

STUARNA

100% TRIODE, DUAL MONO, MM/MC
FORKBEARD PHONO PREAMP

Meet the tube phono preamp holy grail. Hyperbole? Not really. With enough pure triode gain for both moving magnet and moving coil cartridges, passive RIAA equalization, super-high-quality 1% capacitors and 0.1% MELF resistors, true dual mono construction (right back to separate transformers for each channel), passive RIAA, discrete regulated HV rails and regulated DC heaters...plus advanced features like full remote control, low-power standby, and app-based Forkbeard control and integration—Stjarna truly has no peers. Anywhere. At any price.



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.

Place Stjarna in a cool, well-ventilated area. With 4 6N1P tubes, Stjarna runs pretty warm. We don't recommend "stacking" it directly on top of other components that generate a lot of heat.

If you're using the Forkbeard module, plug it in to the slot in the back of the chassis and install the Forkbeard app. Check schiit.com/forkbeard for current supported platforms, or go directly to the Apple App Store on your device.

Insert the tubes, connect the power cord and your inputs and outputs. The following pages go through those in detail. When you power up, Stjarna will perform self checks and unmute in about 30 seconds. It will also appear as a Forkbeard device you can add to your stacks.

TUBE ROLLING

Stjarna is designed around the 6N1P tube. This "super 6DJ8" provides low noise, high reliability, and great performance.

You can, however, successfully "roll" other tube types, including 6DJ8, 6922, and ECC88. These tube types have the additional benefit of running a bit cooler.

If you choose to try different tube types:

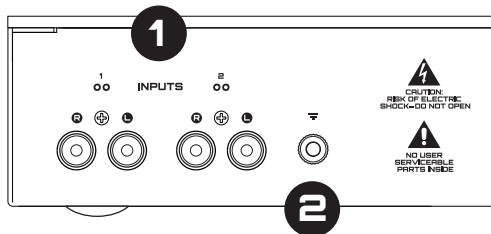
1. Turn off the Stjarna.
2. Wait a couple of minutes before you lose fingerprints on the hot tubes.
3. Pull out the current tubes, insert the new tubes. Noval (9-pin) tubes only go in one way, so no worries there.
4. Turn Stjarna back on and enjoy the music!

INPUTS

1 RCA inputs. Connect up to two turntables here, using short, high-quality, well-shielded RCA cables. The inputs are denoted “1” and “2,” just like the front panel. Tricky.

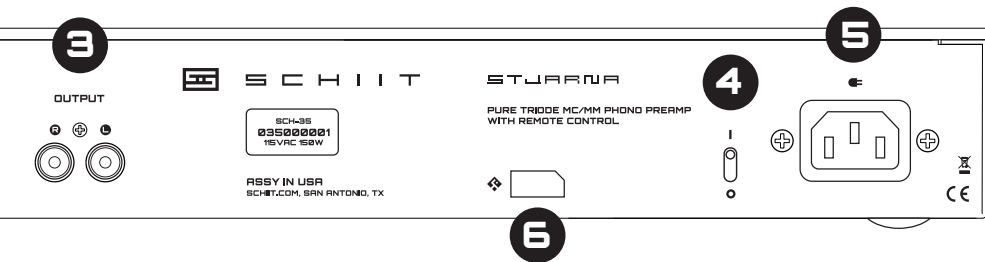
Note: we aren't kidding about “short, well-shielded” cables. If you have hum, it's usually coming from long cables, or poorly shielded cables, sometimes all tangled up in your AC power cords as well. Route all phono input cables well away from power cords and other components.

2 Ground. Depending on your turntable, you may need to connect a ground wire here for minimum hum. Some turntables won't require this, or have lower hum with the ground disconnected. Experiment with this in your own system and use the best connection for your needs.



OUTPUT

3 RCA output. Connect this to your line preamplifier or integrated amplifier with high-quality RCA cables. And yes, there's only one set of outputs. The tubes drive these outputs directly; you shouldn't connect 64 amps here—it's not an ATMOS system or anything like that!



POWER

4 Power switch. Up for on, down for off. Simple as that. However, it won't work unless you have a power cord plugged in (below).

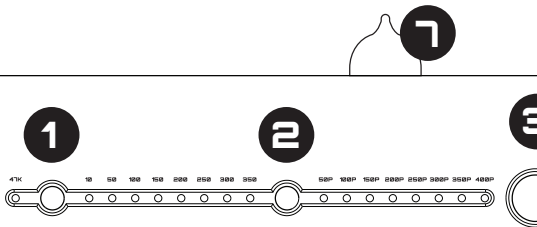
5 AC input. Connect the supplied AC cord here (or any other IEC-terminated cord is fine as well). Ensure that you're not plugging a 115VAC product into 230VAC, though—that won't end well.

CONTROL

6 Forkbeard port. Plug a Forkbeard module in here to enable remote control via the app, loading, gain, mode, and input reporting, as well as additional inter-product features when you add more Schiit products to your stack.

OPERATION

 STJARNA



1 Resistive load. Press to toggle through the resistive load, from 10 to 350 ohms, or choose the standard MM (moving magnet) load of 47k. The selected load is indicated by LEDs to the left and right of this button.

Note: the 47k LED also serves as an indication the Stjarna is in Standby mode. When in Standby, only the 47k LED is lit.

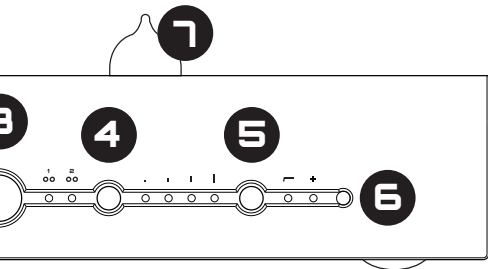
Note 2: to go to Standby without the IR remote or Forkbeard app, press and hold the Resistive Load button.

2 Capacitive load. Press to toggle through the resistive load, from the standard 50pF up to 400pF. The selected capacitive load is indicated by LEDs to the right of this button.

3 Input select. Press to toggle from Input 1 to Input 2 and back again. Super simple, right?

4 Gain select. Press to step through the gains, from lowest to highest, in 4 steps, from left to right:

Lowest gain: 40dB
Low-Mid gain: 47dB
Mid-High gain: 55dB
High gain: 60dB



Please take care and turn the volume down before changing gain, because there is 20dB difference in gain between lowest and highest settings.

Note: Stjarna mutes its output on gain changes while the circuitry stabilizes, to minimize pops and clicks. The Capacitive Load LEDs will “scan” while it’s changing gains.

5 Mode select. This button allows you to control the subsonic filter and mono mode.

Short press: toggles subsonic filter on and off. When the rumble filter “slope” LED is on, the rumble filter is on.

Press and hold for 2 seconds: toggles mono on and off. When the “+” mono LED is on, the preamp is in mono mode, for early recordings.

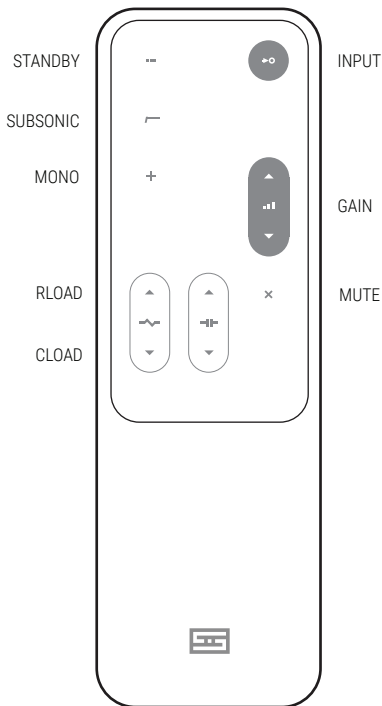
6 IR sensor window. If you’re using the IR remote, don’t block this window if you want it to work. Forkbeard doesn’t care.

7 Tubes. Stjarna doesn’t work without them. They also run warm. Keep fingers, kids, and pets away from the tubes while Stjarna is running.



Note: all controls are also available remotely via the Forkbeard module, using the Forkbeard app. Please visit schiiit.com/forkbeard for currently supported platforms and Forkbeard-specific information.

REMOTE



An IR remote control is included with Stjarna providing the following functions:

Input select. Press to toggle between inputs.

Gain select. Step up and down gain.

Mute. Press to mute and unmute.

Capacitive load. Step up and down C load.

Resistive load. Step up and down R load.

Mono. Toggle mono mode on and off.

Subsonic. Toggle subsonic on and off.

Standby. Toggle Standby on and off; heater and HV both completely off when in Standby.

You may also choose a Forkbeard module for more advanced remote control, reporting, and integration.

Changing the Battery

1. Push the remote open by inserting the end of an open paper clip into the hole in the back and pressing firmly.
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.

I hear hum. What do I do?

Phono playback does tend to have some hiss and hum. You are magnifying the output of the phono cartridge by 1000x in Stjarna alone. Add 4x in the preamp and 20x in the amp, and that's 80,000x. So yeah, if you crank the volume, you're gonna hear some hiss and hum. Remember the opening scene in Back to the Future? Like that.

Seriously, no, I got a LOT of hum.

Gotcha. Three things, then:

1. Short, well-shielded RCA cables from the turntable are absolutely key. And don't go running them on top of the power cables. Clean that up and see how it goes.
2. You may need the ground wire connected from your turntable to the Stjarna. Or not. Try both. Pick the one with least hum.
3. You may have a big ol ground loop in your system. There are companies that do nothing but help you conquer ground loops. EbTech is one of them (check their HumX).

What settings should I use?

If you're using a moving magnet (MM)

cartridge, or high-output moving iron (some Grados), start with the lowest gain. If you're using a moving coil (MC) cartridge, or low-output moving iron (other Grados), start with the highest gain. You can't hurt anything; if stuff is distorted or too noisy, the gain is too high, so back off a bit.

What about all the other settings?

Check with your cartridge manufacturer on recommended R and C loads. Without info, start with 47k/50p for MM cartridges, 50 ohms/100p for MC. You can step through and explore differences from there.

And the other other settings?

Use subsonic filtering if your woofers flap around like mom's Jell-O. Use mono for old mono records or a mono cartridge. This mixes both channels together, so you can run one RCA in from a mono rig.

How do I get this Forkbeard thing?

You can order it with the product, or purchase a module separately at schiiit.com. For the Forkbeard app, check current supported platforms at schiiit.com/forkbeard.

WARRANTY

Schiit Audio warrants to the original purchaser that this product shall be free from defects in material and workmanship for five (5) years from the date of purchase. Tubes are consumable, and separately covered by a 90 day warranty. If a defect covered by this warranty occurs during this period, Schiit Audio will repair the defective product, free of charge. Date of purchase will be based on customer receipts, otherwise date of manufacturing will be used.

If you believe you need warranty service, contact us first. 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.

Warranty Limitations. This warranty shall not apply if a product: (a) is modified or tampered with; (b) is damaged by negligence, accident, unreasonable use, or other causes unrelated to defective materials or workmanship, or (c) has had the serial number altered or removed.

Any implied warranties, including warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose, are hereby limited in duration to the warranty period of 5 years. In no event shall Schiit Audio be liable for consequential or incidental damages resulting from the breach of any implied or expressed warranties. Some states do not allow these limitations, so they may not apply to you. You may also have other rights which vary from state to state or province to province.



Note: This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class B digital device, pursuant to part 15 of the FCC Rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference in a residential installation.

This equipment generates, uses and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with the instructions, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. However, there is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation. If this equipment does cause harmful interference to radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning the equipment off and on, the user is encouraged to try to correct the interference by one or more of the following measures:

- Reorient or relocate the receiving antenna.
- Increase the separation between the equipment and receiver.
- Connect the equipment into an outlet on a circuit different from that to which the receiver is connected.
- Consult the dealer or an experienced radio/TV technician for help.

Modifications not expressly approved by the manufacturer could void the user's authority to operate the equipment under FCC rules.

IN THE BOX

- (1) Stjarna
- (4) Tested, Matched 6N1P tubes
- (1) IR Remote Control
- (1) Power Cord
- (1) Forkbeard Module (if you ordered it!)
- (0) Excuses why this shouldn't cost \$16,999 or \$169,990
- (0) Hidden solid-state amplification devices (SS power supply, yeah, sure, yep, it's all in the online description)
- (Various) Stickers and stuff
- (Infinite) Appreciation from the whole Schiit crew in San Antonio and Corpus Christi
- (Even more) Thanks from our chassis and PCB guys in California, Nevada, and Utah



FORKBEARD
ENABLED



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

SCHIIT.COM
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