



# FREYA

## BALANCED REMOTE CONTROL PREAMP

IN NORSE MYTHOLOGY, FREYA IS A GODDESS ASSOCIATED WITH LOVE, SEX, BEAUTY, FERTILITY, GOLD, SEIDR, WAR, AND DEATH.

LEAVING ASIDE THOSE LAST THREE, THAT SOUNDS PRETTY COOL.

SHE ALSO APPARENTLY HAD CATS. YEAH.

WE DON'T RECOMMEND YOU LET YOUR CATS SLEEP ON FREYA,  
BUT WE'RE NOT GONNA COMMENT FURTHER.

## OWNER'S MANUAL

# INTRODUCTION

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Freya+ and Freya Noval are no-compromise, ultra-high-end balanced preamps cleverly disguised by a low price tag. You won't find any volume-control chips or other shortcuts in Freya—just uber-quality techniques like a relay-switched stepped attenuator and all-triode gain stage—you know, just like what's used in the most expensive audio gear.

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## IN THE BOX

- (1) Freya+ or Freya Noval
- (1) Power cord
- (4) 6SN7 tubes or LISST for Freya+
- (4) 6N1P tubes for Freya Noval
- (0) Stick-on feet (they're pressed in)
- (0) Wall-warts (they're not needed)



The following is required by the roughly 9,542 government agencies and regulations we have to comply with. If you have some common sense, they should seem pretty straightforward. In any case, read these instructions before proceeding farther, follow all instructions, and heed all warnings. Or else!

1. If you don't know how to install audio devices, get a qualified professional to help.
2. Never use this device near water, and clean only with a dry cloth.
3. Assure adequate ventilation, do not block any ventilation openings, or place near heat sources.
4. Use only the supplied power cord or suitable replacement. Route cords away from traffic areas and protect them from being pinched. Unplug the cord from the outlet if the apparatus is unused for a long period of time.
5. To prevent electric shock, do not use the plug with an extension cord, receptacle, or outlet unless blades can be fully inserted.
6. Refer all servicing to qualified service personnel. Service is required when the device has been damaged, including cord or plug damage, liquid has been spilled or objects have fallen into the device, the device has been exposed to rain or moisture, does not operate normally, or has been dropped.



**WARNING: TO REDUCE THE RISK OF FIRE OR ELECTRIC SHOCK, DO NOT EXPOSE THIS DEVICE TO RAIN OR MOISTURE.**

## GETTING STARTED

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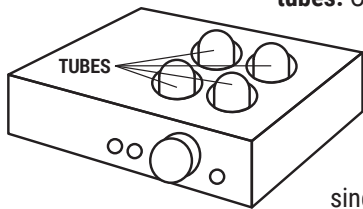
### CAUTION! Dangerous voltages inside!

1. **Before plugging in the preamp, insert the tubes.** For octal tubes in Freya+, carefully align the key in the tube base to the notch in the tube socket for each tube. It doesn't matter which tube goes where—all tubes in either Freya are the same type.



2. **Ensure tubes are well-seated.** Push down firmly until the tube is seated on the tube socket. This may take a fair amount of force.

3. **Plug it in, turn it on, and select Tube Output if you want to use tubes.** Otherwise the tubes won't turn



on. Freya only turns on the tubes when you need them.

4. **Connect your sources.** Connect up to 5 sources to Freya's balanced and single-ended inputs.

5. **Connect the output.** Connect the output of Freya to your amp or amps using XLR or RCA cables.

6. **Ensure the volume is turned down if you're using Freya for the first time.** You don't want any big surprises!

7. **Power it up, turn it up, and enjoy your music!**

## REPLACING TUBES

Freya+ accommodates any 6SN7, 6N8S, or 5692 tube type. 6SL7, 6N9S, and equivalent types also work, but will have higher distortion and higher output impedance.

Freya Noval accommodates any 6N1P, 6922, 6N23P, 6DJ8, 6BZ7, ECC88, and other equivalent type noval tubes.

Looking from the front, the right-hand tubes are for the voltage gain stage. The left-hand tubes are for the cathode follower output stage. All tubes are of the same type on either Freya.

To replace or swap tubes:

1. **Turn off and unplug the preamp.** Wait a while for the tube to cool. Seriously, these suckers are pretty hot.
2. **Carefully extract the tube** by gently rocking it back and forth and pulling upwards.
3. **Carefully insert the replacement tube.** Align the key to the notch and press down firmly until the tube is seated.
4. **Plug the preamp back in and turn it on.**

# REMOTE CONTROL

**1 Input.** Press this button to select the input you want to listen to. If you skip the input you want, keep pressing—it cycles back around.

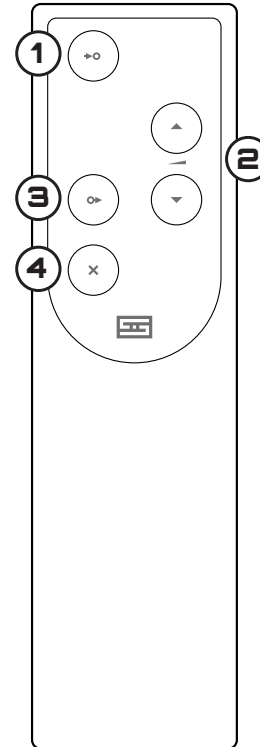
**2 Volume Up/Down.** Press the up arrow to turn volume up, press the down arrow to turn it down. Simple as that.

**3 Output.** Press to change between passive, differential buffer, and differential tube output stages.

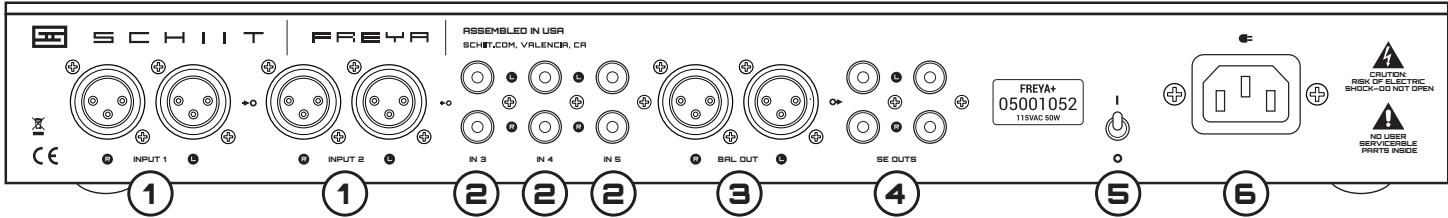
**4 Mute.** Press to mute the preamp.

## Changing the Battery

1. Flip the remote over to reveal a single hole on the back.
2. Push the remote open by inserting the end of an open paper clip into the hole in the back and pushing firmly. It's held together with magnets.
3. Replace the battery inside with one of the same type.
4. Reassemble the remote by first inserting the clear LED in the front, then dropping the panel down onto the matching magnets. Press down gently to pop the panel in place.



# CONNECTIONS



## 1 Balanced Inputs

Freya offers two sets of balanced inputs. Connect to your balanced sources using XLR cables. You can select your source with the front panel controls.

## 2 Single-Ended Inputs

Freya offers three sets of single-ended inputs. Connect your single-ended sources here using good RCA cables. Note that Freya will not convert single-ended to balanced sources when you are in passive mode.

## 3 Balanced Output

Connect to external power amplifiers or powered speakers that accept XLR connections, using good XLR cables. Outputs are muted on start-up for about 60 seconds for self-checking and stabilization.

## 4 Single-Ended Output

Connect to external power amplifiers or powered speakers that accept RCA connections, using high-quality RCA cables, especially for longer runs. Outputs are muted on start-up for about 60 seconds for self-checking and stabilization.

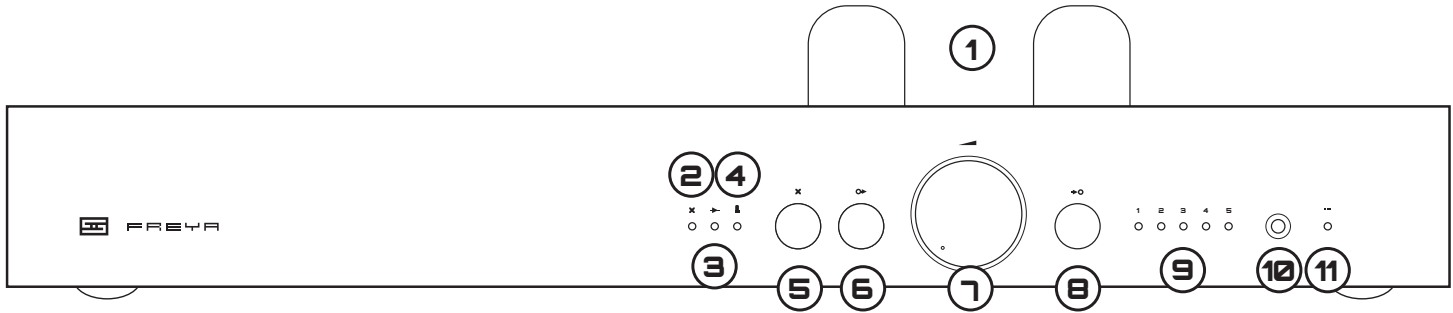
## 5 Power Switch

Up for on, down for off. No tricks here.

## 6 Power Inlet

Plug the end of the supplied IEC cord in here. You can also use fancy audiophile types, but they won't really do anything—what about the thousands of feet of crap copper cables in your walls, huh?

# CONTROLS



## 1 Hot Tubes

When using the tube gain stage, Freya's tubes get hot. We don't recommend letting your pets sleep on them.

## 2 Mute LED

This light is on when Freya is muted.

## 3 Buffer LED

This light is on when using the buffer. This stage also provides SE-to-balanced conversion.

## 4 Tube LED

This light is on when using the tube gain. This provides SE-to-balanced conversion and gain.

## 5 Mute Button

Press to toggle mute on and off.

## 6 Output Select

Press to select the output stage:

- Passive (resistor ladder only, 0dB gain)
- Differential buffer (0dB gain)
- Differential tube gain (12-13.5dB gain)

There's a 60 second delay when selecting the tube stage to allow for power-up and stabilization. The Status light flashes during this time. You may cancel tube power-up by selecting a different output within 5 seconds of selecting the tube stage.

## 7 Volume Knob

Turn up to increase volume.

## 8 Input Select

Press to select your desired input.

## 9 Input LEDs

These lights indicate which input you're listening to, from 1-5.

## 10 Remote Window

Receives commands from the IR remote.

## 11 Status

When this light is flashing, Freya is in the process of doing something like the start-up delay, or turning on the tubes.

## FAQ

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### **I hear hum, what do I do?**

A small amount of hum when using the differential tube output stage may occur with some tubes. Try other tubes. The noise should not be audible from the listening position in most typical systems.

### **No, I mean, I have a LOT of hum!**

You may have a ground loop. Try a ground loop isolator or a device like the EbTech HumX to eliminate the ground loop.

### **I hear hiss in tube gain output mode, why?**

A small amount of hiss when using the differential tube gain stage may occur with some tubes, especially with high gain power amplifiers and high sensitivity speakers. Try different tubes. The noise should not be audible from the listening position in most typical systems.

### **There's no sound for a while after I turn Freya on.**

That's perfectly normal. Freya delays the output for 60 seconds after you first turn the preamp on and flashes the Status light to indicate that it is working.

### **What's with the clicking noises when I turn the volume?**

That's the sound of the mechanical relays in the relay-switched stepped attenuator. Also normal.

### **The Status light flashes when I select tube output mode.**

Yes, this is normal. Freya only powers up the tubes when they are in use, so when you select tube output mode, the tubes have to come up to their proper operating point before you use them. There is about a 60 second delay between selecting the tube output mode and the tube output being enabled. You can cancel tube start-up if you select a different output mode within 5 seconds of selecting tube output; this allows you to skip back and forth between passive and differential buffer without triggering the tube turn-on sequence.

### **Can I use both outputs at the same time?**

Most of the time, yes. If you have products that short the input when turned off, then that can cause distortion.

### **I have the volume all the way down and still hear faint music.**

Yes, that is normal with a relay attenuator. If it's bothersome, hit the Mute button to completely mute the preamp.

### **It doesn't turn on, what do I do?**

Plug it in to a different AC socket. Ensure you are not currently in a blackout. Then email us if it still doesn't work.

## 5-YEAR WARRANTY

Schiit Audio warrants to the original purchaser that the product shall be free from defects in material and workmanship for five (5) years from the date of purchase. Exceptions: Tubes and remote controls. Tubes are covered by a 90-day limited warranty with the same terms, and remotes are covered by a 1-year limited warranty with the same terms. If a defect covered by this warranty occurs during this warranty period, Schiit Audio will repair the defective product, free of charge. Date of purchase will be based on customer-submitted receipts, otherwise date of manufacturing will be used to determine warranty period.

### OBTAINING WARRANTY SERVICE

**If you believe you need warranty service, contact us first.** There may be a simple solution to your problem. Schiit Audio products sent back to us without a Return Authorization (RA) will be returned to the sender without repair. To contact us and obtain an RA, email [info@schiiit.com](mailto:info@schiiit.com). We will respond quickly to email inquiries.

### WARRANTY LIMITATIONS

THIS WARRANTY SHALL NOT APPLY IF THIS PRODUCT: (a) IS MODIFIED OR TAMPERED WITH; (b) IS DAMAGED BY NEGLIGENCE, ACCIDENT, UNREASONABLE USE, COFFEE, OR BY OTHER CAUSES UNRELATED TO DEFECTIVE MATERIALS OR WORKMANSHIP; OR (c) HAS HAD THE SERIAL NUMBER ALTERED, DEFACED OR REMOVED.

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This product is in compliance with standards and regulations of the European Community.



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