

STAX preamplifiers

CA-X

All FET-DC coupled pre amp,
Super-shunt Power supply,
built in Equalizer amp. for MC cartridge



● The CA-X preamplifier was developed over a period of several years and is the result of efforts to obtain the best preamplifier performance possible. It is obvious from the size of the power supply section alone that this preamplifier is unusual. The preamplifier is divided into upper and lower sections. The upper section features all FET, DC amplifier circuitry, while the lower section contains the super-shunt regulated power supply providing an ultra-low output impedance of $1\text{m}\Omega$ or less up to 100kHz . Left and right channel circuitry, switches, level controls, power supplies and wiring are all kept completely separate to avoid any chance of crosstalk. For volume control we have employed separate large potentiometers for each channel, thereby severely reducing 3rd harmonic distortion. A mechanical clutch allows separate or centralized adjustment and makes a balance control unnecessary. Since the signal does not encounter variable resistors, sound quality is preserved. For phase compensation we have developed our own air-gap capacitors which add no coloration to the sound. Completely independent equalizer amplifiers are provided for MM and MC cartridges. The glass epoxy circuit board features 300 micron thick oxygen-free copper foil, and oxygen free copper wire is used for all circuit connections. Parallel multi-contact switches are used to reduce DC resistance in all selectors. MM load impedance is continuously adjustable from $30\text{k}\Omega$ to $80\text{k}\Omega$ for optimum cartridge matching and flat frequency response. Two sets of preout jacks are provided to ensure optimum performance whether your power amplifier(s) is placed near or far from the preamplifier. Each channel's power supply employs a 90VA toroidal transformer, four $10,000\mu\text{F}$ and one $6,800\mu\text{F}$ chemical capacitors. The chassis, screws, and other parts are all made of aluminum or other nonmagnetic materials to prevent hysteresis distortion. Only the best, strictly selected circuit components are employed. The result is unequalled sound quality that must be heard to be believed. Also available is the CA-X professional model which features pure DC, output coupling capacitor-free flat amp construction for richer, clearer low-range response.

CA-Y

First Stage/FET differential amp.,
Second Stage/Emitter erthed. current mirror load,
Final Stage/Push-pull emitter follower



● This state-of-the-art preamplifier adopts many of the advanced technological developments originally employed in the revolutionary CA-X. These include the super-shunt regulated power supply (which offers performance surpassing the "ideal" battery power supply) and our air-gap capacitors for phase compensation. A special multiple NFB approach allows extremely stable direct coupling from inputs to outputs with coupling capacitors eliminated. Strictly selected circuit components include, low distortion CP (conductive plastic) volume control, variable capacitance air-gap capacitors, low impedance, low distortion audio chemical capacitors, glass epoxy circuit boards with 300 micron thick oxygen free copper foil, gold plated, oxygen free copper jumper lines, low-impedance multi-contact switches, all gold plated input and output jacks, and nonmagnetic aluminum chassis and other structural parts. Left and right channel circuitry is carefully separated to avoid crosstalk. The attractive front panel design includes Cds illumination that automatically adjusts to match listening room lighting. For MC cartridge pre-preamp circuitry is optionally available as a built-in circuit. We confidently recommend this advanced circuit as sonically superior-to-outboard units (step-up transformers or head amplifiers) presently available, especially since it eliminates the need for additional connections and their deleterious effect on sound quality.