

S T A T E O F H E A R T

THE
GRYPHON



THE GRYPHON ORESTES PHONOAMPLIFIER

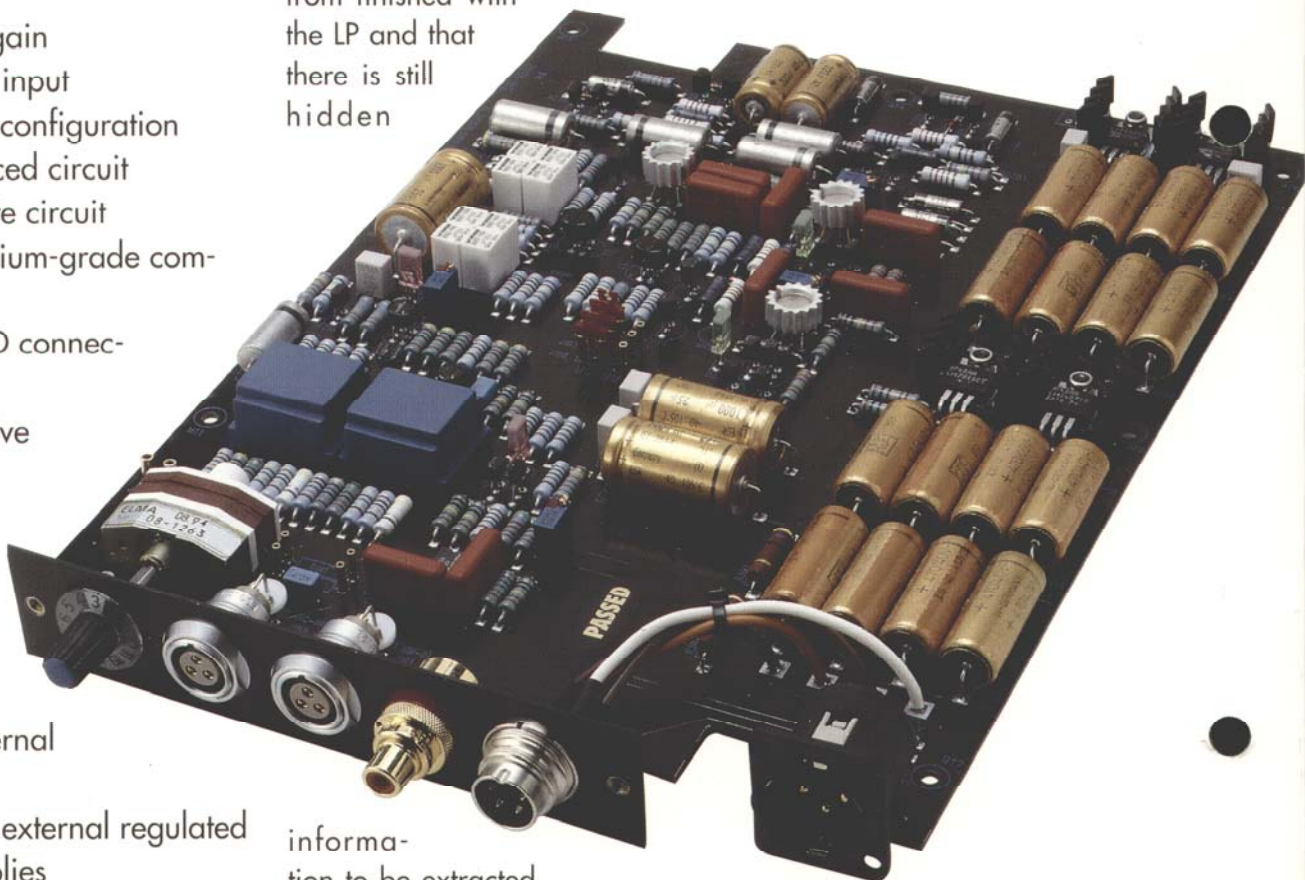
Features

- * Selectable input impedance from 10 Ω to 47 k Ω
- * Swiss ELMA impedance attenuator with gold-plated contacts
- * Custom impedance load option
- * Selectable gain
- * MM or MC input
- * Dual mono configuration
- * Fully balanced circuit
- * Fully discrete circuit
- * Select premium-grade components
- * Swiss LEMO connectors
- * Zero negative feedback
- * Short signal path with no internal wiring
- * Dual mono external regulated power supplies
- * Custom-made C-core transformers
- * DC coupling
- * AC mains filtering
- * Fully sealed double-sided mil spec PC boards
- * 75 mp copper traces
- * Five year warranty
- * Made in Denmark

For dedicated analog audiophiles

In the tradition of the Gryphon Headamp and Phonostage which introduced the Gryphon name to the world and out of love and respect for the musical riches which will continue to be available on LP, we offer the Gryphon Orestes, the most ambitious High End phono stage ever developed. The Orestes was made to prove that, despite the so-called "digital age," we are far from finished with the LP and that there is still hidden

electronically manipulated or tailored romance here, only the romance (if any) intended by the recording engineer. You will hear exactly what is there on the record, no less and no more, and certainly no euphonic colorations, regardless of how seductive some listeners might find them. Utter neutrality is what we have achieved with the Orestes and we are confident that the true vinyl enthusiast is mature enough to appreciate this accomplishment.



information to be extracted from the analog medium.

Appreciation and evaluation

The Orestes is the ultimate tool for the appreciation and evaluation of vinyl recordings. Using the best records and their original master tapes for comparison during the development of the Orestes, we found it to be spookily accurate and revealing. You will find no

An obsession made real

To achieve this ultimate level of analytical quality we employed sophisticated, unique technology. Without a doubt, the most unique aspect of the Gryphon Orestes is its fully balanced circuit from input to output without the use of op-amps or IC's. Since all cartridges are born bal-

anced, it makes sense to design a balanced phono stage. The only reason why it has not been attempted before is that such a project requires an exceptional level of expertise so high that only the most obsessed designers would even consider tackling a project of that nature. Only Gryphon would take the time and effort to realize such a design. We feel confident that you will appreciate the result. Since the entire design philosophy is based on the benefits of exploiting the balanced nature of the cartridge, it is mandatory to use exclusively balanced connections with the Gryphon Orestes. Single ended is not an option.

Unique connections

Because the actual termination of the balanced cabling to the cartridge is crucial, the Orestes employs the famous Swiss LEMO connectors. Any tonearm with 5 pin connections or even RCA standard out (with correct separation between positive/negative and shield) may be used (or modified to be used).

The Orestes will accept MM or MC cartridges (both balanced). There are six impedance load options for MC from 10 Ω to 47 k Ω . The user may also customize a preferred impedance load anywhere between these two values. Impedance loading is selected by a high quality, Swiss-made ELMA attenuator that can be bypassed once the owner has found his preferred loading.

In keeping with usual Gryphon standards, there is no internal cabling, the fully sealed PCB is

designed to the highest military standards, only the best components are used and there is no negative feedback, the Orestes is DC coupled, uncompromisingly dual mono and comes with two separate power supplies featuring our famous C-core custom-made transformers.



Module or Limited Edition

The Orestes is available in two versions which are identical in terms of circuitry and performance.

1. The **Orestes module** for installation inside the Gryphon Elektra preamplifier. This module comes with its own two power supply modules which can be mounted in the Elektra power supply cabinet. All Elektra preamplifiers can accommodate these modules and an Elektra can be ordered with the Orestes modules factory fitted.

2. The **Limited Edition Orestes Phonostage** is a stand-alone version in a slim line cabinet. The power supplies and cabinet are identical to the Elektra.

As the Final Statement phono

stage developed in the Autumn of Vinyl playback, the Orestes stands as Gryphon's homage to the LP and to the die-hard vinyl lovers who face a grim future with an ever-diminishing supply of vinyl records.

To emphasize this, the stand-alone Orestes phono stage will only be manufactured in exactly 333 individually numbered units. The owner's name can be engraved at no extra cost.

For additional information, please accept our cordial invitation to visit the showroom of your nearest authorized Gryphon dealer.

A celebration of the black vinyl disc.

There could be no more appropriate celebration of the beginning of Gryphon Audio Design's second decade than the launch of the ultimate RIAA phono stage, the Gryphon Orestes Phonoamplifier. It is a fitting occasion to reaffirm our commitment to the analog vinyl medium with the launch of a product which takes us back to our roots, to the products which immediately established Gryphon as a high end force, the Gryphon Headamp and the Gryphon Phonostage.

Some people will no doubt find it strange that we choose to mark our tenth anniversary by paying homage to a 100 year old archaic medium. But it is our considered opinion based on many years of accumulated experience that analog playback from LP surpasses the level of performance available from the current state of digital technology. We created the Gryphon Orestes to more fully exploit the potential of black vinyl.

That the LP remains the unsurpassed music medium is a view shared by many eminently sensible individuals:

"When done right, LP playback has an openness, transparency, dynamic expression and musicality not matched by CD." (Robert Harley, Complete Guide to High End Audio, Acapella Publishing)

"Proper playback will reveal vinyl's magnificent and as yet unsurpassed sonic virtues." (Laura Dearborn, Good Sound, Quill)

We say "Amen" to that.

Black vinyl roots.

Edison created the first commercially successful phonograph based on a hollow wax cylinder. This was superseded in the mid-twenties by the 78 rpm lacquer disc which paved the way for the microgroove long-playing record



introduced by Columbia in 1948.

The LP offered unprecedented low levels of distortion and noise and wider frequency response, inspiring makers of amplifiers and loudspeakers to raise the stakes in the quest for more natural sound. The ensuing boom of higher quality products could in a very real sense be described as the first emergence of a high end mentality.

The introduction of the stereo LP and stereo FM radio in 1958 made mono systems obsolete, forcing an across-the-board upgrade of music systems for the home.

Essentially, the LP has been the

engine of cutting edge innovation in home audio since its very inception. With the Gryphon Orestes Phono Stage, this remains as true as ever.

Taking up the torch.

It should not come as a surprise that the LP, after a century of evolutionary development, has reached a level of refinement that fledgling digital technologies can only aspire to. After all, standing on the shoulders of giants will always offer a better view than sitting in a silicon valley.

Also there is a vast body of great music which will never be transferred to CD and most of the existing transfers do not do sonic justice to the original source material.

For all of these reasons, we designed the Gryphon Orestes Phonoamplifier to allow the analog flame to burn brighter and longer than anyone had dared hope..

April 1995

Flemming E. Rasmussen
President
Gryphon Audio Designs