

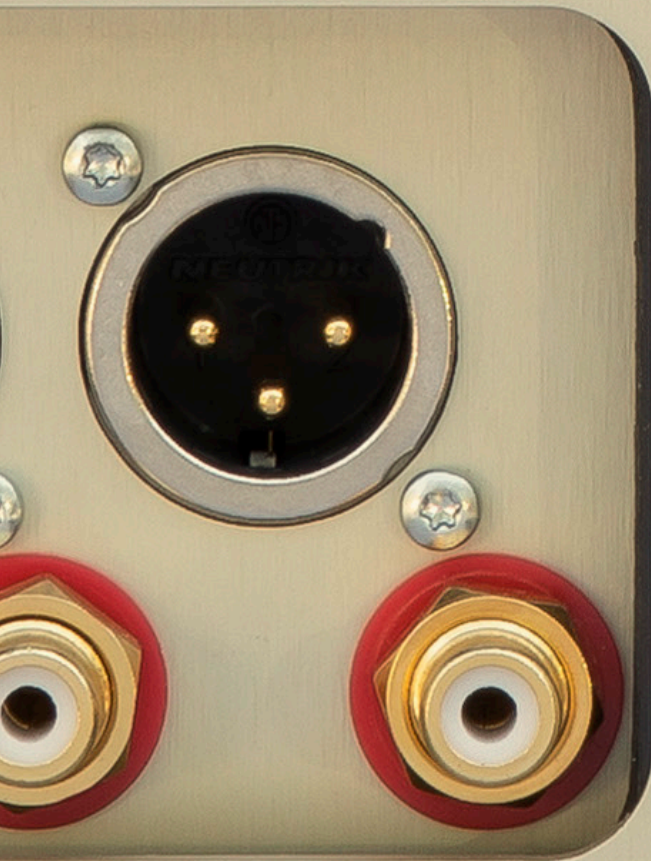
INSPIRATION 2



Constellation

preamp

owner's manual



OUTPUTS



WARNING: RISK OF ELECTRICAL SHOCK



GREETINGS!

WE ARE PLEASED TO WELCOME YOU TO
THE CONSTELLATION FAMILY.

WE APPRECIATE THE TRUST YOU HAVE
PLACED IN OUR BRAND AND WISH YOU MANY
HOURS OF LISTENING PLEASURE. YOUR
STATEMENT AMPLIFIER IS THE RESULT OF
MORE THAN A DECADE OF HARD WORK,
FROM RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT TO THE
FINAL TESTING AND PACKING. TO BRING THE
STATEMENT AMPLIFIERS TO YOU, WE
PARTNERED WITH THE FINEST TALENTS IN
THEIR RESPECTIVE FIELDS, INCLUDING
ELECTRICAL, MECHANICAL, AND SOFTWARE
ENGINEERING, CIRCUIT BOARD LAYOUT,
TECHNOLOGY, ACOUSTICS, METALLURGY, AND
INDUSTRIAL DESIGN. CONSIDERING THE SIZE
AND POWER OF THESE AMPS, THIS WAS NO
SMALL TASK. BUT WE THINK THE RESULTS
SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES.

BEFORE YOU CONNECT YOUR NEW AMPLIFIER,
WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO READ THIS MANUAL
THOROUGHLY. IT WILL GUIDE YOU IN UNPACK-
ING THE AMPLIFIER AND CONNECTING IT TO
YOUR SYSTEM. WE ALSO SUGGEST YOU
RECORD THE SERIAL NUMBER AND COMPLETE
THE ONLINE REGISTRATION. WITH PROPER
CARE AND MAINTENANCE, THIS AMPLIFIER
WILL PROVIDE YOU WITH MANY YEARS OF
EXTRAORDINARY MUSICAL EXPERIENCES.

NOW THAT YOU ARE PART OF
THE CONSTELLATION FAMILY, WE INVITE YOU
TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH US BY LIKING US ON
FACEBOOK, FOLLOWING US ON X AND
INSTAGRAM, AND SIGNING UP FOR OUR
NEWSLETTER. YOUR AUTHORIZED
CONSTELLATION DEALER OR DISTRIBUTOR IS
AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE CONSTELLATION
TEAM. IF YOU HAVE PARTICULAR QUESTIONS
OR NEED ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE, PLEASE
DO NOT HESITATE TO LET THEM KNOW.

SINCERELY,

A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "Murali Murugasu". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

DR. MURALI MURUGASU, CEO,
AND THE CONSTELLATION AUDIO TEAM

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**PLEASE READ THIS MANUAL
BEFORE TURNING ON YOUR
AMPLIFIER FOR THE FIRST TIME.**

Thank you for purchasing the
Constellation Inspiration 2 Preamp.

This preamplifier has been engineered to deliver an unmatched combination of sound quality, user-friendliness and flexibility. It employs the same revolutionary circuitry pioneered in original preamps, and proven over more than a decade of use. As with our original preamps, the advanced design necessarily demands a somewhat different setup process compared with typical stereo preamps. By reading this manual before you operate the Inspiration 2 Preamp, you assure maximum performance from your system.

Limited warranty

New Constellation products are warranted to be free from manufacturing defects for ninety (90) days from date of purchase from an authorized dealer or distributor.
If the product is registered on our website:

<https://www.constellationaudio.com/warranty/register>

Within this period, the warranty shall be extended to three (3) years from the original date of sale. The warranty includes parts and labor. Complete warranty details are on the included warranty card.



CAUTION: NO USER SERVICEABLE PARTS INSIDE. Do not open the amplifier chassis or remove any of its screws. Contact Constellation or your dealer if you have service needs.

WARNING: Do not expose this amplifier to moisture or excessive humidity, and do not use it outdoors. Fire hazard may result.



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



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

Before you install

UNPACKING

Take care when you remove the Inspiration 2 Preamp from its packaging. Because of its machined aluminum chassis components, it may be heavier than you expect. Have an extra person nearby to help if you need it. You may wish to use gloves to protect your fingers and avoid leaving fingerprints on the surface.

INSTALLATION NOTES

The Inspiration 2 Preamp must be located in an area with adequate ventilation so that heat does not build up. There should be at least 6 in/15 cm of clearance between the sides and top of the preamp and the nearest wall or cabinet. If the Inspiration 2 Preamp is installed in a cabinet or an equipment closet, ensure adequate ventilation. If you install the power supply on a different shelf or compartment, make sure it, too, is adequately ventilated. Installation of the preamp or power supply in an unventilated cabinet or closet may cause the Inspiration 2 Preamp to overheat, reducing its lifespan.

The Inspiration 2 Preamp requires a room-temperature environment to operate properly. Ambient temperature should be about 70°F/21°C, plus or minus 10°F/5°C. Never install the Inspiration 2 Preamp in a place where it may be exposed to direct sunlight, and do not install it next to a heater, radiator, air conditioner, etc.

Make sure the Inspiration 2 Preamp will not be exposed to moisture. Do not locate it in an area where it might be spilled on, and do not place it in a humid location (such as an unfinished basement).

When you connect or disconnect the AC cord, always grasp it by the plug, not by the cord itself. Pulling the plug out by the cord can damage the cord, the AC socket, and/or the Inspiration 2 Preamp.

INSTALLING THE INSPIRATION 2 PREAMP IN A PLACE WHERE IT WILL BE EXPOSED TO DIRECT SUNLIGHT OR MOISTURE, OR WHERE IT WILL NOT HAVE ADEQUATE VENTILATION, WILL VOID YOUR WARRANTY.

SOURCE COMPONENTS

The Inspiration 2 Preamp has six analog audio inputs—three balanced (XLR) and three unbalanced (RCA)—and can be used with any audio source component with line-level analog outputs. An XLR connection will provide the highest quality signal, and should be used when possible. If you are using a record turntable, you will need to connect a high-quality phono preamp, such as the Constellation Revelation 2 Phono, between the turntable and the Inspiration 2 Preamp.

Before making or changing any connections to the Inspiration 2 Preamp, turn off the master power switch on the back of the power supply, and turn off the power amplifier(s).

IN THE EVENT OF MALFUNCTION

Do not under any circumstances open the chassis of the Inspiration 2 Preamp. There are no user-serviceable parts inside. Opening the chassis can present a shock hazard even if the AC power is disconnected. Any alteration or modification of the Inspiration 2 Preamp's internal parts or circuit will void your warranty.

If your Inspiration 2 Preamp does not function correctly, refer to the Troubleshooting section at the end of this manual. If you are still unable to resolve the problem, contact your Constellation dealer.

If liquid is spilled on the Inspiration 2 Preamp, or if any metal object (such as a staple or a paper clip) is inadvertently forced inside, immediately disconnect the AC power and contact your Constellation dealer.

Connections

POWER SUPPLY CONNECTIONS



The Inspiration 2 Preamp's separate power supply (bottom component in the picture above) must be connected to the Inspiration 2 main chassis (top component in the picture above) as shown above before you plug the unit into a wall. Make sure the power switch on the power supply is in the off (O) position. The supplied cables are spiral-wrapped, gold-plated copper designed for aerospace use, and can handle up to 30 amps. Only these cables should be used between the power supply and the Inspiration 2 Preamp. Connect the Analog Right power cable from the supply to the Analog Right jack on the preamp, the Analog Left power cable from the supply to the Analog Left jack on the preamp, and the Control power cable from the supply to the Control power jack on the preamp. At this point you can plug the Inspiration 2 Preamp power supply into the wall socket. Leave the master power switch off until you connect your other equipment to Inspiration 2 Preamp.

DO NOT REMOVE THE POWER CABLES WHILE THE UNIT IS POWERED ON. IF YOU DO HAPPEN TO ACCIDENTALLY PULL ONE OF THEM OUT, DO NOT PLUG IT BACK IN. TURN OFF THE POWER SUPPLY USING THE HARD SWITCH ON THE REAR PANEL, UNPLUG THE UNIT, THEN REPLACE THE CABLE. FAILURE TO POWER DOWN THE UNIT BEFORE REPLACING A POWER CABLE CAN RESULT IN SUBSTANTIAL DAMAGE TO YOUR REVELATION 2 PREAMP

If you will be using a Constellation Audio amplifier (or any other high-powered amplifier), do not plug the Inspiration 2 Preamp into the same AC socket or into any other outlet connected on that circuit. Constellation Audio amplifiers draw a great deal of power and could affect the Inspiration 2 Preamp's performance if the amplifier(s) and preamp are plugged into the same electrical circuit or AC outlet. When you connect or disconnect the AC cord, always grasp it by the plug, not by the cord itself. Pulling the plug out by the cord can damage the cord, the AC socket, and/or the Inspiration 2 Preamp.

Connections

1 XLR INPUTS



On the rear of the Inspiration 2 Preamp are six XLR inputs, two on each side. As you are looking at the rear panel, the left three XLR inputs are for the right channel, the right three inputs are for the left channel. Underneath each jack is the corresponding input number. Use of XLR connections is recommended for the best possible audio quality. To remove an XLR plug, push on the tab above the jack and pull the plug out.

IMPORTANT NOTE: To preserve true dual-mono operation, the Inspiration 2 Preamp uses a symmetrical circuit layout. This configuration requires that the amplifier's back panel connections be laid out a little differently from those on most preamps. For example, the left-channel connection for Input 1 is on the right side of the back panel, and the right-channel connection is at the left side. Connecting the cables in the usual side-by-side fashion will result in an incorrect installation and the mixing of sounds from different source devices.

2 RCA INPUTS

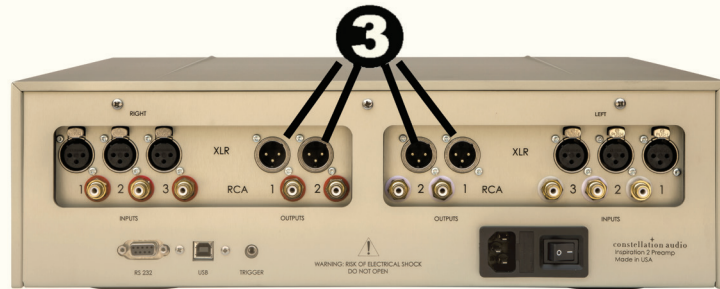


These unbalanced inputs are provided as a convenience for use with unbalanced signal sources. Whenever possible, we recommend using XLR connections instead. Connecting to an unbalanced source is handled in the same way an XLR balanced source. To remove an RCA plug, grasp the plug and pull it out. Do not pull on the cable.

IMPORTANT NOTE: To preserve true dual-mono operation, the Inspiration 2 Preamp uses a symmetrical circuit layout. This configuration requires that the amplifier's back panel connections be laid out a little differently from those on most preamps. For example, the left-channel connection for Input 1 is on the right side of the back panel, and the right-channel connection is at the left side. Connecting the cables in the usual side-by-side fashion will result in an incorrect installation and the mixing of sounds from different source devices.

Connections

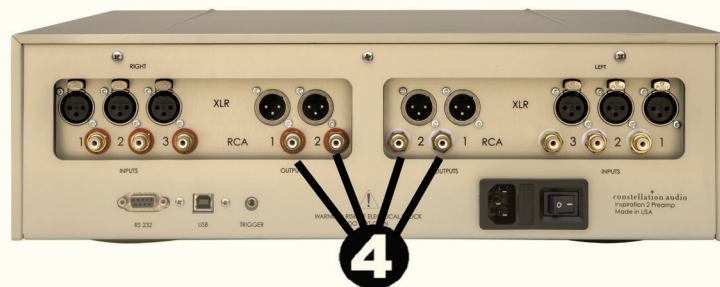
3 XLR OUTPUTS



The inner XLR connections on the rear of the Inspiration 2 Preamp are outputs. The signal at these outputs is the same—it does not matter if you use output 1 or output 2. To remove an XLR plug, push on the tab on the connector body and pull the plug out. Be sure to match the output to the correct channel on your amp. Looking at the back of the Inspiration 2 Preamp, the outputs on the left side are for the right channel, the outputs on the right are for the left channel.

When XLR connections are used to connect the Inspiration 2 Preamp with Constellation amplifiers, it creates the Constellation Link—an audio interface that is, in essence, perfectly balanced. The positive- and negative-going halves of the signal will exhibit near-zero difference except polarity.

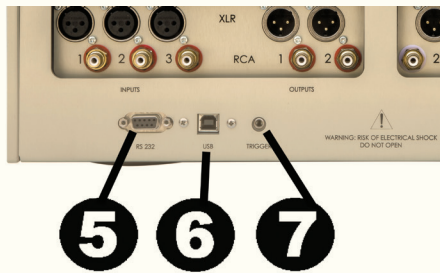
4 RCA OUTPUTS



RCA unbalanced outputs are also supplied for amps and recording devices not equipped with XLR jacks. The signal at these outputs is the same—it does not matter if you use output 1 or output 2.

When connecting to an amplifier, be sure to match the output to the correct channel on your amp. As you are looking at the back of the Inspiration 2 Preamp, the outputs on the left side are for the right channel, the outputs on the right are for the left channel. To remove an RCA plug, grasp it by the connector body and pull the plug out.

Connections



5 RS 232 / CONTROL

This connector is used to interface the Inspiration 2 Preamp with third-party control systems such as those from Crestron, Control4 and Savant, and also to update the amplifier's firmware. For more information, contact your dealer.

6 USB / CONTROL

This USB jack interfaces the Inspiration 2 Preamp with third-party control systems such as those from Crestron, Control4 and Savant, and also to update the amplifier's firmware. For more information, contact your dealer

7 TRIGGER OUTPUT

This 1/8-inch/3.5mm jack outputs a 12-volt DC trigger signal when the Inspiration 2 Preamp is powered on. This signal can be used to automatically turn on a connected amplifier (if the amp has a DC trigger input), or to trigger home automation systems.

Power supply connections

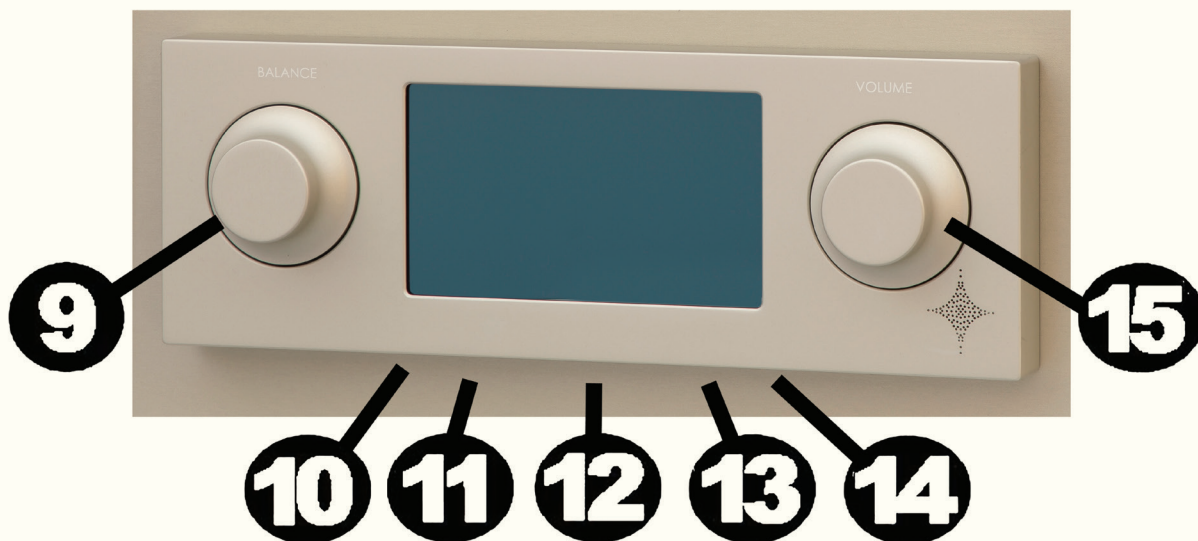


8 AC INPUT

This AC input accepts standard 15-amp IEC-type power cords. You may use the high-quality power cord supplied with the Inspiration 2 Preamp, or substitute an aftermarket power cord if you wish.

Controls / displays / indicators

The front panel includes an LCD touchscreen and two knobs plus five buttons positioned underneath the display. These buttons allow you to control the Inspiration 2 Preamp without its remote. The functions of the buttons are shown using icons on the touchscreen. Here are the functions of the buttons and knobs:



9 BALANCE

This knob adjusts left-to-right balance when an input screen is displayed—i.e., when an input is selected. Turn the knob counterclockwise to shift the balance to the left, clockwise to shift the balance to the right. An onscreen indicator will indicate if the balance is centered or how far it is shifted to one side or the other.

10 VOLUME

The volume control is always active when the Inspiration 2 Preamp is powered up and the mute is deactivated. Note that the control is calibrated in negative decibels (-dB), reaching maximum volume at 0.0 dB and minimum at -99.0 dB. Thus, when you turn the volume up (clockwise), the number on the front display will decrease. When you turn the volume down (counterclockwise), the number will increase. The adjustments steps are in 1 dB increments between -99.0 dB and -50.0 dB, and 0.5 dB increments from -49.5 dB to 0.0 dB.

11 HOME

This button brings you to the input select screen no matter which control screen you are currently viewing.

12 RETURN/BACK

This button brings you back to the previous control screen. For example, from any input's screen, such as XLR 1, it will take you back to the input selector screen.

13 STANDBY/POWER

Push this button to turn the Inspiration 2 Preamp on and off. When you turn the unit on, it will take a few seconds to warm up. When it is ready for use, its LCD screen will show the most recently selected input. To put the unit in Standby mode, press this button again after turning on the power. Hold this button down for 5 seconds to turn the preamp off. The unit will enter cool-down mode for 10 seconds. During cool-down, no buttons on the unit or remote will operate.

14 MULTIFUNCTION BUTTON

The multifunction button serves different functions depending on which control screen is shown. A label on the LCD display will show the function of the button. Note that when an input screen is shown, this button switches between speaker and headphone output.

Controls / displays / indicators

15 MUTE

Press this to button to silence the preamp temporarily. The numerical volume readout will flash. Press again to restore the audio. Because the Inspiration 2 Preamp uses a relay to perform the mute function, it may take a second or so for this control to respond.

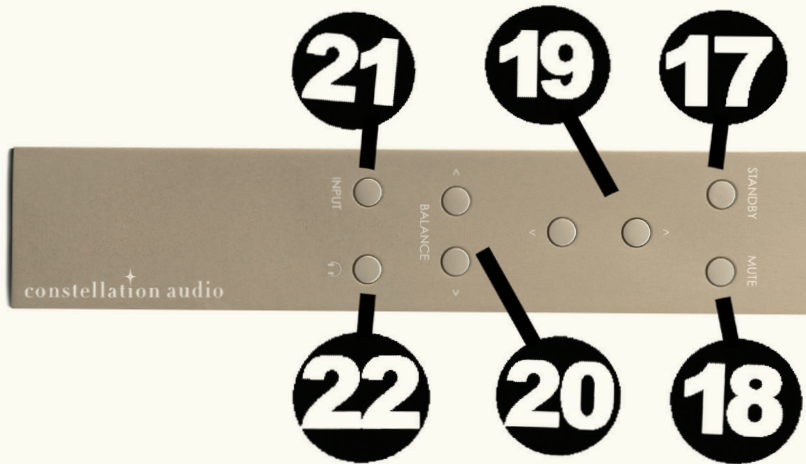


16 REAR-PANEL POWER SWITCH

This switch completely shuts off power for the preamp. When this switch is off, none of the buttons on the remote or the front panel will function. We recommend leaving this switch on except when you are making connections.

Remote control

The remote operates the basic functions of the Inspiration 2 Preamp. It does not operate Constellation source devices, such as the Revelation 2 Phono.



17 STANDBY

Push this button to turn the Inspiration 2 Preamp on and off. When you turn the unit on, it will take a few seconds for the unit to warm up. When the amp is ready for use, its LCD screen will show the most recently selected input. To put the unit in Standby mode, press this button again after turning on the power.

Hold this button down for 5 seconds to turn the preamp off. The unit will enter cool-down mode for 10 seconds. During cool-down, no buttons on the unit or remote will operate.

18 MUTE

Press this to button to silence the Inspiration 2 Preamp temporarily. The numerical volume readout will flash. Press again to restore the audio. Because the Inspiration 2 Preamp uses a relay to perform the mute function, it may take a second or so for this control to respond.

19 VOLUME UP/DOWN

Press these buttons to raise or lower the volume. Each press changes volume by 1 dB at volumes below -50.0 dB, and 0.5 dB at volumes above -50.0 dB. Holding the buttons down raises or lowers the volume quickly.

20 BALANCE LEFT/RIGHT

Press these buttons to shift the balance to the left or right. Each press changes the balance by 0.1 dB.

21 INPUT

Press this button to select among the Inspiration 2 Preamp's XLR and RCA inputs. You will have to wait a second or so between pushes of this button, because for best sound quality the Inspiration 2 Preamp uses relays to switch inputs.

22 PHASE

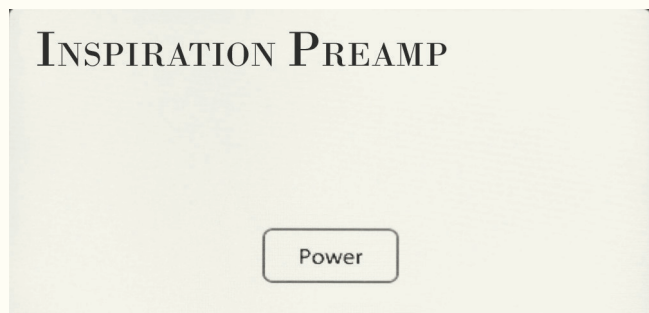
Push this button to reverse the phase of the Inspiration 2 Preamp's output for the selected input. Use whichever setting sounds best.

NOTE:

The remote's battery should last about a year under normal use. If the amplifier does not respond to the remote, contact your Constellation dealer for instructions on changing the battery.

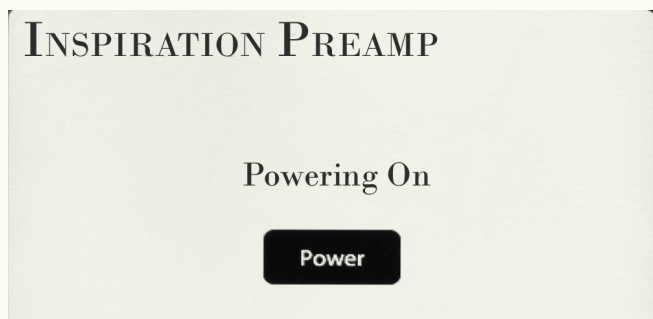
Control screens

Many functions of the Inspiration 2 Preamp are controlled through the LCD touchscreen. Here is how the control screens function:



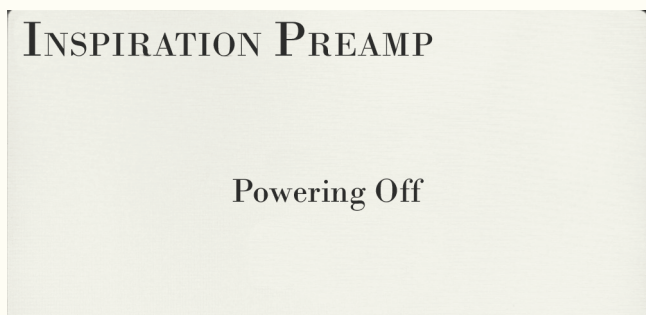
STANDBY

This screen appears if you touch the touchscreen when the rear-panel master power switch is flipped up. Pushing the onscreen Power button (or the Standby button on the remote) will power up the Inspiration 2 Preamp and put it into warmup mode.



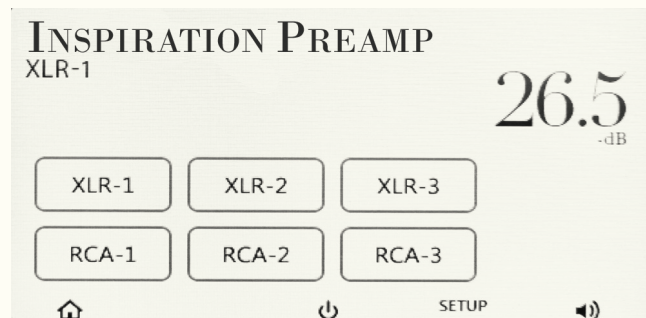
POWERING ON

This screen appears after you press the onscreen Power button or the Standby button on the remote while the Inspiration 2 Preamp is powered down. It indicates that the Inspiration 2 Preamp is in warmup mode. No buttons will function when this screen appears. After about 10 seconds, the Inspiration 2 Preamp will become active and an input screen will appear.



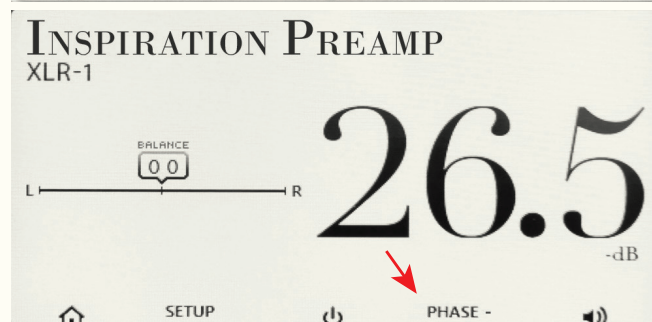
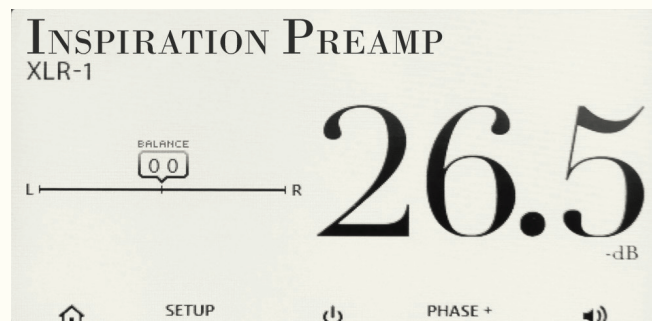
POWERING OFF

This screen appears for about 10 seconds if you push the Standby button under the middle of the front touchscreen or on the remote while the Inspiration 2 Preamp is powered on. It indicates that the amplifier is powering off and going into Standby mode. No buttons will function when the screen appears.



INPUT SELECTOR (HOME)

This screen appears when the power is on and the unit is warmed up. Touching any input button onscreen will switch to that input. The setup screen can be accessed from this screen using the multifunction button below the display.

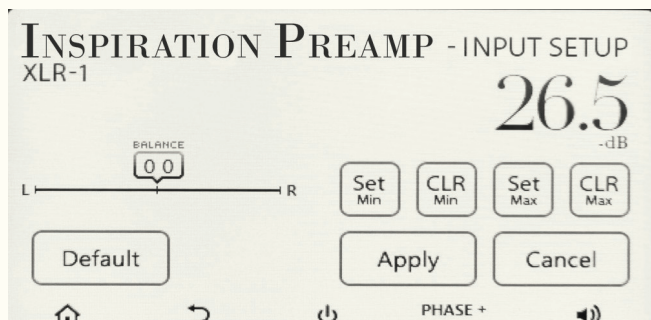


VOLUME/BALANCE

When you select an input, this screen will appear. It provides a large volume display as well as the display for the balance control. The balance control functions only when this screen is shown. Pushing the multifunction button under the Setup label enters the input setup screen.

Note that when the input screen is displayed, the phase of the Inspiration 2 Preamp's output can be switched using the button under the fourth indicator on the lower part of the touchscreen (identified by the red arrow in the screen at right). When the phase is positive (normal) the indicator will read PHASE+. When the phase is flipped, the indicator will read PHASE-. Phase can also be switched using the Phase button on the remote control.

Control screens

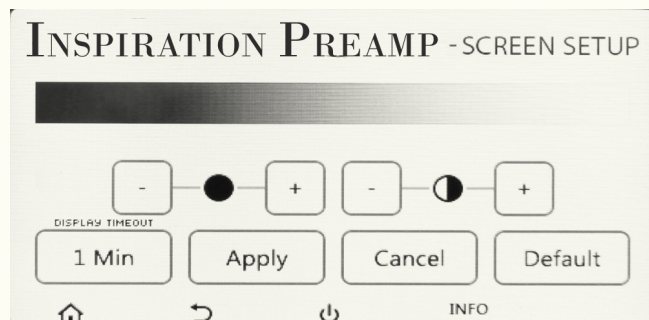


INPUT SETUP

When you press the multifunction button labeled Setup on the input screen, this screen will appear. It allows you to set up a home theater bypass input, and set minimum and maximum output levels.

To set minimum and/or maximum levels: Adjust the Inspiration 2 Preamp's volume to the desired minimum or maximum level, and press either the Set Min or Set Max button, depending on which function you want, and hit Apply to accept the setting. To clear the setting, press either CLR Min or CLR Max as appropriate, or press Default to clear both settings.

To set up a home theater bypass input: First select the input you want to use for this function, then adjust the volume on the preamp to the desired level. Push the Set Min button, then the Set Max button, then the Apply button. To clear these settings, press CLR Min then CLR Max, or press Default.



SCREEN SETUP

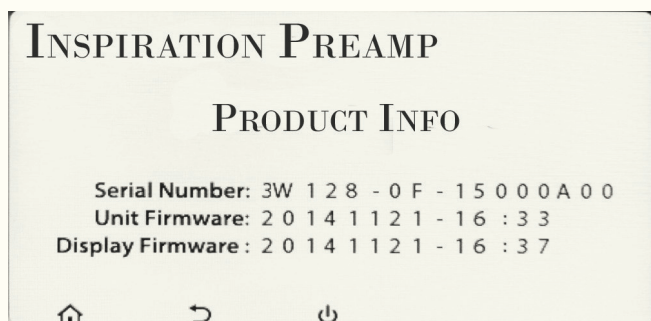
To adjust LCD brightness: Press the + and - buttons on the left side of the screen, on either side of the dark dot.

To adjust LCD contrast: Press the + and - buttons on the right side of the screen, on either side of the half-dark/half-light dot.

To adjust LCD backlight timeout: Press the Timeout button in the lower left corner to keep the screen lit for 15 sec., 30 sec., 1 min., 5 min., 10 min., and always on.

To accept or cancel screen setting changes: Press the Apply or Cancel button, respectively.

To return to the factory default settings: Press the Default button. This will bring up a screen asking "Are you sure you want to set this device to its default settings?" Hit the Yes button to go to default settings, the No button to cancel.



PRODUCT INFO

This screen is accessed using the multifunction button labeled Info on the screen setup screen. It is for servicing use only.

Operation

STEP-BY-STEP OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

We've covered all controls and indicators of the Inspiration 2 Preamp. Here's how you use them to perform the basic operations of turning the unit on, selecting a source, adjusting the sound, and turning the unit off.

STEP 1: Before making or changing any connections to the Inspiration 2 Preamp, turn off the master power switch on the back of the preamp, and turn off the power amplifier(s).

STEP 2: To turn on the Inspiration 2 Preamp from the front panel, first make sure the power switch on the back of the unit is on, and your power amplifier is powered off. Now touch the touchscreen. It will illuminate and a power button will appear onscreen. To power up the Inspiration 2 Preamp, press the onscreen Power button, the middle button under the touchscreen or the Standby button on the remote

When you turn on the power, you will hear the Inspiration 2 Preamp's internal relays click as the unit goes into warmup mode. The touchscreen will read Powering On. After about 10 seconds, an input screen will appear and the most recently used input will be selected. Once Inspiration 2 Preamp and your source devices are fully powered up, it is safe to turn on your power amplifier.

STEP 3: To change to a different input from the front panel, press the button under the Home icon. This will bring up the input select screen. Push an onscreen button (XLR-1, RCA-1, etc.) to select the input you want. The screen for that input will appear. Alternatively, you can scroll through the available inputs using the Input button on the remote. Enable playback on the chosen source device.

STEP 4: Adjust listening volume with the volume knob on the front of the unit or the volume up/down buttons on the remote. Note that the control is calibrated in negative decibels (-dB), reaching maximum volume at 0.0 dB and minimum at -99.0 dB. Thus, when you turn the volume up (clockwise), the number on the front display will decrease. When you turn the volume down (counterclockwise), the number will increase.

STEP 5: To adjust left-to-right balance, turn the balance knob. Counterclockwise shifts the balance to the left, clockwise shifts it to the right. Or use the buttons on the remote; left shifts the balance to the left, right shifts to right. The onscreen indicator will show you the balance setting in 0.1 dB increments.

STEP 6: To mute the sound, press the Mute button on the remote or the second button from the right under the touchscreen (only available when the home and volume/balance screens are displayed). An X will appear next to the speaker icon, and the volume indicator will flash. To unmute the system and restore sound, press the Mute button on the remote or the button under the touchscreen.

STEP 7: You may wish to set a maximum output level to prevent damage to your speakers if the level is accidentally turned up too high, and a minimum output level so that the Inspiration 2 Preamp always delivers an audible volume. To do this, adjust the Inspiration 2 Preamp's volume to the desired minimum or maximum level. Push the multifunction button labeled Setup. Press either the Set Min or Set Max button, depending on which function you want. Hit Apply to accept the setting, or Cancel to return to the original setting. To clear the setting, press either CLR Min or CLR Max as appropriate, or press Default to clear both settings.

STEP 8: If you want to use the Inspiration 2 Preamp in a home theater system, in conjunction with a surround-sound processor, you should set up one input for home theater bypass. When you switch to this input, volume and balance will be at fixed settings and your channel balance adjustments in the surround processor will be preserved. To do this, first select the input you want to use for this function. Now adjust the volume on the Inspiration 2 Preamp to the desired level. Push the multifunction button labeled Setup. Push the Set Min button, then the Set Max button, then the Apply button. To clear these settings, press CLR Min then CLR Max, or press Default.

STEP 9: To turn the system off, stop playback on the source device. Hold the Standby button in the middle under the LCD touchscreen or on the remote down for 5 seconds. The unit will enter cool-down mode for 10 seconds, during which no buttons will work. After cool-down mode finishes, you can turn the unit back on again as described in Step 2 above.

Maintenance

The Inspiration 2 Preamp requires no regular maintenance.

If the unit's surface becomes dusty, simply wipe it off with a soft dry cloth. Do not spray cleaners on the surface. Do not spray the cleaner directly onto the amplifier.

Troubleshooting

UNIT WILL NOT TURN ON

1. First, check to see if the rear master power switch is on. If it is, try the following steps in order. After you perform each step, touch the touchscreen on the front of the unit. If it illuminates, the unit is functioning correctly and there is no need to continue to the next steps.

A. Check power cable connection between the wall and the preamp. Push the wall plug and the connector at the preamp in firmly.

B. If the preamp is plugged into an AC line conditioner, make sure the line conditioner is turned on.

C. Flip the master power switch off and on again. This will reset the preamp's internal circuit breaker.

D. Check the circuit breaker for the AC circuit that the preamp is plugged into. If the breaker is tripped, flip it back on. If it will not turn on, there is likely a short circuit somewhere in the lines or in a device connected to this AC circuit. Check the power cords for your components to make sure none have been damaged.

E. If none of these conditions restores power, it is possible one of the preamp's internal fuses is blown. Do not attempt to change the fuses yourself—the Inspiration 2 Preamp requires the use of special high-voltage fuses that are not commonly available. Contact your Constellation dealer.

UNIT IS ON BUT NO SOUND IS PRODUCED

1. If the front touchscreen is blank, touch it. If it illuminates and shows anything other than the onscreen Power button, the unit is on. If it shows the onscreen Power button, touch the button to power up the unit.

2. If the front touchscreen shows the message "Powering On," wait about 10 seconds. Once the unit is warmed up, an input screen should appear and the sound should come from the speakers or headphones.

3. If the volume numbers on the LCD panel are flashing, hit the Mute button on the front panel or on the remote to restore sound.

4. If none of the above steps restores the sound, try the following steps in order. If any one of the steps restores the sound, there is no need to continue to the next steps.

A. Check you are on the correct input. Cycle through available inputs using the front touchscreen controls, or select the desired input using the remote.

B. Check that the source component is on and playing back—i.e., if it is a CD player, make sure that the CD is playing and not in pause mode.

C. Check the connections between the preamp and your amplifier(s), and between the preamp and the audio source device. If a cable is disconnected, reconnect it. If this does not restore sound, try substituting a different set of cables in order to make sure the original set was functioning properly.

D. Check that the volume is at a sufficient level. Do not turn the volume all the way up to check this, as if sound is reestablished while the preamp is set to output maximum volume, damage can be done to your speakers and amplifiers.

E. If none of these actions restores the sound, contact your Constellation dealer.

Troubleshooting

SOUND SEEMS UNFOCUSED

1. Play a CD of typical pop vocals and sit in front of your speakers at an equal distance from both (at least 8 feet away from each speaker). If the vocals seem to come from between the speakers, they are connected correctly. Alternatively, you can use the “barking dog” test from the Stereophile Test CD or a similar phase check test from another test CD.
2. If the vocals seem to come from all around you, make sure that the cables between the amplifier(s) and your speakers are connected properly, with the marked connector or cable connected to the positive (red or +) binding post on the amplifier, and the unmarked connector or cable connected to the negative (black or -) post.
3. If you need to change the speaker cable connection, turn the amplifier off first. To avoid possible electrical shock or damage to the amplifier, you must discharge the energy stored in the power supply. To discharge the power supply, turn the power off with music playing. It may take up to a minute or so for the sound to die out. After the sound dies out, it is OK to change or adjust the cables.

SOUND COMES FROM THE WRONG SPEAKER

If left-channel sounds are coming from the right or vice-versa (i.e., the violins in an orchestral recording come from the right speaker, not the left), check the cable connections between the source and the Inspiration 2 Preamp and your amplifier, and the amplifier and your speakers. Make sure left-channel cables are connected to the left channels of all components, and right to the right channels.

ONLY ONE SPEAKER IS WORKING, OR ONE SPEAKER IS PLAYING A DIFFERENT PIECE OF MUSIC

1. Check each cable between the Inspiration 2 Preamp and the source components. Make sure the left channel of the source goes to the left input on the preamp (which is on the right side, as you're looking at the back panel), and the right channel to the right input (which is on the left side). On the back of the preamp, the left and right inputs are NOT next to each other. They are on opposite sides of the unit. In other words, the XLR and RCA input numbers are 1, 2, 3, 3, 2, 1.
2. Check to make sure both speaker cables are firmly connected.

BALANCE AND VOLUME CONTROLS DO NOT FUNCTION

1. If you are using the input configured for home theater bypass, this situation is normal—volume and balance controls do not function in this mode.
2. If you are not using an input configured for home theater bypass, you need to clear out the minimum and maximum volume settings for the input you are using. Press the multifunction button labeled Setup on the screen, then press the Default button.

REMOTE CONTROL DOES NOT WORK

1. If you are using the input configured for home theater bypass, this situation is normal—volume and balance controls do not function in this mode.
2. If you are not using an input configured for home theater bypass, you need to clear out the minimum and maximum volume settings for the input you are using. Press the multifunction button labeled Setup on the screen, then press the Default button.

For more information

Your Revelation 2 Preamp should give you many years of trouble-free, maintenance-free service. If you encounter any problems you cannot solve or have technical questions, please contact your Constellation dealer.

For more information about Constellation products, please visit www.constellationaudio.com

Specifications

Inputs	3 XLR stereo
	3 RCA stereo
	1 USB (for control)
Outputs	2 XLR stereo
	2 RCA stereo
	12-volt trigger
THD+N	<0.001%, 20 Hz - 20 kHz @ 2V out
S/N ratio	<0.1%, 20 Hz - 20 kHz @ 10V out
Input impedance (balanced)	20K Ω
Input impedance (single-ended)	10K Ω
Output Impedance	< 50 Ω
Volume control resolution	0.5dB from 0dB to -90 dBFS
Weight	25 lbs./11.5 kg
Dimensions	17"/432mm x 15"/381mm x 5.5"/140mm (WDH)

