



# SLP-88

## OPERATING MANUAL

**NOTE:**

Before installing your new SLP-88, please read this manual carefully as it will inform you of the SLP-88'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-88.



Dear Audiophile Friend:

I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank you for purchasing your new Cary Audio SLP-88 preamplifier. I have spent countless hours designing and voicing the SLP-88. You will find many desirable features on your new preamplifier. The motorized remote volume is certainly a stand out feature. The analogue signal is not deteriorated with this method of volume control. The potentiometer used in controlling the analogue input signal is driven by a DC motor. An inboard microprocessor directs this motor in the proper direction for up or down volume. All incoming signals are switched via gold plated relays that are also DC voltage controlled. Another very cool feature of your new SLP-88 is the earphone output. This is true single-ended triode sound accomplished with output transformers to match earphones from 40 to 600 ohms. The best feature of the SLP-88 is the sonic presentation. The 6SN7 triode tubes used in the SLP-88 are considered by many as the absolute best sounding dual triode available. Please read the instruction manual so you are familiar with the operation of your new "Special Line Stage 88."

Thank you once again for your interest and support of Cary Audio Design.

Dennis J. Had  
President

## SPECIFICATIONS SLP-88

This section describes the basic specifications of the SLP-88 at the time of printing. Specifications are subject to change without notice or obligation.

**Dimensions:** 16" W x 5" H x 12" D

**Weight:** 15 lbs.

**Circuit:** Class A Triode

**Input Impedance:** 100,000 (100K) ohms resistive

**Output Impedance:** 680 ohms

**Gain:** 20 dB

**Signal/Noise Level:** -88dB

**Resistors:** 1% metal film

**Capacitors:** Film and foil output caps (5 MFD)

**Power Transformer:** 200% continuous commercial duty cycle

**Tubes:** 2- 6SN7 dual triodes

**Power Supply:** Full wave rectification, center-tapped, pi-network with filter choke, fully regulated

**AC**

**Power Requirements:** 100 – 130 volts AC / 50-60 Hz at 24 watts  
200 – 245 volts AC / 50-60 Hz at 24 watts

**Wire:** EE Teflon Silver

**Warm-up Time:** 5 minutes (2 minute auto mute)

**Input and**

**Output Jacks:** Gold plated with Teflon inserts

**Duty Cycle:** Continuous duty 24 hours per day

**FRONT PANEL FEATURES**

**Power Switch:** Rotary 2 position: off/on controls the AC line voltage

**Mute:** Terminates the output .. also operated via remote hand set

**Input Select:** 4 position rotary switch controls relay input switching

**Tape Monitor:** 2 position rotary switch engages tape loop circuit

**Headphone:** 2 position rotary switch will engage headphone transformers

**Listening Level:** Motorized volume control, manual or via remote

**On LED:** Indicates internal power supply is power up

**Operate LED:** Indication of time delay release (aprox 1 minute)

**Mute LED:** will light in the mute mode

**Tape LED:** indication of tape loop operation

**Down LED:** will light red as remote volume is turned lower

**Up LED:** will light blue as remote volume is turned to higher setting

**REAR APRON FEATURES**

**AC:** Inlet for the detachable AC power cord .. standard IEC plug

**AC Fuse:** !!VERY IMPORTANT!! ONLY USE 1 AMP S/B FUSE

**Remote:** Female 2 circuit jack .. 12 VDC @400 ma. With power on.

**Dual Output:** Connect to input of basic power amp and or sub woofer

**Tape Out:** Constant output of selected input signal for recording independent of volume setting.

**Tape In:** This is the tape monitor selected input. For use with recording devices that employ a monitor system to hear the actual recorded signal. May also be used as an additional line input.

**CD, Aux1, Aux2 and Tuner:** These are line level input requiring flat frequency response.

## INSTALLATION AND UNPACKING

### WARNING

**MAKE NO ATTEMPT TO PUT THE SLP-88 PREAMPLIFIER IN SERVICE WITH THE COVER OFF THE UNIT. CONTACT WITH VOLTAGE IN SIDE THE SLP-88 CAN BE FATAL**

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

Carefully remove your new SLP-88 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 should you wish to store it or ship it for after-sales service.

## **WARRANTY CARD**

If you are the original purchaser of this preamplifier 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. Warranty restrictions and applications apply. Consult the warranty section of this manual.

## **SLP-88 PLACEMENT**

The SLP-88 is designed for use inside of homes. It must be protected from the elements and temperature extremes. For example, avoid placing the unit in extremely hot locations such as near or on top of radiators or other home heating devices. Its location among the user's home audio components is not critical.

## **POWER REQUIREMENTS**

The SLP-88 is designed to operate from house current mains. The design voltage 120 VAC at 50/60 Hz. (Foreign units 100/200/220/240 VAC at 50/60 Hz)

## **CABLES**

The interconnect cables from the output jacks of the SLP-88 to the input jacks on the Rocket 88 or appropriate amplifier can be any convenient length your set up requires. The choice of a high quality interconnect cable is important. Most audio dealers will have proper interconnects in stock for this purpose.

## **OPERATION**

Your new SLP-88 preamplifier is ready for operation after all the interconnect cables have been installed and the unit is plugged into the house hold AC mains 120 VAC wall socket. The SLP-88 is provided with functional, useful front panel controls with a logical layout.

## POWER SWITCH

The power switch is located at the far left lower corner on the SLP-88 preamplifier front panel. The switch operates in the following manner:

- OFF** Removes all AC voltages from the SLP-88 power supply.
- ON** Turns on the AC voltage to the power transformer primary on. The power transformer has a 200% duty cycle. In simple terms the transformer is capable of operating two (2) SLP-88 preamplifiers continuous 24 hour a day. We recommend that the AC power switch be left in the ON position at all times. The SLP-88 sounds much better after being warmed up for at least 24 hours.
- Operate LED** This blue LED will light after the SLP-88 is warmed up and biased properly.

## 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 0.5 dB from 0 to -60 dB. The program source remains in balance over the entire range of this control. The taper rate of the volume control has been chosen to provide a rapid increase in gain over the first half of rotation and slower gain increase above 12:00 position. The volume pot is controlling the input signal to the first grids of the 6SN7 tubes. The volume control has a DC motor attached for remote operation.

## SELECTOR SWITCH

The 4-position rotary switch connects a choice of input program source, both channels simultaneously. All program line sources are selected from this front panel 4 position switch. As you switch from source to source inputs, you will hear a soft mechanical clicking sound. This is normal and proper. The clicking sound is the DPDT relays switching positions.

## **WARNING!!!**

MAKE NO ATTEMPT TO PUT THE SLP-88 IN SERVICE OUTSIDE OF THE CABINET. DO NOT OPERATE THE SLP-88 WITH THE TOP COVER REMOVED. CONTACT WITH VOLTAGE IN THE SLP-88 CAN BE FATAL!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! COMMON SENSE.....YES!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

## **HEADPHONE SWITCH AND JACK**

Switching to the on position will engage two output transformers for the headphones. The primary of each transformer is connected via gold plated relays to the output of the SLP-88. Please be aware, engaging this switch still allows signal to flow to the Rocket 88 or your basic power amp in your system. Turn off your amplifier to listen to headphones. This is a bit inconvenient but with this design there are no interruptions in the output signal path. You will note that a blue LED will light above the headphone switch when turned to the on position. Make sure that you turn off the headphone switch before listening with your amplifier. It will not harm anything but the low frequencies may be rolled off a bit to the amplifier if left in the on position.

## **SPECIAL OPERATING NOTE**

Your new SLP-88 is a inverting gain stage preamplifier. This means that the signal coming in to the SLP-88 will be inverted as it is amplified. The SLP-88 has one gain stage and one buffer stage each channel. This inversion is common on many high end preamplifiers. To correct for this inverted signal is actually very simple. Reverse the positive and negative leads on the loudspeaker or at the output of the Cary Audio, Rocket 88 amplifier or your present amplifier. Remember to do this on each channel. Please remember, only switch the phasing at the amplifier or at the loudspeaker. Not both or you will be back to inverting the signal. Once again, operating in the inverted phase mode will not harm or hurt anything. You may loose some bass extension. On the other hand, many find that they like running their system inverted because of their listening room dimensions.



## FACTORY SERVICE

If it becomes necessary to replace any parts in the SLP-88, the same brand and part number and style should be used. New parts are available from Cary Audio Design, Inc. in Cary, North Carolina.

Careful consideration has been given to the design of your new SLP-88 preamplifier to keep maintenance problems to a minimum; however, it is possible that some problems may arise. 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-88 to the factory without a Return Authorization Number from the Customer Service Department. Cary Audio Design, Inc,** 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 or damaged in shipment.

## NOTES

## 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:

Amplifiers and Preamplifiers, Three (3) years from the date of the original purchase.  
Digital Products, One (1) year from the date of original 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 do 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.

# **CARY** *Audio Design*

**1020 Goodworth Drive  
Apex, NC 27539  
USA**

**Phone: 919-355-0010**

**Fax: 919-355-0013**

**[www.caryaudio.com](http://www.caryaudio.com)**

**[info@caryaudio.com](mailto:info@caryaudio.com)**