

ALLNIC AUDIO H-1201 PHONO STAGE



OWNER'S MANUAL

ALLNIC AUDIO H-1201 PHONO STAGE

Thank you for purchasing this Allnic Audio H-1201 Phono Stage. We are certain your trust in Allnic Audio and Hammertone Audio, as well as your appreciation for the sound of this high-quality device, will be rewarded by its excellent operation for years to come.

Please read this entire manual before you connect the H-1201 to the other components of your system and the wall outlet.



MUSICAL
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David Beetles CEO

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**** Information and specifications for the Allnic Audio product described in this manual are subject to change without notice.**

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Please read about **SAFETY** before you attempt to use the H-1201 - we care about our customers and the equipment, and we want you to enjoy this product for a long time!

INTRODUCING THE H-1201 PHONO STAGE

The H-1201 is Allnic Audio's entry level phono stage model. Like all Allnic Audio products, it uses Permalloy (iron and nickel alloy) for its transformer cores. Allnic is grateful to Mr. G.W. Elmen of Western Electric for inventing Permalloy for transformer core use, and in so doing, providing an enormous service to recorded music listeners everywhere.

The H-1201 has the following features:

- High-quality, NOS E180CC twin triode tubes
- CR type RIAA equalization, precisely compensated within +/- 0.3dB
- Automatic, semi-conductor voltage regulation circuit, ensuring exceptionally quiet operation
- High quality Moving Coil Step-up Transformers with Permalloy cores
- MC transformers variable gain (+22dB, +26dB, +28dB and +32dB)
- No negative feedback design
- Pure Class A operation
- New vacuum tube damping technology – Allnic Audio's patented "Absorb GEL tube damper" technology prevents harmful vibrations from reaching the signal / gain tubes and, therefore, prevents micro-phonic noise propagation in the tubes. The Allnic Audio Absorb Gel damper technology effectively solves a problem that plagues most tube amplification systems. Provided other tube components do not introduce micro-phonic noise into your system, with the Absorb Gel damping system, you will enjoy a degree of transparent sound that will surprise and please you.
- As are all Allnic Audio products, the H-1201 is fully RoHS (EU Reduction of Hazardous Substances regulation) compliant in construction and materials

WHAT'S IN THE BOX?

Please check that the shipping box contains the following:

- One (1) Allnic H-1201 phono stage – in natural aluminum or black, depending on your order request

- One (1) IEC type power cord
- One (1) Owner's Manual

Note:

- 1) The H-1201 ships with the tubes installed.
- 2) The H-1201 will work with most IEC type aftermarket power cords. Of course, only you can determine the power cord that works most synergistically with the H-1201 in your system.
- 3) Be sure the H-1201 is labeled for the AC voltage of your location. If it is not, please contact Hammertone Audio (See Figure 1).

We advise that you keep the box and other packing materials that your H-1201 came in. It will be useful if you sell your H-1201 or in the unlikely event you need to ship it for service.

SAFETY

- **Remove ALL protective cushioning material inside the tube chimneys before operation. The tube chimneys should contain NOTHING except the tubes.** You may experiment with the tube damping rings, on or off.
- Disconnect the power cord by pulling the plug, not the cable.
- Do not attempt any repairs. Do not remove the unit's chassis covers without specific authorization from Hammertone Audio.
- Keep the power cord away from heat sources
- Keep the unit away from liquids – do not allow any liquid to enter the interior of the unit.
- When the unit is moved from a cold to a warm environment, allow sufficient time for any condensation to evaporate before plugging the H-1201 into an AC connection.
- See the notes on "Location, Location, Location".

CLEANING

A. Chassis

Use only a soft, lint-free cloth dampened slightly with water only (NO cleaning fluids!) to clean the faceplate and chassis of the H-1201 and its power supply.

B. Connectors

You may use any good quality contact cleaner recommended

for such applications to clean the contacts from time to time, as you deem appropriate.

INITIAL SET-UP

A. LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

Like all audio products using tubes, the Allnic Audio H-1201 needs to be placed on a solid stand in a location that provides good air circulation around the phono stage.

- DO NOT cover the top of the H-1201 phono stage or tube chimneys.
- DO NOT place the unit on carpet or foam.
- DO NOT subject the unit to knocks and shocks as you move it around. This advice is meant particularly for those who may want to place the H-1201 on some kind of after-market isolation feet or similar devices. Dropping the H-1201 is not a good thing to do and may void the warranty.
- DO NOT place the unit near a strong light or heat.
- DO NOT place anything heavy on the unit.
- DO NOT allow rubber or vinyl materials to rest on the unit's chassis for long periods of time. This could discolour the metal.

- DO place the unit on a shelf or stand that is stable and not subject to vibration or sudden shock.
- DO consider using a high quality power cord and inter-connects, for both inputs and outputs. The H-1201 is a highly sensitive piece of electronic designed for neutrality and will output what you put into it.
- DO try to place the H-1201 away from major sources of RFI and EMI; though well shielded, the H-1201 will function best away from large power transformers and other sources of such interference.

B. POWER CONNECTIONS

The H-1201 uses a standard three prong male IEC connection for AC input. You need to use a power cord with a female three prong IEC connector at one end (See Figure 1).

The H-1201 power supply you have purchased is set internally for AC 110/120 volt – 60 HZ operation. There is no way to change this to another AC setting without return of

the unit to the factory for re-wiring, at the owner's cost, including transport both directions.

C. INPUTS

There are two (2) pairs of single-ended (RCA) inputs, one for Moving Coil (MC) cartridges and the other for Moving Magnet (MM) cartridges. These two pairs are located in the middle of the rear of the H-1201 (See Figure 1) and labeled "MC – input – MM" between the top and bottom connectors. Facing the rear of the H-1201, the left hand pair of inputs is the moving coil cartridge input; the right is for moving magnet cartridges. Each pair of inputs is aligned vertically, with the left channel "left" labeled input at the top and the "right" labeled input on the bottom.

To the left and right (facing the rear panel) of the MC and MM input connections respectively is a screw type ground connector. Either or both of these may be used for multiple ground connections.

When you are facing the front of the H-1201, the input connections are in the centre of the unit, with the MC connections on the right and the MM connections immediately to their left.

The H-1201 has been designed and manufactured to work most synergistically with Allnic Audio preamplifiers, pre-phono stages and equalization products.

D. OUTPUTS

The H-1201 is equipped with one set of unbalanced or "single-ended" (RCA) outputs. The output connection is just to the left (facing the rear panel) of the AC IEC power cord connection. The left channel output connection is the top one and is labeled "left"; the bottom, "right" (See Figure 1).

E. Moving Coil (MC) Transformer Controls

On the top of each channel's MC transformer on the centre rear of the chassis deck of the H-1201 (See Figure 4), there is a rotating control (See Figure 3). Turn the control knob to select from four gain factors: +22dB, +26dB, +28dB and +32dB. Combined with the H1201's 40dB native gain, for MC there is 62dB, 66dB, 68dB and 72dB of gain available. Each of the second set of indicators on the top of the transformers only marks the impedance tied to the gain setting diagonal

to it. The impedance and gain relationships are not user adjustable.

You should experiment with the gain settings to find the best setting for your cartridge. Use identical settings for both transformers to avoid channel imbalance.

INITIAL POWER-ON

Once you have your H-1201 in place and all connections have been made to your turntable and preamplifier, you are ready to turn on the power for your H-1201. Before you power up the H-1201, though, be sure you have:

- **removed ALL the cushion materials from inside the tube chimneys.**
- turned the volume down or muted your preamplifier
- muted the H-1201 by ensuring that the button switch labeled “mute” on the right hand side of the front panel of the H-1201 is not “depressed” (i.e., it is “out”) (See Figure 2)
- rotated the single knob on the front of the unit, with MM and MC labels at its top right and left respectively, to the appropriate input, corresponding to the input you will use initially, either MC or MM (See Figure 2)
- if you are using a moving coil cartridge, set the MC transformer controls on the top of the chassis to the factor that you will try initially (See Figure 3)
- checked that all your connections are snug

To turn on the H-1201, press in the button switch on the left front panel. Pressing the power button again will power down the H-1201 (See Figure 2).

OPERATION

The H-1201 has a “soft start”. After pushing in the power button, the H-1201 will take about 40 seconds to be ready for play. Each time the H-1201 is powered on, the orange light on its front panel above the power button will illuminate. If the “mute button is in the “on” position (button “out” – not depressed) when you power on the H-1201, the light above the mute button will illuminate red and stay red after the soft start period. If the mute button is depressed (mute off), when you power on the H-1201, the mute light will first glow red, and after the soft start period will change to orange.

NOTE:

Please mute your H-1201, and/or reduce your preamplifier’s volume control, during transformer gain adjustments. Be aware if you are increasing gain, that you may hit an uncomfortably loud volume level.

To avoid surges to the speakers, it is best to switch between the MM or MC inputs only with the H-1201 in “mute” mode and with your preamplifier volume down or otherwise muted.

From this point on, operation is straight-forward. All functions except for MC transformers’ gain selection are controlled from the front panel. Of course, BE CAREFUL about differences in gain between your sources. Generally, disc players and tuners will have greater gain than phono stages. That means the volume setting for listening to your turntable might be too high for listening to CD’s.

When you are finished listening, turn off your power amplifier(s); then turn off your preamplifier and then turn off the H-1201 last by pressing the power switch on the left side of the unit’s front panel.

In the case of any failure, please contact Hammertone Audio for assistance.

TUBES

The H-1201 uses the following tubes (See Figure 4):

- Four (4) x NOS E180CC twin triodes

All consequences of changing or attempting to change tubes are borne by the user unless by express agreement between the owner and Hammertone Audio. Allnic Audio and Hammertone Audio are not liable in any way whatsoever for any injury or loss incurred by the user or for damage to the H-1201, any of its parts, or tubes or replacement tubes resulting from the user changing or attempting to change tubes.

SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE ALLNIC AUDIO H-1201 PHONO STAGE

Inputs:	One (1) pair Moving Coil (MC) unbalanced (RCA) One (1) pair Moving Magnet (MM) unbalanced (RCA)
Ground:	Two (2) x screw type terminal

Output:	One (1) pair x unbalanced (RCA)
Frequency (RIAA):	20Hz ~ 20KHz ($\pm 0.3\text{db}$)
Voltage Gain:	MM: +38db (1KHz) MC: Variable: +22dB, +26dB, +28dB, +32dB (1KHz)
Input Impedance:	MC up to 280 Ω MM 47k Ω
Maximum Input Voltage (MM, non-clipping):	20Hz / 30mV 100Hz / 60mV 1KHz / 300mV 10KHz / 500mV
THD (Total Harmonic Distortion):	Less than 0.3% (1KHz, Output 1V)
Output Impedance:	1.2K Ω (on-off method)
S/N Ratio:	-68db (CCIR, 1KHz)
Power Consumption:	20W / 220V @ 60Hz
Tubes:	E180CC - New old stock - approximately electrically (not sonically) equivalent: CV8431, 7062, 5965, 12AV7, 6414, 6829
Fuse:	AC 2A, 250V
Dimensions:	310mm (~12.3 inches) x 230mm (~9.1 inches) x 140mm (~5.6 inches) (W x D x H)
Weight:	
Unpacked:	4.5 Kg (9.9 lbs)
Packaged:	6 Kg (13.2)

WARRANTY

All Allnic Audio amplifier products are warranted against materials and manufacturing defects for parts, excluding tubes, and labour for two (2) years from date of purchase. Tubes are warranted against materials and manufacturing defects for one (1) year from date of purchase. The warranty is transferable for the balance of the original purchaser's warranty period, provided, as stated below, no unauthorized repairs or modifications have been performed on the product. Date of purchase is the date indicated on the invoice for the product issued by Hammertone Audio.

For the warranty to be valid, a defective product must be returned to Hammertone Audio for service prior to any unauthorized attempt to repair. Any repair work on an Allnic Audio product not specifically authorized by Hammertone Audio will void the warranty on the product.

FIGURES

Figure 1 – H-1201 Rear Panel View

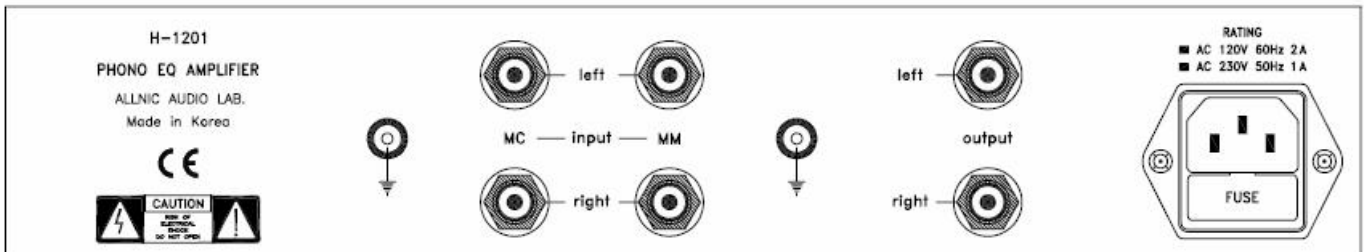


Figure 2 – H-1201 Front Panel View

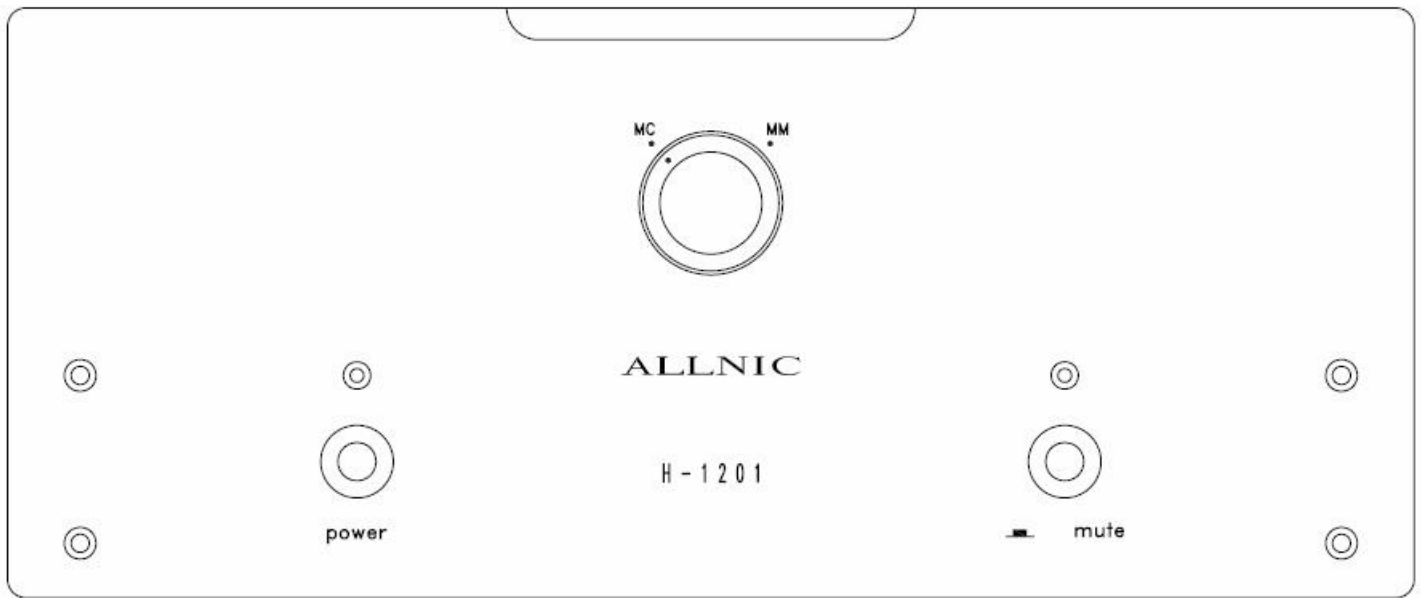


Figure 3 – H-1201 Chassis Top View - MC Transformer Controls

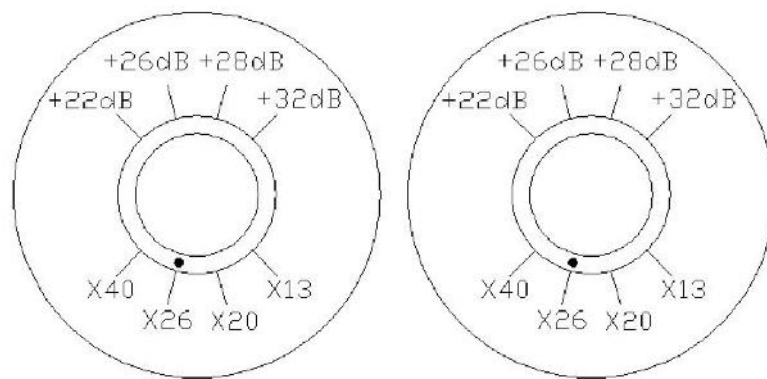
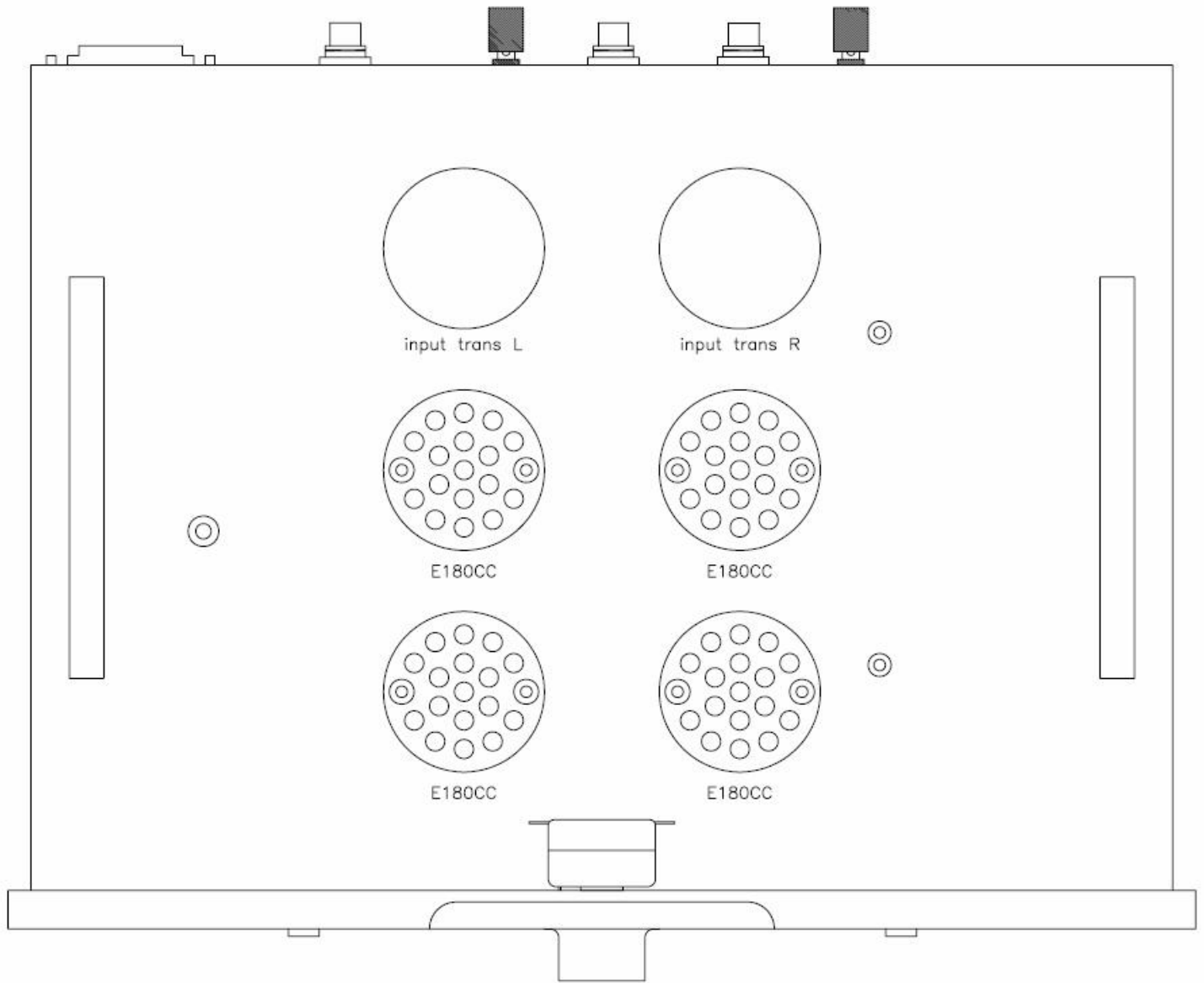


Figure 4 – H-1201 Top View





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