

Thank you for purchasing the Phomona. We are certain that it will bring you years of listening pleasure. The technology for this product was nearly a decade in the making. The Phomona was carefully designed and manufactured to realize our philosophy, which is to present all the musical definition possible. The result is accurate sound reproduction that conveys the spirit of the musical performance.

The Staff at Musical Surroundings

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Section	subject	page
1.0	Introduction	3
2.0	Internal Configuration Settings	3
	2.1 Basic Gain Settings	3
	2.2 Fine Gain Settings	4
	2.3 Basic Input Loading	5
	2.4 Fine Input Loading	6
3.0	Power Supply Installation	6
4.0	Audio Inputs and Outputs	7
5.0	Audio Chassis Placement	7
6.0	Using Your Phomona	7
7.0	Warranty Information	8

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Phenomena is a complete phono preamplifier with RIAA equalization that amplifies the output signal of a phono cartridge, either moving coil or moving magnet, up to a nominal "line level". The Phenomena may be used with a receiver or integrated amplifier. If you use "separate" components, a line level control unit (preamp or line level unit) is required before the power amp since there is no volume control on the Phenomena. The Phenomena's power supply is internal to the audio chassis and uses either a wall mount transformer or a Phenomena Battery Supply (optional) for its power source.

The installation of the Phenomena is quite simple and involves:

- a. The setting of the two internal configuration settings for both gain and input loading (section 2)
- b. The connection of the power source (section 3)
- c. Connection of the audio inputs and outputs (section 4)
- d. Placement of the unit (section 5)

2.0 INTERNAL CONFIGURATION SETTINGS

Factory settings are 40 dB, 50k Ω

Note: Always let the unit settle for 60 seconds after any configuration changes are made before listening. **Slowly** raise the volume control after making any changes as you begin to listen. This insures the unit is stable and will not damage your system if the configuration is not set correctly.

2.1 BASIC GAIN SETTINGS

To set the gain, there are two dip switches located on the Phenomena circuit board (SW1, SW3), one for each channel. The switches are red, have 4 positions and are located toward the middle of the circuit board. Basic gain setting instructions are printed on the left side of the circuit board. Refer to your cartridge's instruction sheet to determine gain settings. Use a pencil, toothpick or non-metallic screwdriver to change switch settings.

Lower gains (40 and 44 dB) are intended for moving magnet cartridges or very high output moving coil cartridges (2.0 milliVolts or higher). These would include the Benz MC20E2, Silver, Glider High Output and H²O.

Medium gain settings (46 and 50 dB) are ideal for medium output moving coils (.9 – 1.5mV) such as the Benz Glider or MO.9 and the Transfiguration Esprit.

High gain settings (56 and 60 dB) are intended for use with low output moving coil cartridges (0.2 - .6 milliVolts) such as the Benz MC Gold, LO.4, Reference, Ruby2, Ruby H, Transfiguration Spirit and Temper Supreme, Koetsu, and Graham Nightingale.

SWITCH NUMBER

GAIN (dB)	1	2	3	4
40	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF
44	OFF	OFF	OFF	ON
46	OFF	OFF	ON	OFF
50	OFF	ON	OFF	OFF
56	ON	OFF	OFF	OFF
60	ON	ON	ON	ON

The choice of the 2 gain settings per each low, medium and high range allows you to optimize signal to noise, volume control range and volume matching to other line level inputs.

2.2 FINE GAIN SETTINGS

Fine gain settings provide very small gain increments. Typically this may not be necessary but desirable in certain installations.

GAIN (dB)	SWITCH NUMBER			
	1	2	3	4
48	OFF	OFF	ON	ON
51.5	OFF	ON	OFF	ON
52.7	OFF	ON	ON	OFF
53.7	OFF	ON	ON	ON
57.5	ON	OFF	ON	ON
58.4	ON	OFF	OFF	ON
59.4	ON	ON	ON	OFF

2.3 BASIC INPUT LOADING

To set the input loading, there are two 8 position dip switches (SW2, SW4), one for each channel. The switches are red, have 8 positions and are located toward the rear of the circuit board, close to the input/output connectors.

Basic loading instructions are printed on the left side of the circuit board. Refer to your cartridge's instruction sheet to determine loading settings. Use a pencil, toothpick or non-metallic screwdriver to change switch settings.

Capacitive loading is generally used with moving magnet cartridges and has little effect on moving coil cartridges. The capacitive loading uses position 1 off = 200pF, position 1 on = 300pF. When using a moving coil cartridge, you can try both capacitive loading positions to determine the effect.

Resistive loading is primarily used with lower output moving coil cartridges. Most moving magnet, medium and high output moving coil cartridges use approximately 50K Ohm (Ω). Low output moving coil cartridges typically use 1000 Ohms or lower.

Check the input loading chart and select the closest resistive input loading value to the cartridge manufacturer's recommended value (typically 10 times the cartridge's internal resistance). Set the switches accordingly.

LOADING Ω	SWITCH POSITION NUMBER							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
59	na	ON	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF
121	na	OFF	ON	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF
243	na	OFF	OFF	ON	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF
475	na	OFF	OFF	OFF	ON	OFF	OFF	OFF
1000	na	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	ON	OFF	OFF
2000	na	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	ON	OFF
50,000	na	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	ON
100,000	na	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF

You can experiment with different resistive input loading to best determine your preferred setting. Typically, a lower resistive setting provides increased focus and tighter bass, a higher setting provides more openness.

2.4 FINE INPUT LOADING

Fine loading settings provide for low internal impedance cartridges and finer increments. This may be desirable with cartridges such as the Benz MC Gold, LO.4, Reference, Transfiguration Spirit and Temper Supreme, Graham Nightingale, and Koetsus.

LOADING Ω	SWITCH POSITION NUMBER							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
30	na	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	OFF	OFF
40	na	ON	ON	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF
50	na	ON	OFF	OFF	ON	ON	OFF	OFF
80	na	OFF	ON	ON	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF
100	na	OFF	ON	OFF	OFF	ON	ON	OFF
150	na	OFF	OFF	ON	ON	OFF	ON	OFF
280	na	OFF	OFF	OFF	ON	ON	ON	OFF
380	na	OFF	OFF	OFF	ON	OFF	ON	ON
660	na	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	ON	ON	ON

3.0 POWER SUPPLY INSTALLATION

The Phenomena is powered by the supplied Wall Mount Transformer or optional Phenomena Battery Power Supply. For best performance, the Phenomena is intended to be left with the power ON when not in use. Most high fidelity equipment needs to "warm up" to sound the best; one hour is a minimum for the Phenomena.

The unit does not need to be powered off during internal reconfiguration, however, be careful not to touch any of the electronics other than the dip switches when the cover is off. There are no high voltages inside the unit (30-volt maximum differential).

INSTALLATION:

Connect the Wall Mount Transformer or optional Battery Power Supply to the "Power" connector on the rear of the unit.

If using the optional Battery Power Supply, connect the Wall Mount Transformer to the "Power" connector on the rear of that unit.

Plug the Wall Mount Transformer to the wall circuit or AC strip.

Verify that the power LED on the Phenomena lights.

4.0 AUDIO INPUTS AND OUTPUTS

Please make sure that the volume control on your receiver, integrated amp or pre-amp is turned completely down before plugging in the audio connections.

Connect the phono cable outputs of your turntable to the inputs of the Phonomena, noting proper left and right channels. Connect the ground lead from the turntable (if provided) to the ground lug on the rear of the Phonomena.

Using a high quality interconnect cable, connect the outputs of your Phonomena to a line level input of your receiver, integrated amp or preamplifier, again noting proper left and right channels. Do not plug the Phonomena's output into another component's "phono" input. Please note that many line level preamps have an input labeled "phono" for convenience but do not contain phono circuitry. Please check your preamp's owner manual or with your dealer if you have concerns.

5.0 AUDIO CHASSIS PLACEMENT

The Phonomena was designed to nest under the Basis 1400 turntable. The Phonomena may be placed under your turntable if space allows, on a separate shelf in your audio rack, or on top of another source or line level component. Please make sure that you are not restricting ventilation of that component. It should not be affected by magnetic fields or noise from other components' motors, transformers, displays, etc..

6.0 USING YOUR PHONOMENA

If you have followed the above instructions, your Phonomena is ready to play music. Simply cue down your cartridge on a favorite record, select the correct input on your receiver, integrated amp or preamp, slowly bring up the volume level to your desired setting and enjoy the music.

7.0 WARRANTY INFORMATION

Fill out the warranty card enclosed and return it to us within 30 days with a copy of your sales receipt. The unit is fully warranted against failure for three years after purchase. Damage due to improper use, modifications, or acts of nature are not covered under this warranty. This warranty covers parts and labor only. We will not assume any liability for any damage to any other component in the system due to a failure in the Phonomena.

If you believe your Phonomena is malfunctioning, please contact the dealer where you purchased the unit or

Musical Surroundings
telephone 510 547-5006
fax 510 547-5009
email info@musicalsurrroundings.com

If the unit must be returned for repair, Musical Surroundings will issue you a Return Authorization (RA) number. You must then send the unit packed in its original box via UPS, Fedex or US Mail, and insured for \$600, to

Musical Surroundings
5662 Shattuck Ave
Oakland, CA 94609

Please include a description of the problem, your RA number and a return shipping address and phone number. The repaired unit will be shipped freight prepaid to your specified address.