





# THE GRYPHON



## **Gryphon Commander** **Preamplifier**

### **Owner's Manual**

## Table of Contents

Introduction .....	5	Commander Preamplifier Rear Panel .....	26
You Have Arrived .....	6	Commander Power Supply Rear Panel .....	28
Creating an Icon .....	7	Remote Codes .....	29
The Man behind the Brand .....	8	Remote Control Battery .....	29
The Gryphon Story .....	9	Green Bias .....	30
Foundation for Excellence .....	10	Features .....	31
Timeless Beauty .....	12	Specifications .....	33
Bespoke Manufacture .....	12	Dimensions, Preamplifier .....	34
The Gryphon Commander .....	13	Dimensions, PSU unit .....	35
Placement .....	15	Warranty & Support .....	36
AC voltage .....	15	IMPORTANT SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS .....	37
Care and Maintenance .....	15	Notes .....	38
Choice of Cables .....	16		
Unpacking and Setup .....	17		
Installation .....	18		
Burn-in and Warm-up .....	19		
Mains Switches .....	19		
User Instructions .....	20		
Menu Activated Functions .....	22		
Remote Control .....	25		



## The Gryphon Name

The Gryphon moniker and symbol is an appropriate image for the brand, inspired by Greek mythology, part eagle, part lion, the perfect union of grace and agility with power and authority.

Gryphon Audio Designs is quite simply

*"The ultimate choice for the enthusiast who wants the sound with no frills other than the luxury imparted by the fit, feel and finish."*

(Hi-Fi News & Record Review magazine, UK)

## The Gryphon Genetic Code

The Gryphon DNA has been defined by one writer as:

*"A code of perfectionism, the likes of which I've only ever seen at the Bugatti atelier in Alsace or at the great watch houses in Switzerland. It is the result of not accepting the notion of compromise, on any level."*

(Ken Kessler, audio critic)

At the very core of this genetic code lies what one critic described as Rasmussen's

*"Subversion of traditional hi-fi styling"*

(HiFi Choice magazine, UK)

with designs *"...so clean and simple, yet elaborate."*

(Positivefeedback.com, USA)

Similar sentiments echo around the world.

## You Have Arrived

### **Gryphon Presents the World's Finest Electronics**

For nearly four decades, Gryphon Audio Designs has defined the state-of-the-art in High End audio. In terms of aesthetics, circuit design and innovation, materials, build quality, intuitive control and, most importantly, audio performance, Gryphon products have set the standard by which all others are judged. With the introduction of the the Gryphon Commander Preamplifier and the Gryphon Apex Mono and Apex Stereo Power Amplifiers, Gryphon has once again pushed the audio art to a new and higher level.

In addition to detailing all operational and functional aspects of these incomparable components, this Owner's Manual describes the history and design ethos of Gryphon Audio Designs and our passionate pursuit of perfection. Please take a few moments to learn about the company in whose products you have invested.

Thank you for your patronage !



## Creating an Icon

In virtually every category of consumer goods - fashion, automobiles, furniture, wine, watches, etc. - there exists a revered top tier of luxury and excellence, a small yet celebrated, High End segment populated by innovative designers who pursue perfection with little concern for production economies, practicality or cost.

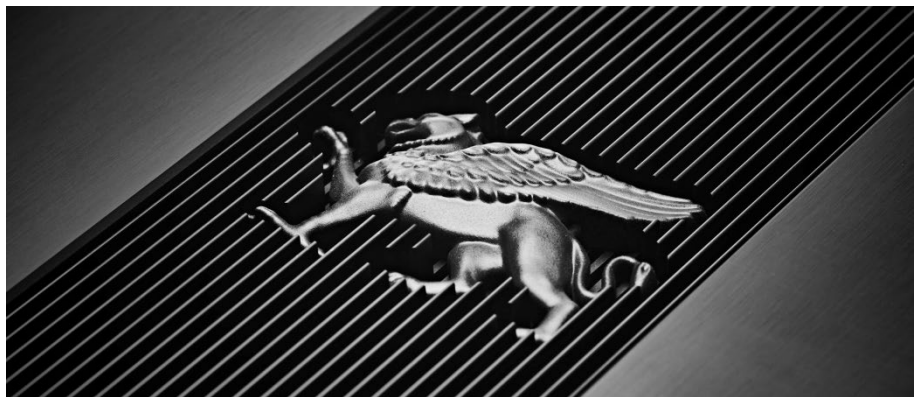
The essence of these “aspirational brands” is consistent: aesthetic beauty, advanced technologies, superior performance and extravagant build quality combine to achieve unsurpassed levels of fit, feel, finish and function. As a result, all of these offerings are the very best that they can possibly be, for the discerning few who can appreciate and afford them.

While many of these marques are familiar to luxury consumers, others are known only to a limited group of cognoscenti. Curiously, High End audio systems remain a mystery to many affluent connoisseurs. This lack of enthusiasm can be explained by products whose awkward functionality or poor cosmetics clash with the refined aesthetic sensibilities of potential owners.

As for aesthetics, the sculptural beauty of Gryphon components, combined with their extraordinary fit and finish, elevates fine audio componentry to objects of worship at home in the finest domestic spaces.

For the uninitiated, who mistakenly assume that they are unable to distinguish finer musical nuances as reproduced by High End audio systems, even the briefest audition proves that most individuals can discern and appreciate the “you-are-there” realism offered by fine High End home entertainment equipment. Rest assured: if you’re passionate about music, the illusion that the listener can be transported to the performance venue is addictive.

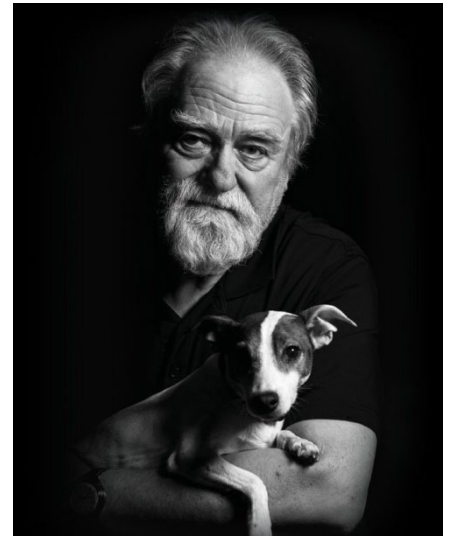
The fortunate few with the means to acquire the ultimate in-home entertainment owe it to themselves to experience the life-changing difference which a Gryphon audio system delivers.



## The Man behind the Brand

After 33 years at Gryphon Audio Designs, Flemming Erik Rasmussen retired from the company he founded in 1985 to devote himself to his favourite pastimes including his first love, painting.

Rasmussen's audio career was purely serendipitous. After earning a degree in painting and graphic arts at Denmark's Aarhus Art Academy, he taught painting and photography before becoming chief designer of textiles and imprints for Scandinavia's largest sportswear company, then resigned to form 2R Marketing, which quickly became Denmark's leading High End audio distributor, later founding Gryphon as an offshoot of that company.



*The legendary Gryphon Head Amp*

The first product, the now legendary Gryphon Head Amp, was developed for Flemming's personal use; however, demand generated by rave reviews and "audiophile buzz" led to the formal establishment of Gryphon Audio Designs as a separate corporate entity.

Following the immediate success of the Gryphon brand, distribution was phased out in 1993 so that Rasmussen could dedicate his efforts entirely to Gryphon.

Rasmussen's background in fine arts and industrial design infused every Gryphon product with distinctive, luxuriant styling. His elegant, uniquely Scandinavian black-on-black designs were the original "Nordic Noir," long before TV crime dramas appropriated the term. His legacy is palpable in the visual aesthetic of current Gryphon chassis, as well as the ethos of quality and performance embodied in all Gryphon products.



## The Gryphon Story: Our Legend Continues



The Gryphon story is lovingly documented in two volumes: *The Gryphon Unplugged: 25 Years of Gryphon Audio Designs* (2010) and *The Art of the Gryphon: Form and Function in a Spiritual Union* (2015), a sumptuous photo gallery of Rasmussen's designs.

The transfer of daily management in connection with Flemming E. Rasmussen's departure left no uncertainty regarding the future direction of the Danish icon that continues to earn praise and admiration among connoisseurs worldwide.

Gryphon's talented team of engineers - lead by head of R&D: Mr. Tom Møller - who has made all electronic design for more than two decades - as well as other craftsmen and support staff remains wholly intact at all levels and every member continues to fulfill the brand's promise to offer the world's most inventive, technically advanced and aesthetically satisfying musical instruments to Gryphon's audience of passionate music lovers.

The engineering, artistic and marketing resources remain firmly committed to the principles that have defined the company from the very beginning.

Gryphon Audio Designs proudly affirms our unwavering passion for ultra-luxe audio in the service of music...and your listening pleasure.

## Foundation for Excellence: Gryphon Design Fundamentals

Thanks to state-of-the-art technical equipment and some of the finest minds in audio engineering, the Gryphon brand continues to define the highest standards of subjective and technical excellence. Common to all Gryphon components, these design fundamentals have proven essential for achieving ultimate performance:

Utilized in every Gryphon product, our **dual mono configuration** eliminates any possibility of crosstalk or other inter-channel interference and provides infinite channel separation which augments the ability to create space, focus, depth and transparency.

Because the electrical power in your home can fluctuate wildly in terms of voltage, noise and distortion, Gryphon incorporates **heavily regulated multi-stage power supplies** that act as effective mains conditioning filters. Displays and control circuits are fed by separate power supplies to isolate any digital noise artifacts and effectively prevents them from contaminating the analog signal path.

While the printed circuit boards in most audio products utilize conductor traces a mere 35  $\mu\text{m}$  thick, Gryphon employs **70  $\mu\text{m}$  or thicker PCB traces** of the highest purity copper. (The conductor traces used for high all current circuits in the Gryphon Apex Power Amplifiers are an astounding 105  $\mu\text{m}$  thick!)

Beginning with our very first product, "The Head Amp," all Gryphon products have featured extremely **wide frequency bandwidth**, because the ability to accurately reproduce infra-sonic and ultra-sonic frequencies ensures linear phase across the audible frequency range, for superior spatial performance. The implementation of circuits with wideband frequency response is a painstaking endeavour in which physical component layout and grounding pattern of the circuit boards are crucial to the attainment of superior sonic performance with no loss of inherent stability. Wideband frequency response ensures high slew rate - essential to the realistic recreation of the ultra-fast transients which routinely occur in live music - and is crucial in recreating the harmonic envelope of acoustic instruments.

All Gryphon designs are realized with none or an absolute minimum of negative global feedback which, when present in large amounts, can actually increase transient intermodulation distortion. With the exception of the Antileon series of power amplifiers (which utilize a minimum amount of negative global feedback) all Gryphon amplifiers are designed with **zero negative global feedback**.

Gryphon's research into the detrimental effects of magnetically induced distorted (MID) has led to the **elimination of magnetizable materials** wherever possible. To eliminate the effects of stray magnetic fields, non-magnetic materials are employed throughout every Gryphon product, with the unavoidable exception of the transformer shield box.



The mechanical design and assembly methods of the enclosure are carefully calculated to ensure **minimal chassis resonance**, either through the use of high mass mechanical grounding or decoupling. Vibration-sensitive components, capacitors in particular, are thus guaranteed a non-resonant environment which, in turn, provides a solid foundation for optimal electrical performance.

Gryphon's **artistically wrought, massive chassis** offers a vibration-proof environment for the sensitive electronics inside and provides crucial shielding from a polluted world of low- and high-frequency radio waves, power-line radiation and other electrical interference. Our obsessive attention to such issues enables the relaxing, open and transparent Gryphon sound.

Unique, non-intrusive protection circuitry offers reliable, fuss-free protection without compromising signal purity and signal path simplicity.

In the interest of ultimate fidelity and signal purity, tone controls and other **superfluous circuitry have been banished** from the signal path. The ground path has been carefully laid out in order to achieve superior sonic performance with no loss of stability. Component layout is designed to ensure the shortest conceivable signal path.

Exhaustive investigation precedes the selection of every component part and many **bespoke, proprietary components** are custom-built exclusively for Gryphon. And because what is left out is just as important as what goes in, an absolute **minimum of internal wiring** is included.

By lavishing attention on each aspect of the circuit and fully understanding the purpose and behaviour of every single part of the whole, our designers can optimize performance in each section before moving on to the next step. This ensures simplicity, a short signal path and a unity of purpose towards a single, well-defined goal: musical purity.

## Timeless Beauty, Aesthetic Perfection



*Home of the Gryphon is located in beautiful surroundings in Ry, Denmark*

The art of ultra-luxe audio systems should be apparent *before* the equipment is turned-on; for this reason, Gryphon products have always offered exquisite styling and superb user-friendliness to complement their stunning audio performance. In every Gryphon product, form follows function in a unique synthesis of aesthetics and operational simplicity which arises organically from the audio circuit design. Gryphon components embody sophisticated technology and cutting-edge industrial finish executed with the best of artisanal craftsmanship, all in the service of music. The peerless finish, build quality, ergonomics and pride of ownership that contribute to the wholistic Gryphon concept can only be fully understood and appreciated through personal experience with our products.

## Bespoke Manufacture for Heirloom Build Quality



At our laboratories and manufacturing facilities in Denmark, we maintain full control over every aspect of development and production, and our team members follow each Gryphon component from initial concept to early prototype and through to final quality control. Printed circuit boards are assembled by a supplier of precision military and medical equipment employing the highest standards of quality control and pre-inspection of components. Chassis parts are manufactured by specialists chosen solely for their outstanding quality of workmanship. In every aspect of every Gryphon product, the same stringent standards of excellence apply. Each unit is individually tested and then, after a 48-hour burn-in sequence, each product again undergoes both electronic and audio performance testing, ensuring generations of flawless performance.



## The Gryphon Commander

### How Gryphon Built the Perfect Preamplifier

Since our company's founding nearly 40 years ago, the philosophy of Gryphon Audio Designs of Denmark has remained constant: the relentless pursuit of sonic perfection without commercial compromises in design, construction or cost. All Gryphon products have been conceived in this same perfectionist spirit: uncompromising engineering in the service of music. Impeccable build quality complemented by our original, highly refined "Nordic Noir" aesthetic sensibility and absolute simplicity of use.

The culmination of Gryphon's four decades of philosophies, design goals and engineering expertise are fully realized in the Gryphon Commander: the most advanced preamplifier ever made.

Our starting point for the Commander was Gryphon's extraordinary Pandora, widely regarded as one of the world's finest preamplifiers. The Commander shares Pandora's Dual-Mono layout with separate chassis for signal and power supply circuitry. Pandora's single-ended Class A input buffer is retained, as it offers the compelling advantage of passing the signal through the smallest possible number of electrical components - two transistors and a single resistor - yielding sound that is exceptionally transparent, fast, natural and open. Neither preamplifier employs any global negative feedback.

Naturally, the Gryphon Commander embodies major advances in many sonically-critical areas; including a high-precision, extremely low noise voltage reference in connection with the analogue series regulators which supply the amplifier stages. The Commander's voltage reference has approximately 50 times lower noise than the already-excellent reference used in Pandora! A pair of fully discrete, linear power supplies feed each channel's analogue circuit while a third is dedicated to the digital control circuitry, thus maintaining absolute mechanical separation and electrical isolation between digital and analogue sections.

The distinctive finish of the Gryphon Commander and its companion; the Gryphon Apex Power Amplifier symbolizes the authority and vitality of their music reproduction, which set new standards in such crucial aspects as timing, bass control, dynamic expansion and transparency. Commander's power supply includes four custom-made toroidal transformers - two per stereo channel - engineered for minimal noise. Two of these (one per channel) power the dual-mono preamplifier circuits while the second pair are reserved for upcoming Gryphon source components, thereby ensuring a future-proof upgrade path.

Extensive use of aluminum chassis components lays a solid foundation for performance, yielding a highly stable, non-resonant enclosure that minimizes both mechanical and electrical degradation and providing optimal working conditions for Commander's sensitive amplifier



*Damped Commander bottom plate*

circuits. Unique to Commander, a constrained-layer-damped bottom plate - a "sandwich" of three individual layers of Kerrock, bitumen and steel - reduce resonances to an absolute minimum. All amplifier and analogue power supply circuit boards float above these bottom plates on specially-designed isolators, providing a pristine, virtually vibration-free environment for the Commander's sensitive circuitry. A quartet of Gryphon Atlas Spikes under each chassis move resonance control even closer to theoretical perfection.

Needless to say, every part of the Commander is the finest available: from the Charcroft Audio ultra-precision resistors used in our volume control to the premium, oversized Mundorf MCap® ZN foil capacitors specified for local power supply decoupling to the four custom-made 36VA toroidal transformers, no expense has been spared ensuring performance and build quality that defines the state-of-the-art.

Presented in an extra-thick, 4mm glass window, Commander's 4.3" TFT capacitive touch display has been designed to ensure an utterly intuitive user interface. Volume can be controlled from either the front-panel display or the included Gryphon IR remote control. Customized system set-up is facilitated by extensive Commander menu control of such functions as start-up level, left/right channel balance, maximum volume level, source level matching, input naming, display brightness (including Auto Dim On/Off), dedicated AV-throughput for integration with Home Theater systems, output level and Green Bias adjustment for use with Gryphon power amplifiers. In a unique design flourish, Commander's display changes with the listener's distance from the system; in this way, volume and other settings remain uniformly readable regardless of the listening position.

With the Gryphon Commander, you're in control! Take command of the world's finest audio system: only from Gryphon.



## Placement

Do not place your Gryphon component on or near any source of heat such as power amplifiers. Do not place any object on the top covering the ventilation holes or heat sinks of your Gryphon component. Do not place it in an enclosed space such as a cabinet, unless ample ventilation is provided. Failure to observe guidelines may result in overheating.

## AC voltage

Your Gryphon unit is especially made for the AC voltage of the country to which it has been shipped. If the voltage of your Gryphon has been changed, the warranty is void and the product may be unsafe or malfunction. Correct AC polarity contributes greatly to optimum performance. If you are not using a three-pin, non-reversible power plug, please experiment with the orientation of the plug for optimum performance.

## Care and Maintenance

Gryphon products are handcrafted by individuals who take great pride in the high level of fit and finish which we achieve. To maintain your Gryphon components in pristine condition, please follow these simple instructions. Metal surfaces may be cleaned with a damp cloth or dry microfiber cloth. Some products made for treatment of vinyl interiors in cars may be useful. Test the product on a non-visible surface before using any fluids. Acrylic surfaces should only be wiped with a very soft, dry cloth. Small scratches may be removed with acrylic surface polish. Fingerprints may be removed with a damp cloth or dry microfiber cloth. In order to avoid damage to your Gryphon's finish, do NOT use spirits or paper tissue.

## Choice of Cables

Gryphon's basic philosophy is one of sonic neutrality. We prefer to leave interpretation to the musicians and singers. Therefore, you should not need a cable with a particular "sound" of its own to balance or "equalize" your system. Unfortunately, in some circles, cables have become an acceptable equalizer in the High End audio industry.

Take the advice of your authorized Gryphon dealer in selecting interconnects and loudspeaker cables for your Gryphon equipment and for that matter power cords as well. After all, we are listening to current "converted" into music!

Naturally, Gryphon's own range of interconnects, loudspeaker cables and power cords are used in the development of Gryphon products. Gryphon cables are designed for ultimate neutrality and resolution. They are extremely revealing and will allow the ultimate quality of your Gryphon system or any fine audio components to come through clearly and undiminished.

All Gryphon amplifiers are designed and manufactured with an extreme bandwidth and in some cases the wrong choice of speaker cable can become an issue and will create potential problems in the collaboration between the amplifier and the speakers, with the speaker cable as an interactive factor. Gryphon recommends that no speaker cable on a Gryphon amplifier should be with a coaxial design, active shielding or special boxes that will add-on different types of filtration. A speaker cable with a coaxial design or with active shielding will in most cases have a much lower bandwidth than the amplifier and therefore the amplifier will be met with a too high capacitive load and might cause oscillation of the amplifier. There is no need to actively add filtration on an analogue amplifier. It doesn't serve the final reproduction of the music any good.

Gryphon recommends using speaker cables with a low capacitance and a wide bandwidth in order to match the specs of the amplifier's bandwidth and output impedance. There is no need to add more "negative" filtration to the system as Gryphon is striving to have the finest level of tonal balance and neutrality. Choose your cables with the highest level of attention to the actual parameters of the cable design (e.g. cable geometry, capacitance, bandwidth, insulation, conductor material and connectors) and aim for low capacitance, low resistance and sonic neutrality.







## Unpacking and Setup

Please refer to separate Setup instruction document included with your unit. You can also find this document on our website.

## SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

**Hazardous live AC power! Please find important safety instructions on p. 22**

## Installation

The Gryphon Commander comes with a set of DC cables to connect the Preamplifier to the Power Supply.

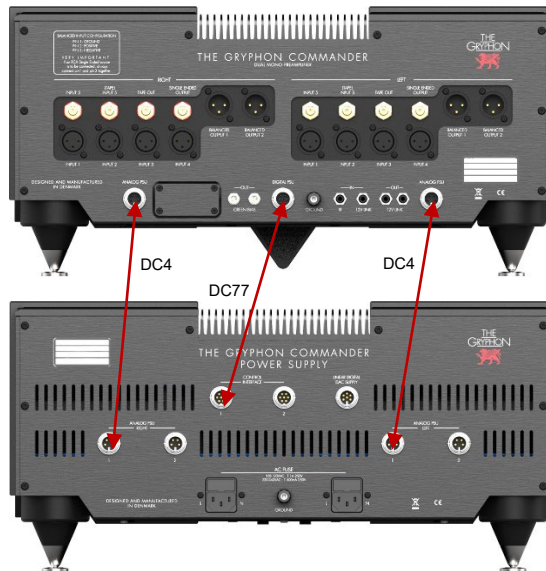
The DC cable set consists of one DC77 and two DC4 cables.

Do NOT connect the AC power cords before having connected the DC cables as shown below.

Connect the DC77 cable between “Control Interface 1” on the Power Supply to the “Digital PSU” Connector on the Commander Preamplifier.

Connect the DC4 cables respectively - between “Analog PSU 1 Left” on the Power Supply to the corresponding “Analog PSU” connector in left side on the Commander Preamplifier - and between “Analog PSU 1 Right” on the Power Supply to the corresponding “Analog PSU” connector in right side on the Commander Preamplifier.

Connect two AC power cords from mains to the two AC inlets on the Commander Power Supply.

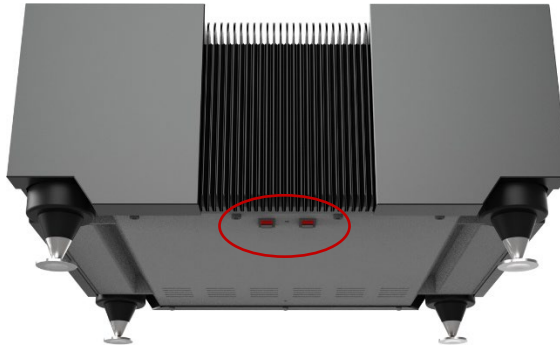


## Burn-in and Warm-up

Your Gryphon unit has been thoroughly tested and burned-in before shipping; however, performance will continue to improve during the first 40 – 50 hours of normal use. After this period, optimum performance will be reached approximately 45 minutes after turn-on.

## Mains Switches

The main ON/OFF switches on the Commander Preamplifier are located on the bottom panel of the Power Supply, near the front. In keeping with Commander's Dual Mono construction, there are individual power switches for left and right channels. Engaging the power switches will illuminate the ON/STB (Standby) indicator on the Preamplifier.



If the ON/STB (Standby) switch flashes red continuously in STB mode; this indicates wrong / defective AC mains voltage. Please disconnect the Commander from AC power and contact your Authorized Gryphon Dealer or Distributor.

## User Instructions



### ON/STB Button:

Push the ON/STB (Standby) button below the Gryphon logo to turn the Commander ON and again to engage to standby mode. When the preamplifier is ON, the symbol turns green. (A red symbol indicates STB)

**Note:** ALWAYS turn the preamplifier on, BEFORE turning on the power amplifier(s). ALWAYS turn the power amplifier(s) off, BEFORE turning off the preamplifier.

### Display View Modes:

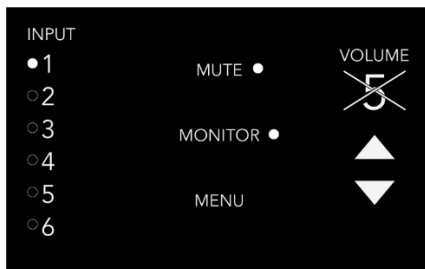
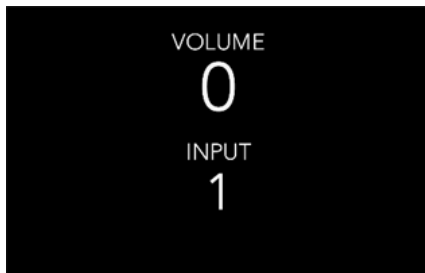
The Gryphon Commander has two display view modes: "Operation" and "Distance". After the start up sequence completes and when the user is within approximately 70 cm of the display, the Commander will enter "Operation" mode. 5 seconds after the user gone beyond the 70cm range, the display will switch to "Distance" mode.

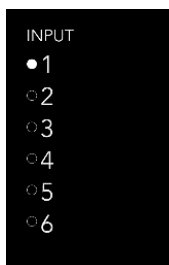
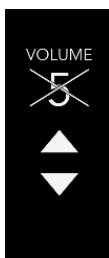
### Distance Mode:

In "Distance" mode, the selected input and the volume level are displayed with a large font to make them easily readable from the listening position.

### Operation Mode:

In "Operation" mode, it is possible to operate the Commander via the touch display.





## VOLUME

The Commander Preamplifier uses a unique volume control. It is not a digital device, but a discrete solution based on fixed resistors in an ultra-short signal path involving a very small number of relays selected for perfect function and “sonic invisibility.” This technology can sometimes - depending on the material played - make a very small clicking noise when used. This is not a sign that anything is wrong and is normal.

Use the up/down arrows to adjust the volume for desired listening level. The minimum level is 0 and the default maximum level is 84. The start-up and maximum level can be set in the menu. See the description under “Menu Activated Functions”.

## MUTE

When the volume level is above 0, use this function to immediately mute the signal. Mute is indicated with a filled white dot and a cross over the actual level.

## INPUT SELECT

Use these touch buttons to select the desired input from 1-6.

The names for each input can be customized using the Menu. See the description under "Menu Activated Functions".

## MONITOR

Touch the “MONITOR” button to activate Tape Monitor. Tape Monitor is used to listen to a tape recorder. If the recorder has a source/monitor function, this switch may be used to listen to the tape as it is being recorded. When selected, the display shows a filled white dot next to the MONITOR button.

## MENU

Touch the “MENU” button to enter the Main Menu.

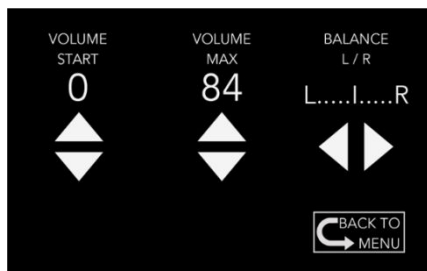


## Menu Activated Functions

### MAIN MENU:

Select any of the menu items or press EXIT to leave the menu.

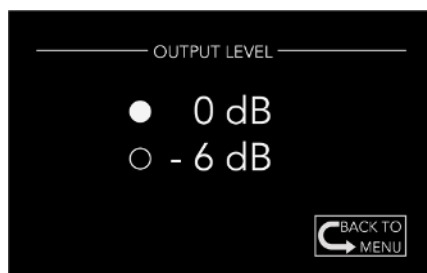
In the following section, each menu item will be described in detail:



**VOLUME START:** Use the “Up” and “Down” arrows to adjust the desired start volume. The next time Commander is powered up, the volume will be set to the value of Start Volume.

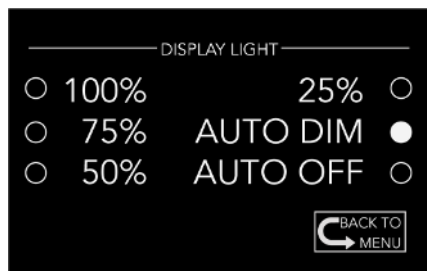
**VOLUME MAX:** Use the “Up” and “Down” arrows to adjust the desired Max Volume.

**BALANCE:** Use the “Left” and “Right” arrows to adjust the inter-channel balance in 1dB steps (+/-dB)



### OUTPUT LEVEL:

In systems which include high-sensitivity loudspeakers, the “Output Level” option enables output Level to be lowered by 6dB, which can provide better resolution of the volume control.



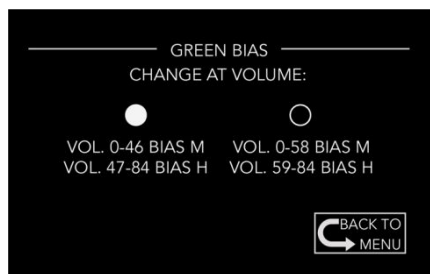
### DISPLAY LIGHT:

Select fixed display intensity in four levels 25, 50, 75 or 100%.

Alternatively select AUTO DIM or AUTO OFF.

“AUTO DIM” when the Commander display is in “Operation” mode, the display intensity will be 100%. In “Distance” mode, the display will be 100% when the Commander is operated from the remote control and after 20 seconds the intensity will lower to 25%, rendering the display unobtrusive and prolonging its lifespan.

“AUTO OFF” when the Commander display is in “Operation” mode, the display intensity will be 100%. In “Distance” mode, the display will be 100% when the Commander is operated from the remote control and after 20 seconds the display will switch off. This will prolong the lifespan of the display. Any operation of the Commander will turn the display on again.

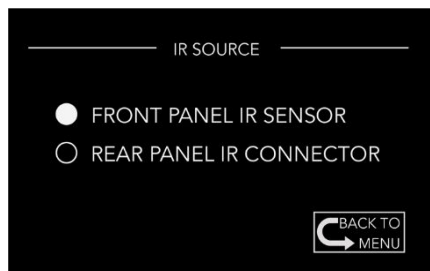


### GREEN BIAS:

Select the volume level where you want your Gryphon Apex Power Amplifier(s) to change Class A bias when connected via the Green Bias control feature. Please also refer to the description in the chapter: "Green Bias".

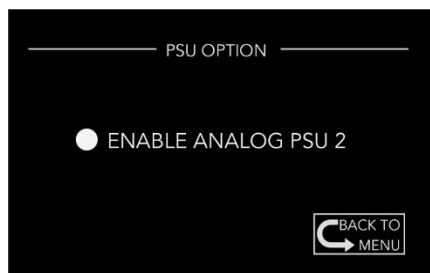
(All Gryphon Class A power amplifiers are compatible, but some models are programmed to change at another volume level).

Please note that selecting "BIAS L" on the Apex Power Amplifier will disable Green Bias control.



### IR SOURCE:

It is possible to connect an external active IR receiver to the back panel of the Commander. To use this option; select Rear Panel IR Connector.

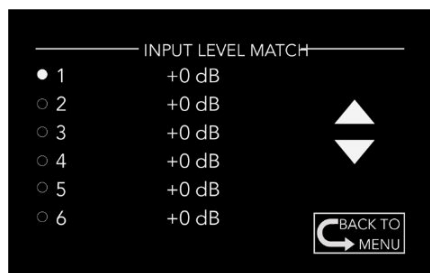


### PSU OPTION:

Owners of the Gryphon Legato or Gryphon Legato Legacy can connect their unit to "Analog PSU 2" left and right.

Use the touch button to enable or disable Analog PSU 2.

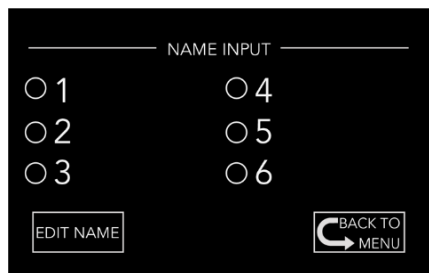
Note: The Analog PSU 2 output is enabled after Standby - ON restart. Please remember to power your power amplifier(s) OFF while restarting.



### INPUT LEVEL MATCH:

This option enables individually trimming the gain level of each input to maintain consistent volume when switching between sources.

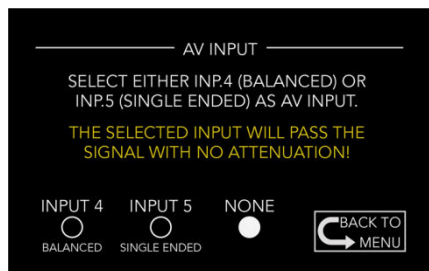
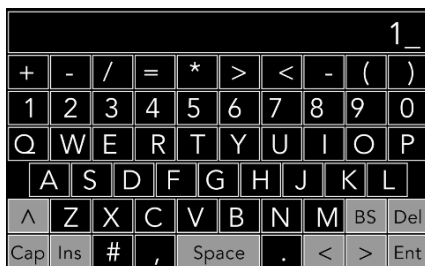
Select the desired input and use the arrows up and down to adjust the level from 0 - +8dB.



### NAME INPUT:

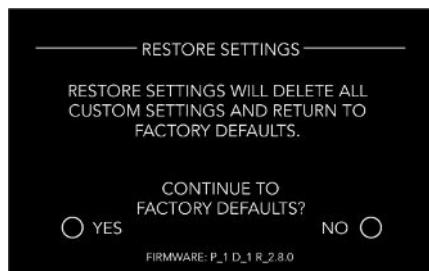
Select the desired input and press Edit Name.

Use the QWERTY keyboard to enter the new input name and press "Ent" to confirm. The input name can have a maximum of 8 characters.



### AV INPUT:

This option allows you to use either Input 4 (balanced) or Input 5 (single-ended) on Commander as a "Unity Gain" input for a source (e.g. Home Theater Processors) with its own volume control, e.g. if you select this option, the signal will be passed through the selected input with no attenuation (0dB via Input 4 / +6dB via Input 5 to balanced output) and no gain adjustment available via the Commander volume control.



### RESTORE SETTINGS:

This option allows for resetting all settings to default, per below:

Start Volume: 0

Max Volume: 84

Balance: 0 (centered)

Output Level: 0dB

IR Source: Front Panel IR Sensor

PSU Option: Analog PSU 2 disabled

Input Level Match: 0dB for all inputs

Input Names for Input 1-6: 1-6

AV Input: None







## Remote Control

### ON/STB

Places the Commander "On" or in "STB" (Standby)

### MONITOR

Tape Monitor is used to listen to a tape recorder. If the recorder has a source/monitor function, this switch may be used to listen to the tape as it is being recorded. When selected, the display shows a filled white dot next to the MONITOR button.

### MUTE

When the volume level is above 0, use this function to immediately mute the signal. Mute is indicated on the display with a filled white dot and a cross over the actual level.

### DISPLAY

This remote button toggles through the different display intensity options. The selected option will show in the display. After 5 seconds, the display will return to normal.

### VOLUME Up and Down

Raises and lowers the Commander volume setting.

### INPUT 1 - 6

The numbered buttons from 1 to 6 are used to directly select the desired input.

### INPUT Up and Down

Enables user to toggle between inputs.

## Commander Preamplifier Rear Panel



### BALANCED OUTPUT 1 - 2

Balanced, fully discrete, DC-coupled Class A preamplifier outputs to drive power amplifier(s).

### SINGLE ENDED OUTPUT

Single-ended, fully discrete, DC-coupled Class A preamplifier output to drive power amplifier.

### INPUT 1 - INPUT 4

Balanced XLR inputs to connect balanced sources.

### INPUT 5 - INPUT 6

Single-ended RCA inputs to connect single-ended sources.

INPUT 6 is also a dedicated "Tape Input" (Please see MONITOR function.)

### Balanced Connections

All Gryphon products follow the AES standard for balanced connections:

1. Ground
2. Positive
3. Negative

Gryphon recommends the use of dedicated, XLR-balanced interconnect cables.

Avoid the use of RCA-to-XLR adaptors as they will degrade system performance.

**GREEN BIAS**

For Green Bias control of compatible Gryphon power amplifier(s). Please also refer to the description in the chapter: "Green Bias" - and to the Owner's Manual of your power amplifier.

**IR**

The IR input enables connection of an external active IR receiver

**12V LINK IN**

For switching the Commander between STB (Standby) and ON when connected to a unit with compatible link output.

**12V LINK OUT**

For switching other units with compatible link input between STB and ON following the STB/ON status of the Commander Preamplifier.

**ANALOG PSU and DIGITAL PSU**

Connect these inputs to the Commander Power Supply as described in the "Installation" section of this manual.

**GROUND**

Binding post for chassis ground.

**Service panel**

Do not remove the small service panel. For service purposes only.

## Commander Power Supply Rear Panel



### ANALOG PSU 1 LEFT and RIGHT

Analog power supply output for Commander Preamplifier.

### ANALOG PSU 2 LEFT and RIGHT

Analog power supply output for Legato, Legato Legacy or future source components.

### CONTROL INTERFACE 1

Power supply output for the Commander control circuits.

### CONTROL INTERFACE 2

Power supply output for future source component's control circuits

### LINEAR DIGITAL DAC SUPPLY

Linear power supply output for future source components.

### GROUND

Binding post for chassis ground.

### Mains input sockets:

Two IEC appliance C14 inlets (for power cords with IEC C13 receptacle)

### AC FUSE holders and fuse values:

100-120Vac: T1A / 250V      220-240Vac: T500mA / 250V

## Remote Codes

The Gryphon Commander Preamplifier remote control uses the Philips RC-5 standard for infrared communication.

The following RC-5, system 16 codes are used for the Gryphon Commander Preamplifier:

ON/STB	12	Direct Input Select	
MUTE	13	INPUT 1	1
VOL UP	16	INPUT 2	2
VOL DOWN:	17	INPUT 3	3
INPUT UP	32	INPUT 4	4
INPUT DOWN	33	INPUT 5	5
MONITOR	21	INPUT 6	6
DISPLAY	15		

## Remote Control Battery

The remote control uses a single LR2450 / CR2450 coin cell battery.

Please replace the battery if the red indicator doesn't light up when pressing a button:

Carefully remove the screws holding the rear panel of the remote control using a 2mm hex socket screwdriver or Allen key.

Remove the rear panel and carefully slide the small battery drawer forward to release the battery.

Observe the orientation of the battery and replace with the new battery.

## Green Bias

If you are using a compatible Gryphon power amplifier, you may choose to connect the Green Bias control link to automatically change bias with reference to the current position of the preamplifier's volume control.

Green Bias offers TRUE, PURE CLASS A with considerably lower power consumption than traditional solutions.

Green bias in the Gryphon power amplifier allows the user to select the amount of Class A required to run his speakers fully in Class A at any given time, encompassing such factors as speaker sensitivity, room size, musical dynamics and overall volume level. Green bias improves on our programmable bias by giving Gryphon system owners the option of enabling the preamplifier to automatically control bias.

Please note that the green bias system and cable is not a part of the signal path and only has reference to the volume control position of the preamplifier.

The power amplifier will change bias setting corresponding to preprogramed switching points from the preamplifier's volume control. It is possible to change these volume control switching points in your Commander. Please refer to "Green Bias" under "Menu Activated Functions".

Please also refer to the Owner's Manual of your power amplifier.

Please note that selecting "BIAS L" on the Apex Power Amplifier will disable Green Bias control.

## Features

- Exterior design by Flemming E. Rasmussen
- Electronics design by Tom Møller
- True Dual Mono configuration
- Zero negative global feedback
- Microprocessor-controlled 85-step relay, volume attenuator featuring Charcroft Z-Foil Audio ultra-precision resistors and ultra-low capacitance relays for best sonic performance.
- Super-fast discrete Class A input buffer developed for best possible sonic performance.
- Fully discrete balanced dual differential Class A line stage circuitry followed by a very fast symmetrical current amplifying Class A stage
- DC servo coupling
- Premium massive Mundorf MCap® ZN capacitors used for local power supply decoupling.
- MCap® ZN's loss factor is ten-times lower than of metallized polypropylene-film capacitors. Additionally, the mass inertia of the tin foil prevents oscillations in the benefit of transparency and spatial recreation.
- 4-layer printed circuit boards with pure copper traces up to 70my thickness
- Minimal internal wiring
- Four separate custom made 36VA toroidal transformers, two for each channel
- Massive power supply capacitor bank for each channel; total of 2 x 90,000uF
- Separate linear power supply for both digital and individual left/right channel analogue circuits
- Fully regulated extremely low noise power supply for all voltage amplifying stages
- Local shunt regulators which ensure low noise over a large frequency bandwidth
- Commander Power Supply chassis with additional DC voltage outputs for future external Gryphon sources.
- Gold-plated Neutrik XLR sockets for four balanced (Source) inputs and two (Main) outputs
- Gold-plated Gryphon RCA phono sockets with Teflon insulation for 2 (Source) inputs, one Tape Output and one single-ended preamplifier (Main) output
- Fixed-level AV throughput bypasses volume circuit for seamless integration with surround systems
- Adjustable channel balance, source level matching, start-up volume and maximum volume level
- 12V Link In/Out for remote power On/Off control
- Green Bias control for Gryphon power amplifiers

- Large 4.3" TFT capacitive touch information screen for intuitive control, presented in 4mm glass
- Firmware upgrades easily via USB stick through rear panel
- Separate mechanical chassis for Power Supply and Amplifier circuits
- Decoupled Kerrock™, bitumen and steel sandwich "Constrained Layer" chassis bottom isolates and damps sensitive amplifier and power supply printed circuit boards. Prevents smearing of the fine audio details.
- Standby current consumption  $\leq 0.5W$
- Designed and built in Denmark

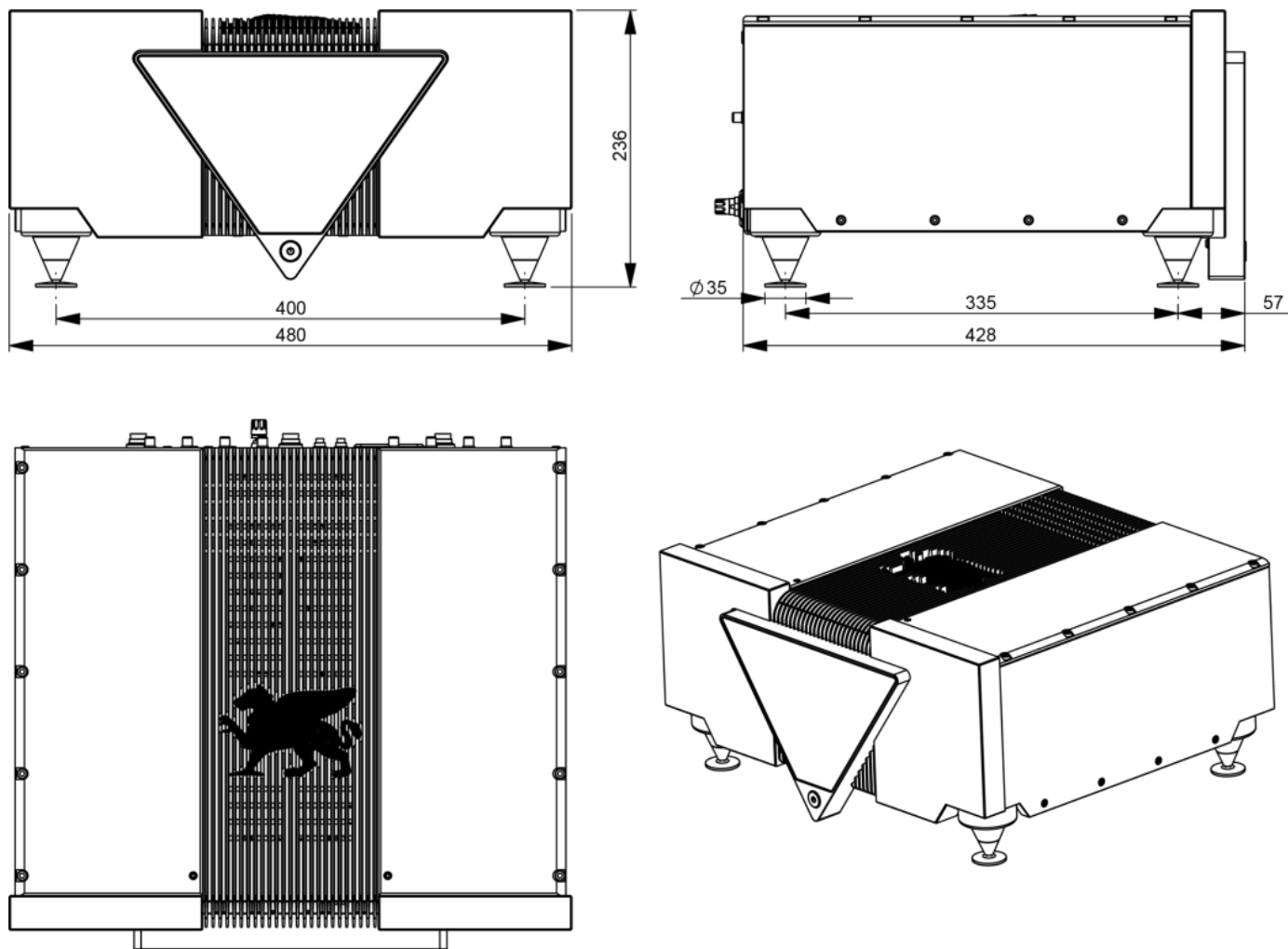


## Specifications

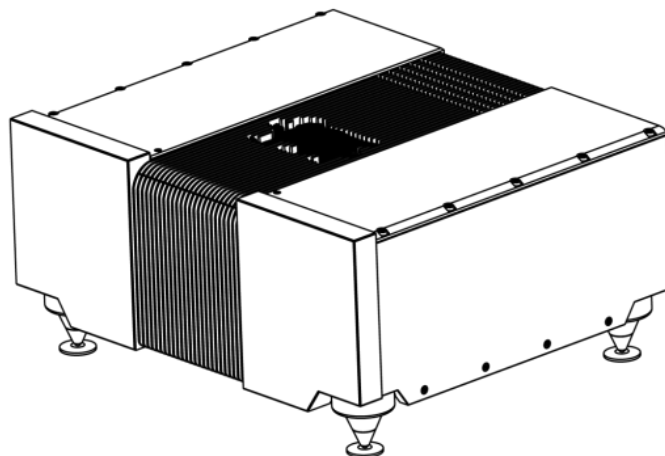
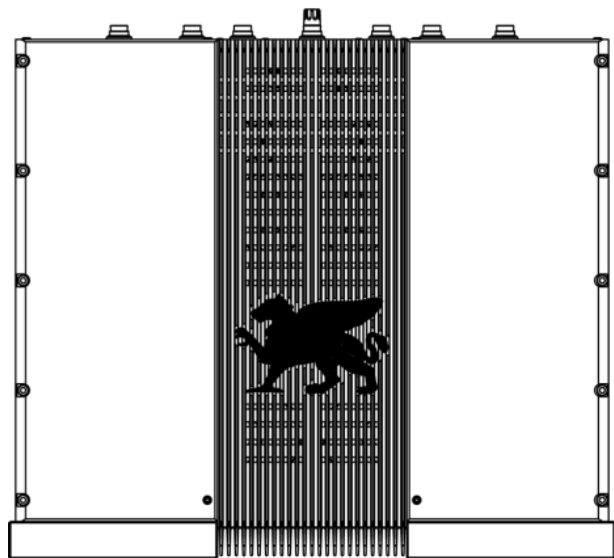
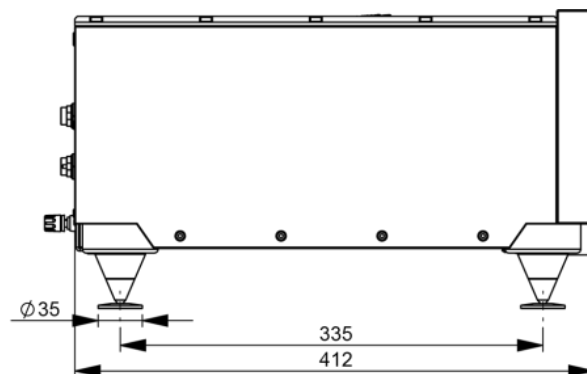
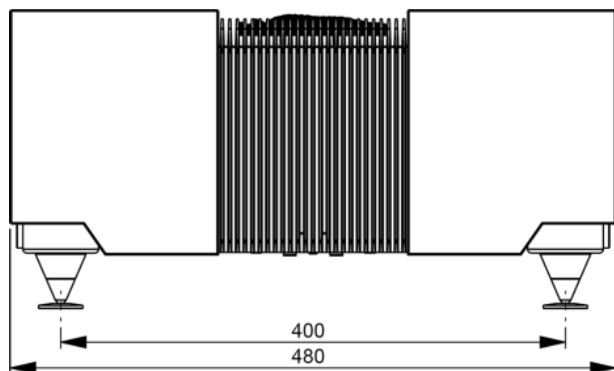
- Input Impedance, balanced: 18K $\Omega$
- Input Impedance, single-ended: 12K $\Omega$
- Output impedance: 7 $\Omega$
- Bandwidth (-3dB): 0.1Hz to 1.5MHz
- Gain: +18dB
- THD + N: 0.003% @ 1kHz and BW 10Hz – 30KHz, balanced output
- Max output level, balanced: 19Vrms
- Max output level, single-ended: 9,5Vrms
- Max input level, balanced: 20Vrms
- Max input level, single-ended: 10Vrms
- Power consumption:  $\leq$  0.5W (standby), 90W (idle)
- AC voltage range 110-120V or 220-240V
- MENU-controlled functions:
  - Volume Max Level
  - Volume Start Level
  - Balance, Left/Right. (6dB in 1dB steps)
  - Output level: "Normal" or "-6dB"
  - Display Intensity: (100%-75%-50%-25%, Auto Dim and Auto OFF)
  - Green Bias setup
  - Infra-Red source (Front or Rear Panel)
  - PSU option out enable
  - Input Level Match
  - Input Naming
  - Dedicate Input 4 (XLR) or input 5 (RCA) to Volume-Bypass AV-input
  - Restore Settings
- Dimensions Preamplifier unit, WxHxD: 48 x 23,6 x 45,5 cm, net unit weight: 30,5kg
- Dimensions PSU unit, WxHxD: 48 x 23,6 x 44 cm, net unit weight: 38,2kg
- Please also see following pages
- Shipping dimensions: Two crates; each 59 x 57 x 38 cm, respectively 45kg and 53kg

Note: Specifications can be changed without notice.

## Dimensions, Preamplifier



## Dimensions, PSU unit



## Warranty & Support

The Gryphon Commander Preamplifier is warranted against failures arising through faulty workmanship and materials for a period of 5 years from date of purchase. The warranty is not transferable.

**This warranty is only valid in the country where the product was purchased.**

All claims under this warranty must be made to the distributor in the buyers' country by returning the unit securely packed in the original box with all accessories, postage/freight prepaid and insured. The unit will be repaired or replaced at no charge for parts and labor.

**This warranty will be void if the serial number of the unit has been defaced or removed.**

No user serviceable parts inside. **This warranty will be void if the unit has been repaired or modified by non-authorized Gryphon dealers or distributors.** Optional modules must be installed by authorized dealers and distributors only.

This warranty does not cover damage due to misuse, accident or neglect.

**This warranty is not valid if the operation voltage of the product has been changed.**

The distributor or manufacturer, Gryphon Audio Designs, Denmark, retains the exclusive right to make such judgement on the basis of inspection.

The retailer, distributor or manufacturer of the Gryphon shall not be liable for consequential damage arising from the use, misuse or failure of this product, including injuries to persons or property.

Please do not directly contact Gryphon for repair, warranty issues or technical questions. Our local representatives are competent and happy to help you.

**To qualify for this warranty; the enclosed warranty registration card must be filled out and returned to Gryphon Audio Designs within 30 days of purchase.**

Alternatively, you may wish to register online at [www.gryphon-audio.com](http://www.gryphon-audio.com)

*To confirm your warranty registration, you will receive a little Gryphon token to welcome you to the family of Gryphon owners.*

Notes	
Gryphon Model:	
Serial No.:	
Date of Purchase:	
Dealer:	
Country:	

## IMPORTANT SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

Read these instructions.

Keep these instructions.

Heed all warnings.

Follow all instructions.

Do not use this apparatus near water.

Clean only with dry cloth.

Do not block any ventilation openings. Install in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

Do not install near any heat sources such as radiators, heat registers, stoves, or other apparatus (including amplifiers) that produce heat.

Do not defeat the safety purpose of the polarized or grounding-type plug.

US power plugs (NEMA5-15) only: A polarized plug has two blades with one wider than the other. A grounding type plug has two blades and a third grounding prong. The wide blade or the third prong is provided for your safety. If the provided plug does not fit into your outlet, consult an electrician for replacement of the obsolete outlet.

Protect the power cord from being walked on or pinched particularly at plugs, convenience receptacles, and the point where they exit from the apparatus.

Only use attachments/accessories specified by the manufacturer.

Unplug this apparatus during lightning storms or when unused for long periods of time.

Refer all servicing to qualified service personnel. Servicing is required when the apparatus has been damaged in any way, liquid has been spilled or objects have fallen into the apparatus, the apparatus has been exposed to rain or moisture, does not operate normally, or has been dropped

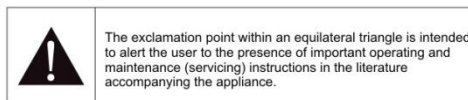
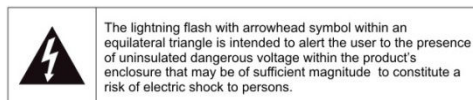
Do not open the equipment to reduce the risk of electrical shock. Refer all disassembling to qualified service personnel.

**WARNING:** To reduce the risk of fire or electric shock, this apparatus should not be exposed to rain or moisture and objects filled with liquids, such as vases, should not be placed on this apparatus.

To completely disconnect this equipment from the mains, disconnect the power supply cord plugs from the receptacle.

The mains plug of the power supply cords shall remain readily operable.

No naked flame sources, such as lighted candles, should be placed on the apparatus.



## Remote Control Battery

### WARNING

#### Danger of explosion

Danger of explosion if battery is incorrectly replaced.

Replace only with the same or equivalent type.

### WARNING

#### Chemical burn hazard

If the coin/button cell battery is swallowed, it can cause severe internal burns in just 2 hours and can lead to death.

If you think batteries might have been swallowed or placed inside any part of the body, seek immediate medical attention.

## Notes

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



