

CHAPTER PREFACE PLUS



Chapter Preface Plus Line Stage Pre amplifier

The exception, not the rule...



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Important Safety Instructions

Please read all instructions and precautions carefully before operating your Chapter Preface Pre-Amplifier.

- 1 Please disconnect all items in your audio or AV system before connecting or disconnecting any mains or interconnect cables, or when cleaning your Chapter product.
- 2 Please ensure that your Chapter product is always terminated with a three pin AC power cord. To prevent the possibility of shock all three connections must be used.
- 3 To clean your Chapter product please use a soft damp cloth. Never use flammable or combustible chemicals.
- 4 Never operate this product with any covers removed.
- 5 Never allow the inside of this unit to become wet, or pour / spill liquids directly onto it .
- 6 Never block air flow through the vents on the side panel.
- 7 Never bypass any fuse.
- 8 Never replace a fuse with anything other than those specified.
- 9 There are no user serviceable parts within this product. If problems occur, please contact your Chapter retailer.
- 10 Never expose this product to extremely high or low temperatures.
- 11 Unplug this product during lightning storms.



From all of us at Chapter...



Preface Mk 2
From dream to reality...

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Thank you for choosing the Chapter Preface
Pre-Amplifier.

It has been designed and manufactured to the
highest possible standards in order
to give you many years of musical enjoyment.



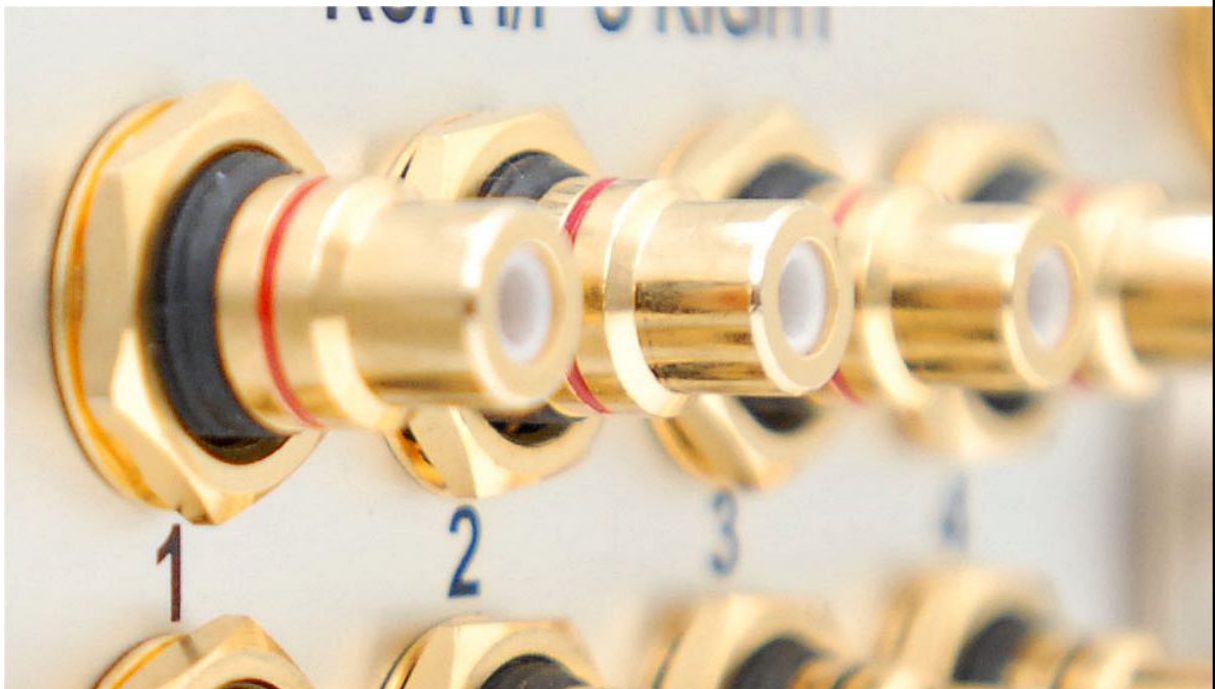
Introduction

The Chapter Preface Pre-Amplifier is a new 'state of the art' audiophile two-channel line stage pre-amplifier, that has evolved from the acclaimed Preface and laterly Preface Plus pre amplifier launched in 2003 and 2006 respectively. The Pre-amp features a number of new design features along with scrupulous attention to technical detail.

Our objective is to provide a product capable of great musicality and realism whilst boasting exemplary technical specifications. By bringing together engineers and designers with a lifetimes experience in audio and power system design we believe this objective has been more than achieved.

The Chapter Preface is able to handle all of today's high-resolution sources, with the fidelity that you would expect of any Chapter product. Our goal, as always, is to produce a true reference quality line stage. A product that can be held in the highest regard from both objective and subjective perspectives.

After several years of research and development, we believe that we have succeeded in fulfilling the requirements of even the most discerning audiophile.



Unpacking your Pre-Amplifier

The shipping weight of your Chapter Preface Pre-Amplifier is 20 KG. Therefore, under normal circumstances, one person should be able to unpack the unit safely. If you are in any doubt, please obtain the assistance of a second person.

To avoid back injury whilst carrying your amplifier (or any other piece of heavy equipment) please crouch with a straight back and use your leg muscles.

After unpacking your pre-amplifier, please retain all packaging for future transport. If you move house or you need to ship your pre-amplifier, only the custom designed packaging is acceptable. Any other method of shipping may result in damage and such damage is not covered under warranty.

Please inspect your pre-amplifier for possible damage due to shipping. If you discover any, contact your Chapter Audio dealer immediately.

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Break In Period

Your Chapter Preface Pre-Amplifier will deliver excellent performance straight out of the box, however, you should expect to hear it improve as it reaches its normal operating temperatures and its various components 'break-in'. In our experience the most significant changes occur within the first 30 - 50 hours use, but the unit will continue to improve in sound quality for about 100 hours, after which time it remains quite consistent.

If the power is removed and reconnected to the pre-amplifier, you must allow a brief 'warm up' period for the unit to give off its best.

However, it is not recommended to leave your Chapter Preface Pre-Amplifier on permanently.



Installation

Your Chapter Preface Pre-amplifier has been designed to fit into a good quality equipment rack or amplifier stand. In most installations locating the pre amp near the source components is best. By doing this you minimise the length of any unbalanced interconnect cable that you may be using.

Where permitting, locate the power amplifier near the loudspeakers and use a longer pair of balanced interconnects to your Preface unit.

The advantage to this strategy lies in the fact that the interconnects carry low current signals that are easily transmitted over distances with greater accuracy than the high current signals required by loudspeakers.

Your Preface Pre-Amplifier has been designed to drive the most demanding of cable runs and amplifier loads with ease.

The back of your Preface Pre amplifier has been laid out to keep every connection accessible. We recommend that you leave some clearance behind the unit to fit cables without having to bend them excessively.

In order to conform with CE regulations your pre-amp is fitted with a rocker style power switch on the rear of the unit as well as a 'standby' switch on the front plate. This rear mounted rocker switch disconnects power from the power supply, resulting in effective disconnection of the amplifier from the AC mains.

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Ventilation

Please allow your pre-amplifier to have at least five centimetres between the top cover and the next shelf up on an equipment rack.

The slotted vents on the side of the pre-amp must not be obstructed, as this would reduce the free flow of air through the unit.



Operating Voltage and Mains Conditions

A good quality three pin, 5 ampere IEC standard, detachable mains lead is provided for use with your pre-amplifier. It is recommended that you use this lead. Please contact us for advice if replacement is required.

The Chapter Preface uses several very low noise, double regulated, linear power supplies to control digital, analogue and control circuitry. Using large custom made screened transformer and a fastidious attention to circuit layout gives the unit staggering noise performance, whilst an advanced mains monitoring system allows the unit to ride through the most unsettled of mains conditions.

The input voltage from which the Preface will operate is factory set to either 110V or 230V.

As the transformers in the Chapter Preface are custom made to our specification, there is no difference in unit performance if operated at 230V 50Hz or 110V 60Hz.

Total audio performance is thus assured anywhere in the world.



Design Features

Finest Part Selection: The Preface uses the best sounding OPAMPS from Burr Brown. All electrolytic capacitors, are all ultra low ESR Samwha or Panasonic Gold series. On the power supply we use the finest sounding regulators our own custom screened mains transformers. At Chapter we also use the finest full immersion gold Printed Circuit Boards and 'Melf' surface mount precision resistors.

Wide bandwidth: This is important in preserving the vital H.F. phase information essential to stereo sound staging and realism. The output stage was designed specifically for its speed of response, further improved by a high-speed differential input stage. Frequency compensation of the pre-amplifier is achieved in such a way as to allow excellent phase and gain margin into complex amplifier loads without compromising high frequency phase or power bandwidth.

Balanced ground layout: Cancels the ground currents that can cause Inter-modulation distortion and crosstalk in a conventional stereo design.

Full Immersion Gold Printed Circuit Boards: Audio signals travel on gold track. As you would imagine, compared to copper and gold plate this is a very expensive to manufacture, but the sonic benefits are hugely tangible in terms of space, air and dynamics.

Custom Designed Differential Volume Control: At Chapter we auditioned many different volume pots, all of which had their own traits. Instead of designing electronics to counter the sonic signature of any particular pot, we have designed our own, using a series of precision resistors and relays. This gives us unprecedented levels of resolution with complete volume repeatability.

Large Very Low Noise PSU: The heart of the pre-amplifier, where digital, analogue and control power supplies are derived from a custom made 400VA transformer, utilising cascaded super regulators and banks of Low ESR capacitors.



Getting Started...

When applying power to your Chapter Preface Pre-Amplifier for the first time please ensure to operate the rear panel AC mains switch. This allows the amp to enter standby mode. Whilst in Standby mode the sensitive voltage gain stages are still powered up to ensure that the unit will sound at its best after only a short period of time. Whilst in standby mode the Pre-Amplifier draws around 5 watts. Once the amp is in standby mode a red LED will appear on the amplifier front panel. The knobs will not be lit.

To fully activate the unit, touch any of the touch switch sensors, or rotate / press either of the knobs. Once the amplifier is powered up the knobs will light blue, the relays engage and the amplifier is ready to use.

To return the unit to standby mode, touch and hold the Power button located on the amplifier front panel until you hear the relays disengage and the lights on the knobs go out.

If you wish to isolate the unit from the mains supply you must turn off the amplifier using the rear panel mains AC switch first.

If you will not be using the unit for long periods of time, for example going on holiday, it is best to totally disconnect the amplifier from the AC mains by removing the moulded plug from the wall socket.





Left Menu Knob

Graphic Display

Menu Selector / Volume

Front Panel

There are two knobs on the Preface. These knobs will glow blue when power is applied to the unit and unit is brought out of standby. You can do this by rotating or pressing either knob or touching any touch sensor on the front panel except for the 'Off' button that is illuminated Red. You can also bring your Preface out of standby via the remote control. Pressing any button except the 'Off' button on the handset will achieve this.

The Preface has a two knob set up. The Right knob can be pressed to access the menu functions in successive order. These options can be changed by turning the right knob and pressing the left knob to 'activate' the option.

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Knob Functions. (In menu order)

Pressing the front panel knob will cycle through the menu functions. they are as follows.

Volume control (Default)

To reduce the volume rotate the knob anti clockwise, to increase the volume rotate the knob in a clockwise direction.

The volume control can be adjusted in up / down by 1dB -86 to -60dB, 0.5dB steps between -60 and -50dB and 0.1dB steps from -50dB to +6dB (input gain set to x2) or +12dB (input gain set to x4).

The fully custom Chapter volume control circuit uses two distinct ranges, ultra high precision (-86dB to -50dB) for low level listening and Standard precision (-49.9dB to +12dB) for general listening.

When operating the volume control operates at two speeds when being used via the handset. 0.1dB for first 1 to 1.9dB of volume change then 1 dB steps thereafter, giving the flexibility of a conventional volume control and the yet complete precision.



Front Panel cont

Input Select

Choose between any of the seven available inputs. Rotating the left knob to the desired input and pressing the left knob to confirm the input choice will activate that input. From left to right these default inputs are XLR Input1, XLR Input2, RCA input 1, RCA input 2, RCA input 3, RCA input 4.

Default is set to XLR input1. To preserve Bass quality, the Chapter Preface does not use a DC servo. Therefore, to avoid any clicking on changing inputs, the volume will automatically ramp down upon changing input, and will only ramp back up once a new input has been selected.

Balance

The default setting shows '0dB - 0dB'. You can adjust the balance by up to 6dB per channel. This works by **decreasing** the volume of one channel. By turning the knob in a clockwise direction, the left hand channel will go down in level. E.G. '-6dB - 0dB'.

Output

This allows the user to set up the Preface for Balanced only operation (XLR Only) or for Balanced and Unbalanced operation (XLR+RCA). The default setting is XLR Only

Input Gain

Press the right knob once more to open up the Input Gain menu. You can then alter the gain of the selected input by choosing **gain x2** (default), **gain x4** or **AV Bypass**. This is used to normalise the levels between various sources or to set up any of the inputs to have a unity gain throughput for use with an AV system.

*** You will be asked to confirm your choice of Bypass by pressing one of the two touch sensors on the amplifier front panel. The display will display 'Yes or No'. There is a corresponding touch switch on the perspex panel under each option. Press and hold the touch the sensor to confirm the AV Bypass command. This is a precaution to ensure that you do not inadvertently feed a 0dB signal to your power amplifier - this will be very loud and may damage your loudspeakers! If you do not want to select AV bypass, simply press nothing and the gain setting will revert back to x4 after 5 seconds.***

Phase (Select)

Press the right knob once more to open up the Phase select menu. You can alter the absolute phase on any input by rotating the left knob and pressing this knob to confirm. The choices are 'NON INVERT' (default) and 'INVERT'.



Front Panel continued

Sleep Mode

Press the right knob once more to open up the Sleep mode menu. This feature allows you to shut down the display and micro controller down after a time period selected by you. To activate sleep mode rotate the knob from the 'OFF' position, after which point you will be able to select the amount of time that the display remains active before going into sleep mode. The options are from 5 seconds through to 60 seconds in five second intervals. If the knob or the remote is used the Preface will come out of sleep mode and re enter this mode after the set amount of time has elapsed. The default setting is 'OFF', meaning that the unit will always show the display and the micro controller will be active.

Display Brightness

You can adjust the brightness of the display in 25% up to the default setting of 100%

Rotor Brightness

You can adjust the brightness of the blue knobs on the amplifier front panel. This can be varied from 1 to 100% in 1% increments. Default is 77%. You do not need to click the left knob to confirm this selection.

Rotor Brightness

You can also adjust the touch sensors button brightness on the front panel of your Precis. This can be varied from 1 to 100% in 1% increments. Default is 77%. You do not need to click the left knob to confirm this selection.

Touch Sensor buttons:

Your Precis is fitted with four touch sensor buttons that are located on the Perspex insert on the amplifier front panel.

Left to right these are:

Mute - to mute amplifier, operate the volume control to un-mute.

Status - this cycles the status of your amplifier and its active input phase etc

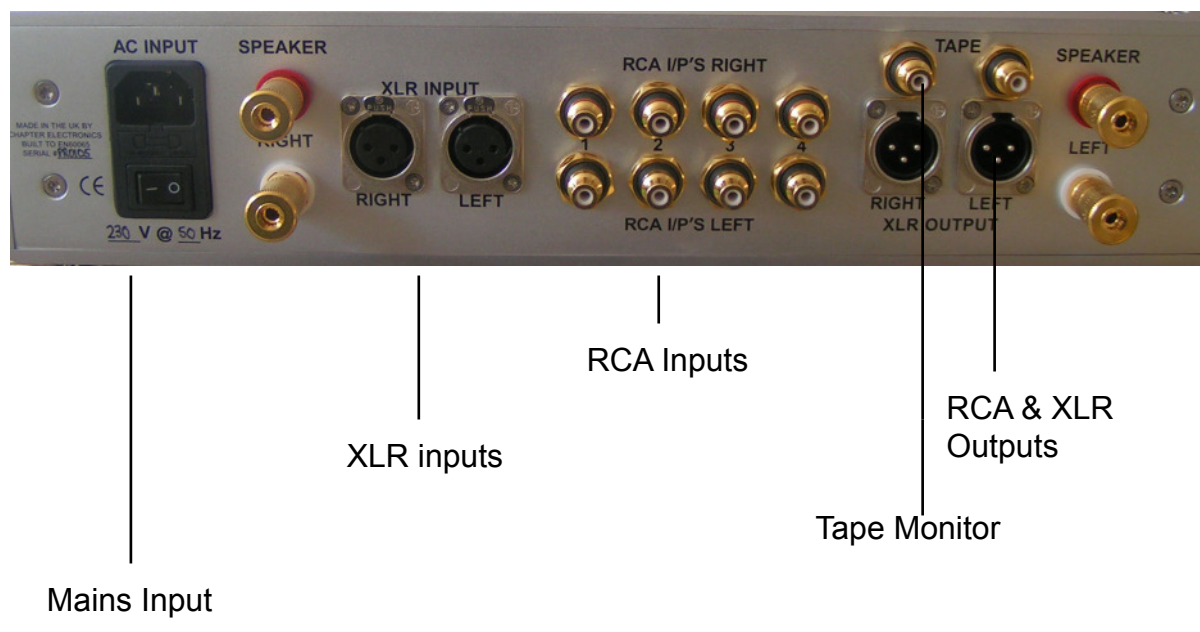
Button 3 - Only used in AV bypass mode.

Off button - This turns the amplifier off. Any other operation to bring out of standby.

Tips: If you want to exit the menu system faster, turn the right knob, and this will exit you to the top level of the menu.



WRONG PICTURE



Rear Panel

1 Filtered Mains input terminal:

To ensure the quality of the mains input to the Preface a 'tuned' filter with no 'Q' points within the audio band has been incorporated into the IEC mains inlet that is used. This also contains a 10A T type fuse.

2 True Balanced Inputs x 2 pair:

Labelled: XLR INPUT 1 & XLR INPUT 2

The Preface will accept analogue signals from sources with XLR outputs. The pin assignments conform with the AES standard of pin 1 chassis ground, pin 2 signal +, pin 3 signal -. In order to maintain absolute phase, please check to make sure that your chosen source component has the same pin assignments. If not you can change the phase for that input through the PHASE option via the control knob.

3 Single-ended Inputs x 5:

Labelled: RCA INPUT 1, RCA INPUT 2, RCA INPUT 3, RCA INPUT 4 & RCA INPUT 5. Your Chapter Preface accepts analogue signals via RCA single ended interconnect cables on the aforementioned inputs.

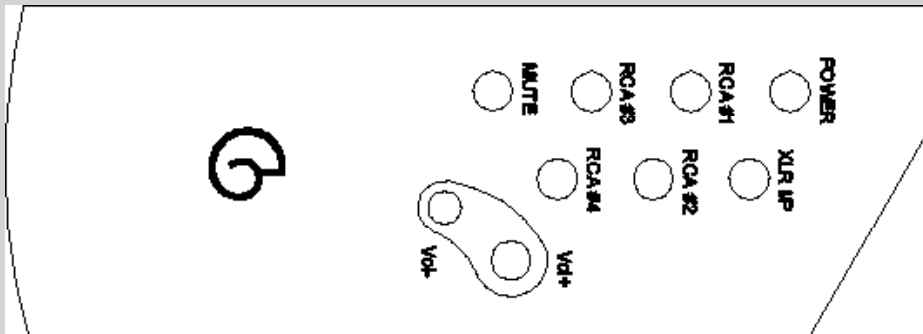
4 Balanced & Unbalanced Preamp Outputs

Your Preface unit can drive an additional power amplifier for bi-amping purposes. The XLR outputs conform to the AES standard as per the XLR input stage.



WRONG PICTURE

Remote Control



Volume Up

Pressing this button on the handset, increases the volume on the pre amplifier.

Volume down

Pressing this button decreases the volume on the pre amplifier.

Power On / Off

This activates the unit from standby or returns the unit to standby mode.

Mute - On / Off

This mutes the outputs. Press this button again to un-mute the pre amplifier. The Preface can also be un-muted by pressing the volume up or down keys on the handset.

Status

Pressing this button will show the unit status on the display. The control system will cycle through all of the user selectable options one by one and display their status on the screen.

IP Select

This allows you to cycle between the individual inputs.

Gain

Press once to view the current gain setting and use the Volume Up / Volume Down buttons to alter the gain. You may not select AV Bypass mode from the remote control handset.

Note: Battery Life on the handset is around 12months. The unit takes 2x AAA batteries and these can be replaced by unscrewing the bottom plate. When replacing the batteries always ensure correct polarity is observed, and that the batteries are both new. * Reverse battery protection is fitted into the handset.



Specifications

Electrical

THD + N	Less than 0.0006% (-104dB) at 1KHz. Less than 0.003% (-90dB) at 1KHz.	22Hz to 22KHz bandwidth 10Hz to 500KHz bandwidth
IM Distortion	Better than -115dB (19+20KHz dual tone test - 1 KHz product at 1V input)	
Signal to Noise	Better than -110dB (22Hz to 22KHz bandwidth). Better than -95dB (10Hz to 500KHz bandwidth).	
Frequency response	DC to 90KHz +0 - 0.1dB (Driving 100K ohms, 85KHz driving 600 Ohms)	
Cross talk (channel to channel)	-120dBv at 1KHz, -110dB at 20KHz, -100dB at 100KHz 1V RMS input	
Cross talk (Phono to Tape)	-100dB at 1KHz, -90dB at 20KHz, -90dB at 100KHz 1V RMS Input	
Common mode rejection ratio	Less than -90dB (1kHz @ 0dBV)	
Gain range Minimum to maximum	-86dB to +12dB	

Audio inputs

Impedance (unbalanced)	47K Ohms
Impedance (balanced)	94K Ohms

Audio outputs

Impedance (unbalanced)	Less than 10 Ohms.
Impedance (balanced)	Less than 10 ohms.

Mechanical

Input sockets	2 pairs of XLR for balanced line operation 5 pairs of RCA Phono for single ended operation
Output sockets	1 Pair of XLR for Balanced Line operation. 1 Pair of RCA for unbalanced operation. 1 Pair of RCA for unbalanced line monitor operation.
Finish	Fully bead blasted, anodised aluminium alloy casework.
Power on/off	Switch and indicator. IEC mains input socket .
Weight	Approx. 20 Kg
Size	390 x108 x300 mm (WxHxD) approx.

Note: Although the information given is in good faith, Chapter Electronics reserves the right to improve specifications and details without notice.



Conformity

CE Declaration of Conformity

The conformity of the designated product with the provisions of Directive number 89/336/EEC (EMC) is proved by full compliance with the following standards:

Standard number	Date of Issue	Test type
EN55013	1994	Conducted emissions
EN55013	1994	Absorbed emissions
EN60555-2	1987	Harmonics
EN60555-3	1987	Voltage fluctuations
EN55020	1987	Immunity
EN60065	1993	General requirements *

* **to include:** Components, Electrical connections and mechanical fixings, External flexible cords, Fault conditions, Heating under normal conditions, Insulation requirements, Ionising, Marking, mechanical strength, Parts connected to the mains supply, Shock hazards under normal operating conditions, Terminal devices.

Chapter Electronics Ltd. also declares that this product conforms with the Low Voltage Directive 73/23/EEC 89/336/ EEC as amended by 92/31/EEC and 93/68/EEC.

Acknowledgements



Warranty Information

This product is guaranteed under the conditions that apply in the Country of purchase. The normal guarantee runs from a period of two years from date of purchase.

In addition to any statutory rights the customer may have, we will replace any parts that have failed due to faulty manufacture.

Warning: Please refer all service enquiries to authorised Chapter Dealers only. Unauthorised servicing or dismantling of the product invalidates the manufacturer's warranty.

If you are unsure about any aspect of obtaining service, please contact your Chapter dealer. Should you require a list of local dealers, please contact the Chapter offices, or your national distributor.

Please keep a copy of the sales receipt to establish the purchase date of the product.

Please ensure that your equipment is insured by you during any transit or shipment.

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Contact Information

Chapter Electronics Ltd
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ME19 4AU
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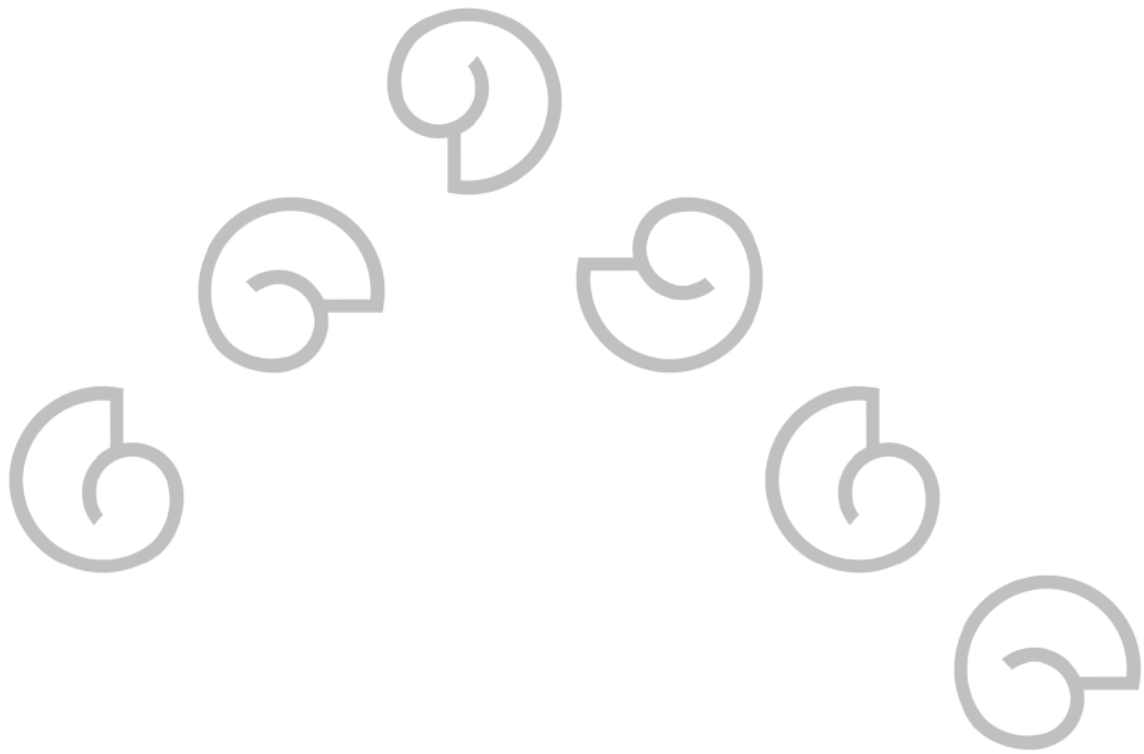
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Notice: Each Chapter Preface Pre-Amplifier is unique in its manufacture. We use only the finest suppliers with the metalwork being machined by a local ISO 9002 quality assured firm. Due to the quality of raw material and finish style adopted for Chapter products it is possible to see the natural alloy grain structure, giving each unit its own individual Signature. Customers should accept and understand that there are slight differences between units and that this is down to the natural grain in the metal.





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