



3

326 preamplifier

User manual



Dear client

We are proud that you have chosen a soulution preamplifier. In doing so, you have acquired an audio component of outstanding quality with exceptional sonic performance which we are sure you will enjoy for many years to come.

It is important that you study this user manual carefully, step by step, before you install the 326 preamplifier in your audio system. The manual contains information on how the 326 preamplifier works, relevant safety instructions and recommendations for optimizing your entire audio system.

If you have any questions regarding the installation, setup or operation of your 326 preamplifier, please do not hesitate to contact your dealer.

Enjoy!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chaim', with a stylized flourish.

soulution Team



CE-Declaration of Conformity

Spemot AG declares that this product conforms to the following directives and standards:

Low Voltage Directive 2014/35/EU

Electromagnetic Compatibility 2014/30/EU

FCC-Notice

Note: This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class B digital device, pursuant to Part 15 of the FCC Rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference in a residential installation. This equipment generates, uses and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with the instructions, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. However there is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation.

If this equipment is found to cause unwanted or harmful interference to radio or television reception when switching on or off, the user is encouraged to take one or more of the following measures:

- adjust or relocate the receiving antenna of the affected appliance
- increase the separation between the equipment and the receiver
- connect the equipment into a mains outlet on a circuit different from that to which the receiver is connected
- consult your dealer or an experienced radio/TV technician for help

Disposal

According to Directive 2012/19/EU of the European Parliament, consumer electro-technical appliances must display the following symbol and must be disposed of separately. In the event of this component requiring disposal please do so in conformity with all locally applicable legal and environmental regulations.





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1 Highlights

1.1 Power supply

A switched mode power supply followed by fast-switching DC-DC converters and low noise linear regulator provide the required supply voltages for the 326 preamplifier. Induction of noise is omitted by physical separation from the analog audio boards and effective shielding. Switched mode power supplies provide supply voltages that are more stable and lower in noise than other power supply technologies.

1.2 Volume control

Relays switched precision resistors form the volume control for the left and right channel. A parallel volume control path based on a Programmable Gain Amplifier (PGA), only active when the volume is changed, ensures click free volume changes.

1.3 Output stage

The powerful output stage (max 0.2A) can also drive long connecting cables to amplifiers easily.

1.4 Surround- Mode

The 326 may as well be integrated in an Audio/Video system. One input can be defined as surround input. Volume and balance settings of the 326 preamplifier will be ignored for the surround input.



2 Safety advice:

User manual	⇒ Follow the safety advice ⇒ Keep this user manual
Mains supply	3 phase power cords with a ground conductor are mandatory. Unplug the 326 from the mains: ⇒ before you adjust or manipulate mains cables ⇒ before cleaning the unit ⇒ during thunderstorms ⇒ when leaving the unit unused for longer periods
Cabling	Unplug the 326 from the mains while connecting or disconnecting interconnect cables. Incorrect cabling may cause damage to your 326, your amplifier, or loudspeakers. Excessive volume due to inappropriate handling may cause hearing damage.
Transport	Use only the cart, stand, tripod, bracket or table specified by the manufacturer or sold with the apparatus. When a cart is used, take care when moving cart/apparatus combination to avoid injury or tipping over.
Packing	To avoid the formation of water condensation within the 326, allow it to reach room temperature before unpacking it. Keep the original packing safely for future transport requirements.
Operation	Never run your 326 ⇒ whilst the casing is open ⇒ with obstructed cooling slots ⇒ in high ambient temperatures (>40 °C) ⇒ in proximity to heat sources like radiators, etc. ⇒ in areas of extreme humidity (for example in a humid cellar) ⇒ close to water (sink, bathtub, taps or similar facilities)
Cleaning	Use a soft and dry towel. We suggest using a nonabrasive microfiber towel. Please do not use any solvents or liquids.
Service	Service by a qualified person will be required if ⇒ the mains cable or the mains connectors are damaged ⇒ foreign substances or liquids have entered the 326 ⇒ if the 326 has been rained on ⇒ the 326 exhibits any form of malfunction ⇒ the 326 has been dropped ⇒ if the casing is damaged



3 Scope of delivery

- ⇒ 326 preamplifier
- ⇒ IR remote control
- ⇒ Mains cable
- ⇒ Spare fuses
- ⇒ User manual
- ⇒ Set of shims

Please check the scope of delivery. If anything is missing or you notice any damage while unpacking, please contact your authorised dealer.

4 Setup

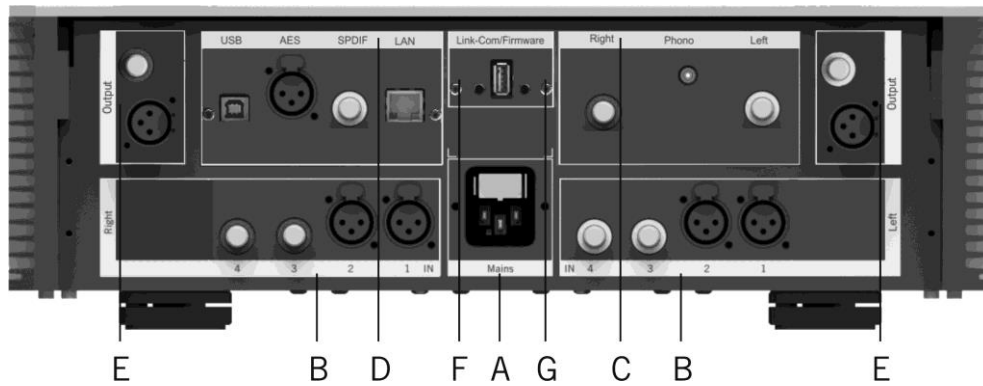
Remove the 326 preamplifier carefully from the cardboard boxes and position it on a stable surface in an appropriate location ensuring cooling air can circulate and escape unhindered. Do not cover the surface of the 326 preamplifier with a cloth or any other object as the complete chassis acts as a heat sink.

The feet of the 326 preamplifier feature a constrained layer damping system which will mitigate vibrations away from the unit. The damping system is designed to work on any surface material. The feet shims are used in case the surface of your audio rack is not perfectly in level.

For best results we suggest using a dedicated audio rack system for all of your audio components.

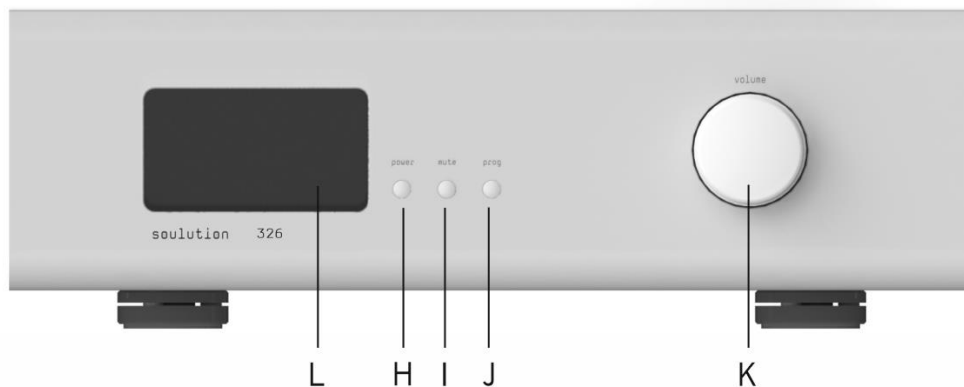


5 Rear and front view



Rear view of the 326 preamplifier

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| A) AC mains input | E) Output |
| B) Inputs IN 1 ... IN 4 | F) Link-com |
| C) Phono MC optional | G) Firmware |
| D) D/A converter optional | |



Front view of the 326 preamplifier

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| H) power button | K) Rotary knob |
| I) mute button | L) Display and IR eye |
| J) prog button | |



6 Connections

6.1 AC mains input (A)

Connect the 326 preamplifier to the mains supply. Please use a high-quality power cable for optimal sonic results. The 326 has no power switch. The device will enter standby mode as soon as it is connected to the mains supply.



unplug mains

Unplug the unit from the mains supply when

- ⇒ left unused for longer periods
- ⇒ adjusting the wiring of your audio system
- ⇒ during thunderstorms
- ⇒ Set the 326 to standby before unplugging it from the mains.

6.2 Inputs IN 1...IN4 (B)

Connect your source devices to the 326 preamplifier with high-quality cables. For long cable runs, we recommend balanced cables. For best results, we recommend separating the interconnect cables from the power cables.

XLR-pin-out:

pin1 = ground
pin2 = non-inverting input
pin3 = inverting input

RCA-pin-out:

cold pin = ground
hot pin = non-inverting input



Clipping

Make sure that the maximum output voltage of your source devices does not exceed the maximum input voltage of the 326 preamplifier. The MAX-VOL function allows you to protect your audio system from excessive volume and your 326 preamplifiers from clipping.



Hot plugging

Before you change the cabling of the 326 preamplifier always revert the unit in standby and disconnect it from the mains.



6.3 Phono MC optional (C)

Connect your turntable (MC cartridge) to the unbalanced phono input of the 326 pre-amplifier. The termination impedance can be optimally adjusted to your cartridge via the configuration functions.

If required, the high-pass filter according to RIAA-IEC (-3dB @ 20Hz) can be activated with the configuration function PHONO-HP. A high-grade ground terminal at the rear panel of the 326 ensures optimal ground connection to your turntable if required.

 **Line level:** Never connect a line-level source component to the phono input. Excessive input levels will cause clipping and overheating of the phono preamplifier.

 **Hot plugging** Before you change the cabling of the 326 preamplifier always revert the unit in standby and disconnect it from the mains.

6.4 D/A-converter optional (D)

The digital-to-analog converter features network, USB, SPDIF and AES/EBU inputs. A powerful DSP converts all digital signals to DXD, the zerophase technology ensures minimal phase errors along signal path.

AES/EBU and SPDIF

File format	Bit depth	Sampling rate
PCM (WAV, AIFF, FLAC, etc.)	16 - 24 bit	32 – 192 kHz
DSD (DoP)	1 bit	2.82 – 5.64 MHz

USB

The readable file formats depend mainly on the used player software. The following formats can be received by the 326's D/A-converter USB input:

File format	Bit depth	Sampling rate
PCM (WAV, AIFF, FLAC, etc.)	16 - 24 bit	32 – 192 kHz
DSD (DoP)	1 bit	2.82 – 5.64 MHz



The 326's USB input supports USB Audio Class 2.0. For operating systems such as Mac OS X, it supports driver free playback up to 24bits/192kHz. Under Windows 8 and lower a specific USB Audio Class 2.0 driver is required for playback of files with sampling rates > 96kHz.

Network

The 326's network input will be recognized as „UPnP™ AV/DLNA Media Renderer device“ and can be accessed from your media server.

File format	Bit depth	Sampling rate
FLAC (Free Lossless Audio Codec)	16-24 bit	44.1 – 192 kHz
WAV (Waveform Audio File Format)	16-24 bit	44.1 – 192 kHz
MP3 (Mpeg Audio Layer 3)	16-24 bit	44.1 – 192 kHz
ALAC (Apple Lossless Audio Codec)	16-24 bit	44.1 – 192 kHz
AAC (Advanced Audio Coding)	16-24 bit	44.1 – 192 kHz
AIFF (Audio Interchange File Format)	16-24 bit	44.1 – 192 kHz
DSF and DFF (DSD stream file)	1 bit	2.82 – 5.64 MHz
DXD (Digital eXtreme Definition)	24 bit	352.8 kHz

6.5 Output (E)

Due to the exceptional load stability there are no restrictions regarding the selection of your connecting cables. For long cable lengths we recommend using balanced cables.

6.6 Link-Com (F)

The Link-Com interface will turn-on/off connected components.

6.7 Firmware (G)

The USB input is provided for firmware updates only. For detailed instructions please refer to section 10 Firmware Update.



7 Operation

7.1 Power (H)

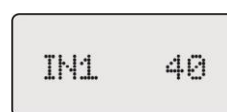
The power (H) button turns on the 326 preamplifier. The start-up sequence takes a short while as the power supplies for the different sections of the circuit are initiated. Progress will be reported in the display (L). Once the unit is ready to operate it will show the active input and volume level in the display (L).



Standby



Power-up sequence

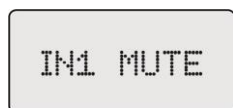


Ready to operate

If the 326 preamplifier is on, the power (H) button will put the unit back into standby (power consumption <1W).

7.2 Mute (I)

The mute (I) button disconnects or reconnects all inputs and outputs from the analog circuits of 326 preamplifier. While the unit is muted, the volume level cannot be altered and the DIM-Function is unavailable.



Mute

7.3 Prog (J)

The 326 preamplifier can be configured to suit the individual requirements of your audio system. Pressing the prog (J) button (de)activates the configuration menus.



7.4 Rotary knob (K)

The multi-purpose rotary knob (K) is used to control the volume, select the input, dim the volume, and to select the configuration menus of the 326 pre amplifier.

Operation-Mode



Turning the rotary knob (K) changes the volume.



Pressing the rotary knob (K) for less than 1 second (de)activates the Volume-Dim function.



Pressing the rotary knob (K) for more than 1 second activates the Input select mode.



Turning the rotary knob (K) while the unit is in input select mode will in/decrement the input.

Configuration mode



Turning the rotary knob (K) selects the desired configuration function.



Pressing the rotary knob (K) confirms the selected configuration function and activates the value range (3 LEDs lit).



Turning the rotary knob (K) selects the desired value.

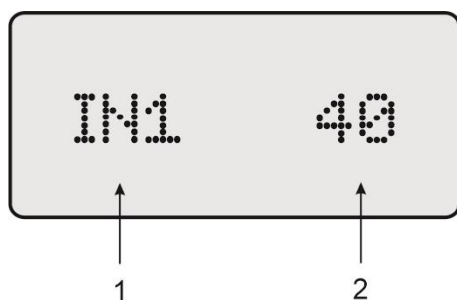


Pressing the rotary knob (K) confirms the new value.



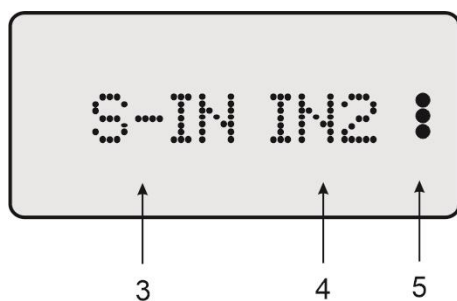
7.5 Display (L)

Normal mode



- 1) Selected input: IN 1 to IN 4, PHONO, or DAC inputs
- 2) Volume level

Configuration mode



- 3) Configuration function
- 4) Value of function
- 5) LEDs are lit whilst values are changeable



8 Configuration

Function	Values	Remarks
PWR-MODE <u>Power-Mode:</u> Defines start-up behaviour	PWR-NORM :	Power-up with power-button, default value
	PWR-LINK :	326 waits for external LINK Signal
	PWR-AUTO :	Switches on automatically as soon as mains voltage is active.
START-IN <u>Start-Input:</u> Defines active input after switch-on	S-IN IN1 :	Start-Input: IN 1, default value
	S-IN PHO :	Start-Input: Phono
	S-IN NET :	Start-Input: Network
S-VOLUME <u>Start-Volume:</u> Defines the volume level after switch-on	S-VOL 10 :	Minimal Start-Volume
	S-VOL 30 :	Default value
	S-VOL 40 :	Maximal Start-Volume
DIM-VOL <u>DIM-Volume:</u> Defines the volume level of the DIM function	D-VOL 1 :	Minimal DIM-Volume
	D-VOL 10 :	Default value
	D-VOL 40 :	Maximal DIM-Volume
MAX-VOL <u>MAX-Volume:</u> Limits the volume level	M-VOL 40 :	Minimal MAX-Volume
	M-VOL 65 :	Suggested MAX-Volume
	M-VOL 90 :	Default value



Function	Value	Remarks
BALANCE <u>Balance</u> Defines the volume difference between the left and right channel	BAL <-9	Balance left 9dB
	BAL 0	Balance center Default value
	BAL ->9	Balance right 9dB
SURROUND <u>Surround-Input</u>	SUR OFF :	Surround mode OFF, Default value
	SUR IN1 :	Inputs IN1 to IN4 can be defined as surround-input.
SUR-VOL <u>Surround-Volume</u> Defines the volume level of the surround-input	SUR-V 10 :	Minimal volume level
	SUR-V 40 :	Default value
	SUR-V 90 :	Maximal volume level
BRIGHTN. <u>Brightness:</u> Defines the brightness of the display	BR. LOW :	Low
	BR. MID :	Mid
	BR. HIGH :	High, Default value
REMOTE <u>Remote-ID:</u> Defines the Remote-ID for the 326.	REM Pre1 :	Default value
	REM DAC :	The 326's Remote-ID can be changed. The ID of the remote control has to be changed accordingly (see chapter 9)
	REM OFF :	
PHONO-HP <u>Phono High-Pass filter</u>	P-HP ON :	High-Pass-filter active, Default value
	P-HP OFF :	High-Pass filter disabled



Function	Value	Remarks
PHON-IMP <u>Phono-Impedance:</u> Defines the impedance of the phono MC input.	IMP 20 :	Minimal impedance
	IMP 100 :	Default value
	IMP 1260 :	Maximal impedance
D-FILTER <u>Digital Filters:</u> Selects the upsampling filter	D-F LIN	LIN: Linear phase
	D-F MIN	MIN: Minimal phase
	D-F LINA	LINA: Linear phase with apodizing Default value
	D-F MINA	MINA: Minimal phase with apodizing
PHASE-EQ <u>Phase-EQ:</u> (de) activates the zero-Phase technology	P-EQ ON	ON: zeroPhase technology is active default value
	P-EQ OFF	OFF: zeroPhase technology not active
POLARITY <u>Polarity</u>	POL 0 :	Polarity in phase, Default value
	POL 180 :	Polarity 180°, inverted
DEFAULT <u>Default-Values</u> Activates the default values for all functions.	LOAD NO :	No action
	LOAD YES :	Loads the default values.
	DONE	
FIRMWARE	FW-00001	Firmware version
	REV-0047	Firmware revision



9 Remote control

Button	Pre-Mode	CD-Mode
(1) IR-transmitter	Operation until 5m distance and angel of $\pm 45^\circ$.	
(2,3) ▲ ▼	Volume +/-	
(4) DIM / ► II	Volume-Dim	Play/Pause
(5/6) ◀ ▶	Select +/-	Next / Previous track
(7) ↵	Enter Function for Program-Mode	
(8) P	(De)activates Program-Mode	
(9) 🔊	Mute	-
(10) ⏻	ON / OFF	
(11) 🔼	-	Open/Close
(12) PRE	-	Activates PRE-Mode
(13) CD	Activates CD-Mode	-

Change of Remote Ctrl ID:

Press the respective buttons for approx. 5 seconds.

- ⇒ Pre 1: ◀ (6), ▶ (5), ⏻ (10)
- ⇒ Pre 2: ◀ (6), ▶ (5), 🔊 (9)
- ⇒ Phono ◀ (6), ▶ (5), ↵ (7)
- ⇒ DAC ◀ (6), ▶ (5), P (8)

Exchange of batteries (2 x AAA):

- ⇒ Open the battery tray on the rear side.
- ⇒ Insert the batteries into the tray as indicated.
- ⇒ Ensure correct polarity of the batteries.
- ⇒ Close the tray with corresponding screw.
- ⇒ Dispose the exhausted batteries





10 Firmware Update

USB-Stick:

The firmware of all soulution products can be updated via the USB port on the back panel. To update firmware, please prepare a USB stick (FAT32 formatted, UBS2.0) containing the required firmware data.

You can find the latest firmware for your 326 preamplifier on our website www.soulution-audio.com. Unzip the downloaded .zip file and copy the firmware files to the root directory of the USB stick. Make sure there are no other files or folders on the USB drive.

Update-process:

- ⇒ Prepare the USB stick with the firmware files (no other files should be present).
- ⇒ Unplug the unit from the mains supply.
- ⇒ Insert the USB stick into the USB interface "Firmware".
- ⇒ Connect the unit to the mains supply.
- ⇒ Follow any instructions in the display.
- ⇒ Once the new firmware has been successfully loaded, the 326 preamplifier will be in standby mode.
- ⇒ Power up the 326 preamplifier.
- ⇒ After the 326 has completed its start-up sequence, press the prog key.
- ⇒ Select configuration function LOAD-DEFAULT and confirm with YES.
- ⇒ Configure the 326 preamplifier to suit your requirements.



11 Troubleshooting

No Display	Check the mains connection, the fuse of your house installation, the fuse of the 326 preamplifier and the brightness function. For the DISPLAY-OFF setting, the display is switched off during operation.
No music	⇒ Check the cabling of your audio system ⇒ Check whether the correct input is selected ⇒ Check whether the source component is muted
PSU FAIL...	The 326 monitors all necessary supply voltages. If a supply voltage fails, the 326 will switch itself to MUTE with the corresponding error code shown in the display.

12 Service

If you cannot identify or rectify a fault by following the troubleshooting measures, please disconnect the 326 preamplifier from the mains supply and contact your dealer.



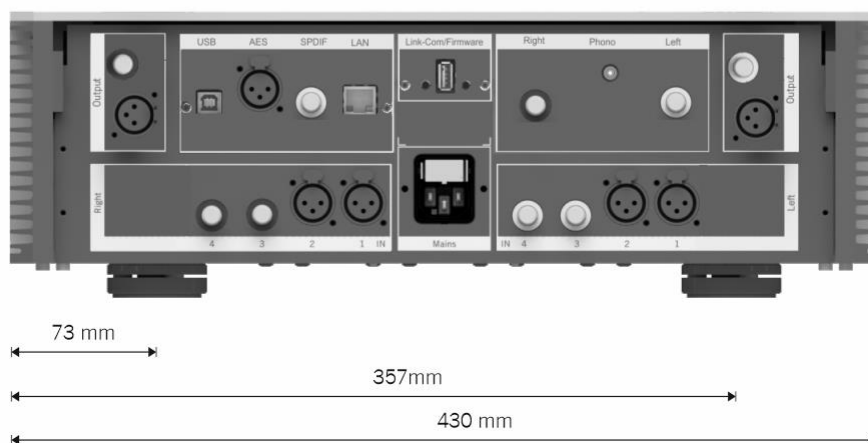
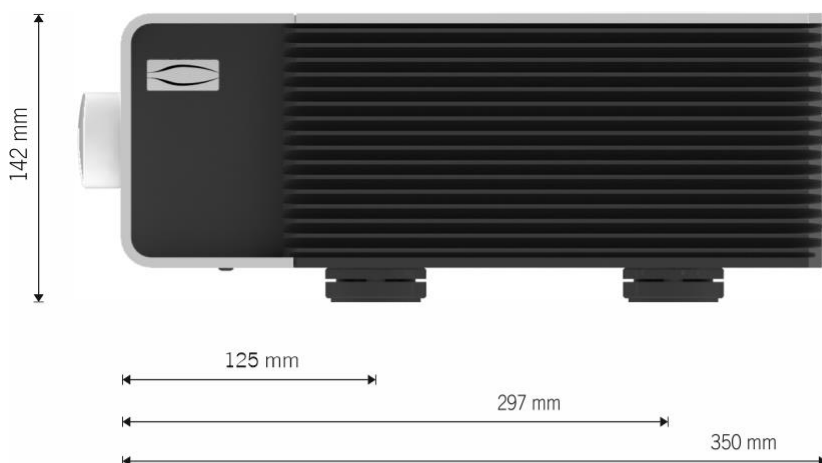
13 Specification

General		
Nominal voltage	Model 100-240V Model 220V/60Hz	100 - 240 V, 50-60Hz 220 V, 60Hz
Nominal consumption		60 W
Consumption	Standby	<0.5 W
Inputs (IN 1...IN 4)		
Impedance	Balanced Unbalanced	5.8 k Ω 4.9 k Ω
Phono	(optional)	
Impedance		20-1'260 Ω
Gain		60 dB
D/A converter	(optional)	
Sensitivity	SPDIF, AES/EBU USB, Network	0.3 - 5 V 0.4 - 2.5 V
Impedance	SPDIF AES/EBU	75 Ω 110 Ω
Output		
Gain (line input)	balanced unbalanced	-73...+6 dB -79...+0 dB
Frequency response		DC - 2 MHz
Phase shift	@ 20kHz	< -1.5 °
THD		<0.0001 %
Spot noise		< -140 dBV/ $\sqrt{\text{Hz}}$
Output impedance	Balanced Unbalanced	10 Ω 5 Ω
Peak output current		0.2 A max.
Dimensions		
Dimensions		430 x 350 x 142 mm
Weight		ca. 10 kg

Technical specifications are subject to change without prior notification.



14 Dimensions



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