

- SMc Audio -

Hand -Tuned Performance by Steve McCormack

McCormack Micro Phono Drive Upgrade

The Micro Phono Drive is a fine stand-alone phono preamplifier and an outstanding value. (It is also available as a plug-in module for the ALD-1, RLD-1, and MAP-1 preamps.) With enough gain to handle low-output moving-coil cartridges (as low as .25mV), it is versatile enough to handle the phono duties for both active and passive preamplifiers. It offers musical performance that belies its modest cost, and with the addition of these upgrades is able to compete far outside its price category.

SMc Audio offers 2 upgrade levels for the Micro Phono Drive: Revisions A & B. An upgrade power supply called the Micro Power Station is also available (details below).

Revision B

We begin by improving the basic circuit topology with the elimination of the DC servo amplifier. Our new DC balancing system provides better bass definition, more "openness" through the critical midrange, and improved coherence. Key parts in both the power supply regulation and amplifier circuits are upgraded with the highest-performance parts available (Mills and Vishay resistors; Muse and Black Gate capacitors). The RIAA equalization is carefully trimmed for flattest response. The result is an across-the-board performance improvement – detailed, yet very relaxed and smooth, open and transparent with excellent dimensionality, explosive dynamics with very quiet, "black" backgrounds.

Revision B - \$300

Revision A

We go beyond Rev B by upgrading every part involved in signal processing, including the complete power supply system. The high-gain stage op-amps are upgraded to Burr-Brown OPA627s (one of the very few great-sounding op-amps in existence). All signal-carrying resistors are either Mills or Vishay. The latest AuriCaps are used to couple the output, providing the best transparency, clarity, and dynamic life I have found in a coupling cap. The connector system that normally couples the phono board to the power supply / output coupling board is eliminated, and all power and input / output functions are hardwired for best performance. This results in the cleanest possible signal transfer, with improved transparency, liquidity, and revelation of low-level information.

Revision A - \$500

RCA Jack Options:

WBT RCA jacks are more than beautiful pieces of "audio jewelry" - they deliver the goods sonically, as well. These jacks combine fast, detailed, and transparent sound with a degree of "body," warmth, and richness I have not found in any other jack.

WBT RCA Jacks \$60 / Pair

Cardas RCA jacks - a classic. I've used these parts for many years, and still love them. Fast, detailed, and transparent, their musical performance is excellent.

Cardas RCA Jacks \$30 / Pair

The Micro Power Station

The Micro components originally came with a good-quality "wall-wart" power supply. While it provided good performance in most circumstances, I wanted to offer a superior power supply for use in high-performance audiophile systems.

The Micro Power Station is built around a premium-grade toroidal power transformer. Housed in a compact (8"L x 5"W x 2"H), handsome gray chassis, it includes an XLR-style power connector and a removable IEC-type AC power cord. High-quality film capacitors provide internal noise filtering. A blue power-indicator LED on the front panel completes the unit. We provide a 6' custom power cable with XLR and coaxial DC power connectors for your Micro unit.

We offer the Micro Power Station in 2 versions: Standard, and High Current. The High-Current version is intended for use with the Micro Integrated Drive when it is used for driving speakers. With the High-Current MPS, the Micro Integrated Drive will deliver almost 10 Watts RMS per channel into an 8 Ohm load.

The Micro Power Station provides your Micro components with a nice improvement in bass depth, dynamic expression, and the overall sense of pace and rhythm.

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| Micro Power Station: | Standard version | \$275 |
| | High-Current version | \$375 |

Please call us at (760) 732-0352, M-F, 10-6 PST (California) to discuss which upgrade components will best suit your requirements.

Applicable CA tax and shipping not included. Please make your check or money order payable to **Steve McCormack**.

- SMc Audio -

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