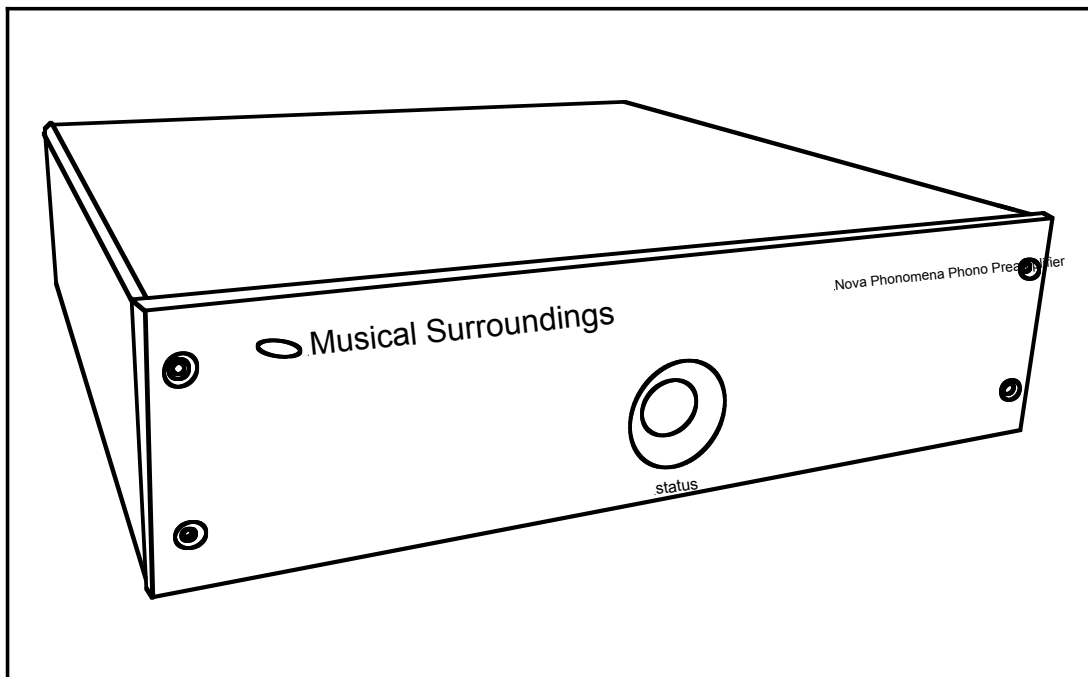


*MUSICAL SURROUNDINGS PRESENTS:*

# ***THE NOVA PHONOMENA***

*PHONOGRAPH PREAMPLIFIER*



*OWNER'S MANUAL*

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## **1.0) INTRODUCTION**

The Nova Phomena is a complete phonograph 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 Nova Phomena may be used with a receiver or an integrated amplifier. If you use separate components, a line level control unit (preamp) is required before the power amp, since there is no independent volume control for the Nova Phomena. The Nova Phomena's power supply is internal and connects to the wall with the supplied wall mount transformer.

The Installation of the Nova Phomena is quite simple and involves:

- a.) Setting the two internal configuration settings (one for each channel) for Gain and Input Loading (see section 2).
- b.) Connecting the power source (see section 3).
- c.) Connecting the Audio Inputs and Outputs (see section 4)
- d.) Placing the unit (see section 5).

## 2.0) INTERNAL CONFIGURATION SETTINGS

### 2.1) BASIC GAIN SETTINGS



GAIN SWITCHES

To Set the Gain, there are two sets of dip switches located on the Nova Phenomena's back panel. There are two sets of four switches to set the Gain for the left and right channels. Refer to your phono cartridge's instruction manual for the suggested Gain setting. Factory Settings are always 40dB for Gain. Lower Gains (40 and 44dB) are intended for moving magnet cartridges or very high output moving coil cartridges (>2.0 mV). Medium Gain settings (46 and 50dB) are ideal for medium-output moving-coils (.9-1.5mV). High Gain settings work well with low-output moving-coil cartridges. Using a non-metallic object, push the switches UP for the ON position.

SWITCH #	1	2	3	4
GAIN (dB)				
40	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF
44	OFF	OFF	OFF	ON
46	OFF	OFF	ON	OFF
48	OFF	OFF	ON	ON
50	OFF	ON	OFF	OFF
51.5	OFF	ON	OFF	ON
52.7	OFF	ON	ON	OFF
53.7	OFF	ON	ON	ON
56	ON	OFF	OFF	OFF
57.5	ON	OFF	ON	ON
58.4	ON	OFF	OFF	ON
59.4	ON	ON	ON	OFF
60	ON	ON	ON	ON

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 this insures that the unit is stable and will not damage your system if the configuration is not set correctly.

### 2.3) BASIC INPUT LOADING SETTINGS



#### INPUT LOADING SWITCH

To set the Input Loading, there are two eight-position switches, one for each channel, located on the rear panel. Refer to your cartridge owner's manual to determine proper Input Loading settings. The factory setting for Input Loading is 50,000 Ohms.

Switch #1 controls capacitive loading, which is often used with moving-magnet cartridges and has little effect on moving-coil cartridges. When using a moving-coil cartridge, you can try both capacitive loading positions to determine the effect. CAPACITIVE LOADING (SWITCH #1): OFF=200pF; ON=300pF.

Switches #2-8 control resistive loading, which is primarily used with lower-output moving-coil cartridges. Most moving-magnet along with medium and high-output moving-coil cartridges use approximately 50,000 Ohms. Low-output moving-coil cartridges typically use 2000 Ohms or less. Check the chart below and select the closest Input Loading value to the cartridge manufacturer's recommended value. Typically, a lower resistive setting provides increased focus and tighter bass, while a higher setting provides more openness. Use a non-metallic object to select the proper settings, flipping the switch UP to activate the ON setting.

2.4) INPUT LOADING SETTINGS CHART

SWITCH #	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<b>LOADING (Ohms)</b>								
30	X	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	OFF	OFF
40	X	ON	ON	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF
50	X	ON	OFF	OFF	ON	ON	OFF	OFF
59	X	ON	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF
80	X	OFF	ON	ON	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF
100	X	OFF	ON	OFF	OFF	ON	ON	OFF
121	X	OFF	ON	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF
150	X	OFF	OFF	ON	ON	OFF	ON	OFF
243	X	OFF	OFF	ON	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF
280	X	OFF	OFF	OFF	ON	ON	ON	OFF
380	X	OFF	OFF	OFF	ON	OFF	ON	ON
475	X	OFF	OFF	OFF	ON	OFF	OFF	OFF
660	X	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	ON	ON	ON
1,000	X	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	ON	OFF	OFF
2,000	X	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	ON	OFF
50,000	X	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	ON
100,000	X	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF

### **3.0) POWER SUPPLY**

The Nova Phenomena contains an Internal Power Supply that allows a user to completely disconnect from household wall power during listening sessions. The power supply uses state-of-the-art NiMH battery technology to allow large energy storage and a short recharge period. The Nova Phenomena will charge quickly – a one-hour charge is good for three hours of play – and the user can expect good life from the batteries.

The Nova Phenomena connects to a wall outlet or power strip with the supplied wall-mount transformer. A three-way light-sensitive Infrared Detector on the front panel is used to switch the unit between power supply states. The switch has three settings:

GREEN: indicates the unit is operating on battery power.

RED: Indicates the unit is operating on wall power, or AC current.

FLASHING RED: Indicates that the unit is in charging mode.

When the unit is set to battery power (GREEN), the batteries (and the unit itself) are disconnected from wall power via a relay. The unit will sound best in this mode. Charging mode (FLASHING RED) may be entered at anytime by placing a finger in front of the light-sensitive switch on the front panel. When the unit is fully charged, the light will remain a steady red. The Nova Phenomena may be used while in charging mode. The unit can also be switched to battery power (GREEN) from charging mode (FLASHING RED) by placing a finger over the Infrared Detector.

An internal circuit will monitor the state of the battery and will switch to charging mode if battery power gets too low.

CAUTION:

There may be a slight transient when switching from battery power to charging mode; you may want to reduce the volume or mute the system.

The Nova Phenomena will NOT operate without the wall-mount transformer.

### **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 cables of your turntable to the inputs of the Nova Phenomena, noting proper left and right connections. Attach the turntable's ground lead to the ground lug on the rear panel of the Nova Phenomena.

Using a high-quality interconnect cable, connect the outputs of your Nova Phenomena unit to a line-level input of your receiver, integrated amplifier or pre-amp, again noting proper left and right channels. DO NOT PLUG THE NOVA PHENOMENA'S OUTPUT INTO ANOTHER COMPONENTS "PHONO" INPUT. Many line-level pre-amps have an input labeled "phono" for convenience but which does not contain phono circuitry. Please check your pre-amp's owner's manual if you have concerns.

## **5.0) AUDIO CHASSIS PLACEMENT**

The Nova Phenomena 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 ventilation to the unit is not restricted, and that the unit is away from magnetic fields or noise from other components' motors, transformers or displays.

## **6.0) USING YOUR NOVA PHENOMENA**

If you have followed the above instructions, your Nova Phenomena is ready to play music. Simply cue down your cartridge on a favorite record, select the correct input on your receiver, integrated amp or pre-amp, and slowly bring up the volume level. Then sit back 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 do not assume any liability for any damage to any other component in the system due to a failure in the Nova Phenomena. If you believe your Nova Phenomena is malfunctioning, please contact the dealer where you purchased the unit; or, contact:

Musical Surroundings  
Telephone: (510) 547-5006 (x-101)  
Fax: (510) 547-5009  
Email: [service@musicalsurrroundings.com](mailto:service@musicalsurrroundings.com)

If the unit is returned for repair, contact Musical Surroundings at the above number and you will be issued you a Return Authorization (RA) number. You must then send the unit (packed in its original box) back to Musical Surroundings.