



# SLP-74

## OPERATING MANUAL

**NOTE:**

Before installing your new SLP-74, please read this manual carefully as it will inform you of the SLP-74's specifications, proper installation and operation procedures. Also included in this manual are guidelines on how to properly service and care for your new SLP-74.

## Introduction

The **Cary Audio Design** SLP-74 is a control center for your high-end stereo and video system. The SLP-74 is used in conjunction with basic power amplifiers. An ideal match in basic amplifiers for the SLP-74 are any of the **Cary Audio Design** basic stereo or mono-block products.

The SLP-74 is built in a black epoxy coated aluminum chassis, with a 1/4 inch thick, black anodized faceplate. On the front panel you have control features like Power on/Standby/Off, Selector switch, Tape monitor, Headphone On/Off, Balance and Volume. all with easy to operate custom machined knobs and switches and of course the SLP-74 is built with **Cary Audio Design's** strict attention to craftsmanship and detail.

The base model SLP-74 is equipped with no less than four line-level inputs, tape monitor, two outputs as well as a built in 1.0 Watt headphone amplifier. The SLP-74 can at very moderate cost be upgraded with a plug in phono board suitable for Moving Magnet cartridges with an output greater than 2.0 mV.

The SLP-74 is equipped with a Single-Ended, Pure Class A, Low impedance, Buffered output capable of more than 24 Volts of output, from 9Hz to over 260 kHz, into even the most demanding amplifier loads. **This conservative design philosophy assures you that the SLP-74 will drive any power amplifier available on the market today, be it Vacuum tube or Solid state.**

The circuitry components in the SLP-74 are mounted on a double thickness, double sided, epoxy, military grade circuit board with all holes plated through the board. Each individual component employed within the SLP-74's circuitry is specially selected for its sonic merits, its durability and its reliability. All components are hand-soldered on the board for unsurpassed contact and durability. A perfect example of **CARY Audio Design's** conservative design and build quality working for you. **Construction principles like these ensure years of trouble free operation right out of the box.**

In order to make the SLP-74 as quiet as possible we have equipped the preamplifier with a stand alone power supply. **This unique feature moves any unwanted hum from transformers away from the preamplifier, allowing you to enjoy your music to its fullest.**

Enjoy the music, and of course, please read this manual for a complete guide to trouble-free operation.

## SPECIFICATIONS

When the following cautionary terms are used in this manual, these definitions apply:

**WARNING:** Electrical hazard! Misuse or failure to follow instructions properly may result in personal injury or death!

**CAUTION:** No risk of personal injury; however, misuse or failure to follow instructions may result in damage to equipment.

**NOTE:** No risk of personal injury or equipment damage, however, misuse or failure to follow instructions may prevent proper performance of the equipment.

### 1.2 Specifications

This section describes the basic specifications of the SLP-74 at the time of printing. Specifications are subject to change without notice or obligation.

<b>DIMENSIONS:</b>	17"W x 3" H x 10" D
<b>WEIGHT:</b>	15 lbs.
<b>CIRCUIT:</b>	Single-ended Pure Class A
<b>INPUT IMPEDANCE:</b>	50,000 ohms
<b>OUTPUT IMPEDANCE:</b>	400 ohms
<b>FREQUENCY RESPONSE:</b>	9 HZ - 260 KHZ +/- .5dB
<b>GAIN LINE LEVEL:</b>	15 dB (More than 24 volts from 9 Hz to 260 kHz)
<b>GAIN MM SECTION:</b>	43 dB (Minimum input of 2.0 MV)
<b>SIGNAL/NOISE RATIO:</b>	-90 dB
<b>RESISTORS:</b>	1% metal film
<b>CAPACITORS:</b>	Polypropylene
<b>POWER TRANSFORMER:</b>	1-EI Laminate, 200% Duty Cycle

**TUBES:** 2-12AU7 buffer and gain  
2-12AT7 output buffer.

**POWER SUPPLY CAPACITORS:** 8 ea. individual R/C high voltage networks

**POWER CONSUMPTION:** 15 Watts in Standby  
40 Watts in Operate 117/234 volts 50-60 Hz

**PC BOARD:** Double sided, glass, plated through holes

**WIRE:** EE Teflon Silver

**WARM-UP TIME:** 3 minutes

**BREAK-IN TIME:** 50 hours

**INPUT AND OUTPUT JACKS:** Gold plated with Teflon® insert

**FINISH:** Black epoxy coated aluminum chassis. Black anodized faceplate

### 1.3 Front Panel Features

**POWER SWITCH:** Rotary 3 position: off, stand-by, operate

**SELECTOR:** 5 Position rotary switch controlling line inputs

**SOURCE/MONITOR SWITCH:** Source - Activates all line level inputs  
Monitor - By-passes all inputs to activate incoming tape recorder signals.

**OUTPUT/HEADPHONE SWITCH:** Output - Activates the dual outputs that connect to the power amplifier  
Headphone switch - Activates the headphone jack that is powered by a 1 watt headphone amplifier

**VOLUME:** Master dual volume control equally controlling input signal to line section preamplifier

**BALANCE:** Master dual Balance control

## 1.4 Rear Apron Features

**PHONO-AUX-CD-  
TUNER-TAPE:  
MONITOR:**

These are line level inputs.

For use with tape recorders that employ a third head to monitor a tape as it is being recorded (may be used as a flat frequency response line input)

**TAPE OUT:**

Constant output of selected input signal for recording independent of volume control setting on SLP-74

**OUTPUTS:**

Dual outputs for driving two amplifiers

**AC:**

Detachable power cord for AC mains voltage.

### **CAUTION**

**Never remove/insert AC line cord when the unit is "ON"**

## INSTALLATION AND UNPACKING

This section describes the unpacking and installation procedures for the SLP-74 preamplifier.

### **WARNING**

**Make no attempt to put the preamp in service  
outside of the cabinet.  
Contact with voltage in the SLP-74 can be fatal!!!**

### 2.1 Unpacking

All shipping containers have been specially designed to protect their contents and special care has been taken to prevent damage under normal shipping conditions. Mishandling should be evident upon inspection of the shipping container. If damage is found after visual inspection, take care not to destroy the evidence. If necessary, document the damage with photographs and contact the transport carrier immediately.

Carefully remove your new SLP-74 from its packing carton and examine it closely for signs of shipping damage. It is recommended to save all original packing cartons to protect your preamplifier from damage should you wish to store it or ship it for after-sales service.

## 2.2 Warranty Card

If you were the original purchaser of this unit and you purchased it in the United States, you should fill out the enclosed warranty registration card and return it to **Cary Audio Design** within 10 days of your purchase. **Cary Audio Design** also suggests that you keep your original packing cartons in case you need to ship the unit. Warranty restrictions apply. Consult the warranty section of this manual for details. **Failure to return warranty card within 10 days will limit warranty to one year.**

## 2.3 SLP-74 Placement

The SLP-74 is designed for use inside homes. It must be protected from the elements and temperature extremes. For example, avoid placing the unit in extremely hot locations such as near radiators or other heating units. Its location among the user's audio components is not critical; however, certain precautions must be taken.

## 2.4 Power Requirements

The SLP-74 is designed to operate from house current mains. The design voltage is 117 VAC at 50/60Hz (Foreign units 234 VAC at 50/60Hz).

## 2.5 Cables

The interconnect cables from the output jacks of the SLP-74 to the input jacks on the basic amplifiers can be any convenient length your set-up requires. The best installation is with a **Cary Audio Design** mono block amplifier next to each speaker. The choice of a high quality interconnect cable is important. Most audio dealers will have proper speaker cable in stock for this purpose.

# OPERATION

Your new SLP-74 is ready for operation after all the interconnect cables have been installed. The SLP-74 is provided with functional, useful front panel controls with a logical layout.

## 3.1 Power Switch

The power switch located at the far left on the SLP-74 front panel functions in the following manner:

- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| “Off”      | Removes all AC voltages from the SLP-74 preamp deck   |
| “Stand-By” | Provides DC voltage through individual regulators to flow to the filaments of the preamplifier stage. (The SLP-74 may be left in the stand-by position at all times to keep the SLP-74 in a warmed-up, ready-to operate mode. Operating in this fashion gives peak performance after only a few minutes of operating time.) |
| “Operate”  | The output is muted in the stand-by position and remains muted until 30 seconds after switching to operate.   |

### 3.2 Source/monitor Switch

The 2-position toggle switch will allow the user to perform the following:

- Monitor** - In this position the Monitor jack on the rear serves as the input source. This function is very useful with tape decks utilizing a third head to monitor the recording directly from the tape.
- Source** - In this position the control called source is activated for the line level inputs.

### 3.3 Volume Control

The gain of both left and right channels is controlled simultaneously by this control. The control potentiometer is of such high quality that the tracking error is less than .5dB from 0 to -60dB. The program source remains in balance over the entire range of this control. The taper rate of the volume control has been chosen to more rapid gain increase above 12:00.

### 3.4 Balance Control

The dual potentiometer controls the input level to each channel of the SLP-74.

### 3.5 Source Switch

This 5 position rotary switch connects a choice of input programs to both channels simultaneously with proper amplification. All program sources are selected by this switch.

### 3.6 Output/Headphone Switch

In the "output" position, this switch activates the main dual outputs leading to a power amplifier. In the "Headphone" position, the headphone jack is powered by a one watt headphone amplifier.

## CARE AND CLEANING

If the SLP-74 has been operated in an extremely dusty or humid environment, Armorall® may be used to bring up the original lustre of the finish. The tubes may be cleaned with window cleaner. The frequency of cleaning will be governed by how many hours the SLP-74 is operated and by the operating environment.

### 4.1 Tube Replacement

If it becomes necessary to replace the tubes in the preamp the same brand should be used. A new tube kit is available from **Cary Audio Design**. Although tube life varies depending on the nature and degree of use, under normal operating condition for home use, the tubes in the SLP-74 should last several years.

## 4.2 Factory Service

Careful consideration has been given to the design of your SLP-74 to keep maintenance problems to a minimum; however, it is possible that some problems may arise which cannot be cured by tube substitution. At this point, we suggest that you contact our Customer Service Department at phone number (919) 481-4494 to describe your problem in detail. **Do not return the SLP-74 to the factory without a Return Authorization Number from the Customer Service Department. Cary Audio Design will assume no responsibility if the transportation company refuses to pay damage claim due to your improper packing or lack of insurance should the unit be lost in shipment.**

### Non-Warranty Repairs

Cary Audio Design will provide repair service for its products charging on a time and expense basis for the repairs.

#### WARNINGS

**Make no attempt to put the SLP-74 in service outside of the cabinet -  
Contact with high voltages found in the unit can be fatal!!!**

**Completely remove AC power plug from the wall and allow 30 minutes  
for the high voltage capacitors to discharge through bleeder resistors  
before attempting to change tubes or clean the  
inside to the preamplifier.**

#### CAUTIONS

**Never remove/insert AC plug when the unit is on or the  
AC power switch is in the "ON" position**

**Obstruction of the top portion of the SLP-74 will result  
in tubes overheating**

**PROPRIETARY RIGHTS:** Cary Audio Design has proprietary right in the design and components of its units. While the purchaser is entitled to use the unit for its intended purpose, use of the unit for copying, imitation, or reverse engineering is a violation of these proprietary rights and is forbidden.



## UNITED STATES LIMITED WARRANTY

Cary Audio Design, Inc. warrants to the original United States purchaser for use in the United States, that this product shall be free from defects in material (except tubes and AF output transistors) or workmanship for:

Models CAD-211M, SLM-200 and the CAD-805, Five (5) years from date of original purchase.  
Amplifiers and Preamplifiers, Three (3) years from the date of the original purchase.  
Digital Products, One (1) year from original date of purchase.

During the warranty period, Cary Audio Design, Inc. or an authorized Cary Audio Design, Inc. service facility will provide free of charge both parts (except tubes and AF output transistors) and labor necessary to correct defects in material or workmanship.

To obtain such warranty service, the original purchaser must:

- (1) Complete and send in the warranty Registration Card.
- (2) Notify Cary Audio Design, Inc. as soon as possible after the discovery of a possible defect:
  - (a) The model number and serial number;
  - (b) The identity of the seller and the approximate date of purchase;
  - (c) A detailed description of the problem, including details on the electrical connection in the associated equipment and the list of such equipment.
- (3) Deliver the product to Cary Audio Design, Inc. or the nearest authorized service facility, or ship the same in its original container or equivalent, fully insured and the shipping charges prepaid.

Correct maintenance, repair and use are important to obtain optimum performance from this product. Therefore, carefully read the Operating Manual. This warranty does not apply to any defect that Cary Audio Design, Inc. in its sole discretion determines is due to:

- (1) Improper maintenance or repair, including the installation of parts or accessories that does not conform to the quality and the specifications of the original parts.
- (2) Misuse, abuse, neglect or improper installation.
- (3) Accidental or incidental damage.

### WARRANTY DISCLAIMER

Except for the express warranties stated herein, Cary Audio Design, Inc. disclaims all other warranties including, without limitation, all implied warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose.

### EXCLUSIVE REMEDY

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the purchaser's exclusive remedy for any breach of warranty, express or implied, is limited to the repair or replacement of the defective unit or the refund of the purchase price, at the option of Cary Audio Design, Inc. Under no circumstances is Cary Audio Design, Inc. liable for incidental or consequential damages. Any implied warranties imposed by law terminate one (1) year from the date of purchase.

### FOREIGN PURCHASERS

Cary Audio Design, Inc. warrants its merchandise to purchasers in the United States for use in the United States. It provides no other warranties. If you are a foreign purchaser, consult with your dealer to determine whether your dealer provides any warranty.

The foregoing constitutes Cary Audio Design Inc.'s entire obligation with respect to this product, and the original purchaser and any user or owner shall have no other claim for incidental or consequential damages. Some states do not allow the exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages, so the above limitation and exclusion may not apply to you.

This warranty gives legal rights and you may have other rights which vary from state to state.



C A R Y • A U D I O • D E S I G N  
111-A WOODWINDS INDUSTRIAL COURT, CARY, N.C. 27511 (919) 481-4494 FAX (919) 460-3828