

# Reference 1.2

READ ENTIRE INSTRUCTION MANUAL BEFORE USING

## 1. SAFETY INSTRUCTION

**Read Instructions**-All safety and operating instructions should be read before the amplifier is operated

**Retain Instructions** -Safety and operating instructions should be retained for future reference.

**Heed warnings**-All warnings on the amplifier and in the operating should be adhered to.

**Follow instructions**-All operating and use instructions should be followed.

**Water and moisture**-The equipment should not be used near water, e.g., near a bathtub, washbowl, kitchen sink, laundry tub, in a wet basement, or near a swimming pool etc.

**Ventilation**-The equipment should be situated so that its location or position does not interfere with its proper ventilation. So the equipment should not be situated on a bed, sofa, or similar surface, e.g., that may block the ventilation openings, or placed in a built-in installation, such as a bookcase or cabinet that may impede the flow of air. The equipment should be situated away from heat sources such as radiators, heat register, stoves, or other electronic appliances that produce heat, so it may not suitable for commercial use.

**Power sources**-The equipment should be connected to a power supply only of the type described in this manual or as marked on the equipment.

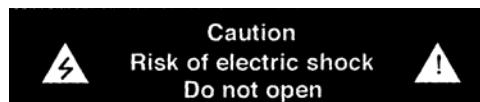
**Grounding or polarization**-Power-supply cords should be routed so that they are not likely to be walked on or pinched by items placed upon or against them, paying particular attention to cords and plugs, convenience receptacles, and the point where they exit from the amplifier.

**Power lines**-In case of connecting a tuner, an outdoor antenna should be located away from power lines. If an outside antenna is connected to the system, be sure the antenna is grounded so as to provide some protection against voltage surges and built up static charges.

**Any Servicing**-The user should not attempt to service the equipment r beyond that described in this manual. All other servicing should be referred to qualified service technicians

### CAUTION:

TO PREVENT THE RISK OF ELECTRIC SHOCK, DO NOT REMOVE COVER (OR BACK). NO USER-SERVICEABLE PARTS INSIDE. REFER SERVICING TO QUALIFIED SERVICE PERSONNEL.



*The lightning flash with arrowhead symbol, within an equilateral triangle, is intended to alert the user to the presence of uninsulated "dangerous voltage" within the product's enclosure that may be of sufficient magnitude to constitute a risk of electric shock to persons.*

*The exclamation point within an equilateral triangle is intended to alert the to the presence of important operating and maintenance (servicing) instructions in the literature accompanying the appliance.*

### Congratulations!

Opera Audio welcomes you to the growing number of discerning audiophiles who own Opera audio products. This manual has been prepared to help you to maximize your enjoyment of the performance and features of your new Consonance equipment. Please study this manual carefully and become acquainted with all the features, operation and capabilities of your new Consonance equipment. Should you have any questions, or desire information on other Opera audio products, please contact your local Opera dealer.

## 2. WHEN YOU OPEN THE BOX

Before any Opera audio product leaves the factory it is carefully inspected for physical imperfections as a routine part of Opera audio's systematic quality control. After you have unpacked the equipment, inspect it for any physical damage. Save the shipping carton and all packing materials, because they are essential to reduce the possibility of transportation damage. Because some heat is generated by the equipment, adequate air circulation is provided to maintain cool operation. Leave enough space around the unit (at least 3 cm on the top and 3 cm on the sides and leave enough space on the back for the power cord and interconnect cables). If the equipment is going to be mounted in an enclosed cabinet, it is recommended that the rear of the cabinet has vents to allow air to circulate around the unit. With these considerations implemented, the equipment should provide exceptional performance in any reasonable environment. Of course, such normal considerations as protection from excessive dust and moisture should always be observed. All the equipment made by Opera audio has been carefully designed with high quality components so that long-term undiminished performance is operated in accordance with the instructions provided.

### **3. EQUIPMENT INSTALLATION AND GETTING STARTED**

#### **Power-Cord, plugs and sockets**

The power cord should be routed so that it is not likely to be stepped on or pinched by items placed upon or against it. All the plugs and sockets supplied with your Consonance equipment have been chosen because they mark the best possible connection for their purpose. A poor contact will degrade the signal substantially and plugs and sockets should look clean and free from corrosion. The easiest way to clean them is to switch off the equipment, pull the plugs out of their sockets, and push them back in again. Special contact cleaners and contact enhancers should not be used as they tend to deposit a film which is very difficult to remove and may degrade the sound.

#### **Switching on and off**

Source components and power supplies for cd players, tuners, preamplifiers and crossovers should be switched on before switching on the amplifier(s).

Always switch the amplifier(s) off and wait about 5 minute for its power supply capacitors to discharge before connecting or disconnecting any leads. Always use the power switch on the produce rather than a mains outlet switch.

#### **Running in**

Your Consonance equipment will take a considerable time to run-in before it performs at its best. The duration varies, but under some conditions you will find that the sound continues to improve for as much as five weeks. Better and more consistent performance will be achieved if the system is left switched on for long periods. It is worth remembering however that all electronic equipment can be damaged by lightning. Please read the warnings section

#### **Power supply**

Where fused plugs are used various amp fuses should be fitted . Fuses of a lower rating will fail after a period of use. A hi-fi system usually shares a main circuit with other household equipment some of which can cause distortion of the mains waveform. In some Consonance equipment such distortion can lead to a mechanical hum from the transformers. The hum is not transmitted through the speakers and has no effect on the performance of the system but is purely local to the transformer itself. A separate fused mains circuit (like that reserved for electric cookers) will also have a lower impedance, supply cleaner power, and consequently improve system performance.

Do not wire voltage dependent resistors or noise suppressors into mains plugs. They degrade the mains supply and the sound.

#### **Locating the equipment**

Power supplies and amplifiers should be located a reasonable distance away from other equipment. This separation will stop transformer reasonable causing hum audible from the loudspeakers. The minimum recommended distance is 300mm (12 inches), and that allowed by the standard interconnect lead is the maximum.

Some Consonance equipment is extremely heavy. Ensure that your equipment rack or table can easily support the weight and is stable.

#### **Cables, connections and speaker Impedance**

Loudspeaker leads are also very important leads to suit your equipment installation. The leads should each be at least 3.5 meters long and of equal length. The recommended maximum is 20 meters. The loudspeaker connectors supplied with all Consonance amplifiers and loudspeakers have been specifically designed to make a tight mechanical connection. It is essential that these are used in order to comply with local safety regulations.

For best performance, the load presented by the speaker has to match the amplifier's output impedance. Refer to the manufacturer's information for your speaker nominal impedance. All the vacuum tube amplifier made by Opera audio are factory set to match the speakers at 8 ohms and 4 ohms.

#### **If you have a problem**

Legal consumer protection varies from country to country. A problem may be due to a fault in any part of the system or its installation so it is essential to make full use of your local dealer's diagnostic skills on site. Please contact your local distributor, or Opera Audio at the address in the back of this manual, if any difficulties cannot be resolved. Some Consonance equipment is made in special versions for different territories and this makes it impracticable to arrange international guarantees. Please establish the guarantee arrangements with your own dealer at the time of sale. We are always available to offer help and advice.

It is essential that repairs and updates are only carried out by an authorized Consonance dealer, or at the factory by Opera Audio itself. Many components are made, tested or matched specially for Consonance and appropriate replacements are often unobtainable from non-specialist sources.

**The equipment should be serviced by opera audio company or any qualified service personnel when:**

- The Power-supply cord or plug has been damaged.
- Objects have fallen or liquid has been spilled into the equipment.
- The equipment does not appear to act normally or exhibits a marked change in performance.
- The equipment has been dropped or the enclosure damaged.

Our dealer will have all relevant information about the service in your area and will ensure that your unit is serviced without delay. If for some reason, there are no service facilities available in your area, please ship the equipment to the following address:

**The Opera Audio Co., Ltd.**  
**No.2, JiuXianQiaoLu, ChaoYangDistrict, Beijing, China**  
**Post Code: 100015, Tel: 86 10 64377091, Fax: 86 10 64377465**  
**Email: [klep@public.bta.net.cn](mailto:klep@public.bta.net.cn) ,Website: [www.operaudio.com](http://www.operaudio.com)**

You are responsible for all shipping charges, insurance, re-importation to your country, and duty arrangements. When shipping a product to factory for service, always include the following:

- A sales slip or other proof of purchase if repair is claimed under warranty.
- A proforma invoice with value of the goods, stating that the amplifier is returned to china for repair.
- An accompanying letter describing faults, symptoms or problems with the amplifier.
- Always ship the amplifier in its original carton and packaging material to prevent damage in transit.

The Opera Audio will not accept responsibility for any damage caused in transit, no matter whatever caused.

## **Warnings**

Consonance equipment is designed to offer the finest sound quality that can be achieved, avoiding compromise wherever possible. This can lead to circumstances that may be unfamiliar. The material that follows contains advice specifically related to Consonance equipment as well as more general warning about the use of domestic audio products. Please read it carefully.

The transformers in Consonance power amplifiers and power supplies may sometimes make a mechanical noise caused by distortion of the mains waveform. Consonance transformers are large in size and have heavy gauge secondary windings making them relatively sensitive to such distortion. A separate mains circuit for your hi-fi system may reduce the effect while also giving an overall improvement in sound quality. It may be necessary however to take account of mechanical transformer noise when placing your equipment.

In some circumstances, depending on where you live and the grounding arrangements in your home, you may experience radio frequency interference. Controls on broadcasting in some territories allow very high levels of radio frequency radiation and both the choice and exact place of equipment may be critical. If there is a known problem in your locality it is advisable to arrange for a home demonstration before purchase to find out if Consonance equipment is likely to be affected. Susceptibility to radio frequency interference is related to the wide internal bandwidth necessary for high sound quality. Systems incorporating moving coil phono preamplifiers and active crossovers are more likely to suffer.

Your Consonance hi-fi system can be damaged by lightning. Power amplifiers are particularly at risk and should be turned off when there is risk of lightning strike. For complete protection all mains plugs and any aerial cables should be disconnected when not in use.

Equipment must not be exposed to dripping or splashing and no objects filled with liquid, such as vases, should be placed on the equipment.

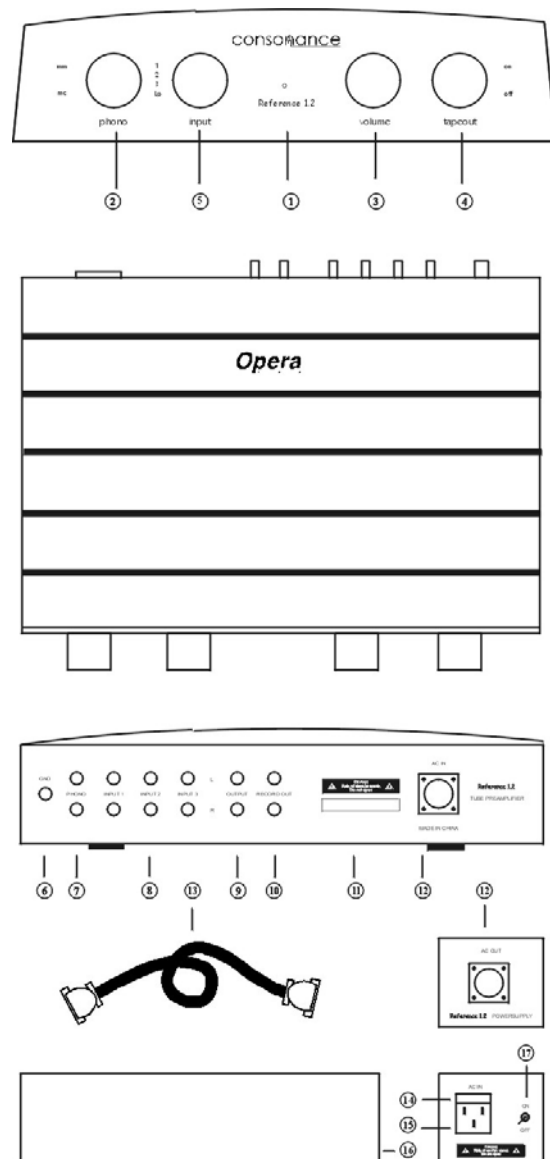
### Important

Do not under any circumstances allow anyone to modify your Consonance equipment without first checking with the factory, your dealer, or your distributor. Unauthorized modifications will invalidate your guarantee. For your own safety do not under any circumstances open Consonance equipment without first disconnecting the mains.

**Warning:** Danger of electric shock and burns. Keep the unit away from rain or moisture. Do not attempt any of the instructions in this manual unless the unit has been unplugged for at least 10 minutes. If after reading the entire manual you feel any of the operations listed below are beyond your ability, please seek qualified technical assistance.

### UNPACKING & SET-UP

1. Check shipping package for sign of improper handling. Remove unit from the cotton bag and inspect for damage.
2. AC Power connection 240V / 230V / 220V / 115V / 100V AC dependent on country.
3. After plug the Interconnect power cord to the 2 sections of R1.2, plug the power cord into a 3 terminal grounded outlet. It is **always** wise to ensure that all AC power cords of the various components that you are interconnecting are unplugged from the wall outlets during the hook-up process. This will prevent any inadvertent damage to your speaker system from incorrect settings or connections.
4. Connect the source (CD/DVDTURNER) to input RCA jacks and the power amplifier to Reference 1.2's output RCA jacks. Refer to rear chassis drawing, most patch cords are colored with red ends for the right channel and black or white end for the left channel. **Note: turn on the preamplifier and turn off the power amplifier first. This will minimize the chance of the damage for speakers connected to both output terminals of power amplifier.** To prevent the possibility of excessive sudden sound levels, it is recommended that the volume control level of R1.2 be placed at a low position.
5. Connect the source (LP) to phono input RCA jacks and the grounding. Refer to front chassis drawing, the input select has to be set at "Lp" position. Meanwhile set the phono switch at MM or MC position as well. **Note: be aware of your LP cartridge's output level in order to choose correctly for MM and MC phono stage proper.**
6. Connect the source (TAPE) to input RCA jacks and tape out RCA jacks and set the tape out switch at "off" position for recording. Refer to front chassis drawing, the tape out switch has to be set at "on" position when you just want to replay the tape. **Note: fail to do so might cause serious problem!**
7. Plug the power cord into a 3 terminal grounded outlet, and place the power switch of power supply to the "on" position. The front panel blue indicator will light and the ECC81 and ECC83 tubes inside the chassis will indicate normal filament operation after 10 second.



**Note:** It takes about 1 minute for the ECC81 and ECC83 to reach its normal operating point, and only slight sonic improvement will be noticed after 5 minutes.

#### **FUNCTION**

- ① Power indicator
- ② MM / MC phono select
- ③ Volume control
- ④ Tape out switch
- ⑤ Input select
- ⑥ Grounding
- ⑦ Input jacks just for phono (red / black )
- ⑧ Normal input jacks (red / black )
- ⑨ Output jacks (red / black )
- ⑩ Tape out jacks (red / black ) for recording
- ⑪ Serials number
- ⑫ Interconnect power plugs
- ⑬ Interconnect power cords
- ⑭ Fuse
- ⑮ Power plug
- ⑯ Separated power supply unit
- ⑰ Power switch

#### **WHAT TO DO IF ...**

##### **Power indicator and filaments do not light:**

Check the fuse and make sure the preamplifier is plugged into a working power outlet.

##### **Sound out of one speaker only:**

Turn volume control of R1.2 fully counter-clockwise then reverse input connectors. If sound changes from one speaker to the other, check source and inter-connect wires. If the sound is still coming out of the same speaker only, check power amplifier and speakers on another piece of equipment for proper operation.

#### **THEORY OF OPERATION**

The Reference 1.2 is a line-stage preamplifier with separated special made power supply. 2 ECC81 tubes provide main voltage gain with deep negative voltage feedback with a built-in MM / MC phono stage, the MM phono section of R1.2 uses 2 ECC83 tubes and provides a balanced gain, based on RIAA, to the output with deep negative feedback. the MC phono section of R1.2 is designed as a 20 ohm stepped transformer ahead the MM phono stage.

#### **TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION**

**CONTROL FUNCTIONS:** Volume, Input Select, Power On/Off ,Switch MM / MC and Tape out On/Off

**HARMONIC DISTORTIONS** (for 2V RMS at output): 0.05%(line stage), 0.01%(phono stage)

**REQUENCY RESPONSE:** (at -1dB) 1Hz-120kHz

**INPUT IMPEDANCE:** 100k ohms(line stage), 47k ohms( MM ) , 40 ohm( MC )

**INPUT INTERFACES(RCA):** 3 groups (line stage), 1 group (phono stage)

**OUTPUT INTERFACES(RCA):** 1 group (line stage), 1 group (recording out)

**GROUNDING INTERFACES:** 1 group (phono stage)

**SIGNAL/NOISE:** 110dB (line stage)

**GAIN at 1kHz:** 25dB(line stage), 40dB (MM ) 57dB (MC )

**CONSUMPTION:** 40watt

**NEGATIVE FEEDBACK:** Deep

**VACUUM TUBE:** ECC81 / 12AT7 x 2(line stage), ECC83 / 12AX7 x 2(phono stage)

**DIMENSIONS:** 440(L) x 320(W) x 210(H) mm(preamplifier unit), 280(L) x 95(W) x80 (H) (power supply unit)

**WEIGHT:** 25kg

**SPECIFICATIONS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.**

## Warranty

Opera audio guarantees each product manufactured by us to be free from defects in materials and workmanship under normal use. Our obligation under this warranty is limited to making good at our factory any part or parts thereof which shall, within 1 year after delivery to the original purchaser, be returned to us with transportation charges prepaid, and which an examination shall disclose to have been thus defective; this warranty being expressly in lieu of all other warranties expressed or implied and of all other obligations or liabilities on our part. This warranty shall not apply to any Opera audio product which shall have been repaired or altered outside of our factory in any way so as to affect its stability, nor which has been subject to misuse, negligence or accident. Warranties of the vacuum tubes are by the respective manufacturers, usually 90 days.

Please mail or e-mail the Registration Card to the address as follow:

**The Opera Audio Co., Ltd.**

No.2 JiuXianQiaoLu  
ChaoYang District  
Beijing, China  
Post Code: 100015  
Tel: 86 10 64377091  
Fax: 86 10 64377465  
[support@opera-consonance.com](mailto:support@opera-consonance.com)  
[www.operaudio.com](http://www.operaudio.com)



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