Connecting the Illusion II to Your System

Krell recommends using balanced interconnect cables. Balanced interconnect cables not only can minimize sonic loss but are also immune to induced noise, especially with installations using long cables. Balanced connections have 6 dB more gain than single-ended connections. When level matching is critical, keep this gain value in mind.

Operating the Illusion II

Position the preamplifier where you intend to use it in your system.
1. Neatly arrange and organize wiring to and from the preamplifier and all components. Separate the AC wires from any audio cables to prevent hum or other unwanted noise from being introduced into the system.
2. Connect the outputs of your source equipment to the appropriate balanced (11), or single-ended inputs (12) on the Illusion II.
3. Connect the main outputs (13) on the Illusion II to your amplifier’s inputs.
4. Connect the supplied AC power cord to the IEC power cord receptacle (17) of the preamplifier.
5. Plug the other end of the AC power cord into AC power and turn on the rear power switch. The display (3) shows krell-II SOFTWARE VERSION, and the standby/power indicator (4) illuminates red, indicating that the Illusion II is in stand-by mode. When the display shuts off, the Illusion II is ready to be powered on.

Note

Use only the power cord provided with the Illusion II to make the connection to AC power. Operation with a power cord other than the one supplied by Krell can induce noise, limit current, or otherwise impair the ability of the preamplifier to perform optimally.

Channel Balance Adjustment

The balance function allows adjustment of the left and right balance. The options are: CENTER, L.5 dB <, R.5 dB >. The remote control has direct keys (D) to make these adjustments. For front panel adjustment follow the steps listed below.
1. Press the preamplifier menu button (9), then use the level control knob, or the remote control up and down keys to select: BALANCE.
2. Press the enter button (8) or remote enter key. The display shows the default mode: CENTER.
3. Use the level buttons, or the up and down keys, to select the desired balance option from 0 to +5 dB in .5 dB increments, left or right.
4. Press the enter button or key to confirm the selection. The display reads: BALANCE.
5. Press the menu button to exit the menu.

Getting Started

Thank you for your purchase of the Krell Illusion II Stereo Preamplifier. The Illusion II features Krell Current Mode circuit topologies, balanced technology, and a robust power supply for exceptional audio performance. The Illusion II preamplifier includes a digital input module and a headphone output. A thoughtful suite of menu options ensures that the Illusion II can be customized for the greatest ease of operation.

Overview

The Illusion II preamplifier's front panel provides power, input selection, level control, menu functions, and status display. The rear panel allows connection to audio sources, power amplifiers, AC power, and other system components. The remote control provides power, preamplifier, level control, navigation and customization functions, CD and DVD player controls and menu configuration.

WARNINGS

Do not place the preamplifier where it could be exposed to dripping or splashing. Do not remove or bypass the ground pin on the end of the AC cord. This may cause radio frequency interference (RFI) to be introduced into your playback system. The ventilation slots on the top and bottom of the preamplifier must be unobstructed at all times during operation. Do not place flammable material on top of or beneath the component. Turn off all systems' power before connecting the preamplifier to any component. Make sure all cable terminations are of the highest quality, free from frayed ends, short circuits, or cold solder joints.

Unpacking

Save all packing materials. If you need to ship the Illusion II in the future, repack the unit in its original packaging to prevent shipping damage.

Placement

We recommend that you place the preamplifier on a firm, level surface, away from excessive heat, humidity, or moisture. The preamplifier requires at least two inches (5 cm) of clearance on each side and at least two inches (5 cm) of clearance above to provide adequate ventilation. Installations inside cabinetry may need extra ventilation.

AC POWER GUIDELINES

The Illusion II preamplifier has superb regulation and does not require a dedicated AC circuit. Avoid connections through extension cords or multiple AC adapters. High quality 15 amp AC strips are acceptable. The use of AC line conditioning devices is not recommended. The features provided by these devices are already on board the Illusion II.
1. Power
   Use this to switch the preamplifier between standby and operational modes.

2. Display
   This provides channel status messages, including input selection, volume level, balance, offset, and menu selections.

3. Infrared sensor
   This receives commands from the remote control. Make sure this is not obstructed.

4. Stand-by/Power indicator
   This power indicator illuminates red (stands by) when the Illusion II is plugged into a standard AC wall receptacle and rear power switch is on. The power indicator illuminates blue (operational mode) when the power button (1) is pressed while the Illusion II is in standby mode.

5. Analog Input selectors
   Use these to select the corresponding rear panel input that is connected to a single-ended (S-1, S-2, S-3), or balanced (B-1, B-2) analog source. The display (2) shows the selected input and volume level. Pressing the input button on the active source will mute all outputs. A second press will unmute the outputs.

6. Digital Input selector
   Use this to select the DAC converter module. Pressing and holding the digital button will cycle through the additional digital inputs.

7. Headphone Jack
   This outputs the main left and right audio signals. A 1/4” stereo headphone jack is provided when headphones are being used.

8. Enter button
   Use this to configure the menu functions of the Illusion II. See menu (9).

9. Menu button
   Use this to access the menu functions of the Illusion II.

10. Level control buttons
    Use these buttons to increase or decrease system volume level. The level control buttons or keys also select menu options that customize the Illusion II.

11. Balanced Inputs: B-1 and B-2
    These XLR balanced analog source input connectors are wired as follows:
    Pin 1: Ground
    Pin 2: Non-inverting
    Pin 3: Inverting
    There are 3 single-ended analog source inputs with RCA connector pairs.

12. 12 Single-ended inputs:
     S-1, S-2, and S-3
     These XLR balanced inputs are unique to the Illusion II.

13. Main outputs
    The Illusion II is equipped with one balanced XLR output pair and one single-ended RCA output pair.

14. RS-232 port
    This port receives messages from a computer-based control system, providing integrated control of all preamplifier functions.

15. RC-5 in
    This remote connector is used with third-party remote control systems that provide RC-5 (IR) data via a wired connection. A stereo tip, ring, and sleeve 1/8” min connector is used in the following configuration:
    Tip = RC-5 data
    Ring = +5 V
    Sleeve = GND.

16. 12 VDC input
    (12 V trigger)
    There are 2 outputs and one input that send 12 VDC power on/off (trigger) signals to and from other Krell components, and other devices that incorporate a 12 V trigger. This allows other components to be turned on/off, or to turn standby, through the remote control.

17. 12 VDC power
    This is for use with the provided AC power cord. Plug the other end into an AC Mains supply capable of supplying the correct AC voltage and current for the power supply. This connector and power cord must remain unobstructed for easy removal in case of an emergency.

18. Digital inputs: D-1, D-2, D-3, D-4, and D-5
    There are 2 coaxial inputs using RCA connectors, 2 optical connectors using Toslink connectors, and 1 AES/EBU using an XLR connector.

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**Remote Control**

![Figure 1 The Illusion II Front Panel](image1)

**Figure 1 The Illusion II Front Panel**

**Figure 2 The Illusion II Remote Control**

**Figure 3 The Illusion II Back Panel**

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**Back Panel**

- **11 Balanced Inputs:** B-1 and B-2
- **12 Single-ended Inputs:** S-1, S-2, and S-3
- **13 Main Outputs**: The Illusion II is equipped with one balanced XLR output pair and one single-ended RCA output pair.

**Customizing the Illusion II**

- **Configurable Functions**
  - **Back Panel Display**
  - **Input Level Trim**
  - **Input Phase Input Trigger**
  - **Mute, Input Trigger**, select **Menu or Key**
  - **RCA Diesel, Remote, TV, and Speaker**
  - **Tone Wrench to remove the battery panel, after installation, the batteries**

- **Navigation Conventions**
  - **Navigating the preamplifier menu is straightforward and consistent throughout, using 4 functions and the menu option BACK.**

- **Menu Button or Key**
  - **Select the menu to exit the menu, press the menu button or key.**

- **Level Control Buttons**
  - **Up and Down Keys**
  - **Use the level control buttons or the up and down keys on the remote control to scroll forward and backward through the menu hierarchy.**

- **Enter Button or Key**
  - **Press this button or key to select a function or configuration option, and confirm a selection.**

- **Front Panel Display**
  - **Select buttons to scroll backwards through the menu hierarchy, or to exit a menu option without confirming that option.**