

USER MANUAL

Phl 5

Handcrafted in Italy

MASTERSOUND

MADE IN ITALY

Welcome to MastersoundD

Congratulations on your choice and welcome to the MastersoundD world, where Italian craftsmanship and music meet to create an authentic listening experience.

Your MastersoundD product is the result of years of design, listening and hand-built construction in Italy. Each unit is assembled by skilled technicians using selected components, hand-built circuitry and carefully engineered tube designs developed to achieve natural musicality, tonal coherence and long-term reliability.

Designed according to MastersoundD's pure Class "A" philosophy and minimalist signal-path approach, every product is created for music lovers who appreciate:

- the warmth and presence of tube amplification
- the natural dynamics and musicality of Class "A" operation
- the pleasure of owning a product built to last, with a distinctive Italian character

Please read this manual carefully: it will help you install, use and take care of your MastersoundD product, so you can fully enjoy its performance for many years.

Enjoy your music,
MastersoundD

Luciano Sanavio

Antonio Ferro

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4. – IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION



GENERAL WARNINGS

- Read these instructions carefully and keep them for future reference
- Follow all warnings and instructions marked on the product
- Do not use this apparatus near water, in damp environments or outdoors
- Clean only with a soft, dry cloth
- Do not block ventilation openings: install in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions
- Do not install near heat sources such as radiators, stoves, or other equipment (including amplifiers) that produce heat
- Use only attachments and accessories specified by the manufacturer
- Use only the supplied mains cable or a cable of equivalent quality
- Protect the power cord from being walked on or pinched, particularly at plugs and at the point where it exits from the apparatus
- Unplug this apparatus during lightning storms or when unused for long periods of time
- Refer all servicing to qualified service personnel

RISK OF ELECTRIC SHOCK

- Do not open the cabinet: no user-serviceable parts inside
- Inside the amplifier there are dangerous high voltages even after it has been switched OFF
- Servicing must be carried out only by qualified, authorized personnel
- Never remove or insert the AC plug when the unit is ON.

HOT SURFACES

- Tubes and transformers reach high temperatures during operation
- Do not touch the tubes, transformer covers or top cage while the preamplifier is on or shortly after switch-off
- Allow at least 30 minutes for cooling before moving the unit

TO REDUCE THE RISK OF FIRE OR ELECTRIC SHOCK

- Do not expose this apparatus to rain, moisture, dripping or splashing
- Do not place objects filled with liquids (vases, glasses, bottles) on the apparatus

5. – ELECTRICAL & ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION

| ELECTRICAL INFORMATION

Mains supply: 230 V ~ 50 Hz / 110-120 V ~ 60 Hz

Maximum power consumption: 24 W

Protection class: Class I (earth connection required)

△ The unit is factory-set for the mains voltage of the destination country. External voltage converters are not recommended. Voltage conversion should be carried out only by qualified personnel.

| WEEE AND ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION

EU Directive 2012/19/EU



The symbol of the crossed-out wheeled bin on the product or its packaging indicates that this product must be collected separately from other waste at the end of its life.

Please dispose of this product at dedicated collection points for electrical and electronic equipment, or return it to your dealer according to local regulations. Correct separate collection and recycling help prevent potential negative effects on the environment and human health and promote the reuse of materials.

This product complies with: Low Voltage Directive 2014/35/EU, EMC Directive 2014/30/EU, RoHS Directive 2011/65/EU.

Disposal outside the EU

This product must not be disposed of as unsorted municipal waste. Please dispose of the product at designated collection points for electrical and electronic equipment in accordance with local regulations in your country.

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6. – PACKAGE CONTENT

- 1 × Mastersound Phl 5 tube line and phono preamplifier
- 1 × complete set of selected tubes (usually already installed)
- 1 × mains power cable
- 1 × remote control
- 1 × user manual

⚠ If any item is missing or damaged, please contact your dealer immediately.

⚠ The remote control operates with a standard 23A 12V battery.

7. – TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Main features

- Tube line and phono preamplifier
- Pure Class “A”
- Pre tubes: 2 × ECC802S
- MM phono stage tubes: 2 x ECC803S - 1 x ECC802S
- MM phono stage: 47 k Ω / 5 mV / 45 dB gain / ± 0.5 dB RIAA
- Volume control: motorized Alps potentiometer
- Remote control: supplied
- Input selector: micro relay

Inputs

1 × Line XLR (Aux)

1 × Phono MM

3 × Line (CD · Tape · Tuner)

Outputs

1 × Line

1 × Line XLR

1 × Rec (Fixed volume)

Electrical

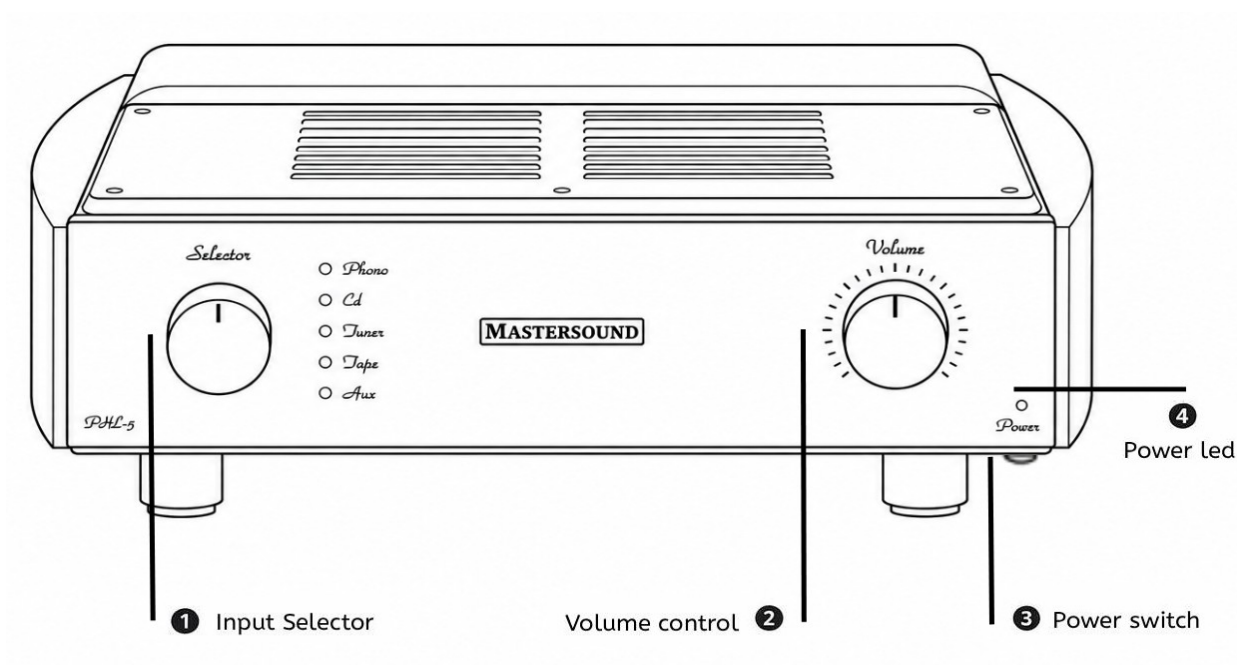
- Input impedance: 50 k Ω
- Output impedance: 450 Ω
- Frequency response: 1 Hz – 100 kHz (0 dB)
- Power consumption: 24 W
- Main fuse: 8 A / 250 V (slow)

Mechanical

- Dimensions (W × D × H): 44 × 39 × 14 cm
- Weight: 10 kg

Due to continuous research and development, specifications may change without notice.

8. – FRONT PANEL

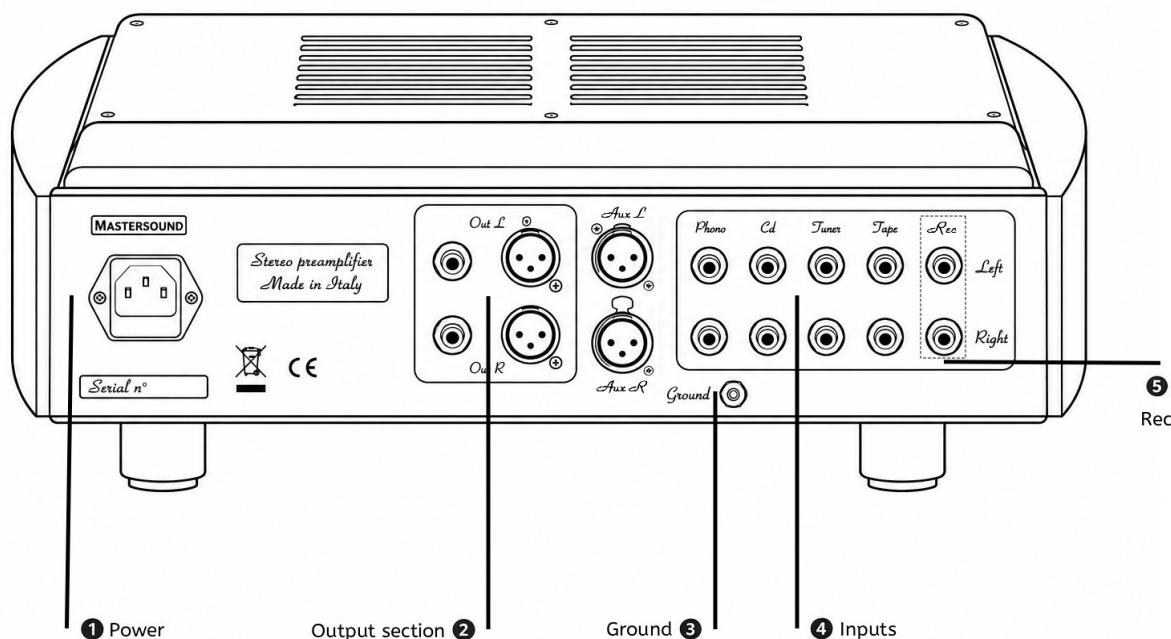


The front panel of the Phl 5 has been designed to be simple, intuitive and reliable for everyday use.

The minimal layout ensures a very short signal path and an immediate, distraction-free operation.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Input selector
Phono · CD · Tuner · Tape ·
Aux | 3. Power switch (ON/OFF)
under the lower right corner |
| 2. Volume control | 4. Power LED |

9. – REAR PANEL



The Phl 5 features high-quality connectors to guarantee reliable contacts and maximum versatility.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Power | 4. Inputs |
| IEC mains inlet with fuse holder (8 A slow) | Aux (XLR) |
| | Phono MM · CD · Tuner · Tape (RCA) |
| 2. Output section | 5. Rec |
| Variable RCA and XLR line outputs | Fixed-level output for recording devices. |
| 3. Ground | |
| Ground terminal (for turntable / system ground) | |

10. – QUICK START

Safe Handling and Transport

Handle the packaging carefully and preferably with two people.

ON/OFF

1. Place the preamplifier on a solid and flat surface, away from heat sources and in a well-ventilated area. Ensure at least 10 cm of free space above the unit and avoid installing it inside closed cabinets without proper airflow.
2. Make sure all source and output connections are completed.
3. Turn the volume control fully counter-clockwise (minimum).
4. Press the front Power switch: the red LED lights up and the tubes start to warm up.

We recommend allowing the preamplifier to warm up for at least 5–10 minutes before listening; optimal performance is reached after about 20 minutes.

To switch the unit OFF:

1. Lower the volume to a moderate level.
2. Press the Power switch to OFF.
3. If you will not use the preamplifier for a long time, also switch OFF the mains switch (if present) or unplug the power cord.

⚠ The preamplifier requires a break-in period to reach optimal performance.

⚠ The tubes may reach elevated temperatures during operation.

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11. – OPERATION

Source selection

Use the input selector to choose the desired source:

- Phono – turntable with MM cartridge
- CD – CD player or DAC
- Tuner – tuner or streamer
- Tape – recording device or tape deck
- Aux (XLR) – balanced line-level source

Aux, CD, Tuner, Tape inputs can be used for all line-level audio sources.

Outputs

- Output section: Variable RCA and XLR line-level outputs for connecting external power amplifiers, active speakers or other audio equipment.
- Rec: Fixed line-level output for connecting recording devices or other external audio equipment.

Volume

Rotate clockwise to increase, counter-clockwise to decrease.

⚠ Avoid prolonged listening at very high levels to protect your speakers and your hearing.

Remote control

The supplied radio-frequency remote control is housed in solid walnut wood, offering a refined tactile feel in line with Mastersound craftsmanship. It allows remote volume adjustment.

12. – PHONO STAGE

The Phl 5 features a fully tube-based MM phono stage, designed to preserve the natural dynamics, harmonic richness and tonal balance of vinyl playback.

The phono section operates entirely in pure Class “A” and uses dedicated ECC803S and ECC802S tubes selected to ensure low noise, musical coherence and accurate RIAA equalization.

This design reflects Mastersound’s approach to analogue reproduction: musical, refined and technically controlled.

Key characteristics:

- Fully tube MM phono stage
- Natural and detailed vinyl reproduction
- Rich harmonic structure and smooth tonal balance
- Accurate RIAA equalization (± 0.5 dB)
- Low-noise design for improved signal transparency

The MM phono input is designed around standard cartridge requirements, with 47 k Ω input impedance, 5 mV sensitivity and 45 dB gain, ensuring correct matching with most high-quality Moving Magnet cartridges.

Particular attention has been given to RIAA equalization accuracy, specified at ± 0.5 dB. This helps preserve tonal balance, frequency coherence and the original character of the recording.

For optimal performance, we recommend using high-quality turntables, cartridges and properly grounded connections.

13. – TUBES

The Phl 5 is supplied with:

- 2 × ECC802S – preamplifier
- 2 × ECC803S, 1 × ECC802S – MM phono stage tubes

All tubes are selected and matched to work optimally with MastersoundD circuits.

Tube lifespan

Under normal use, tubes typically last 5,000–10,000 hours.
The actual life varies with usage and mains quality.

Signs that tubes may need replacement:

- loss of dynamics or clarity
- increased background noise or hum
- distortion at usual listening levels

For replacement, we recommend:

- using high-quality, matched tubes
- contacting your dealer or MastersoundD service for testing and advice

⚠ Never operate the preamplifier without all tubes correctly installed.

14. – MAINTENANCE & CLEANING

Always switch off the preamplifier and unplug the mains cable before any cleaning.

Allow the unit to cool down completely before touching the tubes or metal covers.

Clean the metal and wooden parts with a soft, slightly damp cloth and dry immediately.

Do not use alcohol, solvents, abrasive or ammonia-based cleaners.

Keep ventilation openings free from dust.

⚠ There are no user-serviceable parts inside.

⚠ For internal maintenance or tube replacement, contact your dealer or an authorized Mastersound service centre.

15. – TROUBLESHOOTING

Problem	Possible cause	Solution
Unit does not switch ON	Power cord not connected; blown fuse; mains outlet not working	Check mains cable and outlet; replace fuse with same type and rating; if problem persists, contact service
No sound	Wrong input selected; loose interconnect cables; source not playing	Check input selector; verify all connections; test with another source
Hum or buzz	Poor interconnect cables; turntable not grounded; interference from nearby electronic devices	Use good shielded cables; connect turntable ground wire; Unplug or switch OFF nearby electronic devices
Distorted sound	Tubes worn; output level too high; faulty source component	Check tubes; reduce volume; test with another source
One channel silent	Faulty cable or source component; loose connection	Swap left/right cables to identify fault; verify all connections

⚠ If the problem cannot be solved following these steps, disconnect the unit and contact your dealer.

16. – WARRANTY & SERVICE

Your Mastersound Phl 5, except for the tubes, is covered by a 5-year limited warranty against defects in materials and workmanship from the date of purchase shown on your sales invoice.

During the warranty period, repairs or replacement of defective parts will be carried out free of charge, excluding transport costs when applicable.

The warranty is void if:

- The serial number has been removed, altered or is illegible
- The preamplifier has been opened, modified or repaired by unauthorized personnel
- Tubes of a different type or with unsuitable specifications have been installed
- The preamplifier has been connected to unsuitable equipment
- Damage is due to misuse, accident, negligence, incorrect installation, or abnormal mains supply

For any service request, please contact your authorized dealer or distributor first, or:

Mastersound S.r.l.
Via Galileo Galilei 2/2
36057 Arcugnano (Vicenza) – Italy
Email: info@mastersoundsas.it
Web: www.mastersoundsas.it

△ Please keep the original packaging: it is the safest way to ship the unit if service is required.