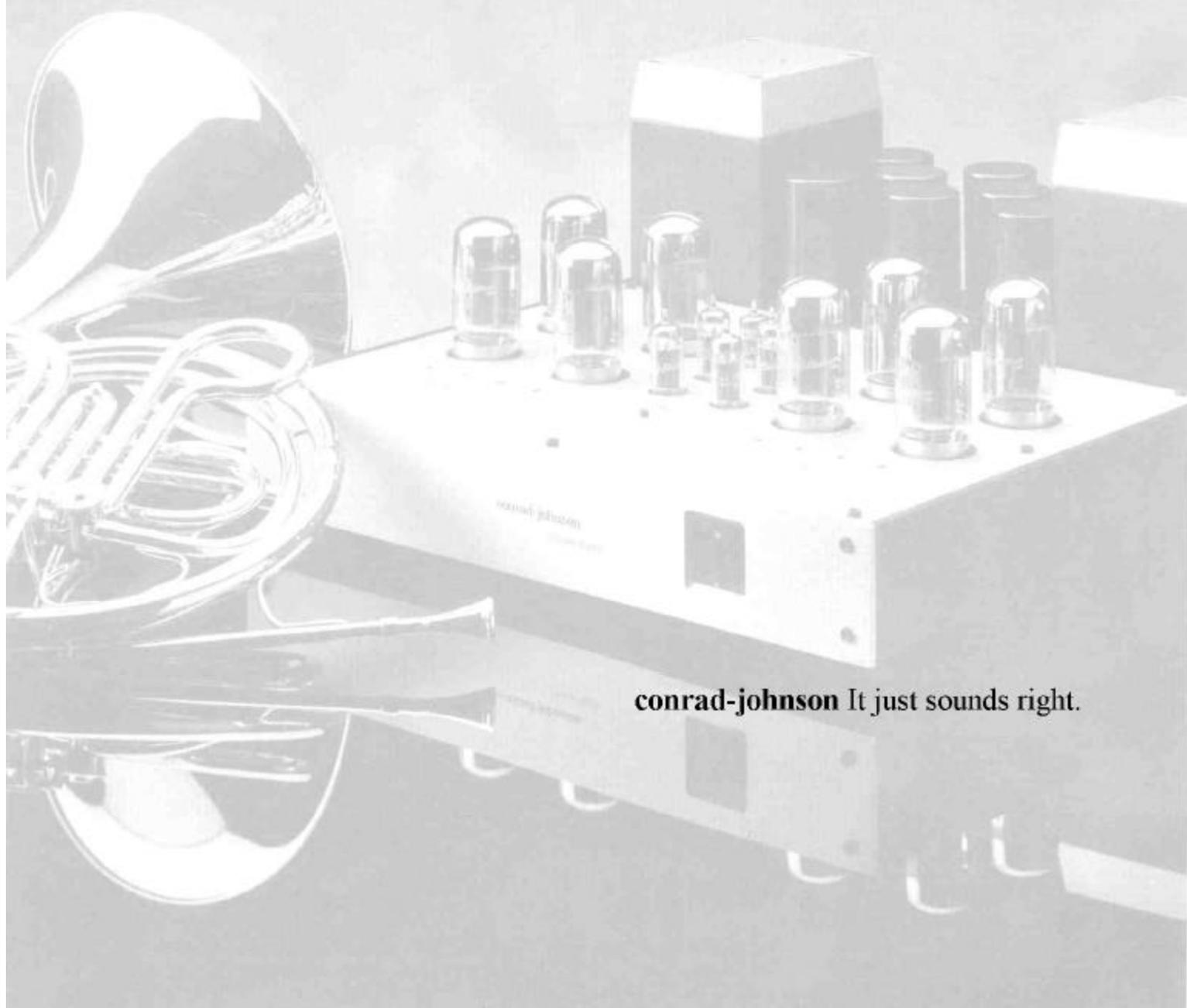


*Conrad-Johnson Owner's Manual:
Premier 15 Vacuum-Tube Phono Preamplifier*



conrad-johnson It just sounds right.

Thank you for selecting the Premier Fifteen as the phono stage for your audio system. We believe that you will experience, as we did, the excitement of discovery in hearing more from your favorite lps than ever before. The Premier Fifteen draws on two decades of research at conrad-johnson into the reproduction of recorded music. The result is a phono preamplifier that sets a new standard for the recreation of the dynamics, textures, tonalities, and ambience of live musical performances.

At conrad-johnson, we expect our products to be a source of satisfaction and of pride to their owners for many years to come. Accordingly, circuit designs, parts and materials for all conrad-johnson products are selected with a view to maintaining optimal performance over the years. Our reputation for producing among the industry's most reliable components is a natural consequence of this engineering approach.

Although the operation of the Premier Fifteen is quite straightforward, you will find useful information on its installation and operation in this manual. Please take a few minutes to read the manual to better understand the features and capabilities of your Premier Fifteen.

In closing, we'd like to welcome you to the family of conrad-johnson owners. We want you to enjoy your conrad-johnson product to the fullest. To this end, our staff stands ready to answer any questions you may have about the function and application of your Premier Fifteen, and to provide any needed service both during, and after the warranty period. Our goal is to heighten your enjoyment of recorded music.

Limited Warranty For Conrad-Johnson Components

conrad-johnson design, inc. will provide service under warranty to the original owner on products sold new in the United States for the lesser period of three years from the date of purchase by the original purchaser, or five years from the date of shipment to the authorized conrad-johnson dealer. During the warranty period, conrad-johnson will repair defective units without charge for labor or parts (with the exception of vacuum tubes and batteries).

Exclusions. The following are not covered under this warranty:

- a) Units which have been damaged by misuse, abuse, or accident.
- b) Units which have been modified, altered, or improperly repaired by anyone not specifically authorized by conrad-johnson design, inc.
- c) Units not purchased from an authorized conrad-johnson dealer in the United States for use in the United States.
- d) Normal wear
- e) Incidental or consequential damages are not covered under this warranty. Some states do not allow the exclusion of incidental or consequential damages, so this exclusion may not apply to you.

Obtaining Warranty Service: To obtain warranty service, the unit must be shipped, along with evidence of purchase, in factory packing to conrad-johnson design (or designated service center) with freight and insurance prepaid by the owner. After repair, the unit will be returned with freight and insurance prepaid by conrad-johnson design to any destination in the United States.

All implied warranties, including merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose are limited in duration to the duration of this express warranty. Some states do not allow limitations on the duration of implied warranties so the above limitations may not apply to you.

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

Conrad-Johnson products purchased outside the United States are covered by warranty terms of the importing distributor in the country in which the product was originally purchased, which may differ from the terms set out herein. Importing distributors are not obligated to provide warranty service for products originally purchased outside their country. Conrad-Johnson will provide warranty service for products outside the United States, but in these cases, the customer must pay all shipping, handling and customs costs both to and from our Service Department.

Questions about this warranty should be addressed to:

Service Department
conrad-johnson design, inc.
2733 Merrilee Drive
Fairfax, VA 22031

The conrad-johnson service department can also be reached by e-mail at custserv@conradjohnson.com, by phone at 703-698-8581, or by fax at 703-560-5360

Service

If your conrad-johnson audio component requires service, repack it using the original box and packing material and ship to the Service Department address above. Boxes and packing materials can be obtained from our service department for a nominal charge, if you no longer have yours. Include with the unit a note describing the problem you are having in as much detail as possible. It is especially important for our technician to know if the problem is intermittent. If you want an estimate of cost for out of warranty service, be sure to request it in this note. Be aware that requesting an estimate will delay service to your unit as we will have to contact you for your approval before commencing service.

Registering The Warranty

Please return the enclosed card to the factory within 30 days of purchase to register the warranty.

***I*nstallation**

The first step is to **remove the transit screws**. To minimize microphonics, the critical audio circuits in the Premier Fifteen are on a sub-chassis that is mounted to the main chassis with flexible isolation mounts. To prevent damage during shipping, this assembly is secured by four screws through the bottom of the chassis. These transit screws can be readily identified as the four silver screws on white nylon washers. Before installing your Premier Fifteen, remove these four screws to release the suspension. Save these screws to re-use if it becomes necessary to ship your Premier Fifteen.

Set Up

The Premier Fifteen dissipates sufficient heat that it must be adequately ventilated. Mount the unit horizontally on a flat, hard surface, and take care that the ventilation holes in the bottom are unobstructed. Allow at least two inches of clearance above the unit and keep the cabinet or shelf open at the back. Vertical installation is not recommended.

All Premier Fifteens sold in the United States are configured for operation on a 60Hz ac power line producing between 108 and 126 volts. Export versions of the Premier Fifteen will have the correct operating voltage and frequency clearly marked on the back panel of the unit, near the ac power cord. In all cases, the actual line voltage should be within + 5/- 10% of the nominal rated voltage.

Electromagnetic Interference (EMI)

Considerable care has been taken in the design of the Premier Fifteen to minimize its susceptibility to radio frequency interference and other forms of EMI. Choice of materials, physical layout, grounding practice, and power supply design have all been specified with a view to reducing the impact of electromagnetic fields on the performance of this unit. At the same time, however, our primary goal is the accurate reproduction of recorded music in the normal home environment, and we have elected not to compromise this objective by the application of heavy-handed RFI filters, or by using grounding practices that reduce RFI at the expense of degraded audio performance. We find that the approach we have taken has worked extremely well, resulting in only rare in-

stances of EMI problems which could be treated locally as needed, rather than compromising the performance of our product in the 99.9% of installations where EMI is not a problem.

Care in installation can often avoid EMI induced problems. The following practices should generally be observed in any application, and will be especially important where EMI may be a problem.

Interconnect cables should be kept as short as possible (3 meters or less), and shielded cable should be used (cable which has two center conductors, and a separate external shield connected at only one end).

Physical location and cable "dress" can be an important factor in minimizing hum pickup. The installation should situate the preamplifier well away from the power amplifier, and power (ac mains) cords should be dressed to remain at least 4" (100mm) away from input/output cables.

Connection

Input: Connect your tonearm leads to these inputs. The load presented to the cartridge is determined by the internal load switch. See explanation below.

Output: Connect the outputs to any line level input on your preamplifier.

Input Impedance

To select an input load impedance other than the factory preset 47 kohms unplug the Premier Fifteen, and remove the cover. The input impedance of the Premier Fifteen is set by the load selector switches - the two dual inline pin (dip) switch arrays located near the input connectors at the back of the unit. Each dip array includes four switches labeled 1 through 4. Load impedances are selected as follows:

impedance	switch #			
	1	2	3	4
47 kohms	o	o	o	o
9.6 kohms	x	o	o	o
1.9 kohms	o	x	o	o
500 ohms	o	o	x	o
200 ohms	o	o	o	x

x indicates switch in "on" position

o indicates switch in "off" position (indicated by arrow on switch)

Be sure to set both switches. Replace cover. **Do not operate the unit with the cover off.**

The factory preset 47K load (all switches off) will be best suited to most cartridges.

***G*etting The Most From Your Premier Fifteen**

In a system of commensurate high quality components, the conrad-johnson Premier Fifteen offers an unparalleled level of sophistication and refinement in music reproduction. To get the best performance out of any audio system, there are a number of important details which must be attended to.

Absolute Phase

Musical notes are heard through the ear's response to waves of alternating rise and fall of air pressure. Musical transients are almost exclusively positive: that is, the initial effect is a rise in pressure. The ear is capable of distinguishing these positive transients from the musically unnatural alternative of a negative transient (an initial fall in air pressure). In terms of your stereo system, these transients are created by your loudspeakers. If the speakers respond to musical transients by first moving out, they are creating a rise in pressure, and the system is said to be phase correct. If they respond by moving in, they create a fall in pressure and the system is said to be phase inverting. Each component in the stereo system either preserves the phase of the incoming signal, and is said to be phase correct, or inverts the phase and is said to be phase inverting. It is unimportant whether an individual component is phase correct or phase inverting, as long as the system as a whole is phase correct. This will be the case if the number of phase inversions is even (or zero).

The Premier Fifteen is phase correct. If your system has an odd number of inversions, then you must add one phase inversion. This is conveniently done by reversing the positive and negative connections to your speakers (be sure to reverse both channels).

If you are not sure about the phase of every piece in your system, you can establish correct absolute phase by careful listening. When the system is in correct phase, transients will be noticeably cleaner and more sharply defined. The effect is especially apparent on plucked string sounds. A final warning - not all recordings are phase correct (including some "audiophile" recordings), so listen to several before concluding your investigation of absolute phase.

The Importance Of Wires

Interconnect and speaker wires are an important element in your stereo system. Interconnects are available which will permit a reference quality system to blossom and fulfill its promise of musical reality. Others will strangle the system to the point where it becomes little better than average. To complicate matters, our experience suggests that the choice of interconnects will be system dependent - those that are top ranked on one system may be a poor choice for a different system. Consult your conrad-johnson dealer for recommendations for your specific system.

Performance Tip

Warm up the Premier Fifteen before listening: The sonic performance of the Premier Fifteen improves noticeably as the unit warms up. The midrange becomes more lucid, the highs smoother, and the soundstage expands. The warm up period can be expected to last about fifteen minutes.

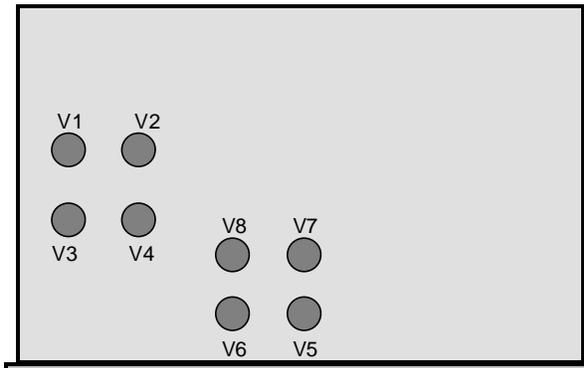
Questions: If you have questions about the installation or function of your Premier Fifteen do not hesitate to call Customer Service at (703) 698-8581.

Vacuum Tube Replacement

The Premier Fifteen circuit employs eight vacuum tubes, six 12AX7s and two 6GK5s. The brands of tubes we supply have been chosen by first selecting those brands which are known to be most reliable, then by extensive auditioning of these acceptable brands with the final choices being made solely on the basis of sonic performance. We know of no vacuum tubes available which will improve the sonic performance of your Premier Fifteen. The tubes in your preamplifier have been tempered by a controlled burn-in procedure that permits them to perform for a greatly extended period without sonic degradation, then selected for minimum residual noise. Replacement tubes are prepared and selected in the same way. Therefore, we highly recommend that you purchase replacement tube sets from conrad-johnson design.

We anticipate tube life to accommodate two to three years of operation without degradation in normal use - if the preamplifier is switched off when not in use. If the preamplifier is left on at all times, tube life can be exhausted in a matter of a few months.

Tube Chart:



front panel

Specifications

Gain: 53 dB
Maximum Output: 10V
RIAA Equalization: within .25 dB
Hum and noise: 85 dB below 10 mV input
Phase: phase correct
Output impedance: less than 200 ohms

Tube Complement: 6 x 12AX7, 2 x 6GK5

Mechanical:

Dimensions: 15D x 19W x 3.315H inches
Net Weight: 22 lbs.

Fuses

The Premier Fifteen has two power transformers (one for the tube circuitry, one for the control circuit), each of which is protected by a fuse. A failure of either of these fuses is a symptom of a more serious problem, and a competent service technician should be consulted. ***In no event should these fuses be replaced with a value or type different than that originally supplied.*** The fuses are located on the small pc board mounted near the larger power transformer. F1, the fuse for the tube circuit transformer is located nearest the transformer cover. The correct fuse values are:

If configured for 100 or 120V:

F1 3/4 amp, slow blow

F2 1/2 amp, fast blow

If configured for 220 or 240V:

F1 1/2 amp, slow blow

F2 1/4 amp, fast blow