



Belmont Phono Preamp Mk1

Brief User Guide

Thank you for selecting the Belmont Phono Preamp as part of your audio system. May it enhance your audio journey!



A. Unpacking

The following accessories should be in the box with your phono preamp:

- 1 x Belmont Phono Preamp
- 1 x DIP switch adjustment tool
- 4 x Little Rubber Feet (LRF)
- 1 x 24V DC power supply

B. Installation

The Belmont should be placed on a solid level surface. Install the LRF on the bottom of the unit as desired. Avoid placing the Belmont near a heat source or inside a closed cabinet. Do not place anything on top of the phono preamp.

The Belmont is sensitive to EMI from motors and power supplies, avoid placing close to such devices.

A turntable with a functional cartridge must be connected to the INPUT(s) of the Belmont before turning it on in order to avoid damaging your speakers or amplifier(s). Use MM or MC input or both.

Connect the ground lead wire from the connected turntable to the ground post located between the INPUT RCA connectors of the Belmont. You can connect 2 turntables and 2 ground leads.

Connect the OUTPUT of the Belmont to a line input (AUX, CD, TAPE, etc.) on your amplifier.

Connect 24V DC power supply to DC input connector marked on the rear panel of the Belmont.

C. Powering up for the first time

Make sure your INPUT and OUTPUT connections are made securely. Connect your 24V DC supply and turn on the Belmont with the button on the right side of the front panel. An LED will illuminate indicating that the Belmont is in either MM or MC gain setting, the default is MM. Allow 10-15 seconds for voltages to stabilize before turning up the volume on your amplifier.

D. Turning on and off

Power up the Belmont before you turn on your amplifier in order to avoid any thumps or pops. Similarly, power down your amplifier before turning off the Belmont.

E. Cartridge Loading

You can adjust the DIP switches on the back panel of the unit for optimal performance specific to your phono cartridge.

The load values are labeled for each DIP switch. Press down on the DIP switch for each setting to turn that load on and press up to disengage that load. When all switches are off, the minimum load of 47K and 0pF is active (most MM cartridges will work well at this setting).

Capacitive loads are provided for MM cartridges and resistive loads are provided for MC cartridges.

Moving Magnet: Most moving magnet cartridges will provide optimal performance loaded with 47K Ω and 100pF. Remember that your phono cable itself often provides 100pF+ in capacitance.

Moving Coil: Consult your phono cartridge manufacturer's specifications for recommended cartridge loading.

Although it is not necessary, as a precaution it is recommended to always turn your unit off before adjusting cartridge load settings.

F. Gain Adjustment

Gain may be adjusted by two means:

1. Gain trim control knob on front of unit - rotate clockwise to increase gain by up to 12dB from nominal or counterclockwise to reduce gain by up to 4dB from nominal, in center position (you will feel a detent) there is no boost/reduction. THIS IS NOT A VOLUME CONTROL. For most users, this knob is set once, usually at the center detent.
2. Gain switch to the right of the gain trim control knob - the default setting is 40dB gain for MM cartridges, press button for 60dB gain for MC cartridges. This switch also changes the input between MM and MC.

It is always recommended to start to vary gain from a low setting incrementally increasing to determine the optimum gain for your cartridge. Always turn gain trim control knob back to center and turn amplifier down or off before switching to 60dB gain to avoid damaging speakers or amplifier (a 20dB jump is a lot of gain).

G. Subsonic Filter

Press the SS button on the front panel in order to engage the subsonic (or rumble) filter on the Belmont. This can be used to avoid speaker flutter arising from low frequency output from your turntable.

H. Mute

Press the Mute button to mute the output of the Belmont. This can be useful when changing cables or when switching between MM and MC inputs.