zero and -10).

- High power solid-state amplifiers tend to operate best with the rear switch in the “low” position and the **Timbre Lock**[®] at high values (between -30 and -40).
- High-power push-pull tube amplifiers usually have their best settings between the two extremes (between -10 and -30).

One last important note: **Model 5** is an inverter preamplifier, ie the output signal will have inverted polarity relative to the input. When coupled to an inverter amplifier (as is the case with all **Audiopax** amplifiers) the preamplifier/amplifier combination will preserve the polarity of the input signal. If non-inverting amplifiers are used, absolute polarity restoration can be achieved by reversing it at the source (if available) or simply reversing the polarity of the loudspeaker cables in both channels (left/right). We encourage system testing with both configurations, as the best optimization of the residual distortion spectrum may occur in either case.

Specifications

Frequency Response:	5Hz to 90kHz (-3dB)
Maximum gain:	9dB (low) / 18dB (high)
Signal to Noise Ratio:	Better than 95db, Weighted Ref, 1V
Input Impedance:	45 Kohms (minimum)
Output Impedance:	1500 ohms (maximum) 500 ohms (typical)
Distortion:	<0.08%
Input Voltage:	120V or 230V (+- 5%)
Fuses:	1A (120V) or 500mA (220V), slow, 6.3mm (main) 250mA to 500mA, fast, 6.3mm (dc - two units)
Dimensions:	42cm (W) x 34cm (D) x 14cm (H) (Preamplifier) 30cm (W) x 29cm (D) x 9.5cm (H) (Power Supply)
Net Weight:	12 Kg (Preamplifier) 5 kg (power supply)
Finishes:	Chassis: Chrome or Black Piano Sides: Black Piano or Bordeaux
Optional:	Transformer balanced input and output Dual balanced input

*All of the above specifications consider the **Timbre Lock**[®] controls at minimum and Volume at maximum.*