The Illusion 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 included in the Illusion.

Position the preamplifier and power supply where you intend to use them in your system. Do not move the chassis after they are connected.

1. Connect the power supply chassis and the preamplifier chassis with the 12-pin DC cable provided. Make sure the back panel DC power connectors (25) are neatly arranged and organized. Then connect your power supply unit.

2. Connect your source equipment to the appropriate CAST (18), balanced (15), single-ended (16), or tape inputs (17) on the Illusion.

3. Connect the main outputs (20) on the Illusion to your amplifier’s inputs.

4. Connect the supplied AC power cord to the IEC power cord receptacle (28) of the power supply unit.

5. The balance can also be adjusted directly using BAL L and BAL R keys on the remote control.

Operating the Illusion

The Illusion is connected to your system and to AC power, and the front panel display has stopped scrolling, begin operation:

1. Press the power button (1) on the front panel, or the remote control power key.

Note

Use only the power cord provided with the Illusion to make the connection to AC power. Operation with a power cord other than one supplied by Krell can induce noises, 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 .5-5 dB <, R .5-5 dB >.

1. Press the preamplifier’s menu button (5), then use the level control knob, to select: BALANCE.

2. Press the enter button (6). The display shows the default mode: CENTER. The Illusion is now in the operational mode.

3. Use the level control knob to select the desired balance option from .5 to +5 dB in .5 dB increments, left or right.

4. Press the enter button to confirm the selection. The display reads: BALANCE. Press the menu button to return to normal operation.

The balance can also be adjusted directly using BAL L and BAL R keys on the remote control.

Illusion Preamplifier

Model

SERIAL NUMBER

Connecting the Illusion to Your System

Krell recommends using its proprietary Krell CAST system for unparalleled sonic performance for connections between the preamplifier and other CAST-equipped components. Krell CAST uses flexible interconnecting cables that can be drawn through tight spaces and concealed. The Illusion also offers balanced operation. This not only minimizes sonic loss but is also immune to induced noise, especially for installations using long cables.

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Operating the Illusion

After the Illusion is connected to your system and to AC power, and the front panel display has stopped scrolling, begin operation:

1. Press the power button (1) on the front panel, or the remote control power key. The stand-by/power LED (7) illuminates red on the preamplifier and green on the power supply, indicating that the Illusion is in stand-by mode. When the scrolling stops, the Illusion is ready to be powered on.

Note

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

Getting Started

Thank you for your purchase of the Krell Illusion preamplifier. The Illusion features Krell Current Mode circuit topologies, Krell CAST technology, and a powerful, separate power supply for exceptional audio performance. A thoughtful suite of menu options ensures that the Illusion can be customized for the greatest ease of operation. Please contact your authorized dealer, distributor, or Krell if you have any questions not addressed in the owner’s reference.

Overview

The Illusion is comprised of two chassis: the preamplifier chassis and the power supply chassis. The preamplifier’s front panel provides power on, input selection, level control, menu functions, and status display. The rear panel allows connection to audio sources, power amplifiers and other system components.

WARNING

This product complies with the EMC directive (89/336/EEC) and the low-voltage directive (73/23/EEC).

This CLASS 1 apparatus must be connected to a mains socket outlet with a protective earthing connection.

Unpacking

Save all packing materials. If you need to ship the Illusion in the future, repack the unit in its protective plastic wrapping.

Placement

We recommend placing the preamplifier on top of the power supply unit. Place them 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.

THERE ARE NO USER-SERVICEABLE PARTS INSIDE ANY KRELL PRODUCT.
**Front Panel**

1. **Power**
   - Use this to switch the preamplifier between stand-by and operational modes.

2. **Input selectors**
   - Use these to access the menu functions of the Illusion.
   - Use this to configure the menu functions of the Illusion. See Menu (4).

3. **Tape input selector**
   - Use this to select the tape input that is connected to an analog tape source. The display (7) shows the selected input and volume level.

4. **Menu button**
   - Use this to access the menu functions of the Illusion.

5. **Enter button**
   - Use this to access the menu functions of the Illusion. See Menu (4).

6. **Stand-by/Power indicator**
   - The power indicator illuminates red (stand-by) when the Illusion is in stand-by mode.

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

8. **Level control buttons**
   - Use these buttons to increase or decrease system volume level.

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

**Back Panel**

15. **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.

16. **Single-ended inputs: S-1, S-2, and S-3**
   - These single-ended analog source inputs with RCA connector pairs are unique to the Illusion.

17. **Tape input**
   - This single-ended input pair is for use with a tape source.

18. **C-1 and C-3 inputs**
   - The two CAST output pairs with one balanced XLR pair and one single-ended RCA subwoofer output pair are only active when the Illusion is equipped with a subwoofer. The Illusion is equipped with one balanced XLR subwoofer output pair and two CAST output pairs with four-pin bayonet connectors.

20. **Main outputs**
   - The Illusion is equipped with one balanced XLR output pair, one single-ended RCA output pair, and one single-ended RCA subwoofer output pair.

21. **Subwoofer**
   - This single-ended output is functional with all Krell CAST-equipped amplifiers.

22. **CAN link**
   - These RJ-45 link connectors are connected in parallel. They are used to operate preamplifier channels in linked mode.

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

24. **RC-5 in**
   - This remote connector provides IR data to operate preamplifier functions.

25. **DC power connector**
   - Use the supplied 12-pin cable to connect this to the corresponding DC power connector on the power supply. Make sure the AC power cord is unplugged before making any connections to the preamplifier.

26. **12 VDC input**
   - THERE ARE 2 OUTPUTS AND 1 INPUT THAT SEND AND RECEIVE 12 VDC POWER SIGNALS TO OTHER KRELL COMPONENTS AND OTHER DEVICES THAT INCORPORATE A 12 V TRIGGER. THIS ALLOWS OTHER COMPONENTS TO BE TURNED ON, OFF, OR BYPASSED IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY.

**Remote Control**

Keys labeled 1 to 9 have the same function (and callout number) as the front panel controls.

Keys labeled A through L are unique to the remote control.

- **Phase button**
  - Use this to invert the absolute polarity of the main output.

- **Mute button**
  - Use this to mute the preamplifier output. To unmute, press the mute button again.

- **Digital button**
  - Use this to make selections from CD and DVD menus.

- **Select button**
  - Use this to make selections from CD and DVD menus.

- **Balance (keys)**
  - Use this to balance left and right output levels.

- **Transport keys**
  - These keys are functional with all Krell CD and DVD players.

- **Menu key**
  - Use this to enter CD or DVD player menus.

- **Direction keys**
  - Use these keys to navigate CD and DVD menus.

- **Select key**
  - Use this to make selections from CD and DVD menus.

- **Power supply**
  - The Illusion is equipped with one balanced XLR input, one single-ended RCA input, and one single-ended RCA subwoofer input pair. 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.

- **Fuses**
  - Always unplug the power cord before inspecting these fuses. Always replace the fuses with the exact style and rating.

- **Phono power port**
  - Use the supplied RCA to make connections to a Krell KPE phono stage. See the KPE owner’s reference for more details.

- **IC3 power cord receptacle**
  - 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.

- **DC power connector**
  - Use the supplied 12-pin cable to connect this to the corresponding DC power connector on the preamplifier. Make sure the AC power cord is unplugged before making any connections to the preamplifier.

- **Power switch**
  - Press the “1” to put the preamplifier in the standby mode. Press the “1” to power the preamplifier on. The switch should remain unobstructed for ease of operation and in case of an emergency.