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***Rogue Ninety-Nine
Vacuum Tube Preamplifier
Owners Manual***



Vacuum Tube Amplifiers

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INTRODUCTION

Congratulations on your purchase decision! We at Rogue Audio truly believe that our amplifiers and preamplifiers provide the “smartest” value in high-end audio. If you have never owned a vacuum tube preamplifier you will be thrilled by the silky-smooth sound and incredible detail that only a tube preamp can provide. And with your Rogue Audio product, you can be sure that you are getting the very best in tube amplification. We at Rogue Audio are extremely proud of our products and want you to enjoy them to their fullest potential. So please, take the time to read through this short manual so that you can be confident that you have set up your amplifier properly.

SETTING UP YOUR PREAMPLIFIER

Tools required: #2 phillips head screwdriver and a clean glove

WARNING - This preamplifier produces voltages that could cause injury or death. Never open the preamplifier while it is plugged in, and always wait at least one hour after turning the unit off to unplug and open the unit. *Lethal* voltages can remain in the electronics after the unit is unplugged

- 1) *Opening the box* - Carefully remove the preamplifier, power supply and remote control from the box. It is important that you retain the packing material and boxes in the event that the amplifier ever needs servicing. The packing material and box have been carefully designed to protect your valuable equipment during shipping so you don't want to throw them away!

- 2) *Seating the Tubes* – It is possible for the tubes to loosen in their sockets during shipping. Using a glove or a clean dry cloth make sure that the tubes are fully seated in their sockets as shown in figure 1. Note the correct location and orientation of the tubes.

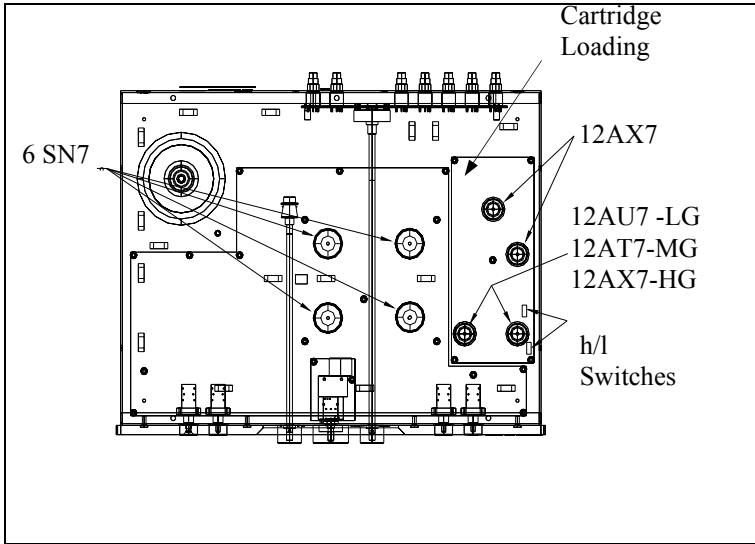


Figure 1

- LG - Low Gain – use “l” switch setting
- MG - Medium Gain – use “h” switch setting
- HG - High Gain – use “h” switch setting

The optional all-tube phono section consists of two input tubes (12AX7), a passive RIAA equalization section, and an output section that can be configured in one of three gain levels to accommodate different cartridge output levels. Using 12AU7 tubes in the output amplification stage (the two tubes nearest the front of the unit) provides an overall gain of approximately 63dB. This is very satisfactory for moving magnet and moving coil cartridges with an output over 1mV. In this configuration the two small switches on the phono board should be in the “l” setting. An additional 10dB of gain can be realized by replacing the 12AU7 tubes with 12AT7 tubes. In this case the switches should be moved to the “h” position. This configuration is recommended for cartridge outputs of 0.4mV and

up. 12AX7 tubes can also be used for even greater gain. It should be noted however that very low noise tubes must be used in the first gain stage (the two rear 12AX7 tubes) so that tube noise or “rush” is kept to a minimum.

- 3) The cartridge loading is factory set for 47K ohms and 150pF of capacitance. This is suitable for most moving magnet and moving coil cartridges. Special cartridge loading can be ordered from the factory or from your local dealer.
- 4) *Connecting the power supply* - Carefully plug the connectors, Con A and Con B, coming from the power supply into the rear of the preamplifier. See Figure 2. Connect the IEC end of power cord to the power supply, and plug opposite end into corresponding outlet.

Note: Be careful to ensure 3 and 6 pin sockets (Con A and Con B respectively) mate to corresponding plugs. See Figure 2.

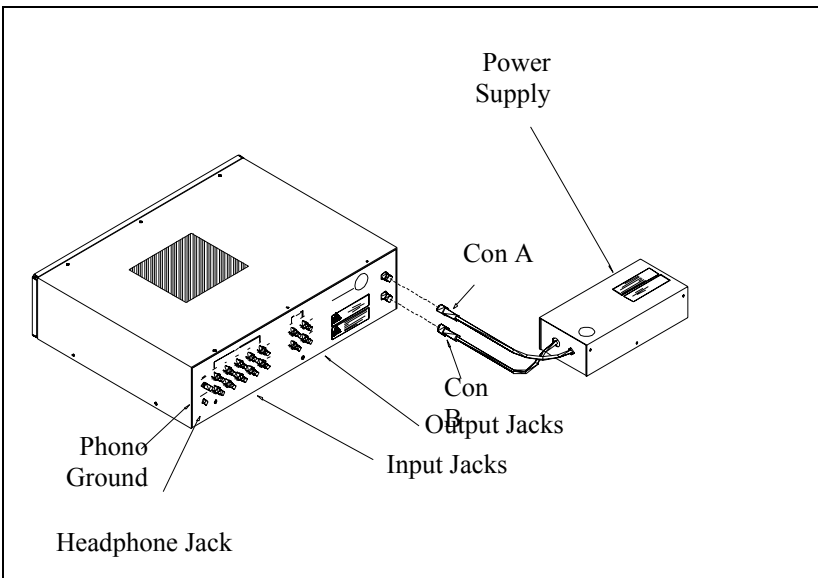


Figure 2

- 4) *Placement of the preamplifier* - The preamplifier is the “brains“ of your system and will have the greatest number of interconnects. Therefore, the preamplifier should be located such that it is accessible for cabling between itself and all other relevant pieces of equipment. NEVER place another piece of equipment on top of the preamplifier and be sure to leave adequate space (three inches or more) on the top, sides and rear for airflow.

Note: The external power supply should be placed as far away as possible from any other components or cables.

- 5) *Connections to other components* - Connections are shown in Figure 2. The input connections for source material (phonograph, CD player, tuner, tape recorder) are made via RCA jacks on the rear of the preamplifier. One pair of additional auxiliary jacks is also available for line level sources (approximately 1 volt). A five-way lug is provided for grounding the turntable to the preamplifier. There is also a headphone jack provided on the rear of the unit. The outputs to the power amplifier and tape recorder are arranged to the right of the input jacks. *Be sure to use high quality interconnect cables - they do make a difference.*

- 6) *Polarity* - The Rogue Ninety-Nine preamplifier is an inverting amplifier (positive signal in gives negative signal out) so, for best sound, care should be taken to ensure correct polarity at the speaker terminals. If your power amplifier is also inverting (most are not), then connect the positive (+) outputs of your power amplifier to the positive (+) terminals of the loudspeakers and the negative (-) outputs to the (-) negative loudspeaker terminals. If your power amplifier is non-inverting, then connect the positive outputs (+) of your power amplifier to the negative (-) loudspeaker terminals, and the negative outputs (-) to the positive (+) loudspeaker terminals. (Rogue Audio power amplifiers are non-inverting.) If you are unsure as to the polarity of your power amplifier, check the owner's manual or contact the manufacturer. If all else fails, try both connections and listen to which sounds better (do this using several different recordings as not all recordings are made with correct phase).

OPERATING YOUR PREAMPLIFIER

- 1) *Delays*- Note that the Rogue Ninety-Nine is equipped with a slow turn-on feature that protects other equipment from dangerous transients at turn-on as well as significantly prolonging tube life. This feature is provided via several timing circuits that allow the tube filaments to reach operating temperature before turning on the high voltage supply. The outputs are muted during this sequence and then opened after turn-on transients have been safely dissipated to ground.
- 2) *Powering up the system* - First turn on the preamplifier by pushing in the "power" button. The red LED will light after several seconds. After the heater filaments have warmed up (approximately 15 seconds), the high voltage supply will turn on. After an additional 15 seconds, the outputs will disconnect from ground and the unit is ready to play. After turning on the preamplifier, turn on the power amplifier and source material and you are ready for listening.

3) *Switches and Controls* - The Rogue Ninety-Nine is equipped with the following controls

- Volume - gain adjustment from 0- 23 dB
- Gain - a variable gain adjustment for source and speaker matching.
- Source - selects source material (CD, phono, tape, tuner, aux)
- Power - on/off operation
- Mute - leaves preamplifier on while muting output
- Mono - combines left and right channels.
- Record - must be pressed in while taping, isolates tape player when not in use.

Note - Unlike many solid state amplifiers, the Ninety-Nine preamplifier should not be left turned on when not in use. To prolong tube life, turn off the unit when not in use.

4) *Remote Volume Control* - The Rogue Ninety-Nine is equipped with an analog remote volume control feature. The volume may be adjusted manually using the knob on the front panel, or by using the remote control provided.

Note - Some noise may be heard when operating the remote volume. This is normal and is a result of the DC motor noise being picked up by the sensitive audio circuitry during the volume change.

Note: This unit will not play for approximately 20 seconds after power on while tubes warm up.

MAINTENANCE

The Rogue Ninety-Nine has been designed to provide many years of enjoyable and reliable service. The greatest care has been taken to select vacuum tubes that provide superior sound and ensure long life. In addition, this unit utilizes a slow turn on feature that helps prevent cathode stripping during power up. This feature will greatly increase usable tube life.

Replacing Tubes:

- 1) Remove the top cover.
- 2) Using a glove or cloth, carefully remove the tubes from their socket.

WARNING: If unit has been powered up, you must turn off the switch and wait at least one hour before disconnecting the electrical cord. After doing so, the unit may be unplugged and the top cover removed. This time is required for dangerous voltages to dissipate to ground.

- 3) It is recommended that a new set of tubes be obtained from Rogue Audio. If tubes are obtained from another source, follow the diagram in figure 1 for tube type.
- 4) Insert new tubes in sockets using a glove or cloth. See figure 1 for locations.

IF THERE IS A PROBLEM

- 1) Check that all connections are secure, both main power cord and Con A and Con B connections from power supply to preamp.
- 2) Check that all input and output signal connections are secure.
- 3) Ensure that all tubes are properly seated in their sockets.
- 4) Make sure that the power supply is not located too close to the preamp, other components, or any cables.
- 5) *If these do not resolve the problem, please call Rogue Audio Technical Support on 570-992-9901.*

SPECIFICATIONS

Frequency Response	1 Hz -150kHz \pm 1dB
THD	< 0.1%
Gain - Line Stage	23 dB
Rated Output	1.5 V RMS
Maximum Output	50 V RMS
Dimensions	W- 18 1/4", H- 5 1/8", L- 14"
Power Requirements	115/230 V - 50/60 Hz

Limited Warranty –You must return your warranty card! Warranty Period

This product has been manufactured under the highest standards of quality and workmanship. Rogue Audio Inc. (hereinafter “Rogue Audio”) warrants this product against defects in material or workmanship as follows:

With the exception of vacuum tubes, Rogue Audio warrants to the consumer all parts of this product against defects in material and workmanship for a period of three years from the date of retail purchase. Rogue Audio warrants the vacuum tubes for a period of six months from the date of retail purchase. Any defective parts will be replaced free of charge, excluding shipping and handling.

Proof of purchase in the form of a bill of sale, receipt or invoice which indicates that the product is within the warranty period must be presented to obtain warranty service. Rogue Audio suggests that the purchaser retain the dealer’s bill of sale as evidence of the date of retail purchase.

What’s Not Covered This warranty does not cover cosmetic damage or any damage that results from product misuse, product abuse, installation error, connection to an improper voltage supply, accident, improper maintenance, alterations, modifications not authorized in writing by Rogue Audio, lightning, power surges, or acts of God. Use of any other than Rogue Audio factory parts may void this warranty. This warranty does not cover the cost of parts and labor that would be otherwise provided without charge under this warranty, obtained from any source other than Rogue Audio.

This warranty applies only to consumer use of this product and does not cover any product that is used in any trade or business, or in an industrial or commercial application.

This warranty is valid only in the United States.

YOUR RIGHTS

ROGUE AUDIO LIMITS ITS OBLIGATIONS UNDER ANY IMPLIED WARRANTIES UNDER STATE LAWS TO A PERIOD NOT TO EXCEED THE WARRANTY PERIOD. SOME STATES DO NOT ALLOW LIMITATIONS ON HOW LONG AN IMPLIED WARRANTY LASTS, AND SOME STATES DO NOT ALLOW THE EXCLUSION OR LIMITATION OF INCIDENTAL OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES, SO THE ABOVE LIMITATIONS OR EXCLUSIONS MAY NOT APPLY TO YOU. THIS WARRANTY GIVES YOU SPECIFIC LEGAL RIGHTS, AND YOU MAY HAVE OTHER RIGHTS WHICH MAY VARY FROM STATE TO STATE.

To Obtain Service

To obtain service, you must contact Rogue Audio and obtain a return authorization number; the product must be delivered to Rogue Audio in its original packaging prepaid at the following address:

**Rogue Audio Inc.
PO Box 1076
3 Marian Lane
Brodheadsville, PA 18322**

THE ROGUE AUDIO MISSION...

At Rogue Audio we design and manufacture vacuum tube amplifiers. There is fierce competition in this market and we will only survive by delivering a superior product and superior service - we have the engineering and managerial talent to do so. Our core competencies are electrical, mechanical and production engineering, along with an overarching passion for excellence. These skills will be used to create products that offer outstanding value in the high-end marketplace.

Rogue Audio amplifiers will always be engineered to provide the four key elements of audio value:

- *superior sonics*
- *high quality and reliability*
- *an outstanding appearance*
- *an affordable price*

Our philosophy is simple - We will never design any amplifier that we would not purchase for ourselves.

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