USER MANUAL

Stilo

Handcrafted in Italy

MASTERSOUND

MADE IN ITALY

Welcome to MastersounD

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

Your MastersounD 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 MastersounD'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 MastersounD product, so you can fully enjoy its performance for many years.

Enjoy your music,
MastersounD

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: 19 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 wheelie 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.

6. – PACKAGE CONTENT

- 1 × MastersounD Stilo tube MM / MC Phono preamplifier
- 1 × complete set of selected tubes (usually already installed)
- 1 × mains power cable
- 1 × user manual

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

7. – TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Main features

- Tube MM / MC Phono preamplifier
- Pure Class “A”
- Tubes: 3 × ECC803
- Gain setting: Hi / Low
- Input selector: Micro relay

Inputs	Outputs
1 × Phono MM (RCA)	1 × Line (RCA)
1 × Phono MC (RCA)	

Electrical

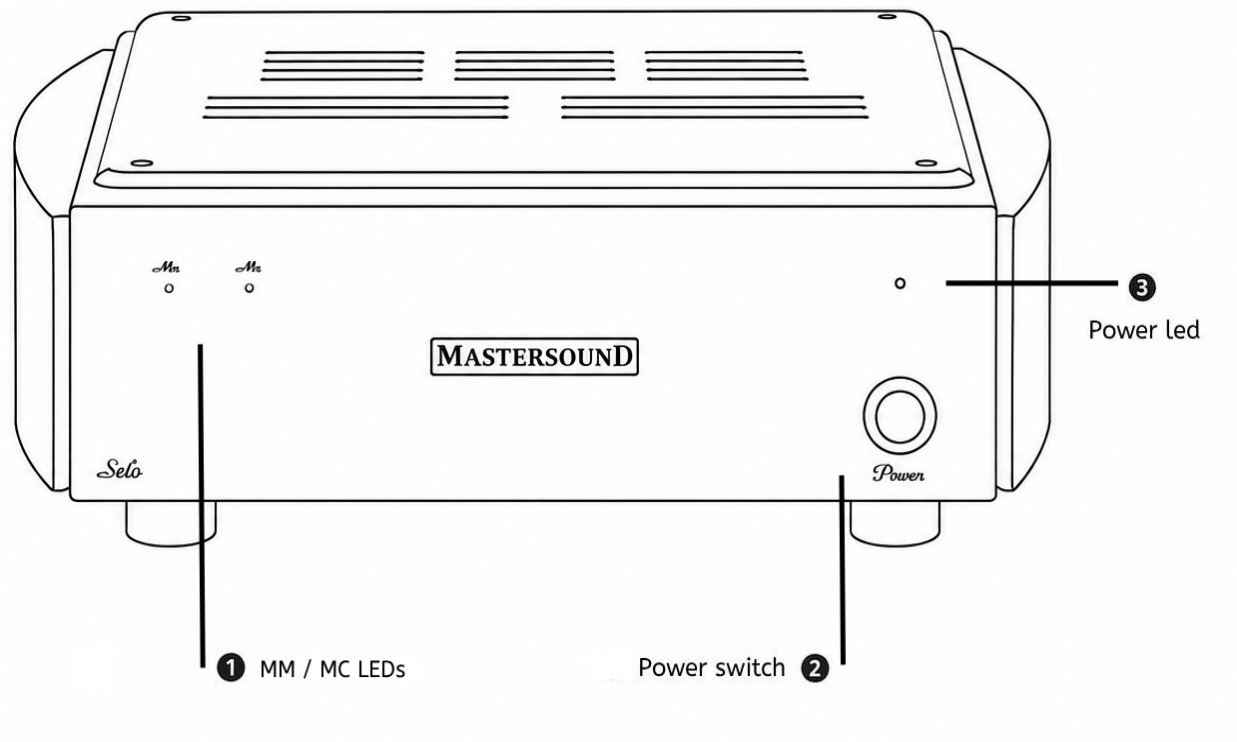
- Input impedance MM: 47 kΩ
- Input impedance MC: 40 / 100 / 200 / 400 / 800 Ω
- Input capacitance: 0 / 150 / 270 / 470 / 560 pF
- Gain: 60 dB MC / 40 dB MM (-5dB low)
- Frequency response: 1 Hz – 100 kHz (0 dB)
- Power consumption: 19 W
- Tube protection fuse: 800 mA / 250 V (slow)
- Main fuse: 8 A / 250 V (slow)

Mechanical

- Dimensions (W × D × H): 35 × 31 × 11.5 cm
- Weight: 6.1 kg

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

8. – FRONT PANEL

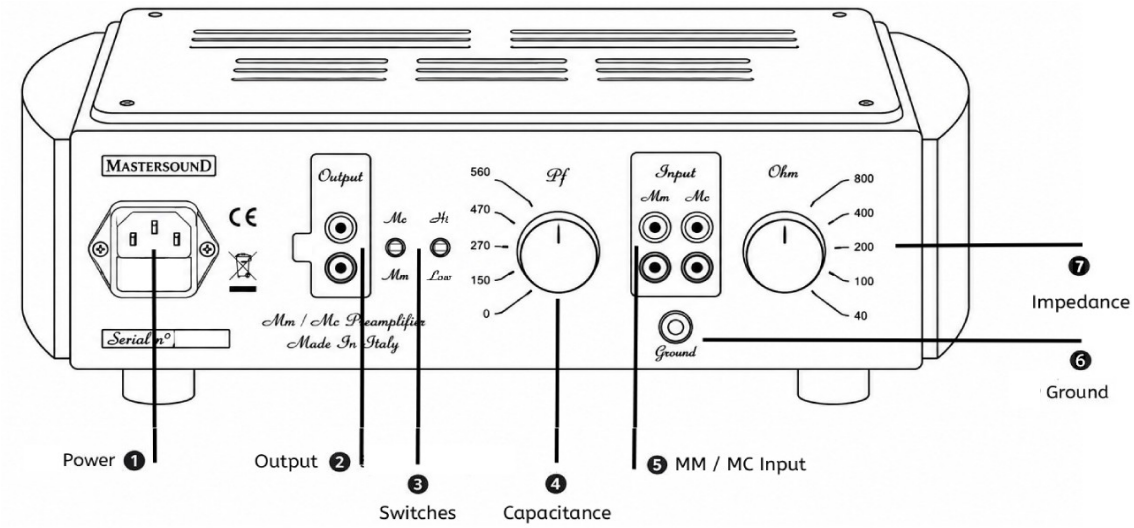


The front panel of the Stilo has been designed to be simple, intuitive and reliable for everyday use.

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

1. MM / MC LEDs
   Operating mode indicator
2. Power switch (ON/OFF)
3. Power LED

9. – REAR PANEL



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

1. Power
   IEC mains inlet with fuse holder (8 A slow)
2. Output section
   RCA line output
3. Switches
   Mode: MM / MC
   Gain: High / Low
4. Capacitance
   Input capacitance selector (MC mode)
5. Input
   RCA input for MM cartridge
   RCA input for MC cartridge
6. Ground
   Ground terminal
   (for turntable / system ground)
7. Impedance
   Input impedance selector (MC mode)

10. – QUICK START

ON/OFF

1. Place the phono preamplifier on a solid and flat surface, away from heat sources and in a well-ventilated area. To minimize hum and magnetic interference, place the phono preamplifier as far as possible from the turntable, transformers, motors and large power amplifiers, and avoid stacking hi-fi components directly on top of each other whenever possible.
2. Make sure all source and output connections are completed.
3. Switch ON the connected turntable.
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. Switch OFF the connected audio system in reverse order: power amplifier, preamplifier or integrated amplifier, and sources.
2. Press the Power switch to OFF.
3. If you will not use the phono preamplifier for a long time, also switch OFF the mains switch (if present) or unplug the power cord.

⚠ Switch OFF the unit before changing any rear-panel settings.

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

⚠ The tubes may reach elevated temperatures during operation.

11. – OPERATION

Status LEDs

The front-panel LEDs indicate the selected MM / MC operating mode.

Input

The Stilo provides dedicated RCA inputs for MM and MC cartridges.

The rear-panel toggle switch allows selection between:

> **Mode** (Connect the RCA phono cable according to your cartridge type)
>
> - MM input – for Moving Magnet cartridges
> - MC input – for Moving Coil cartridges
>
> **Gain** selection
>
> - High
> - Low (-5dB)

MC settings

The rear-panel rotary selectors allow adjustment of MC impedance and input capacitance for optimal cartridge matching.

- Available impedance settings:
  40 / 100 / 200 / 400 / 800 Ω
- Available capacitance settings:
  0 / 150 / 270 / 470 / 560 pF

Output

RCA fixed line-level output for connection to a preamplifier or integrated amplifier. Do not connect to your amplification phono inputs.

Your cartridge manufacturer specifies the recommended MC loading.

12. – PHONO STAGE

The Stilo has been developed according to a fully tube-based MM / MC architecture designed to preserve the extremely delicate signal generated by phono cartridges with maximum integrity and minimum noise.

Operating entirely in pure Class “A”, the circuit uses selected ECC803 tubes, low-noise power supply sections and an extremely simple signal path designed to achieve natural tonal balance, rich harmonic structure and a wide, transparent soundstage.

Rear adjustments

- For Moving Coil cartridges, the Stilo provides selectable input impedance values of 40 / 100 / 200 / 400 / 800 Ω. The cartridge manufacturer’s recommended load should be used as a reference; when the specified value falls between two available settings, the closest values may be compared by listening to determine the best match within the system.
- For Moving Magnet cartridges, the Stilo provides selectable input capacitance values of 0 / 150 / 270 / 470 / 560 pF. If no capacitance value is specified, set the selector to 0 pF.
- Two gain settings are available. The Low position reduces gain by 5 dB, allowing further optimization according to cartridge output level and system sensitivity.

The MC section incorporates Lundahl step-up transformers for the low-level signal generated by Moving Coil cartridges.

The MM section provides the standard 47 kΩ input impedance required by Moving Magnet cartridges, while the overall circuit follows MastersounD’s philosophy of minimum signal-path complexity and pure Class “A” operation.

Correct cartridge matching is essential for optimum performance. Always refer to the cartridge manufacturer’s recommended loading values as the starting point for setup.

13. – TUBES

The Stilo is supplied with:

- 3 × ECC803 - phono stage tubes

All tubes are selected and matched to work optimally with MastersounD 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 MastersounD 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 MM / MC setting selected; loose interconnect cables; source not playing	Check input selector; verify all connections; verify turntable, cartridge and cable connections
Hum or buzz	Ground not connected; poor interconnect cables; turntable not grounded	Connect GND terminal; use good shielded cables; connect turntable ground wire
Distorted sound	Incorrect MM / MC mode or gain setting; incorrect cartridge loading; worn tube	Verify the selected MM / MC mode and gain setting. Check MC impedance and capacitance according to the cartridge specifications and check the condition of the tubes
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 Stilo, 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.