

RHAPSODY

TUBE INTEGRATED STEREO AMPLIFIER



User's Manual
www.trafomaticaudio.com



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SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

**IMPORTANT SAFEGUARDS PLEASE READ CAREFULLY
ALL THE FOLLOWING IMPORTANT SAFEGUARDS THAT
ARE APPLICABLE TO YOUR EQUIPMENT.**

CAUTION! TO REDUCE THE RISK OF ELECTRIC SHOCK, DO NOT REMOVE SCREWS. NO USER SERVICEABLE PARTS INSIDE. REFER SERVICING TO QUALIFIED SERVICE PERSONNEL.

SAFETY

Read the User's Manual and refer to it frequently during use of this product. All the safety and operating instructions should be read before the product is operated.

Retain the User's Manual. The safety and operating instructions should be retained for future reference.

Follow Instructions. All operating and instructions for use should be closely followed.

Power Sources. This product should be operated using only the type of power source indicated on the marking label. If you are not sure of the type of power supply in your home, consult your product dealer or local power company.

Grounding. This product is equipped with a three prong IEC connector. Always use power cord with adequate wire cross section and an electrical outlet that is grounded. If you do not know whether the outlet is grounded, consult your electrician or local power company.

Power Cord Protection. Power supply cords should be routed so that they are not likely to be walked on or pinched. Pay particular attention to cords at plugs, convenience receptacles and where they exit from the product. Always use power cords with adequate current ratings and safety certifications (UL, CE, TÜV, CSA, etc.)

Fuses. For continued protection against fire hazard, replace fuses with the same type and rating of the fuses specified. When changing fuses, completely unplug the AC cord from the wall outlet. If in doubt what fuses to use, contact factory or authorized distributor.

Tubes. During operation, the vacuum tubes get very hot. Allow at least 30 minutes after removing power for tubes to cool down.

Turn-off when not using. Turn off the unit as soon as you stop actively using it. Unplug the power supply from the wall during a lightning storm or when the product is to be left unattended and unused for longer periods of time.



ENVIRONMENT

Water and Moisture. Do not use this product near water - i.e. near a bathtub, ash bowl, kitchen sink or laundry tub; in a wet basement; or near a swimming pool or the like. Damp basements should be avoided.

Heat. The product should be situated away from heat sources such as radiators, heat registers, stoves or other appliances that produce heat. Also avoid putting the unit in the direct rays of the sun.

For indoor use only.

PLACEMENT

Accessibility. It is normal for an audio device to run warm if used for prolonged periods. Always place your device away from children and pets to prevent burns.

Ventilation. Proper ventilation is critical for safe and reliable operation of all vacuum tube based equipment. This product should not be placed in a built-in installation or rack unless proper ventilation is provided or the manufacturer's instructions have been followed. Never place anything on top of your unit that could obstruct airflow and cause vacuum tubes to overheat and damage the unit. Do not place your unit in a closed bookcase; overheating could occur. Ensure that there is at least 8" (200 mm) of open space above and around the unit.

Surface. Place the unit on a flat level surface. Care should be taken to prevent objects from falling and liquids from spilling into the unit. Do not subject the unit to excessive smoke, dust, vibration or shock.

MAINTENANCE

Cleaning. Unplug this product from the wall outlet before cleaning. Do not use liquid cleaners or aerosol cleaners. Use a dry cloth for cleaning. Do not use any type of abrasive pad, scouring powder or solvent such as alcohol or benzene.

Tube replacement. Vacuum tubes have life in the 5000 hours range. We recommend replacing the tubes after 24 - 36 months, depending on your listening habits. That will ensure that the unit always performs at its best and tube failure will not over stress the other parts of the unit.

Biasing the amplifier. Biasing of the Rhapsody integrated amplifier is not required.

SERVICE

Replacement Parts. When replacement parts are required, be sure that the service technician uses replacement parts specified by the manufacturer or parts with the same characteristics as the original part. Unauthorized substitutions may result in fire, electric shock or other hazards.

Tube replacement. Should it become necessary to replace the vacuum tubes, remove the AC power plug from the wall and allow thirty minutes (30 min) for the high voltage capacitors to discharge. Follow instructions outlined below in the section "Handling vacuum tubes".

Modifications. Modifications to the amplifier are strongly discouraged. The unit was designed by experienced engineers and tested for safe and reliable operation. Any modification may pose a safety risk and result in reduced lifetime of the product. Any removal of the cover will void warranty.

GETTING STARTED

ABOUT YOUR AMPLIFIER

Your **Rhapsody Integrated Amplifier** was designed to provide an excellent value based on its high performance, which is a result of carefully designed circuit and optimized component selection. The design utilizes minimum number of active parts and top quality passive elements.

The **Rhapsody amplifier** is one of the most refined applications of the 300B tube and allows them to shine in all their glory.

The **300B power tubes operate in the parallel single-ended Class A mode**. The **power tubes are driven by highly linear 6SN7 tubes** configured in a highly transparent circuit. A **sophisticated C-L-C filter**, one per channel, goes above and beyond what typical tube amplifiers offer. **Custom transformers and chokes, Mundorf MLYtic HV capacitors**, point-to-point wiring with **Van den Hul cables** assembled by skilled technicians complete the picture of an exceptional example of fine and durable electronics.

The Rhapsody can accommodate 300B tubes with a solid or mesh anode (plate), thanks to the switch mounted on the top panel. Make sure to read this manual thoroughly for words of caution when changing the mode of operation.

Automatic bias ensures optimized performance throughout the life of the tubes without need for periodic adjustments.

Fit and finish of the Rhapsody make it a welcome addition to every living environment. The Rhapsody Integrated Stereo Amplifier has three (3) line-level single-ended (RCA) inputs and one balanced (XLR) input. There are dedicated outputs for four (4) or eight (8) ohm speakers..

HANDLING AND REPLACING VACUUM TUBES

Many people have never had experience handling vacuum tubes. Process is very similar to handling incandescent light bulbs. As with the light bulbs, you should not touch a vacuum tube when it is operating since you can burn yourself. Similarly, if a tube is dropped on a hard surface it may break or change critical operating parameters. When replacing the tubes, allow sufficient time, minimum 30 minutes, for tubes to cool down and internal capacitors to discharge. Before you insert a tube you should make certain that the unit is disconnected from the AC outlet. Inspect the tube for cracks and physical damage. Make sure that the pins are straight. If you need to straighten the pins, be very careful as it may cause the glass envelope to break, causing the tube to lose the vacuum and fail as soon as the unit is powered on. Carefully align the pins with the socket and gently insert the tube.

Never force a tube into a socket.

Only the same type of vacuum tubes can be used – no substitutions are allowed. Should you decide to buy replacement tubes from Trafomatic Audio, rest assured that they were fully tested before the shipment.

PACKAGING

Save the original packaging in a dry place. The packaging has been designed to protect your device from stresses incurred during shipping.

Using packaging different from the original increases risks of shipping damages.

PREPARATION FOR USE

- Place your unit on a flat, stable surface.
- Power switch, located on the rear side of the unit should be in the OFF position.
- Make sure that the voltage selector switch (located on the rear panel, next to the AC inlet) is properly set: this switch needs to be set so that the number displayed (115 or 230) corresponds with the line voltage in your country.
- Plug in the power cord.
- Connect audio source to one of the amplifier's inputs and make sure that input selector switch is in the corresponding position.
- If some of your sources require signal grounding (turntable tonearm, for example), connect the wire to the grounding lug (GND) on the rear panel of the amplifier.
- By using the front panel input selector switch, select the appropriate audio source (rca1 through rca4).
- Make sure that volume control is set to the minimum position.
- Turn on the amplifier by using power switch located on the left side of the unit.
- Slowly increase volume, to make sure there are no unusual noises coming out of the speakers.
- **CONGRATULATIONS!** You are all set and ready to enjoy high sound quality of the **RHAPSODY Integrated Stereo Amplifier**.





CONTROLS AND THEIR FUNCTIONS

FRONT PANEL

Input Selector: The four positions “Inputs” switch is used to select one of the four available line-level inputs, marked RCA1, RCA2, RCA3 (single-ended inputs) and XLR (balanced input).

Volume control: regulates maximum outputs on the speaker terminals outputs.

The front panel also hosts two visually striking analog VU meters.

TOP PANEL

The top panel of the Rhapsody amplifier hosts four switches marked ANODE DISSIPATION 300B with MESH and SOLID positions. The switches are used to set proper mode of operation for 300B tubes with Mesh or Solid anode. The 300B tubes with the Mesh anode can handle less power than the Solid anode tubes, therefore, **please note that the tubes with Mesh anode can be damaged if the switch is in the SOLID position!** Changing the mode of operation should be done only after the amplifier has been turned off for minimum of 30 minutes.

The top panel also has a potentiometer labeled VU SENSITIVITY. When used with highly efficient speakers, the VU Meters’ needles may have a short movement path. To increase movement of the instruments’ needles, the VU SENSITIVITY control can be used to get visually striking VU meter response, without changing the volume of the music or affecting quality reproduction in any way.

LEFT SIDE OF THE UNIT

Power ON/OFF switch: The switch turns the amplifier ON and OFF.

- When turning on the Rhapsody amplifier, make sure that the volume control is at its minimum. The amplifier will be fully functional after only 30 seconds. However, as it warms up over the first 15 minutes of operation, you may notice subtle improvements in the sound quality.
- At the end of your listening session, make sure to turn the amplifier off. Leaving it turned on does not improve sound quality and it reduces life of the vacuum tubes.
- The amplifier should always be turned on and off via its own power switch.



CONTROLS AND THEIR FUNCTIONS

REAR PANEL

The only control on the rear panel is the line voltage selector switch located next to the AC power inlet (AC INPUT). This switch needs to be set so that the number displayed (115 or 230) corresponds with the line voltage in your country.

The rear panel also hosts:

- Grounding lug (GND)
- Three single ended (unbalanced) inputs, marked RCA1, RCA2 and RCA3
- Two XLR connectors for the balanced input.
- Speaker terminals, in form of five-way binding posts. Each channel has three terminals, marked 0, 4 and 8. Speaker wire going to the negative speaker terminal should be connected to the binding post marked with 0, while the positive terminal should be connected to the binding post with marking that corresponds to the nominal impedance of the speaker.

REMOTE CONTROL

The Rhapsody amplifier comes with its own dedicated remote control. For the sake of simplicity, reliability and long battery life, basic functionality is provided via two buttons: **volume up and down**.





INPUTS



RCA 1

RCA 2

RCA 3

XLR

SERVICING

High quality parts and careful design of the **RHAPSODY** ensure long and reliable operation without need for any maintenance other than that listed in the MAINTENANCE section. In an unlikely case that the unit does not operate as intended, please contact the factory or your local distributor for assistance.

CAUTION

Lethal voltages are present inside the amplifier. Do not remove the amplifier's covers. Servicing of the unit should be performed only by authorized service personnel.



TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS:

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Class of operation: Parallel Single-Ended (class A)

Tube complement: 4x300B, 2x6SN7

Remote controlled volume control

Input impedance: 100 Kohms

Inputs: 3xRCA and 1xXLR

Input sensitivity: 0.5Vrms

Outputs: 4, 8 ohms

Output power: 2x 20W

THD: 0.55% @1W, 1kHz

S/N ratio: 80dB

Frequency bandwidth: 10Hz – 75kHz(-3dB)

Input voltage: 115/230V, 50/60 Hz (100-120-220-240V available on request)

Power consumption: 280VA

Size: 470x370x260 mm

Weight: 32 kg



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