McIntosh®

C55 AUDIO PREAMPLIFIER

SINCE 1949

Sound is not just the DNA of McIntosh,
it is the heartbeat that resonates within every product we bring to life,
connecting music lovers to the soul-stirring power of sound.

Join us on a journey to elevate your sound experience.

A TRUE INDUSTRY LEADER

The C55 Preamplifier is a pinnacle of sonic excellence designed for audiophiles, music enthusiasts, and dedicated McIntosh fans alike.

As a torchbearer of innovation, it takes the baton from its predecessor, the multi award-winning C53, and propels your home audio experience into new realms of audio nirvana.

With precision and craftsmanship, the C55 proudly takes its place as a true industry leader.

INPUTS IN ABUNDANCE

With a staggering 16 inputs (9 analog and 7 digital), the C55 becomes the nerve center of your audio universe.

Analog inputs include 3 balanced and 4 unbalanced connections, along with 2 phono inputs that can be individually configured for either Moving Coil or Moving Magnet phono cartridges to connect your turntable(s). Both phono inputs feature adjustable Gain in 6dB steps from 40dB to 64dB as well as RIAA equalization.

The digital section is housed in our DA2 Digital Audio Module and is powered by an audiophile-grade Quad Balanced, 8-channel, 32-bit Digital-to-Analog Converter (DAC). The DA2 offers an array of connections, including an audio-only HDMI Audio Return Channel (ARC)[1] input, ushering your TV sound into a new era through your home stereo system. Dolby® and DTS® multi-channel audio formats are expertly converted to exquisite two-channel audio for a captivating listening experience.

The DA2's other 6 digital inputs consist of 2 coaxial, 2 optical, 1 USB, and 1 MCT. The USB input supports DSD512 and DXD 384kHz.

The coax and optical inputs decode digital music up to 24-bit/192kHz for high resolution audio playback.

To get the best sound quality from the high definition audio on your SACD collection, the MCT input offers a secure, custom DSD connection when paired with our MCT series of SACD/CD Transports.

The entire DA2 module is upgradeable and could be replaced by a future module should new digital technologies become available.

INNOVATIVE OUTPUTS FOR PERSONALIZED LISTENING

To connect the C55 to your power amplifier(s), there are 3 stereo sets of variable balanced and unbalanced outputs that offer advanced connection flexibility. All 3 sets of outputs can be active at the same time, and each can send the audio signal of the source component to 3 separate audio systems.

Additionally, the Main output and Output 1 can be used for bi-amping a single speaker system via the built-in adjustable High Pass and Low Pass filters. In this setup, the High Pass outputs could be connected to a vacuum tube amplifier, and the Low Pass outputs could be connected to a solid-state amplifier. The adjustable crossover allows you to optimize the performance of your amplifiers to your

speaker's specifications and to your listening preferences. Output 1 offers trim level control, which allows two different amplifiers to be volume balanced when bi-amping.

Furthermore, Output 2 can be configured as either mono or stereo and can send audio signal to a stereo audio system in another room, to a single mono subwoofer, or to 2 separate stereo subwoofers.[2]
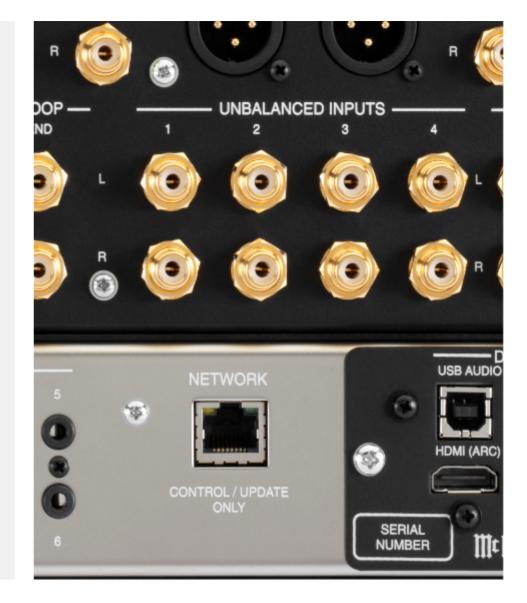
RETURN OF THE PROCESSOR LOOP

The C55 features the return of the Processor Loop, something not available on the last few generations of McIntosh preamplifiers.

The Processor Loop allows you to insert an external signal processor (such as our MQ112 Environmental Equalizer or MEN220 Room Correction System), dynamic range expanders, or other devices without having to place it between the preamplifier and power amplifier(s). This is usually more convenient and can allow for better performance.

The Processor Loop is also the perfect place to connect an analog tape recorder, a high-end cassette deck, or a 3-head reel deck that allows you to record from a source component and hear the recording just seconds later as well as monitor.

McIntosh Connect app

NETWORK CONNECTED FOR CONTROL AND UPDATES

The C55 can be connected to your network, unlocking control options offered through our complimentary Connect app. Designed for both Android and Apple devices, this app can be used to control key functions of the C55 including Volume control as well as Input and Output selection.

Select McIntosh source components[3] that have a data cable connected to the C55 will be partially controllable via the app's Source Control feature. With Source Control, users will be able to control many of the source unit's functions from the app, such as changing radio stations on a tuner, or playing a disc in a CD Player. This feature will bring added convenience to setups that have a

secondary set of power amplifiers and speakers connected to one of the C55's outputs, such as an outdoor system where you will no longer be forced to go inside to control its basic functionality.

Another benefit of adding the C55 to your network is the ability to receive periodic firmware updates. These firmware releases can add new features or provide important performance updates.

ELEVATE YOUR AUDITORY JOURNEY

All this cutting-edge audio technology resides within the iconic McIntosh design – a black glass front panel adorned with blue meters, rotary knobs, and an illuminated logo.

The polished stainless steel chassis adds a touch of elegance, making it a perfect companion for amplifiers, CD players, turntables, and more.

Elevate your sound journey with the incredible C55 Preamplifier.

Contact your local dealer and embark on an audio adventure like never before.

ADDITIONAL PERFORMANCE FEATURES

- 8-band analog equalizer to fine-tune your music with precision, creating a personalized audio experience (the equalizer can be bypassed if desired).

- High Drive Headphone Amplifier with Headphone Crossfeed Director (HXD®) technology brings an added dimension to headphone listening.

- Home Theater PassThru for seamless integration into your home theater system.

- Roon Tested, not Roon Ready.

- Power Control lets you easily turn other connected McIntosh components on/off.

- Data Ports can send remote control commands to connected source components.

- Electromagnetic Input Switching for reliable, noiseless, and distortion-free switching.

- Level Trim Adjustment for matching analog input levels to prevent abrupt changes in volume levels.

- Precision balanced, attenuator system for accurate volume control with 0.1dB accuracy.

- Fully regulated power supplies and a special R-core power transformer for stable, noise-free operation.

- Eco-friendly Power Management System that will turn the unit off after 30 minutes of inactivity (can be disabled).

FOOTNOTES

1. The HDMI ARC input will only play audio from a compatible TV. It will not pass video to or from a TV, or play audio from any non-TV source.

2. Only powered subwoofers will work with this preamplifier.

3. Source components compatible with Source Control: MCD201, MCD205, MCD301, MCD350, MCD500, MCD550, MCD600, MCD751, MCD1000, MCD1100, MCD7009, MCD7010, MCD12000, MCT80, MCT450, MCT500, MR85, MR87, MR88, MR89, MR7084, MVP831, MVP841, MVP851, MVP861, MVP871, MVP881, MVP891, and MVP901.

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C55
SPECS

NOTE: ALL MEASUREMENTS WITH EQ FILTERS AND OUTPUT FILTERS BYPASSED.

Frequency Response
+0, -0.5dB from 20Hz to 20,000Hz
+0, -3dB from 15Hz to 100,000Hz

Total Harmonic Distortion
0.005% from 20Hz to 20,000Hz

Rated Output
2.5V Unbalanced
5V Balanced (Main)
450mV (Fixed Output)

Maximum Voltage Output
8V RMS Unbalanced
16V RMS Balanced

Sensitivity (for rated output)
High Level
450mV Unbalanced
900mV Balanced
Phono MM, 4.5mV
Phono MC, 0.45mV

Signal To Noise Ratio (A-Weighted)
High Level - 100dB
(Below rated output)
MM Phono - 82dB
(Below 5mV input)
MC Phono - 80dB
(Below 0.5mV input)

Input Impedance
High Level
22K ohms Unbalanced
44k ohms Balanced
Phono 1, 2 (MM and MC): 25, 50, 100, 200, 400, 1k or 47k ohms 50 to 400pF in 50pF steps

Maximum Input Signal
High Level
5V Unbalanced
10V Balanced
Phono MM, 80mV
Phono MC, 8mV

Equalizer Controls
25Hz, 50Hz, 100Hz, 200Hz, 400Hz, 1,000Hz, 2,500Hz and 10,000Hz

Voltage Gain
High Level to Fixed Output: 0dB
High Level to Main Output: 15dB
Phono 1, 2 (MM and MC) Selectable 40dB, 46dB, 52dB, 58dB, or 64dB

Output Impedance
100 ohms Unbalanced
200 ohms Balanced

Headphone Load Impedance
100 ohms to 600 ohms

Digital Input Sample Rates
Coaxial: PCM -16Bit, 24Bit - 44.1kHz to 192kHz
Optical: PCM - 16Bit, 24Bit - 44.1kHz to 192kHz
USB: PCM - 16Bit, 24Bit, 32Bit - 44.1kHz to 384kHz
MCT: PCM, SACD, -16Bit, 24Bit - 44.1kHz to 192kHz / DXD - DXD352.8kHz, DXD384kHz DSD - DSD64, DSD128, DSD256, DSD512
HDMI: PCM 24bit, 44.1kHz - 192kHz DTS, Dolby Digital

Power Control and Trigger Output
12VDC, 25mA

Power Requirements
AC Voltages: 100, 110, 120, 220, 230, 240 Volts, 50/60Hz at 75 watts.
Standby Power, less than 0.5 watts

Overall Dimensions
Width is 17 1/2 inches (44.4cm)
Height is 7 5/8 inches (19.4cm)
Depth is 16.5 inches (41.9cm)

Weight
28 pounds (12.5 kg) net, 43.5 pounds (19.7 kg) in shipping carton

Shipping Carton Dimensions
Width is 27 inches (68.6cm)
Height is 12 inches (30.5cm)
Depth is 25 inches (63.5cm)

McIntosh

MADE OF SOUND™

About McIntosh

McIntosh Laboratory, Inc. is the premier American designer and manufacturer of high-fidelity audio equipment.

Founded in 1949, McIntosh products are handcrafted by experts passionate about creating an unmatched sonic experience. From its factory in Binghamton, New York to all corners of the world, the McIntosh blue meters have become a symbol of quality audio and continue to own the premiere position in home audio entertainment

for discerning listeners. Powering events like President Lyndon Johnson's inauguration speech, world-renowned concert systems like Woodstock, the Grateful Dead's Wall of Sound and Despacio, McIntosh has shaped some of the most important moments in music and culture. McIntosh gives music enthusiasts the power to create their ultimate sound experience.

For the Consumer's Protection

In order to ensure the highest level of customer satisfaction, new McIntosh products may only be purchased from an Authorized McIntosh Dealer; and, with certain limited exceptions may only be purchased over-the-counter or delivered and installed by the Authorized McIntosh Dealer. McIntosh does not warrant, in any way, products that are purchased from anyone who is not an Authorized McIntosh Dealer, or that have had their serial numbers altered or defaced.

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DISCOVER C55