Thank you for purchasing the Musical Fidelity A5 CR Preamplifier.

Used properly and carefully, it should give many years of outstanding musical reproduction.

Aesthetically, the A5 CR Preamplifier is a perfect match for the A5 CR Power and A5 CD player.

Together they form one of the finest hi-fi systems available.

Dust regularly with a soft duster or soft brush, but be careful when using cleaning or polishing agents - they may harm the surface finish.

If you have any questions about your audio system, please consult your dealer who is there to help and advise.
SAFETY INFORMATION

IMPORTANT! (U.K. only)

This unit is supplied in the U.K. with a mains lead fitted with a moulded 13 amp plug. If, for any reason, you need to cut off the plug, please remove the fuse holder and dispose of the plug safely, out of reach of children. **It must not be plugged into a mains outlet.**

The wires in the mains lead supplied with this appliance are coloured in accordance with the following code:

- Green and yellow............Earth
- Blue............................Neutral
- Brown...........................Live

**WARNING - This appliance must be earthed**

As the colours of the wires of the mains lead of this appliance may not correspond with the coloured markings identifying the terminals in your plug, proceed as follows:

The wire which is coloured green-and-yellow must be connected to the terminal in the plug which is marked with the letter E or coloured green or green-and-yellow, or by the earth symbol: 🌏

The wire which is coloured brown must be connected to the terminal which is marked with the letter L or coloured red.

The wire which is coloured blue must be connected to the terminal which is marked with the letter N or coloured black.

If connecting to a BS1363 plug, a 13 amp fuse must be used.

**WARNING:**

Any modifications to this product not expressly approved by Musical Fidelity who is the party responsible for standards compliance could void the user’s authority to operate this equipment.
GENERAL ADVICE

INSTALLATION PRECAUTIONS and USER INFORMATION

Your new A5 CR Preamplifier is designed and built to provide trouble-free performance, but as with all electronic devices it is necessary to observe a few precautions:

Heed all warnings shown on the back of the product.

Only connect the A5 CR Preamplifier to a mains outlet having the same voltage as marked at the back of the unit.

Always ensure that when disconnecting and reconnecting your audio equipment the mains supply is switched off.

Position the mains lead and signal interconnects where they are not likely to be walked on or trapped by items placed on them.

Do not use near water, or place water-filled containers on the amplifier, for example, a flower vase or potted plants. If water does spill inside, immediately pull out the mains plug from the wall socket and inform your dealer, who should then check the unit before further use. Entry of liquid into the pre-amplifier is dangerous, and may cause electric shock or fire hazard.

Do not place the unit near direct heat sources such as radiators, direct sunlight or other equipment.

Do not remove any covers or try to gain access to the inside. There are no internal adjustments or fuses you can replace yourself. Refer all service work to an authorised Musical Fidelity agent.

Note: Unauthorised opening of the equipment will invalidate any warranty claim.

Dust regularly with a soft cloth or soft brush but be careful when using cleaning or polishing agents - they may harm the surface finish.

The electronics in modern hi-fi equipment is complex and may, therefore, be adversely affected or damaged by lightning. For protection of your audio system during electrical storms, remove the mains plugs and disconnect any aerial lead.

If after-sales service is required, to help your dealer identify the A5 CR Preamplifier please quote the serial number located on the rear panel of the unit.

RADIO FREQUENCY INTERFERENCE (R.F.I)

This product has been tested to ensure that its operation is not adversely affected by normal background levels of R.F.I., and that it does not itself generate excessive amounts of interference. However, if a problem persists, please contact your Musical Fidelity agent.
CONNECTIONS and FACILITIES

FRONT PANEL
1. Power on indicator LED
2. POWER mains on/off switch
3. Mute indicator LED
4. Tape MONITOR button and LED
5. PHONO input select button and LED
6. CD input select button and LED
7. Volume control
8. Super Audio CD input select button and LED
9. TUNER input select button and LED
10. Infra-red receiver window for remote control
11. Home Theatre DIRECT input select button and LED – see page 6
12. TAPE input select button and LED

REAR PANEL
13. RIGHT OUTPUT RCA socket
14. Moving Magnet / Moving Coil push-button selection switch – see page 6
15. PHONO input sockets
16. CD input sockets
17. Super Audio CD input sockets
18. TUNER input sockets
19. Home Theatre DIRECT input sockets – see page 6
20. TAPE playback input sockets
21. TAPE RECORD output sockets - see pages 6 and 7
22. LEFT OUTPUT RCA socket
REMOTE CONTROL

The blue buttons on the remote control enable main functions of the A5 CR preamplifier to be operated from a convenient distance. Remaining buttons on this universal handset are for use with other Musical Fidelity products, and have no effect on this unit.

Equivalent buttons on the remote handset have the same functions as those on the front panel of the unit.

As the remote control uses an invisible infra-red light beam, the transmitter must be pointed directly towards the receiver window on the front of the amplifier, without visual obstruction between them.

Pressing the volume-up or -down buttons on the remote handset will turn the motorised volume control in the required direction.

Pressing the MUTE button disables the LEFT and RIGHT OUTPUT sockets, but not does not effect TAPE RECord output. A red MUTE LED on the front panel lights to confirm that audio is not being routed to your power amplifier. Pressing the MUTE button again cancels mute function, and the red LED goes out.

If the range of the remote control greatly decreases, replace the batteries with new ones. Do not mix old and new batteries - two are required, size LR03 or AAA, manganese alkaline type. Do not dispose of used batteries in a fire.

(Preamplifier function buttons only)

CD input select

PHONO pickup input select

SACD input select

Home Theatre DIRECT input select (see page 6)

TUNER input select

AMPLIFIER

VOLUME (up)

VOLUME (down)

TAPE input select

MUTE button
All input, output and power connections should be made with the mains power switched OFF.

**INPUT CONNECTIONS**

The A5 CR Preamp requires one pair of phono inputs, which can be used either for moving magnet (MM) or moving coil (MC) pickups.

The phono input sensitivity requirement can be changed from MM to MC by pressing the push-button switch located on the rear panel. Important - Do not operate the MM/MC switch with the volume control turned up.

Some turntable/pickup arm combinations are fitted with an extra wire for chassis earthing. This should be connected to the earth terminal on the back panel. (Note - this is not a safety earth).

The A5 CR Preamp also has four “line level” inputs which are electrically identical, and therefore suitable for use with any source component having an output of at least 300mV. Input sockets on the rear panel are marked CD, SACD (Super Audio CD), TUNER and TAPE, to correspond with function buttons on the front panel.

The HT DIRECT sockets are intended for home theatre use. When selected, they are routed inside the A5 CR Preamp directly to the preamp output, which is not controlled by the volume adjustment.

**PREAMPLIFIER OUTPUT**

Left and right audio outputs are provided from RCA sockets on the back panel, which are controlled by the volume adjustment.

**TAPE RECORDER CONNECTION**

The A5 CR Preamp has a single tape circuit with facilities for off-tape monitoring with 3-head tape decks (see page 7).

The tape deck’s left and right line outputs are routed to the preamplifier's TAPE (input) sockets, and the tape deck's line inputs are connected to the preamplifier’s TAPE RECord (output) sockets.

**BEFORE SWITCHING ON . . . .**

Plug the accessory IEC mains lead into the rear panel socket, then the other end into a wall outlet.

Turn the volume control on the front panel to minimum (anticlockwise).
**OPERATION**

**STARTING . . .**

Press the **POWER** switch button on the front panel of the A5 Preamplifier - the blue **POWER** LED above the button will light indicating that the unit is ready for use. However, for about sixteen seconds no sound will be heard from your speakers, and the red **MUTE** LED near the button will be lit, confirming initial mute action.

Unless using your amplifier for off-tape monitoring (see paragraph opposite →) ensure that the **TAPE MONITOR** button has not been pressed accidentally, as otherwise no sound will be heard through the speakers.

Select the required audio input source by pressing an appropriate function button on the front panel or remote control, and adjust the volume control to obtain the preferred sound level.

**TAPE RECORDING**

To record, simply select the required source with the input selector button on the front panel or remote control. This source will now be routed to the A5 **CR** Preamplifier’s **TAPE RECord** output for recording by the external tape deck. You will also be able to hear the selected source through the loudspeakers.

Note - adjustment of the volume control has no effect on the recording level.

**OFF TAPE MONITORING**

In conjunction with a 3-head cassette deck, off-tape monitoring allows the user to compare recorded sound with the original whilst a recording is being made (see page 6 for connection details). To do this, first select the required source in the normal way and start recording.

The **TAPE MONITOR** button on the front panel can now be used to switch between the original source sound and the recorded version, allowing direct comparison. The blue LED just above the button is lit when the tape monitor function is operating, confirming that the recorded sound is selected.

On some 3-head tape decks there is an additional “tape/source” switch, which must be in the “tape” position for the above to work.

If in doubt, please refer to your tape deck operating manual.
Basic problem-solving with a pre-amplifier is similar to troubleshooting other electrical or electronic equipment. Always check the most obvious possible causes first, such as the following examples:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Problem</th>
<th>Probable Cause</th>
<th>Remedy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No power when <strong>POWER</strong> button is pressed</td>
<td>Mains power plug is not fully inserted into rear socket</td>
<td>Plug in securely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No sound</td>
<td>Tape monitor function has been selected</td>
<td>Switch off tape monitor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mute function is still active (mute LED is still on)</td>
<td>Press the <strong>MUTE</strong> button on the remote control to cancel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wrong connections between input sources and the A5 <strong>CR</strong> Preamplifier</td>
<td>Check audio input lead connections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hum</td>
<td>Audio connector plug not fully pushed in</td>
<td>Insert plug securely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remote control does not work</td>
<td>Preamplifier’s <strong>POWER</strong> switch is set to off</td>
<td>Set switch to on</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>One or more batteries fitted the wrong way round</td>
<td>Insert batteries correctly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Batteries are flat</td>
<td>Change batteries – do not mix old and new ones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Remote control is not pointed directly towards the front panel of the preamplifier</td>
<td>Ensure there is no obstruction between the remote control and preamplifier front</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remote control range has greatly reduced</td>
<td>Batteries are running out</td>
<td>Change batteries – do not mix old and new ones</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If none of these actions effect a cure, please contact your dealer, or an authorised Musical Fidelity service agent. Remember, never open the case of the A5 **CR** Preamplifier yourself, as this will invalidate the guarantee.
### A5 CR SPECIFICATIONS

#### STEREO PREAMPLIFIER

**Output:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specification</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Voltage, RMS</td>
<td>29 Volts 20Hz to 20kHz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voltage, peak-to-peak</td>
<td>84 Volts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impedance</td>
<td>50 Ohms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frequency response</td>
<td>20Hz to 20kHz, ±0dB</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Line inputs:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specification</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total harmonic distortion + noise, 20Hz to 20kHz</td>
<td>&lt; 0.01%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Signal / noise ratio reference 1 Volt RMS output</td>
<td>&gt; 100dB 'A'-weighted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Input sensitivity for 1 Volt output</td>
<td>240mV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Input impedance</td>
<td>220k Ohms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gain at maximum volume</td>
<td>12.5dB (4.2 times)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overload margin</td>
<td>31dB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Channel separation</td>
<td>&gt; 70dB typical</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Home Theatre Direct input:**

- **Input sensitivity:** Zero gain, not effected by volume control

**Phono input:**

- **Frequency response reference**
  - IEC RIAA - see graph . . .

**Signal / noise ratio reference 1 Volt RMS output**

- Moving magnet: > 94dB 'A'-weighted
- Moving coil: > 88dB 'A'-weighted

**Input sensitivity for 1 Volt RMS output at 1kHz**

- Moving magnet: 2.5mV moving magnet
- Moving coil: 370µV moving coil

**Input impedance**

- Moving magnet: 47k Ohms
- Moving coil: 11k Ohms

**Overload margin**

- Moving magnet: 31.2dB
- Moving coil: 30.9dB

**Inputs:**

- 4 pairs line level RCA connectors
- 1 pair (home theatre direct) power amplifier input RCA connectors
- 1 pair phono RCA connectors

**Outputs:**

- 1 pair RCA main output controlled by the volume
- 1 pair RCA tape record fixed line level output

**Power requirement:**

- 100 / 115 / 230Volts AC 50 / 60Hz (factory pre-set)
- 10 Watts maximum

**Weight:**

- 13.15 kg, 29 lbs unit only, unboxed
- 18 kg, 39.5 lbs in shipping carton

**Dimensions:**

- 440 mm, 17.3 inches wide
- 125 mm, 4.9 inches high including feet
- 397 mm, 15.6 inches deep including terminals

**Standard accessories:**

- IEC type mains lead (10-Amp type)
- remote control (A5 type - universal)
- 2 batteries size LR03 or AAA, manganese alkaline type

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Musical Fidelity reserves the right to make improvements which may result in specification or feature changes without notice