

STATE OF THE HEART

THE
GRYPHON



THE GRYPHON SONATA PREAMPLIFIER

Features

- Full remote control operation
- Dual mono configuration
- Motor-driven passive resistor volume control
- Fully discrete circuitry
- Select premium-grade components
- Low inductance, German Resista resistors
- Short signal path with minimal internal wiring
- Gold-plated input-isolating relays
- Inputs and outputs with PCB-mounted gold-plated Swiss Neutric XLR and WBT phono sockets
- 37,000 microFarad capacity
- Ultra-wideband 4 MHz frequency response
- Zero negative feedback
- Pure Class A operation
- Green Bias
- Custom-built C-core transformers
- Low output impedance for long cable runs
- DC-coupling with servo-control
- Dual mono external regulated power supplies
- 11-stage voltage regulation per channel
- AC mains filtering
- Fully sealed double-sided Mil-spec PC boards
- 75 μ m copper traces
- Modular mainframe design
- Non-resonant, non-magnetic aluminum chassis
- Mechanical grounding
- Separate, isolated power supply for all non-audio circuits
- Five year warranty
- Designed and hand-crafted in Denmark



In a never-ending quest for conceptual simplicity, Gryphon designed and built the world's only truly balanced phono stage, the acclaimed Gryphon Orestes. Inspired by this revelatory experience, the next logical step was inevitable: the design of a completely balanced line-

level preamplifier. Only the Gryphon Sonata preamplifier is uncompromisingly balanced in the interest of clarity, accuracy and musicality.

User Interface

With the exception of the turntable, most signal sources offer the added convenience of full remote control. Therefore, the Gryphon Sonata front panel functions, source switching, volume setting, mute and standby, are also accessible via remote control.

Ergonomically designed with the dedicated audiophile in mind, the Gryphon

Sonata remote control is milled from a solid block of aluminum and crafted to the same high standard as the preamplifier, offering infra-red remote access from your favorite listening position. You will soon learn to appreciate the convenience of precise selection of 45 discrete level settings via the motor-driven volume attenuator.

While many manufacturers take a cost-cutting digital approach to remote volume control, Gryphon's first remote controlable preamplifier implements more costly analog solutions for the ultimate in convenience at no sacrifice in sonic performance.

For the serious listener, remote control is more than just a luxury. The Gryphon six-button remote unit is an indispensable tool which provides access to additional menu-controlled functions:

Output Limiting

Select and store in memory a maximum volume level which cannot be exceeded, manually or by remote, until you re-set this function. This effectively protects your power amplifier and loudspeakers from expensive accidents inadvertently caused by guests or children.

Sensitivity Matching

Because sources can have widely varying output levels, it is often necessary to adjust the volume control when switching sources in order to maintain the same level. With the Gryphon Sonata, you can make the necessary adjustments once and for all and store them in memory, so that a given volume control setting will yield the same output level, regardless of whether you are listening to CD, LP, tape, tuner or any other source. Since sensitivity compensation is executed via the volume attenuator, the Gryphon Sonata elegantly performs sensitivity matching with no additional components in the signal path.

Start-Up Volume

Select and store in memory a default volume level which will automatically be set by the preamplifier every time you turn it on.

Channel Balance

Compensate in tiny increments for channel imbalances caused by sources, speakers or listening position in order to obtain perfect balance.

Automatic Green

Bias Tracking - Control the Green Bias function of compatible Gryphon power amplifiers from the Gryphon Sonata by selecting and storing in memory volume settings at which the bias setting will automatically switch to 50%, 75% or 100%.



Strictly Dual Mono

The bold visual statement made by the stark black Gryphon Sonata with its 30 mm acrylic front and recessed dot matrix display should not distract attention from the advanced technology employed to achieve the unparalleled warmth, dynamic integrity, coherence and transparency which set this preamplifier apart.

With infinite channel separation and no interchannel crosstalk, the strict dual mono configuration of the Gryphon Sonata makes irrelevant many of the problems which designers

of stereo units waste time and effort attempting to solve. Independent, heavily filtered outboard power supplies for each channel with separate custom-built C-core transformers ensure that each channel is completely unaffected by the other channel.

Dual mono circuit design and isolated, AC filtered power supplies capable of driving many power amplifiers confer vast audible benefits in terms of improved stereo focus, dimensional solidity and overall clarity.

Uncompromisingly Gryphon

Unlike more conventional designs which typically employ a small number of large capacitors, the heavily regulated power supplies and active preamplifier circuits of the Gryphon Sonata are based on arrays of multiple small capacitors, as a result of extensive tests which confirm the superior objective electrical characteristics and subjective audio performance of these capacitor banks.

The gold-plated input selector relays break the ground connection of components not currently being

used, effectively isolated them from the signal path. The Gryphon Sonata is fitted with premium-grade, gold-plated Neutric XLR input and output connectors for three sources, and two preamp outputs, and WBT phono sockets for tape input and an additional source.

To eliminate any adverse interaction between the digital display circuitry and the audio circuitry, the display is physically isolated outside the preamplifier chassis. Separate, isolated digital power supplies prevent any unwanted interaction at any level.

The over-damped, sterile sound quality associated with copious amounts of negative feedback has been eliminated by rejecting global feedback as an unacceptable solution in the effort to suppress distortion.

Offered as an option on previous Gryphon preamplifiers, Green Bias is now standard with the Gryphon Sonata to allow the energy-conscious to take part in the conservation of our global resources. When used with a Gryphon power amplifier with the Green Bias feature

(Gryphon Antileon, Gryphon Antileon Solo), the Gryphon Sonata can adjust the operating bias of the power amplifier in three steps (50%, 75% or 100% Class A) to match your current needs. Green Bias is offered as a no-



compromise alternative to various auto-biasing schemes.

The implementation of a fully balanced, fully discrete circuit with zero negative feedback and ultra-wide frequency bandwidth makes the Gryphon Sonata unique, not only in terms of technology, but where it really matters, in terms of its ability to recreate a credible illusion of live music.

The Next Step

We hope this presentation has provided you with a better understanding and appreciation of the concepts and the high level of audio engineering skill which have gone into the creation of the Gryphon Sonata preamplifier.

At every stage of the development process, design skills and extensive laboratory testing have been guided and reinforced by listening sessions involving experienced, critical audiophiles whose sole concern is for the fidelity of the reproduced sound to that elusive ideal, live music.

Your next step is to visit your local authorized Gryphon dealer for

further information and for the opportunity to experience the musical magic of the Gryphon Sonata firsthand.

