



Lounge Audio

www.loungeaudio.com



An Optical Moving Coil Step-Up Preamp

INSTRUCTION MANUAL

Thank you for purchasing the Lounge Audio Copla step-up preamp. This installation guide is designed to help you connect and understand how to use our step-up preamplifier. We reserve the right to make improvements or modifications as needed due to availability of parts, and so design and specifications are subject to change without notice.

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Introduction

Lounge Audio is happy to introduce Copla, a moving coil step-up pre-amplifier designed to drive a moving magnet phono preamp. It is the active electronic equivalent of a step-up transformer (SUT), allowing control of active moving coil impedance. A single dial provides variable added richness and dimension to the response of your moving coil cartridge. This dial is comparable to a Tone knob.

Copla has an optically isolated power supply for low noise, allowing liquid, cohesive midrange and deep soundstaging. Solid-state circuitry operates at low impedance for superior hum and noise rejection.

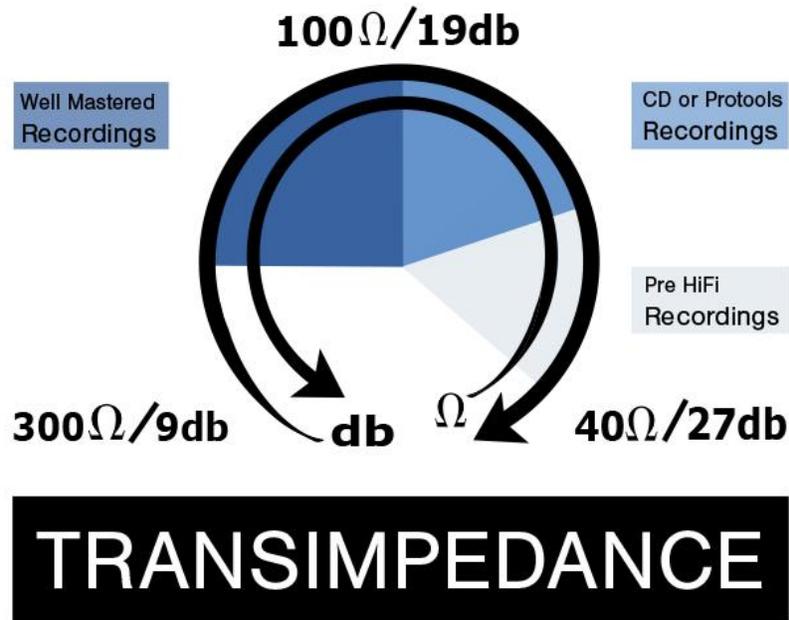
Box contents and warranty

The box contains:

One Lounge Audio Copla step-up preamp and its power adaptor.

Your Copla has a one-year warranty on parts and labor, including the return shipping back to you. You may return a non-defective unit within 15 days of delivery. If we get it back in original condition, all accessories intact and with a copy of your original receipt, we will refund your full purchase price minus a 10% restocking fee. On non-defective returns, we do not refund shipping costs. Units damaged from use or mishandling will be prorated.

Front Panel Control



The Transimpedance knob provides sweepable loading from 300 Ohms down to 40 Ohms tied to a gain boost of 9db to 27db. The loading is not resistive; it is the native input impedance of the transistors themselves. This knob has simultaneous control of cartridge impedance loading and gain. As shown above, as you turn the knob clockwise the loading value goes down and the gain goes up. The knob's neutral position is straight up, providing a 100 Ohms load for your cartridge. This is the most common manufacturer-recommended load value for average moving coil cartridges, and a good center point to start with. Use your ears to adjust the sound to your liking.

In case you wondered, the top blue edge of the Copla does get brighter and whiter as the knob is turned clockwise. This is not just a visual effect. That white light is the power being transferred to the amplifier circuitry through photo diodes.

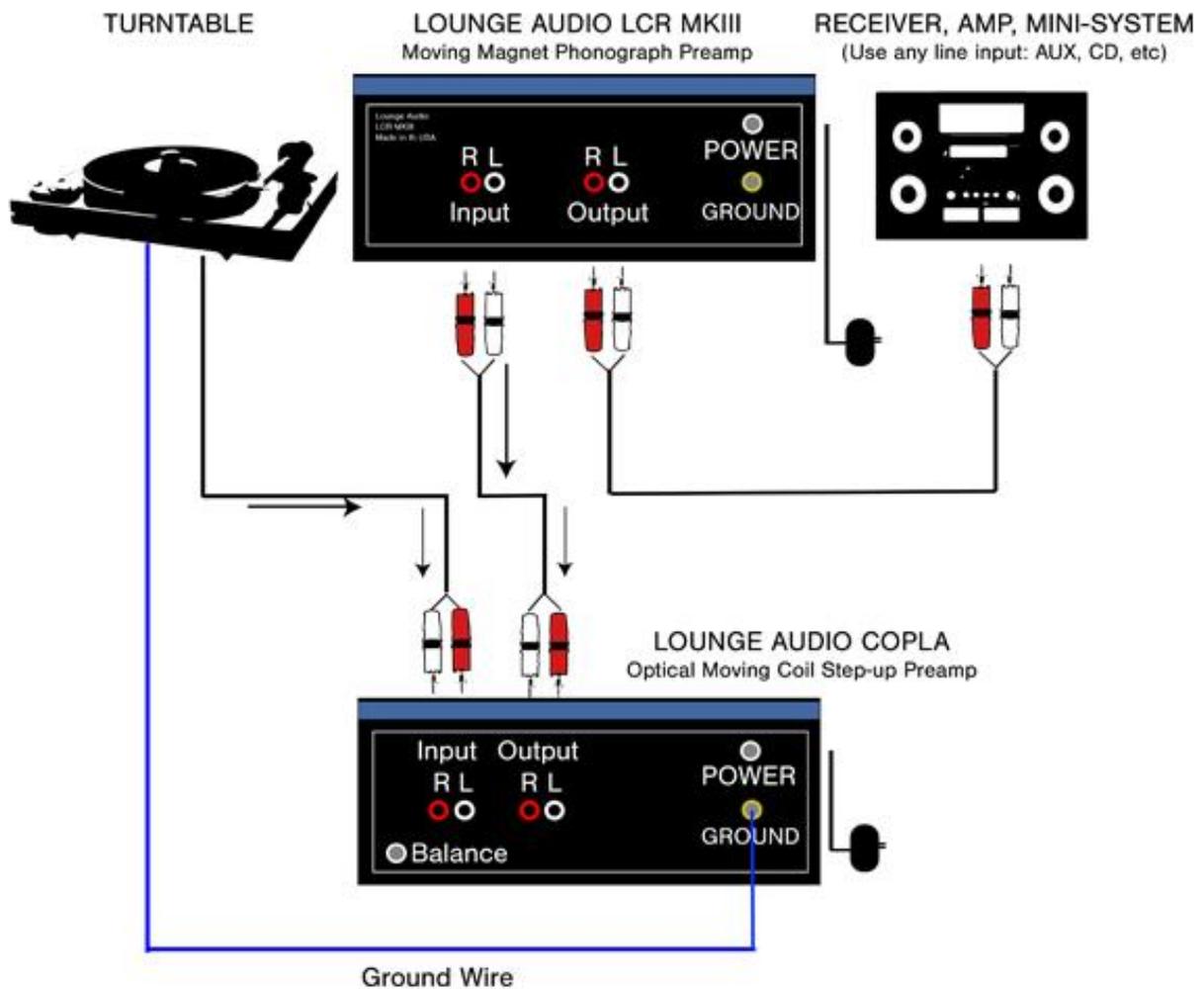
This is a powerful tool that can adjust the response of your cartridge to different types of music, recordings, masterings and pressings. We have found that well-mastered recordings sound best with a gentle application of load/gain by setting the knob to about 200 ohms (9 o'clock dial position). With pressings sourced from normal digital sources, (e.g. CD files or Pro Tools) a setting of 100-80 Ohms (12 - 2 o'clock on the dial) brings out more richness and body, to offset the compressed dynamics often found in these pressings. And finally, with pre-hifi era recordings or lo-fi garage recordings, an 80-40 Ohm load (2 – 5 o'clock dial setting) will bring out even more body and midrange resolution where the material is all about the musical performance and the technical aspects of the recording leaves something to be desired. Of course, these are our observations. Use the knob to find the sweet spots with your gear.

Installation and Rear Panel Connections

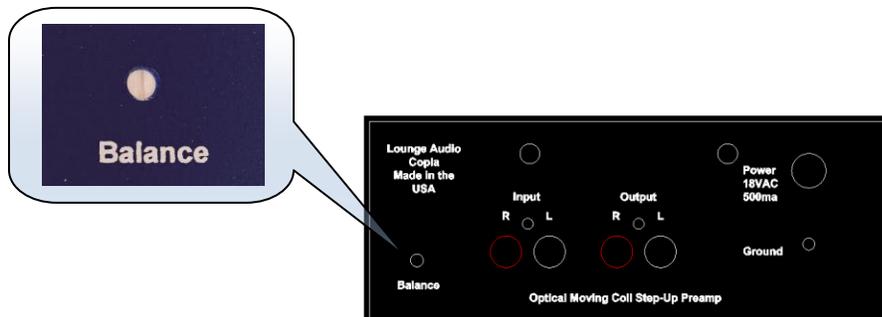
We assume your turntable system is already functioning and you are adding Copla to it.

There is no power switch. We suggest plugging Copla into a switchable socket on the back of your amp (if there is one) or into a switchable power strip with the other devices in your stereo system to turn the system on/off. You can, however, leave the unit on 24/7 with no adverse effect.

Insert the Copla between your turntable and phono preamp. Disconnect the turntable phono cables and ground wire, and connect them to the Copla input jacks and ground terminal. Then connect the Copla outputs to the phono preamp inputs. Make sure to set your phono preamp mode to “moving magnet” (MM) if that option is available.



Rear Panel Control



Balance

Some MC cartridges have a channel imbalance. If you notice a stereo imaging imbalance between the left and right channels which is not adequately addressed with your preamp/receiver's balance control, then, *and only then*, use Copla's stereo balance trim pot on the back panel. This adjustment is accessed through the hole labeled "Balance." The pot is factory set vertically for equal gain in each channel. Use a small, flat head screwdriver, "greenie" or Miniature Potentiometer-Trimmed Adjustment Tool to balance left and right channels. This is easiest with a test record or a mono record, listening while turning the pot.

Technical Specifications

Continuous Adjustable Gain: 9 to 27dB

Continuous Adjustable Input impedance: 300 to 40 ohms

Output impedance: 1.5K ohms

Signal-to-noise ratio: 85db (ref to 0.775VRMS output)

Distortion: 0.03 % @-40db output 3rd Harmonic Dominating

AC Adaptor: 120VAC 60hz, 18VAC, 500ma Wall Cube type.

Amplification Type: complementary bipolar transistors

I/O's: gold RCA jack

Dimensions: Height 3", Width 6.5", Length 5.8"

Weight: 2 lb 15 ounces

Troubleshooting

There is no power switch. We suggest connecting it to a switchable power strip with all other devices, and switch the power strip on/off. You can leave the unit on 24/7 with no adverse effect.

Hum can occur due to a variety of reasons, most commonly:

- a) Quality of cables
- b) Grounding: check to see that the turntable is grounded to the Copla as shown on the "Installation and Rear connections" section.
- c) Positioning of the unit: power amps or integrated amps should be far enough away from the turntable tonearm, Copla or your preamp.

We are committed to providing excellent service. If you have any questions or issues, please email us at loungeaudio@ca.rr.com