





THE  
GRYPHON



# Gryphon Essence

## Preamplifier

### Owner's Manual

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## The Gryphon Name

The Gryphon namesake 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 genetic code of all things Gryphon is derived from what one writer defined 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.

## In the Very Best Company

In virtually every area of consumer goods, including such diverse fields as fashion, motoring, furniture, wine and spirits, there exists a revered top tier of luxury and excellence, a small, yet crucial, High End segment populated by innovative leaders who march to the beat of a different drum with scant regard for mundane concerns such as mass production or cost.

Their obsessive brief is always sublimely simple: To make their offerings the very best that they can possibly be, for the discerning few who can afford and appreciate them.

With aspirational brands, premium quality, aesthetic design, exclusive materials, advanced technologies and extravagant build quality are key elements that come together to create a rarefied level of luxuriant performance, fit, feel and finish.

While many of the aspirational brands will be familiar to the majority of luxury consumers, there are other activities and interests whose *High End* purveyors are known only to a limited group of cognoscenti.

## Audible Illusions

Curiously, High End domestic sound systems remain unexplored territory for many of even the most affluent. This lack of enthusiasm has often been justified by products that could easily be dismissed, because they were, rightfully, deemed to be unattractive or too complicated for casual users who dwell in lovingly crafted and styled domestic environments.

Fortunately, the issue of complexity has been resolved with the emergence of comprehensive home automation management systems with intuitive, customized user interfaces that simplify and integrate access to the functionality of a home entertainment installation.

As for aesthetic considerations, because beauty is in the eye of the beholder, the music lover with a critical, demanding eye can now have the final say in matters of styling and finish with unique, personalized custom exteriors.

For those who perhaps live under the misconception that they are unable to distinguish finer musical nuances as reproduced by the best systems available, the fact is that even the briefest exposure will demonstrate how easy it is to appreciate the enhanced value of great music rendered by true High End home entertainment equipment capable of creating a credible illusion of actually being in the presence of the performers.

The fortunate few with the means to acquire the ultimate *in-home* entertainment owe it to themselves to experience the soul-stirring difference.



## The Man Behind the Brand

After 33 years at the helm of iconic Danish High End brand Gryphon Audio Designs, Flemming Erik Rasmussen has retired from the company he created almost unintentionally in 1985 to devote himself to his favourite pastimes which include fly fishing, photography, motorcycles, vintage automobiles and especially his first love, painting.

Rasmussen entered the audio field from an unusual direction after earning a degree in painting and graphic arts at the Aarhus Art Academy in Aarhus, Denmark. He then taught painting and photography for ten years before becoming chief designer of textiles and imprints for Scandinavia's largest sportswear brand.

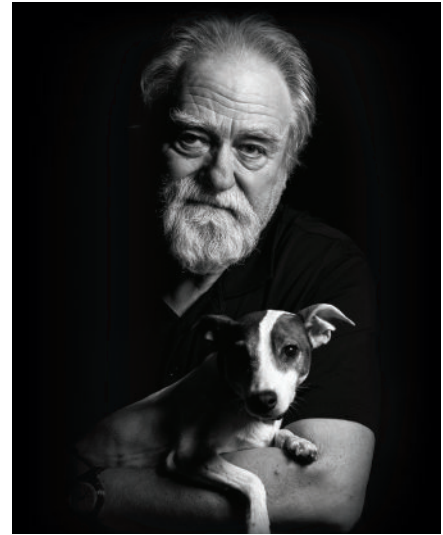
Bitten by the audio bug, Rasmussen resigned to form 2R Marketing, which grew quickly to become Denmark's leading High End audio importer.

Rasmussen's passion for cutting edge audio technologies resulted in the design and manufacture of the Signal Master range of cables and plugs, making him the first to introduce PC-OCC (Pure Crystal Ohno Continuous Casting) cable technology outside Japan.

Gryphon Audio Designs was founded in 1985 as an offshoot of 2R Marketing. The first product, the now legendary Gryphon Head Amp, grew from a one-off spare time project developed only for the designers' own home systems. Although the Head Amp was initially strictly a hobby project, not an actively pursued commercial venture, demand generated by reviews and word of mouth acclaim led to the formal establishment of Gryphon Audio Designs as a separate corporate entity.

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

Rasmussen's background in fine arts and industrial design imbued 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.



*Flemming Erik Rasmussen*



*The legendary Gryphon Head Amp*

## The Gryphon Story



The Gryphon story is extensively 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.

In the transfer of daily management in connection with Flemming E. Rasmussen's departure, there has fortunately been no doubt or uncertainty regarding the future direction of the Danish High End brand that continues to garner praise and admiration in audiophile circles around the world.

The enthusiastic and highly skilled Gryphon team of engineers, craftsmen and support staff remains wholly intact at all levels and each and every member continues to stand behind the brand's proven track record and renewed promise to offer the world's most inventive, technically most advanced and aesthetically most satisfying audio creations to the Gryphon audience of serious, dedicated music lovers.

Quite simply, the engineering, artistic and marketing resources that have defined the Gryphon for 35 years remain firmly committed to the founding principles that have been the bedrock of the company from the very beginning.

Gryphon Audio Designs proudly reaffirms our unwavering passion for audio in the service of your listening pleasure.



## The Gryphon Master Tape Collection

In the Gryphon listening rooms, we have over the years had exclusive access to a unique library of original master tapes of recordings made during the Golden Age of studio engineering from 1956-1976. Unlike conventional commercial LP releases, these master tapes capture the dynamic contrasts and subtle inner harmonic structure of the musical event, forcing us to work to a higher standard in our efforts to maintain the integrity of the original musical performance.

## Design Principles

With state of the art technical equipment and some of the finest minds in the audio engineering field at our disposal, the Gryphon brand continues to define the highest audiophile standards of subjective and technical performance.

The dual mono configuration radically eliminates any possibility of crosstalk or other interference between channels and provides infinite channel separation which contributes to the ability to create space, focus, depth and transparency.

Because the electrical power coming out of your wall fluctuates wildly in terms of voltage and distortion, Gryphon incorporates heavily regulated multi-stage power supplies that act as effective mains conditioning filters. Displays and control circuits are fed by a separate power supply to isolate any digital noise artefacts and effectively prevent them from contaminating the signal path.

While the printed circuit boards in more conventional audio products utilize conductor tracks a mere 35  $\mu\text{m}$  thick, Gryphon employs at least 70  $\mu\text{m}$  traces of the highest purity.

Beginning with our very first product, the Head Amp all Gryphon products have featured extremely wide frequency bandwidth, because the ability to reproduce ultra-sonic frequencies with no difficulty ensures linear phase across the audible frequency range.

The implementation of circuits with wideband frequency response is a painstaking endeavour in which the actual layout and ground pattern of the circuit boards are crucial to the achievement of superior sonic performance with no loss of inherent stability. Wideband frequency response ensures the high slew-rate essential to the realistic handling of the ultra-fast transients which routinely occur in live music and is crucial in recreating the natural decay of musical instruments.

Wide bandwidth also improves phase characteristics, for more correct sound-staging and imaging. All Gryphon designs are realized with an absolute minimum of negative feedback, which when present in large amounts can actually increase transient intermodulation distortion.

All Gryphon amplifiers are designed with zero negative global feedback except for the Gryphon Antileon series of power amplifiers which have a minimum amount of negative global feedback for improved linearity and bandwidth.

Gryphon 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, with the unavoidable exception of the transformer shield box. The mechanical design of the cabinet and assembly methods are all carefully calculated to ensure minimal resonance, either through the use of mechanically grounded high mass or decoupling. Vibration-sensitive components, capacitors in particular, are thus guaranteed a non-resonant environment.



The heavy, thick 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. Meticulous attention to such issues makes a significant contribution to the relaxing, open and transparent Gryphon sound.

Unique, non-invasive protection circuitry offers reliable, fuss-free protection without compromising signal purity and signal path simplicity. The ground path has been carefully laid out in order to achieve superior sonic performance with no loss of stability. Component layout has been designed to ensure the shortest conceivable signal path.

Exhaustive investigation underlies the selection of every component part and many original, proprietary components are custom-built exclusively for Gryphon. 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 with a single, well-defined objective: musical purity.

In the interest of ultimate fidelity, tone controls, balance controls and other unnecessary components have been banished from the signal path.

## Exterior Design

From the very beginning, every Gryphon product has offered stunning audio performance, sumptuous styling and superb user-friendliness, catering to the needs of the discerning audiophile who demands musicality, convenience and aesthetics, all without compromise. In every Gryphon product, form follows function in a unique synthesis of aesthetics and practicality. Gryphon stands for sophisticated technology with a high standard of industrial finish that also incorporates the best of handcraftsmanship. The peerless finish, build quality, ergonomics and pride of ownership that contribute to the totality of the Gryphon concept can only be fully understood and appreciated up close and in person.

Every Gryphon product offers a distinctive, luxuriant finish which arises organically out of the audio circuit design and the user interface for a truly unique integration of form and function.

## Manufacture and Assembly

At our laboratories and manufacturing facilities in Denmark, we maintain full control over every aspect of development and production, and the members of our conscientious staff diligently follow each Gryphon model from initial concept to early prototype, through to final quality control. Printed circuit boards are assembled by a supplier of precision military and medical equipment with strict 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, after a 48-hour burn-in sequence, each product undergoes both electrical and audio performance tests again.





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

## 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 of your Gryphon component. Do not place it in an enclosed space such as a cabinet, unless ample ventilation is provided. If these guidelines are not observed, overheating may result.

## AC Voltage

Your Gryphon unit is especially made for the AC voltage of the country to which it has been shipped. If the voltage 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.

## Choice of Cables

Because your Gryphon component is a high-resolution audio device, it will immediately reveal the characteristics and possible limitations of the other components in your system, as well as those of the interconnects and loudspeaker cables used to connect your system.

Wiring should never be utilized as “equalizers” to correct errors elsewhere in the system. Instead, any error should be corrected at the source, so that interconnects and loudspeaker cables can be selected solely on the basis of sonic neutrality. For this reason, we employ Gryphon’s own range of interconnects and cables at every stage in the design of every Gryphon product.

## 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. 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 polish for acrylic surfaces. Fingerprints may be removed with a damp cloth. Do NOT use spirits or paper tissue.

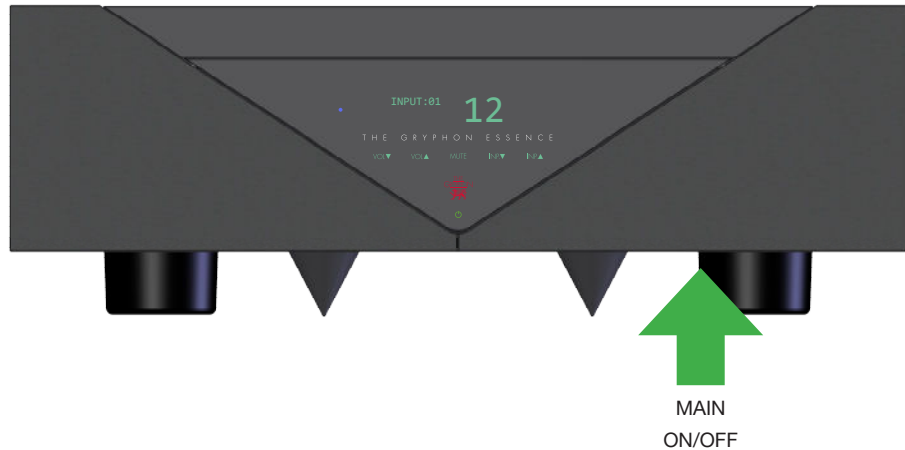
## Burn-In and Warm-Up

Your Gryphon unit has been thoroughly tested and burned in before shipping. 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 Switch

The main ON/OFF switch on the Essence Preamplifier is placed on the bottom right side of the unit, near the front.

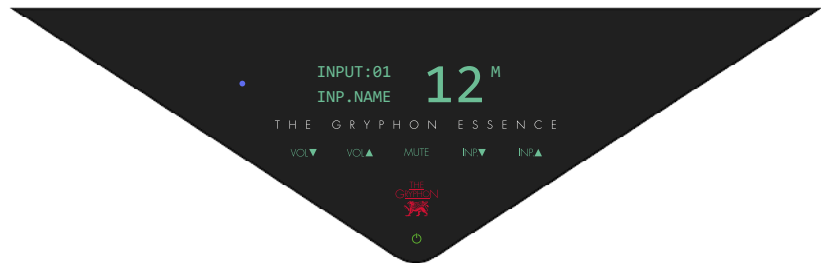
If the blue LED to the left of the ON/STD symbol flashes 3 times in STB mode, this indicates incorrect / defective AC mains voltage.



## SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

Hazardous live AC power! Please find important safety instructions on p. 24

## User Instructions



### Blue LED indicator to the left in display:

1. If it blinks three times in STANDBY mode, this indicates incorrect mains voltage.
2. Blue LED is on when the VFD display is OFF. Display OFF mode can be chosen in the Essence Preamplifier menu.
3. Blinking in ON mode indicates that the USB Super-Cap supply is being charged. (Only if the optional DAC module is installed) The blue LED indicator stops blinking when the USB Super-Cap supply is fully charged.



### ON/STB touch button:

Touch the ON/STBY symbol below the Gryphon Logo to turn the Essence Preamplifier ON and again to go to Standby mode. When the amplifier is ON, the symbol turns green.



### VOLUME

A unique new volume control was developed for the Zena and this principle is also used in the Essence Preamplifier. 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 sonically “invisible” qualities. 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.

Adjust the volume down and up to get the desired listening level. The minimum level is 0 and the default maximum level is 42. The start-up and maximum level can be selected 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.



### INPUT SELECT

Use these buttons to select the desired input from 1-5 and if the optional DAC module is installed from 1-10. The display shows the selected input and the given name for this input.



## Remote Control

Besides the functions from the front panel, the remote control offers the following features:

### MONITOR

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 an M in the top right corner of the display.

### MENU

This remote button selects the Essence Preamplifier MENU options, described later in this manual.

### OK

The black button in the centre of the remote is the OK button and is used to confirm the choices made in the menu. This is described later in this manual.

### Direct input select (1-10)

The numbered buttons from 1 to 10 are used to directly select the desired input.

### DAC - FILTER, DSD LP, 0/-6dB

These buttons give direct access to some DAC settings. See the chapter regarding the optional DAC later in this manual.

## Menu Activated Functions

When entering the Essence MENU options; some of the Essence remote buttons will have different functions for navigating through the menu:

**MENU** button is now used to return to previous menu item.

**MENU** is also used to exit the MENU options, when not having entered a sub-menu.

The black button in the centre acts as the menu OK button, confirming the selected option.

**VOL ▲** and **VOL ▼** navigates up and down in the menu and is also used to change a value.

**INP ◀** and **INP ▶** buttons move the cursor to the left or right where the character or figure is to be placed.

### Options available via the 'MENU' function:

#### 1. Name Inputs

Select the input to give a name.

Select if you want to choose between a list of standard sound sources or you want to create your own custom name.

The standard input names to choose from are:

CD, DVD, DSD, TUNER, TAPE, PHONO, DAT, DAC, STREAM, AUX.

The custom name can be anything from blank up to 8 characters. Use **VOL ▲ ▼** to change character, **INP ◀ ▶** to move the cursor left and right and **OK** to confirm.

#### 2. Change Max Level

Select any volume step as the maximum level (42 is default) allowed to be played.

Use **VOL ▲ ▼** to change the value and **OK** to confirm.

#### 3. Change Start Level

Select any volume step from 0 to 25 as start level (0 is default). Use **VOL ▲ ▼** to change the value and **OK** to confirm.

#### 4. **Change Brightness.**

Display brightness is adjustable in five steps:

- a. 100%, full brightness (default)
- b. 75%
- c. 50%
- d. 25%
- e. OFF, display turns off after 15 sec.

NOTE: When the display is turned off; pressing any button on the front panel or the remote control will cause the display to turn on briefly so that you can see the current volume level and selected input.

Press a second time to activate the desired function.

The display will turn off again after 15 sec. and the discrete blue LED will turn on to indicate display off mode.

#### 5. **Input level match**

Add from 0 to 8 dB in 2 dB steps to the input signal on the different inputs. 0 dB is default on all inputs. Use **INP** ◀ ▶ to select the input you want to adjust, **VOL** ▲ ▼ to change the value and **OK** to confirm.

#### 6. **Green Bias setup**

Within the Green bias setup menu you can choose the following settings:

##### **Low setting:**

Vol. 00-09 Bias low  
Vol. 10-19 Bias medium  
Vol. 20-42 Bias high

##### **High Setting:**

Vol. 00-15 Bias low  
Vol. 16-25 Bias medium  
Vol. 26-42 Bias high

#### 7. **DEDICATE INPUT TO AV**

This option allows you to use either input 2 (balanced) or input 3 (single ended) on the Essence Preamplifier as an input for a source with its own volume control e.g. Surround Processors.

If you select this option, the signal will be passed through the selected input with no attenuation (0 dB). Use **VOL** ▲ ▼ to select the input and **OK** to confirm.

You will now get a warning to let you know that the input will have **NO ATTENUATION** followed by the option to either cancel or confirm. Choose YES or NO with **INP** ◀ ▶ and **OK** to confirm.

#### 8. **RESTORE SETTINGS**

Restores all settings to factory defaults.

**WARNING: 'Restore Settings' also deletes all customized input names entered by the customer!**





## Essence Preamplifier Rear Panel

### SUB OUT

These single ended RCA outputs allow you to connect an active subwoofer or a second power amplifier. The SUB OUT output is buffered using a high-grade Op-Amp. The signal is full range - no low pass filtering. Completely separated left and right channel signals.

### OUTPUT

Balanced fully discrete, DC-coupled Class A preamplifier outputs for your power amplifier.

### INPUT 1, INPUT 2

Balanced inputs for your balanced sources.

### INPUT 3, INPUT 4, INPUT 5

Single ended inputs for your single ended sources.

INPUT 4 is also dedicated "Tape Input", see MONITOR function.

Use input 5 to connect to the optional Phono module and the GROUND terminal for your turntable.

### GREEN BIAS

If you are using a compatible Gryphon power amplifier, you may choose to connect the Green Bias control link for automatic regulation of Class A bias of your power amplifier.

### 12V LINK

12V LINK IN is for switching the Essence Preamplifier between standby and ON when connected to a unit with same feature and protocol.

12V LINK OUT is for switching other compatible units between standby and ON following the standby/ON state of the Essence Preamplifier.

### Balanced Connections

All Gryphon products use the AES standard for balanced connections:

1. Ground 2. Positive 3. Negative

We recommend the use of dedicated balanced cables. Avoid the use of adaptors as they degrade performance.



## Remote Codes

The Essence Preamplifier remote control uses the Philips RC-5 standard for infrared communication. The following RC-5, system 16 codes are used for the Gryphon Essence Preamplifier:

ON/STB . . . . .	12	Direct Analog 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
MENU . . . . .	19	Direct Digital Input Select	
MONITOR . . . . .	21	INPUT 6 . . . . .	6
OK . . . . .	20	INPUT 7 . . . . .	7
FILTER . . . . .	50	INPUT 8 . . . . .	8
DSD LP. . . . .	48	INPUT 9 . . . . .	9
0/-6dB . . . . .	36	INPUT 10. . . . .	0

## Features and Specifications

- Zero negative feedback
- True Dual Mono configuration
- Fully discrete, DC-coupled Class A circuit topology
- Microprocessor-controlled 43-step fully balanced relay volume attenuator for best sonic performance based on a minimalist contingent of ultra-precision resistors
- High-speed, discrete, single-ended Class A input buffer for best possible sonic performance
- Optional PCM/DSD DAC module with one USB, 2 x SPDIF, 1 AES and 1 optical input. PCM up to  $F_s = 384$  kHz, DSD up to DSD512
- Optional MM/MC PS2 / PS2-S phonostage module based on the legendary Legato phonostage
- Local shunt regulators for optimal noise suppression
- Input level matching to prevent abrupt volume changes
- Ultra-short signal path
- Minimal internal wiring
- Gold-plated Neutrik XLR sockets for two balanced sources and 1 output
- Gold-plated phono sockets with Teflon insulation for 3 inputs and 2 outputs
- Fixed-level AV throughput, balanced or single-ended, for uncompromising integration with separate surround preamplifier
- Large Vacuum Fluorescent Display for easy legibility
- Adjustable display lighting (100/75/50/25%, Off)
- Backlit touch-sensitive front panel controls
- 12 V DC link input and output
- Green Bias link output for automatic Green Bias control with any Gryphon power amplifier
- Stylish infrared remote control
- Flash memory upgrades possible via PC or Key-fob
- EU CE approval
- Standby current consumption < 0.5 W
- Designed and built in Denmark

### Specifications:

- +18 dB gain, max.
- Output impedance: 15 Ohm XLR, 22.5 Ohm RCA
- Frequency bandwidth (-3 dB): 0.1 Hz – 1 MHz
- Power supply capacity: 2 x 26,000  $\mu$ F
- Input impedance, balanced (20 Hz – 20 kHz): 50 kOhm
- Input Impedance, single-ended (20 Hz – 20 kHz): 25 kOhm

### Dimensions:

- 47 x 16.5 x 38.5 cm (WxHxD), 13.4 kg net.

Specifications can be changed without notice.

## Optional Zena DAC module

The Zena DAC module is the perfect match for the Essence preamplifier, adding 5 top notch digital inputs to the Essence existing five analog inputs. With the DAC module built in, the Essence display informs you about the chosen digital input sampling frequency, PCM/DSD format and chosen digital filter setting.



### Essence display DAC information, example

'06:' actual digital input number (06 to 10).

'USB' input name, which can be changed via the menu. Please consult the Essence user instruction for details.

'FS:' actual sample frequency.

'Padlock symbol': DAC locked/unlocked to input signal

'FILTER:' Actual format being played, PCM or DSD and actual Digital Filter being used.

'06' actual volume level (00 to 42).



Blue LED indicator to the left in the display: Flashing when Essence Preamplifier (with DAC module installed) is ON, indicates that the USB Super-Cap supply is being charged. This can take up to 4 minutes, depending upon the degree of Super-Cap discharge, at the time the preamp is powered up. The blue LED indicator stops flashing when the USB Super-Cap supply is fully charged.

### DAC 'MENU' guide:

When the Gryphon Zena DAC module is installed in the Essence Preamp, it is possible to change several standard Digital Filter and output settings via the 'MENU' function.

### DAC SETUP

**THIS Menu option is only available if the optional DAC module is installed.**

Use **INP** ◀ ▶ to select the setting you want to change and **VOL** ▲ ▼ to change the value and **OK** to confirm:

PCM:	Select filter:	<b>FAST</b> roll off (long Group Delay) or <b>SLOW</b> roll off (short Group Delay)
DSD:	Select filter:	<b>50</b> , <b>60</b> or <b>70</b> kHz (-3dB pass band frequency)
	Set DSD LP:	<b>ON/OFF</b> (first order analog low Pass)
GAIN:	Select gain:	<b>0</b> or <b>-6</b> dB (this setting is valid for all five digital inputs)

The default settings are written in bold and were chosen by Gryphon, because these settings perform very well sonically.

Regarding sound quality; we recommend using a high quality high-end USB cable between the PC/Mac and Zena DAC USB input – not a standard USB data cable.

It is always possible to reset possibly changed DAC settings back to standard, using the Essence Preamplifier MENU function 'RESTORE SETTINGS', please see "Menu activated functions".

PLEASE NOTE: 'RESTORE SETTINGS' will also reset all other Essence Preamplifier settings too, incl. 'INPUT NAMING' and 'INPUT LEVEL MATCH'!

## Optional Zena DAC module inputs



### INPUT 6: USB

Connect your PC, Mac or streamer via your preferred dedicated USB Audio cable. Please see separate PC/Mac player information and guide on: [www.gryphon-audio.com](http://www.gryphon-audio.com).

Accepted USB formats and sample rates:

- PCM (Pulse Code Modulated):  
Fs: 44.1Khz, 48Khz, 88.2Khz, 96Khz,  
176.4Khz, 192Khz, 352.8Khz or 384Khz
- DSD (Direct-Stream Digital):  
Mac: DSD64 and DSD128  
Windows: DSD64, DSD128, DSD256 and DSD512

NO Drivers needed for Mac OSX 10.6+ and Linux with UAC2 compliant kernel.

Zena DAC Kernel-Streaming/ ASIO drivers for MS OS XP to Win10 32-64bit can be downloaded at: [www.gryphon-audio.com](http://www.gryphon-audio.com)

### INPUT 7: AES/EBU

Connect a digital source with balanced 110 Ohm output to this XLR input.

### INPUT 8-9: S/PDIF

Connect digital sources with single-ended 75 Ohm output to these inputs.

### INPUT 10: TOSLINK

Connect digital sources with optical output to this input.

## Optional Zena DAC Features and Specifications

- Zero negative feedback
- True Dual Mono Class A Analog configuration
- Zero negative feedback
- Sabre ES9018 High-End D/A converter
- USB input compatible with following audio formats via PC/MAC/Linux:  
PCM: 44.1, 48, 88.2, 96, 176.4, 192, 352.8 and 384 kHz, up to 32 bits
- DSD via USB: DSD64 (2.822MHz), DSD128 (3.072MHz), DSD256\* (5.644MHz) and DSD512\* 6.144MHz)
- XLR and BNC inputs compatible with PCM: 22.05, 24, 32, 44.1, 48, 88.2, 96, 176.4 and 192 kHz, up to 32 bits
- TOSLINK input compatible with PCM: 22.05, 24, 32, 44.1, 48, 88.2 and 96 kHz, up to 32 bits
- User-selectable PCM and DSD digital roll-off filters
- Temperature-compensated, ultra-low jitter crystal oscillator with better than 5 parts per million accuracy
- Super-Capacitor (12.5 Farad!) power supply for USB module - acts like a true battery supply
- First-order PCM analogue filters and second-order DSD analogue filters with silvered Mica and Polypropylene capacitors
- Analogue output stages with discrete, ultra-low noise +/- 22VDC regulated voltage supplies for best analogue THD and noise suppression
- Multiple Local Voltage regulators for best digital noise suppression
- Discrete, separate left/right channel ultra-low noise power supply for analogue section of ES9018 DAC
- Ultra-short signal path
- Minimal internal wiring
- Two four-layer printed circuit boards up to 70µ copper
- PCB-mounted sockets eliminate wiring and shorten signal path
- Gold-plated Neutrik XLR socket for one balanced 110 Ohm AES source
- Gold-plated 75 Ohm BNC sockets with Teflon insulation for 2 S/PDIF sources
- One TOSLINK optical fiber input
- Designed and built in Denmark
- \*(at the moment, DSD256 and DSD512 only on Windows systems)

Specifications can be changed without notice.

## Optional PS2-S Phono Module

### Gain:

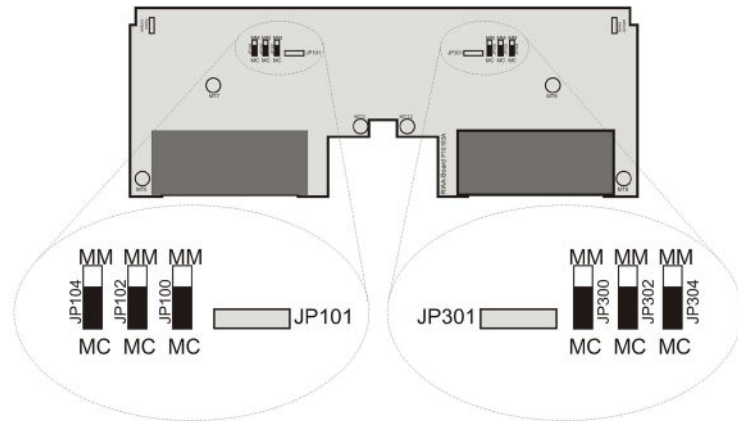
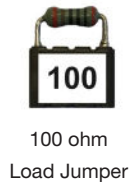
Moving Coil (MC)	64dB
Moving Magnet (MM)	42dB

### Impedance:

Moving Coil (MC)	20, 100, 200, 499 and 806 Ohm – or custom load
Moving Magnet (MM)	47 kOhm/200pF

### S/N ratio:

MC, Input 250mV, 1kHz:	>72dB
MM, Input 2.5mV, 1kHz:	>84dB



### Input impedance in MC mode

Fit the desired load jumpers on pinheaders JP101 and JP301.

It is not recommended to use the module in MC mode without load jumpers.

Recommended max. custom load: 1kOhm. Default factory fitted jumpers: 100 Ohm

Input impedance in MM mode: The input impedance in MM mode is 47kOhm/200pF

### Switching between MM and MC

The selection of MC or MM is made with jumpers JP100, JP102, JP104, JP300, JP302, and JP304

## Gryphon Keepsakes

To fully express your pride in the ownership of a Gryphon product, we offer a range of Gryphon branded accessories, apparel and more.

### Gryphon CD & Super 45 rpm heavyweight Vinyl



### Gryphon business card holder, designed by Georg Jensen



### The Gryphon Sculpture, created by sculptor Kaj Hansen, individually sandcast, polished and hand-finished



### Gryphon carpet, 2x3m or 1.5x2m



### Book

*The Art of the Gryphon: Form and Function in a Spiritual Union*, 140 pages photo gallery



## Warranty& Support

The Gryphon Essence 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 buyer's 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 remains valid only if the serial number of the unit has not been defaced or removed and repairs are not performed by non-authorized Gryphon dealers or distributors.**

The 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 or other modifications are performed.**

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 contact Gryphon for repair, warranty issues or technical questions. Our local representatives are competent and happy to help you.

**To secure the best service, the enclosed warranty registration card must be filled out and returned to the manufacturer within 10 days of purchase.**

**Alternatively, you may wish to register online from our website. [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

1. Read these instructions.

2. Keep these instructions.

3. Heed all warnings.

4. Follow all instructions.

5. Do not use this apparatus near water.

6. Clean only with dry cloth.

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

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

9. 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 are provided for your safety. If the provided plug does not fit into your outlet, consult an electrician for replacement of the obsolete outlet.

10. Protect the power cord from being walked on or pinched particularly at plugs, convenience receptacles, and the point where they exit from the apparatus.
11. Only use attachments/accessories specified by the manufacturer.

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

13. 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.

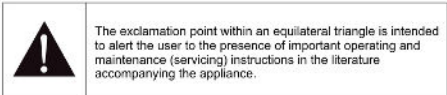
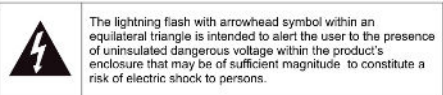
14. Do not open the equipment to reduce the risk of electrical shock. Refer all disassembling to qualified service personnel.

15. 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.

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

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

18. 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.

