P1.5 Phono Preamplifier

Quick start Guide

Thank you for choosing the P1.5 Phono Preamplifier for your audio system. The P1.5, like all the other products designed by CH Precision, is highly versatile. Unlike many, more conventional phono stages, in order to achieve the best results from your unit, it is important to read the user manual that contains all the information needed to set up, configure and use your P1.5. The current user manual is included with your phono stage (on the USB stick) in the accessory pack. The latest version of both the manual and the unit Firmware is also available to download at www.ch-precision.com.

This guide will help you get started with your P1.5 Phono Preamplifier.

You will need a box cutter and somebody to help with the lifting. The P1.5 is quite heavy and we strongly recommend that it be moved and placed by two people.

1. Open the box carefully (it's heavy)!

It should contain:

- The Phono Stage
- The accessory box and manual.
- Four CH Aluminium spikes (located in the bottom piece of foam).
- Four CH polymer footer discs.
- Four small CH, dimpled polymer stacking caps.
- One mains power cord.
- A suction cup (located in the top piece of foam) and other tools.
- The small, hand-held remote.
- A CH Precision USB drive.

If anything is missing or if the unit presents cosmetic damage due to transportation, please contact your dealer immediately.

2. Placing your unit (remember – it's heavy!)

- First check that the voltage selector located on the IEC socket at the back of your unit is displaying the voltage in use at your location. If different, do not continue with this procedure and contact your dealer for assistance.
- If using the integral ground/support spikes:
  - Unscrew the unit's four Top Covers using the provided suction cup.
  - Insert the CH Spikes into the wells and start them in the threads in the base, ensuring you don't insert them too far, so that the spikes show and might damage the supporting surface.
- Place the P1.5 Phono Stage in its final position, ensuring there is sufficient airflow around, above and below it. If installing the CH Spikes, locate the four footer discs beneath the unit's feet (You can use an AirWedge or similar lifting bladder to help with this). Now, using the short screwdriver provided, wind the spikes down until they lift the unit clear of the support discs. Ensure that all four spikes are in even contact/show equal resistance when turned and that the unit is precisely level. Replace the top caps.
- If you are stacking CH units you need to replace the top-caps with the small, dimpled stacking caps provided in the accessory pack. The spikes of the upper unit should be retracted when placing that unit and should locate directly into the dimples in the caps when extended. Level the upper unit as described above.

3. Power connections

- Before attempting any electrical connections, set the power switch at the back of the power supply unit to OFF (the 0 on the switch should be depressed).
- Connect the unit to the mains grid using the provided power cord.
- **Always connect the power cord before connecting any signal cables.**
- **If using the P1.5 with CH Precision X1 External Power supply, refer to the X1 instructions regarding connection, before proceeding any further.**

4. Audio connections

Never attempt to make or modify audio connections with your P1.5 Phono Stage powered on. The unit's back panel switch must be in the OFF position while making audio connections. The mains power cords should be plugged into the wall socket so that the unit is grounded.

- Note that inputs to the P1.5 can be made using RCA or XLR connectors. Never connect both connectors on a single input at the same time!
- Outputs from the P1.5 are on balanced XLR (preferred to a CH Precision preamplifier) and single-ended RCA connectors.
- Connect the Left and Right channels of your tonearm(s) to the selected input. Note that there are three phono inputs of two different types.
  - If your cartridge's internal impedance is below 5Ω, the current- sensing inputs (MC1 and 2) will work best.
  - If your cartridge's internal impedance is between 5Ω and 20Ω, both input types should work well, and you can chose the one that sounds best to you. The current-sensing input is typically faster and more detailed, while the voltage sensing input has more bloom and presents richer harmonics.
  - If your cartridge's internal impedance is above 20Ω, the voltage-sensing inputs (MM/MC) will work best.
  - If you are using an external step-up transformer (SUT), it should be connected to the voltage-sensing input (MM/MC).
  - If you are using a high-output MC or MM cartridge (output >2.0 mV), it should be connected to the voltage-sensing input (MM/MC).
- Connect the tonearm(s) ground wire(s) to the signal ground or earth using the removable 4mm post with its butterfly nut.
- Connect the P1.5 phono stage Left and Right channel outputs to the corresponding inputs on your line-stage preamplifier. Try to keep all signal cables away from AC power cords. If they must cross, try to space them and cross at right angles.
- If you wish to use the free, Android/iOS compatible CH Control App (and we strongly recommend that you do, as this allows direct remote access to the P1.5 Phono Stage full functionality) use a Cat 6 Ethernet cable to connect the CONTROL board to the system network. The Android or iOS Control App can be downloaded from the P1.5 product page at www.ch-precision.com or from the GooglePlay App store or iOS App store.
- Use the Network section of the unit's menu to connect the P1.5 to to your network. Default IP setting (auto - DHCP) should work for most home networks.

5. Switch on

Once you have made all of the power and audio connections, you can turn on your P1.5. First, use the rear switch to put the unit to standby. You will see the red LED in the front-panel CH logo (top left) blink a few times and then illuminate. Then press the top button once. The power LED flashes and the main screen indicates that the P1.5 is initializing. Once startup is complete, the screen displays the input status. You can then use/configure your P1.5.

6. Configuring the inputs

The P1.5 allows you to configure each input individually. You will need to set:

- MC1 and/or 2 – Input gain
- MM/MC – Input gain and cartridge loading
- Anti-rumbling subsonic high-pass filter
- Input name (up to 12 characters)
- Input Status (active or hidden)

You can set or adjust the parameters using either the CH Control App or the front-panel buttons. However integrating the P1.5 into the system network/Control App may require you to set the correct network settings by using the front-panel buttons and the instructions in the main manual.

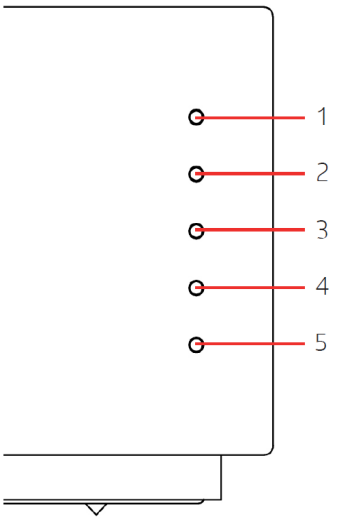
7. Advanced settings

There are a number of advanced/global settings and connections that can be applied to your P1.5. These include:

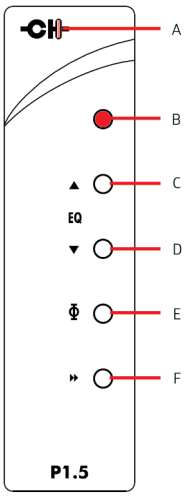
- The ground sockets located on the back of the unit.
- Absolute phase inversion
- Mono operating modes when you play mono records
- Optional EQ curves if you play older records
- Neumann pole
- Firmware updates.

Please see the full manual for information on these important options.

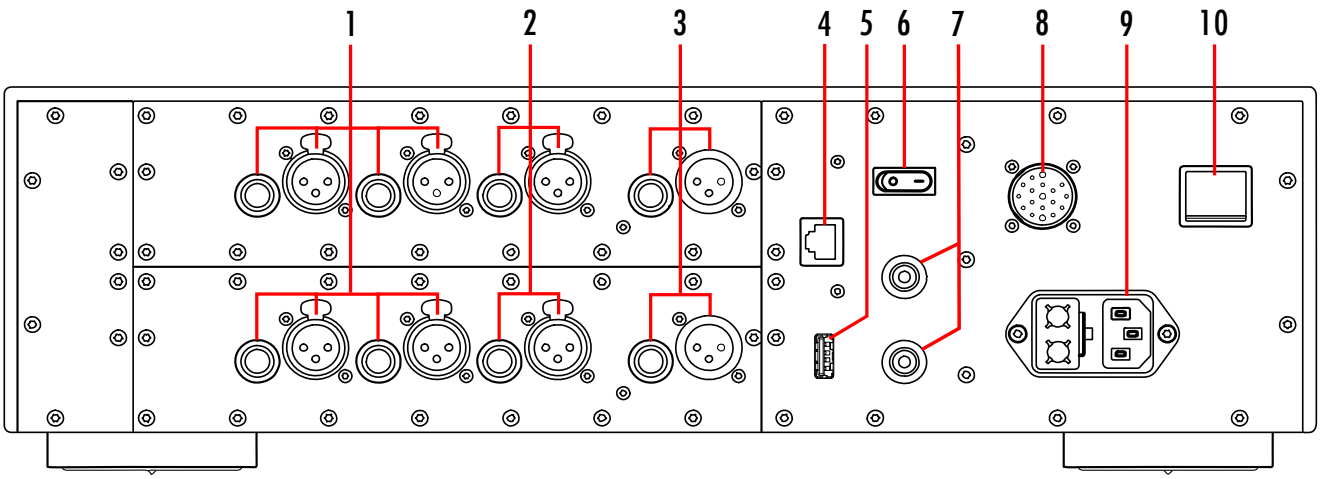
8. Basic Operation (Front-Panel Buttons and IR Remote Control)



Button 1. Mute (NP)
Operate/Standby (LP)
Button 2. Up
Button 3. Next/OK
Button 4. Down
Button 5. Cancel/Exit



(A) Remote control activity LED
(B) Mute [NP] / Standby/Power On [LP]
(C) Next EQ curve* [NP] / High Pass Filter [LP]
(D) Previous EQ curve* [NP] / Neumann pole [LP]
(E) phase inversion [NP] / mono/stereo [LP]
(F) Input selection [NP]
* EQ curve option required



P1.5 Rear panel connections

1. *MC 1 and 2 current-sensing inputs
2. *MM/MC voltage-sensing input
3. RCA & XLR outputs
4. Network connection
5. USB-A firmware update socket
6. Ground lift switch
7. Signal and chassis ground sockets
8. X1 power input
9. Mains power IEC socket + fuses
10. Mains switch

* Each input can be used with either RCA or XLR connections.

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