

welcome

Thank you for buying a Chord Electronics product

Before you start to enjoy using your Chord Electronics product, please take a couple of minutes to read how to connect your audio equipment and loudspeakers to your Chord Choral product and how to maximise your listening experience.

user guide for

pre amplifier
PRIMA

pre-amplifier

PRIMA

The pre-amplifier is the control centre of your system. By connecting your audio sources to it you can choose the source you want at any particular time and control it.

You can also adjust the balance and volume before the signal is sent to a power amplifier. Your pre-amplifiers can be operated manually or via any Chord remote control

background

We want you to be confident using your new Chord Electronics product.

You are probably an audiophile with extensive knowledge of audio equipment.

However, you may not be!

So in the following section we explain a few basics to help you get started, or get you back up to speed if you are a little rusty.

connecting your equipment

Chord amplifiers are supplied with and designed to be connected using balanced inputs. The interconnecting cables you use will depend on the available input and output sockets on your other equipment. We have installed unbalanced inputs on all Chord equipment, thus enabling you to mix Chord Electronics and other manufacturer's equipment.



Balanced inputs carry twice the strength of signal of unbalanced inputs and are able to be fed down long lengths of cable with less deterioration of signal. They are also less prone to interference than unbalanced inputs.

Balanced inputs have three pins and use Neutric XLR style connectors. Pin 1 is earth, pin 2 is positive and pin 3 is negative.



Unbalanced inputs use RCA phono connectors, which are gold plated with teflon high performance dielectric insulators for optimum performance.

when setting up

To ensure that your Chord product works efficiently and safely, please pay particular attention to the following issues.

ventilation

Your Chord product should have at least 5cm of clear space all around it to ensure a free flow of air at all times. We do not recommend that you place your Chord product directly on a carpet as this can damage the equipment through blocked ventilation.

mains lead and plug

All Chord equipment comes supplied with the correct mains lead and plug. This should be used at all times.

if you need to fit a plug for UK/Europe

Connect the blue wire to the neutral terminal
Connect the brown wire to the live terminal
Connect the yellow/green wire to the earth terminal

if you need to fit a plug for US/Canada

Connect the white wire to the neutral terminal
Connect the black wire to the live terminal
Connect the green to the earth terminal

earthing issues in Europe

In some European countries a hum may occur if your processor is connected to mains sockets that do not have an earth. If this is the case please ensure that:

1. Your equipment is connected via a multi-way mains block which contains an earth point at each socket outlet. This is to ensure that the chassis metalwork of each item is connected together.
2. We recommend that an earthing method for your building is implemented.
3. Use the connecting points on your Chord unit and connect to an available earth point.

safety warnings

It is important that your equipment is earthed at all times via its own mains lead. Failure to do this may be hazardous. The power supply components within the units are designed to be operated at lethal voltages and energy levels. Circuit designs that embody these components conform with applicable safety requirements. Precautions must be taken to prevent accidental contact with power-line potentials. Do not connect grounded test equipment.

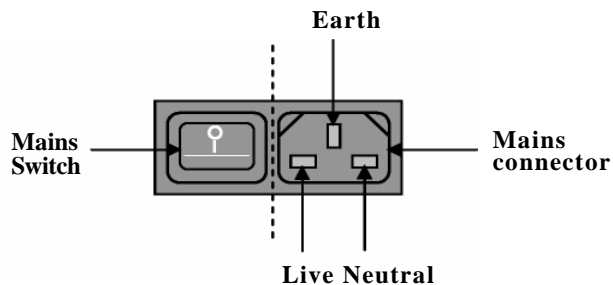
This unit complies with EN 5008 1-1 and IEC 80 1/2

Caution: The BLU employs a laser that emits both visible and invisible radiation. Removal of the top cover or tampering with any of the enclosed electronics may result in exposure to hazardous levels of laser radiation that could cause eye damage. To prevent injury this product should be returned for qualified service to Chord Electronics Ltd.

There are no user serviceable parts within any Chord Electronics Choral product. Unauthorised tampering or dismantling of this product will invalidate the warranty and could cause injury

mains connection

The mains connector of your Choral product is at the back of the unit. Plug the female end (socket) of the mains cable into the power connector of your Choral product, and the male end (plug) of the mains cable into mains wall socket or mains extension socket. The mains connector type will differ slightly for each Choral product. This is due to the highly compact nature of this range requiring differences in chassis metalwork for each product.



powering up

for the BLU

If you are powering the BLU up from standby mode simply press the **STANDBY** button on the top panel controls or the **STBY** on the remote control .

If you are powering up the BLU from cold then press the bottom part of the power switch labelled 'P'. If the BLU has no disc loaded, the top panel display will read "NO DISC"; if a disc has been loaded then the number of tracks and length of the CD will be shown. Please allow a short time for the BLU to read the disc's Table of Contents (TOC). During this time the display will indicate "-- ----"

For all Choral products except the BLU

Press the bottom part of the power switch labelled 'P'.

powering down

for the BLU

For everyday use there is no need to power down the BLU completely, you can put the BLU into standby mode instead. Press the **STANDBY** button on the top panel controls or the **STBY** on the remote control to put the BLU into standby mode. If at this point, you wish to power down the BLU completely then press the top part of the power switch labelled 'O'.

For all Choral products except the BLU

Press the top part of the power switch labelled 'O'.

outputs on the PRIMA

You need to connect the outputs on the back of your pre-amplifier to a power amplifier in order to drive your loudspeakers. There is a pair of balanced XLR outputs, which will drive a 68Ω load.

connecting to your power amplifier

1. Use the XLR style output connectors to connect your PRIMA pre-amplifier to the XLR style input connectors of your power amplifier.
2. If you are using the PRE AMP REMOTE, then press the button marked **O/P 1**.
3. If you are using the Chord touch-screen remote control then press the **OUTPUT 1** LCD touch pad, which is on page 3 of the **CHORAL SERIES** device menu.



Main outputs on the PRIMA

balanced inputs on the PRIMA

You can connect up to five items of source input equipment, such as CD player, Video, Tuner etc. to the inputs on your pre-amplifier.

connecting to your source input equipment using balanced connections

1. Use the XLR style input connectors to connect your PRIMA pre-amplifier to the XLR style output connectors of your source input equipment.
2. If you are using the **PRE AMP REMOTE**, then press the button marked **1** that is grouped with main line bus buttons. The main bus buttons are grouped with the button marked **M**.
3. If you are using the Chord touch-screen remote control then press the **MAIN LINE1** LCD touch pad, which is on page 1 of the **CHORAL SERIES** device menu.

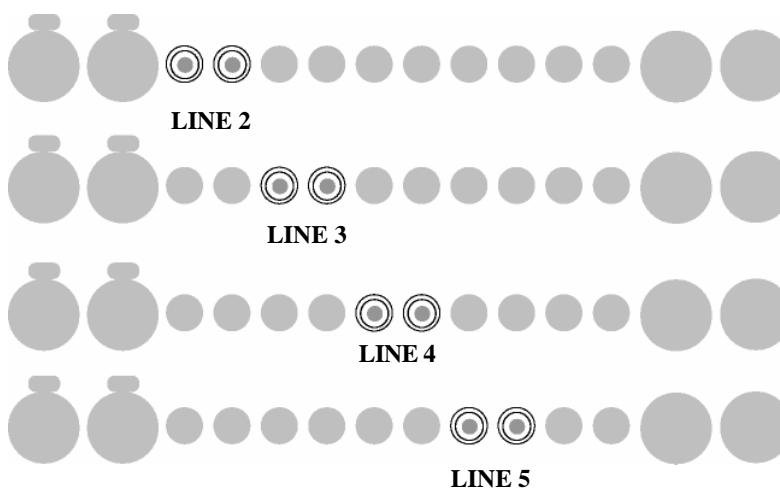


Balanced inputs on the PRIMA – LINE 1

unbalanced inputs on the PRIMA

connecting to your source input equipment using unbalanced connections

There are 4 pairs of unbalanced phono input connections on the PRIMA. These are shown in the diagrams below.



Unbalanced inputs on the PRIMA

1. Use any of the four pairs of phono style input connectors to connect your PRIMA pre-amplifier to the phono style output connectors of your source input equipment.
2. If you are using the PRE-AMP REMOTE, then press the appropriate button marked either: **2**, **3**, **4** or **5** that is grouped with main line bus buttons, depending on the line input connectors that you have used. The main bus buttons are grouped with the button marked **M**.
3. If you are using the Chord touch-screen remote control then press the appropriate LCD touch pad, which are on page 1 of the **CHORAL SERIES** device menu.

Use **MAIN LINE2** for the LINE 2 input connectors.

Use **MAIN LINE3** for the LINE 3 input connectors.

Use **MAIN LINE4** for the LINE 4 input connectors.

Use **MAIN LINE5** for the LINE 5 input connectors.

tape recording using the PRIMA

You can use the PRIMA to tape record the signal from an input source whilst you are listening to your main signal from another input source through the main outputs.

connecting to a tape recorder to tape an audio source

use the pair of phono style connectors that are furthest to the right, next to the XLR style output connectors.



Tape line outputs

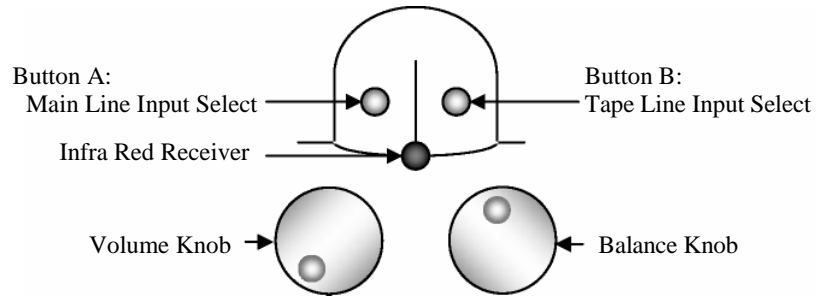
assigning an input source line to the tape line output

1. If you are using the **PRE AMP REMOTE**, press the corresponding numbered button, for the desired line input. Use the numbered buttons that are grouped with the button marked **T**.
2. If you are using the Chord touch-screen remote control, use the corresponding LCD touch pad that relates to the line input that you are using. These LCD touch pads are found on page 2 of the **CHORAL SERIES** menu and are labelled **TAPE LINE1**, **TAPE LINE2**, **TAPE LINE3**, **TAPE LINE4** and **TAPE LINE5**.

everyday use of the PRIMA

controls on the PRIMA

The diagram below shows the controls on the PRIMA



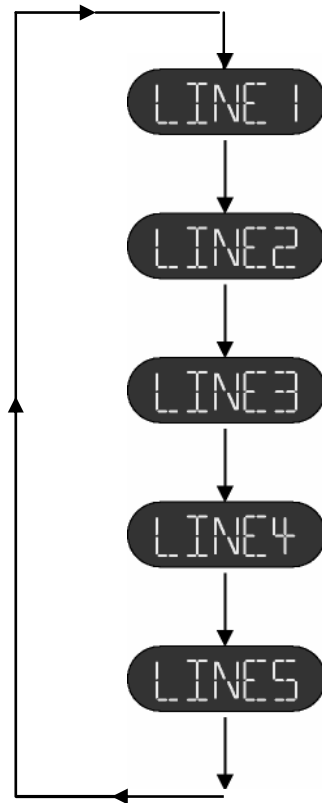
Controls on the PRIMA

assigning an input to the main line outputs

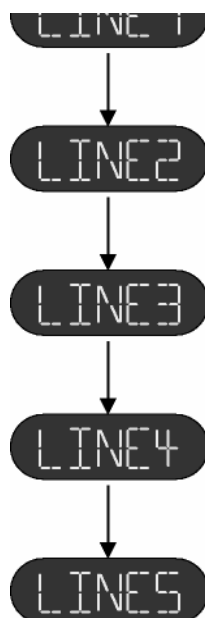
Your PRIMA uses the main line by default and the display will read:



To assign the main output with a particular input signal, press the button A several times to cycle through the 5 line inputs until, the one you wish to use is displayed. The options are shown in the diagram below:

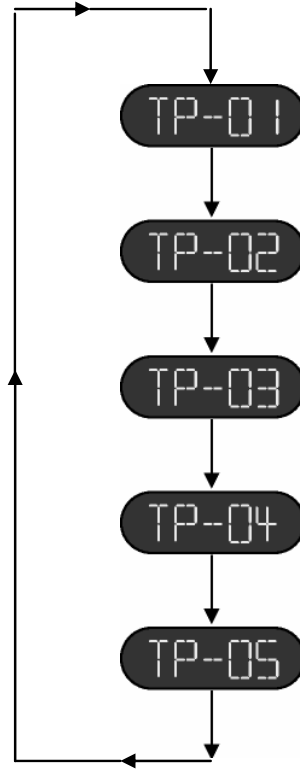


Cycle of input selection options for the main line outputs



assigning an input to the tape line outputs

To assign the tape line output with a particular input signal, press the button B several times to cycle through the 5 line inputs until, the one you wish to use is displayed. The options are shown in the diagram below:



Cycle of input selection options for the tape line outputs

viewing the settings for the main line

To view the settings for the main line press and hold button A for two seconds. The first information that is shown is the current gain setting for the input line that is assigned to the main line output. The PRIMA stores the gain setting for each input line. There are six gain settings available in total that can be assigned to each input line and these are shown below. After the gain setting has been shown for a second, the input line that is currently assigned to the main line is displayed.

viewing the settings for the tape line

To view the settings for the tape line press and hold button B for two seconds. The first information that is shown is the current gain setting for the input line that is assigned to the tape line output. The PRIMA stores the gain setting for each input line. There are six gain settings available in total that can be assigned to each input line and these are shown below. After the gain setting has been shown for a second, the input line that is currently assigned to the tape line is displayed. When you are viewing the tape line settings, the display will indicate it is the tape line settings you are viewing using the letters 'TP'. The number of the input line that is assigned to the tape line is also shown. The diagrams below show the possible display settings for each input that can be set to the tape line outputs.



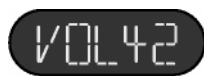
Input lines that can be assigned to the tape line outputs

listening to the input assigned to the tape line

If you wish to listen to the input that you have assigned to the tape line, you must assign the same input to the main line outputs using button A.

adjusting the volume

Use the volume knob to adjust the volume manually. A clockwise turn of the knob will increase the volume and an anti-clockwise turn of the knob will decrease the volume. The volume range runs from 0 to 98 and is displayed on the PRIMA as you alter the volume. If the outputs are muted, a volume change will un-mute the outputs to prevent large changes in volume from damaging your loudspeakers. The volume level is shown on the display as the word VOL and a two digit level as shown in the example diagram below.



Volume display

changing the balance

Use the balance knob to shift the balance between the left and right loudspeaker. A clockwise turn of the knob will shift the balance to the right speaker and an anti-clockwise turn of the knob will shift the balance to the left speaker. The centre of the balance control knob is at the lowest position of rotation, this is for product styling.

input gain control on the PRIMA

You can adjust the input gain on your input devices so that you can align the volume levels of your different inputs. There are six settings, which are x0.25, x0.50, x0.75, x1.00, x1.25 and x1.50.

Most modern input devices such as CD players have an unbalanced output voltage of 2V and a balanced output 4V, which does not require any increased gain amplification. In fact, to increase the gain on such an output level can lead to distortion of the signal.

However, older audio equipment may have an output voltage of less than 2V, in which case you may like to adjust the input gain.

increasing the input gain of the input assigned to the main line

1. Press **M** on the pre amp remote followed by the **VOL** button marked **^** or
2. Press the **MAIN LINE LISTEN** LCD touch pad on the Chord touch screen remote followed by the mechanical button marked **VOL+** .
3. Each time you carry out steps 1 or 2, the input gain assignment will be stepped up through the available settings.

reducing the input gain of the input assigned to the main line

1. Press **M** on the pre amp remote followed by the **VOL** button marked **V** or
2. Press the **MAIN LINE LISTEN** LCD touch pad on the Chord touch screen remote followed by the mechanical button marked **I VOL-**.
3. Each time you carry out steps 1 or 2, the input gain assignment will be stepped down through the available settings.

increasing the input gain of the input assigned to the tape line

1. Press **T** on the pre amp remote followed by the **VOL** button marked **^** or
2. Press the **TAPE LINE LISTEN** LCD touch pad on the Chord touch screen remote followed by the mechanical button marked **VOL+** .
3. Each time you carry out steps 1 or 2, the input gain assignment will be stepped up through the available settings.

reducing the input gain of the input assigned to the tape line

1. Press **T** on the pre amp remote followed by the **VOL** button marked **V** or
2. Press the **TAPE LINE LISTEN** LCD touch pad on the Chord touch screen remote followed by the mechanical button marked **I VOL-**.
3. Each time you carry out steps 1 or 2, the input gain assignment will be stepped down through the available settings.

gain settings

Once you have adjusted the gain setting on an input device your amplifier will remember the setting, even if it is switched off for many months. The six available gain settings are shown below as they are displayed on the PRIMA.



Gain settings as displayed

maintenance of the PRIMA

adjusting the settings

Always remember to make any changes to settings with the volume set low or an instant burst of sound could damage your loudspeakers

cleaning

To clean finger marks and other blemishes from your amplifier spray clear glass cleaner onto a soft lint free cloth and then use the cloth to gently clean your amplifier.

When cleaning the Nickel / Brilliant finish please use a cream glass cleaner only

Directions: Shake the bottle of cream glass cleaner thoroughly. Apply sparingly onto a dry, soft and lint free cloth. Clean the area with the cloth. Polish off again with a new soft dry and lint free cloth before the cream dries.

changing the batteries in the PRE AMP REMOTE

Simply undo the four small cross head screws on the side of your remote control. You may need to run a sharp knife along the join to remove the battery casing, then replace with four new AAA batteries as shown inside the battery compartment.

servicing

There are no user serviceable parts in your Chord amplifier, and it should only be serviced by Chord Electronics Limited or their expressly approved Service Agents.

frequently asked questions about the PRIMA

I've connected all the wires up but I can't hear any sound?

Ensure that you've selected the correct input line for your connections.

why is there no display when I've turned the amplifier back on?

You need to wait for two minutes after switching the unit off before switching it on again.

why is there humming coming from the loudspeakers?

Check that you've earthed the unit. The interconnects need to be properly screened and placed away from mains cables. Using balanced inputs and outputs instead of RCA phono types can reduce interference.

the sound coming from the loudspeakers is distorted

Check that the speakers are connected properly. It may be that the volume is turned up too high for your speakers or that you have set the gain for the input device too high.

Note:- If you are using the Chord DAC 64 converter always set the gain to 0.25

the amplifier was in standby mode and has turned itself off

Changing connections while the amplifier is on, for example, dropping the stylus onto a record can cause the unit to shutdown. Check that the speaker cables have no stray inner core wires touching each other and bridging across speaker terminals, as this can cause a short circuit.