McIntosh Laboratory, Inc. 2 Chambers Street,Binghamton, New York 13903-2699 Phone: 607-723-3512 www.mcintoshlabs.com

C55

AUDIO PREAMPLIFIER

OWNER'S MANUAL



FCC Information (For US Customers)

1. IMPORTANT NOTICE:
DO NOT MODIFY THIS PRODUCT

This product, when installed as indicated in the instructions contained in this manual, meets FCC requirements. Modification not expressly approved by McIntosh may void your authority granted by the FCC to use the product.

2. CAUTION:

• To comply with FCC RF exposure compliance requirement, separation distance of at least 20cm must be maintained between this product and all persons.

• This product and its antenna must not be co-located or operating in conjunction with any other antenna or transmitter.

3. COMPLIANCE INFORMATION:

• Product Name: C55 Audio Preamplifier

• Model Number: C55

• This product contains FCC ID: 2ADHKWILC3000U

McIntosh Laboratory, Inc.
2 Chambers Street
Binghamton, NY 13903
Tel. (607) 723-3512

IC Information (Canadian Customers)

1. PRODUCT:

This product contains IC: 20266-WILC3000UA
This product complies with RSS-210 of Industry Canada. Operation is subject to the following two conditions:
(1) this product may not cause harmful interference, and (2) this product must accept any interference received, including interference that may cause undesired operation. This Class B digital Apparatus complies with Canadian ICES-003.

2. CAUTION:

To reduce potential radio interference to other users, the antenna type and its gain should be so chosen that the equivalent isotropically radiated power (e.i.r.p.) is not more than that permitted for successful communication.

Informations sur IC (pour les clients Canadiens)

1. APPAREIL:

Cet Appareil contiens IC: 20266-WILC3000UA
Cet Appareil est conforme à la norme CNR-210 du Canada. L'utilisation de ce dispositif est autorisée seulement aux deux conditions suivantes : (1) il ne doit pas produire de brouillage, et (2) l'utilisateur du dispositif doit être prêt à accepter tout brouillage radioélectrique reçu, même si ce brouillage est susceptible de compromettre le fonctionnement du dispositif. Cet Appareil numérique de la classe B est conforme à la norme NMB-003 du Canada.

2. ATTENTION:

Afin de réduire le risque d'interférence aux autres utilisateurs, il faut choisir le type d'antenne et son gain de façon à ce que la puissance isotrope rayonnée équivalente (p.i.r.e.) ne soit pas supérieure au niveau requis pour l'obtention d'une communication satisfaisante.

Canadian Customers: CAN ICES-003 (B)/ NMB-003 (B)

RF Exposure Information

This equipment complies with FCC and ISED RSS-102 radiation exposure limits set forth for an uncontrolled environment. This transmitter must not be co-located or operating in conjunction with any other antenna or transmitter. In order to avoid the possibility of exceeding the FCC and ISED RSS-102 radio frequency exposure limits, this equipment should be installed and operated with minimum distance 20 cm (7.9 inches) between the antenna and your body during normal operation. Users must follow the specific operating instructions for satisfying RF exposure compliance.

Cet équipement est conforme aux limites d'exposition aux rayonnements FCC et ISED CNR-102 établies
pour un environnement non contrôlé. Cet émetteur ne doit pas être installé ou utilisé en conjonction avec une autre antenne ou un autre émetteur.
Afin d'éviter la possibilité de dépasser les limites d'exposition aux radiofréquences FCC et ISED, cet équipement doit être installé et utilisé avec une distance minimale de 20 cm (7.9 pouces) entre l'antenne et votre corps pendant le fonctionnement normal. Les utilisateurs doivent suivre les instructions spécifiques d'utilisation pour respecter la conformité à l'exposition aux RF.

RED (EN) Information

1. DECLARATION OF CONFORMITY

Our products follow the provisions of EC/EU directives:
LVD: 2014/35/EU
EMC: 2014/30/EU
RED: RED (EU) 2022/30 of 20 Oct 2021 supplementing Directive 2014/53/EU
ERP: EC regulation 1275/2008 and its frame work directive 2009/125/EU
RoHS: 2015/863/EU

2. IMPORTANT NOTICE:
DO NOT MODIFY THIS PRODUCT

This product, when installed as indicated in the instructions contained in this manual, meets RED directive requirements. Modification of the product could result in hazardous Radio and EMC radiation.

3. CAUTION:

Separation distance of at least 20 cm must be maintained between this product and all persons. This product and its antenna must not be co-located or operating in conjunction with any other antenna or transmitter.

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Safety First

Please read the additional document
INSTRUCTIONS: Safety - Lithium Batteries - Disposal

Thank You from all of us at McIntosh

You have invested in a precision instrument that will provide you with many years of enjoyment. Please take a few moments to familiarize yourself with the features and instructions to get the maximum performance from your equipment. If you need further technical assistance, please contact your dealer who may be more familiar with your particular setup including other brands. You can also contact McIntosh with additional questions or in the unlikely event of needing service.

McIntosh Laboratory, Inc.
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Technical Assistance (607) 723-3512
Fax (607) 724-0549

Customer Service (607) 723-3515
Fax (607) 723-1917

Email support@mcintoshlabs.com
Website www.mcintoshlabs.com

Please Take A Moment

For future reference, you can write down your serial number and purchase information here. We can identify your purchase from this information if the occasion should arise:

Serial Number: _____

Purchase Date: _____

Dealer Name: _____

Trademark and License Information

The McIntosh C55 incorporates copyright protected technology that is protected by U.S. patents and other intellectual property rights. The C55 uses the following technologies:

Trademark	License Information
ASIO COMPATIBLE	ASIO is a trademark and software of Steinberg Media Technologies GmbH
DOLBY AUDIO	Manufactured under license from Dolby Laboratories. Dolby, Dolby Audio, and the double-D symbol are trademarks of Dolby Laboratories.
dts Digital Surround	For DTS patents, see http://patents.dts.com. Manufactured under license from DTS, Inc. DTS, the Symbol, DTS and the Symbol together, and Digital Surround are registered trademarks and/or trademarks of DTS, Inc. in the United States and/or other countries. DTS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.
HDMI HIGH-DEFINITION MULTIMEDIA INTERFACE	The terms HDMI, HDMI High-Definition Multimedia Interface, and the HDMI Logo are trademarks or registered trademarks of HDMI Licensing Administrator, Inc.

Introduction

The McIntosh C55 audio preamplifier is one of the finest preamplifiers ever created with connections for both analog and digital sources. The C55 outputs have the ability to drive multiple power amplifiers. The C55 reproduction is sonically transparent and absolutely accurate. The McIntosh Sound is “The Sound of the Music Itself.”

General Information

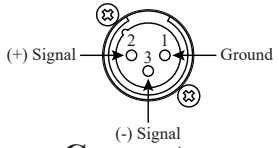
- Do not apply AC power to the C55 and other component(s) until they are connected to the C55 so operational malfunctioning does not occur.
- Balanced and unbalanced inputs and outputs can be mixed. For example, you may connect signal sources to unbalanced inputs and send signals from the balanced outputs. You can also use balanced and unbalanced outputs simultaneously, connected to different power amplifiers.
- The C55 internal Digital to Analog Converter circuitry is designed to decode PCM, DSD, and DTS digital signals. The coaxial and optical digital audio inputs are for PCM digital signals, Dolby signals, and DTS signals. The C55 also decodes USB and HDMI (ARC) digital signals. Other digital audio signal format types will cause the audio outputs of the C55 to be muted.
- The McIntosh C55 is factory configured for immediate use. It can also be customized to complement the components making up your system. *Refer to the Setup Menu described on page 11.*
- The remote control supplied with the C55 preamplifier is capable of operating other components. For additional information go to www.mcintoshlabs.com.
- The rear panel IR input is configured for non-McIntosh IR sensors such as a Xantech Model DL85K Kit. When in use, consider turning off the front panel sensor to avoid interference.
- The C55 has been tested and certified for indoor use only.
- For additional information on the C55 and other McIntosh Products please visit the McIntosh website at www.mcintoshlabs.com.

Connector and Cable Information

XLR Connectors

Pin configuration for the XLR balanced input and output connector. Refer to the diagrams for connections:

PIN 1: Shield/Ground
PIN 2: + Input/Output
PIN 3: - Input/Output



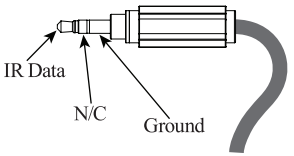
Power Control and Trigger Connectors

The C55 power control out, trigger, and PassThru output jacks send power On/Off signals (+12 volt / 0 volt) when connected to other components. An additional connection is for controlling McIntosh power amplifiers output meters. A 3.5 mm stereo mini phone plug is used for connection to the power control (trigger) and PassThru output.

Note: A complete line of custom McIntosh power control cables are available, starting with the "CC1M" 1-meter cable.

Data Port Connectors

The C55 data out ports send remote control signals to source components. A 3.5 mm stereo mini phone plug is used for connection.

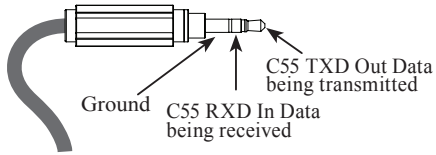


IR IN Port Connectors

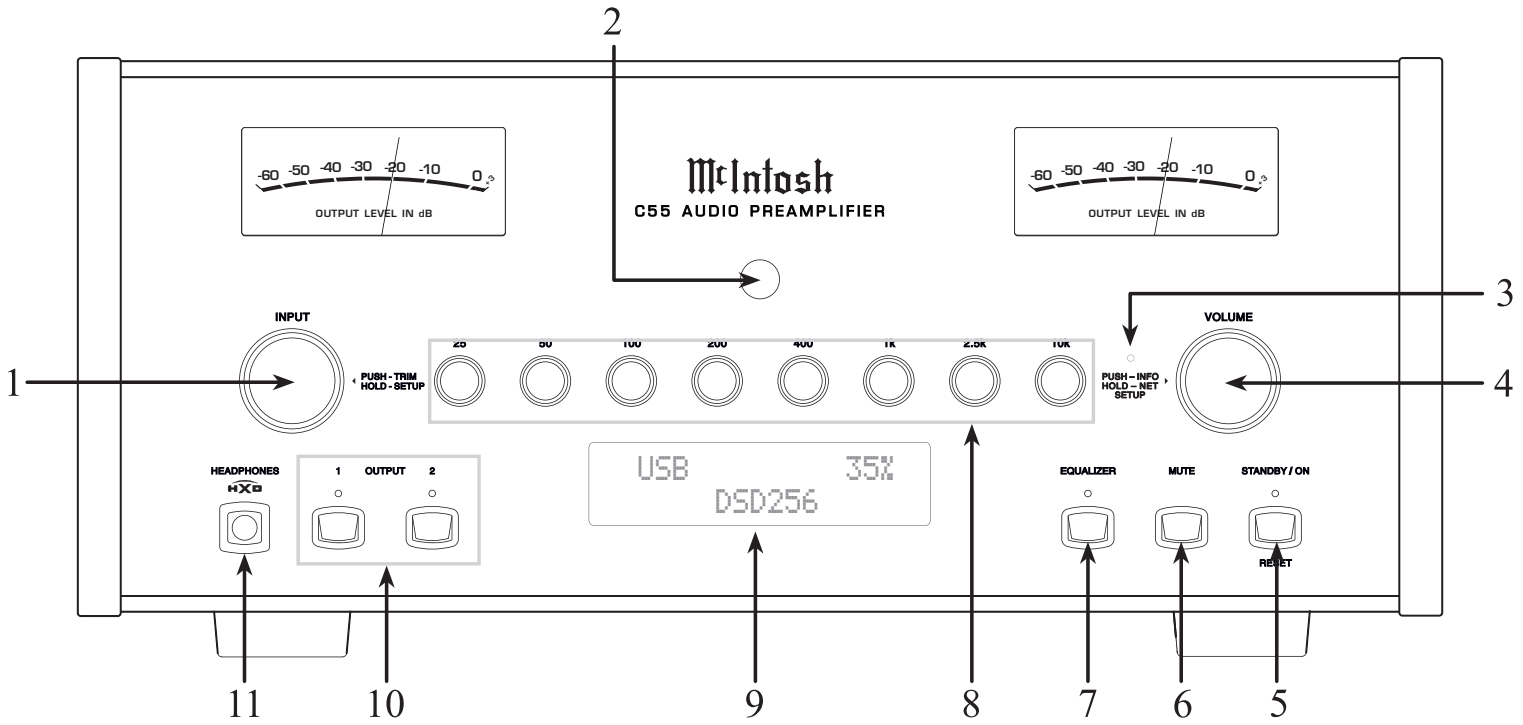
The IR IN port also uses a 3.5 mm stereo mini phone plug and allows the connection of other brand IR receivers to the C55.

RS232 Data Port Cable

The RS232-C data cable is a 3.5 mm stereo mini phone plug used to connect to external third party controllers.

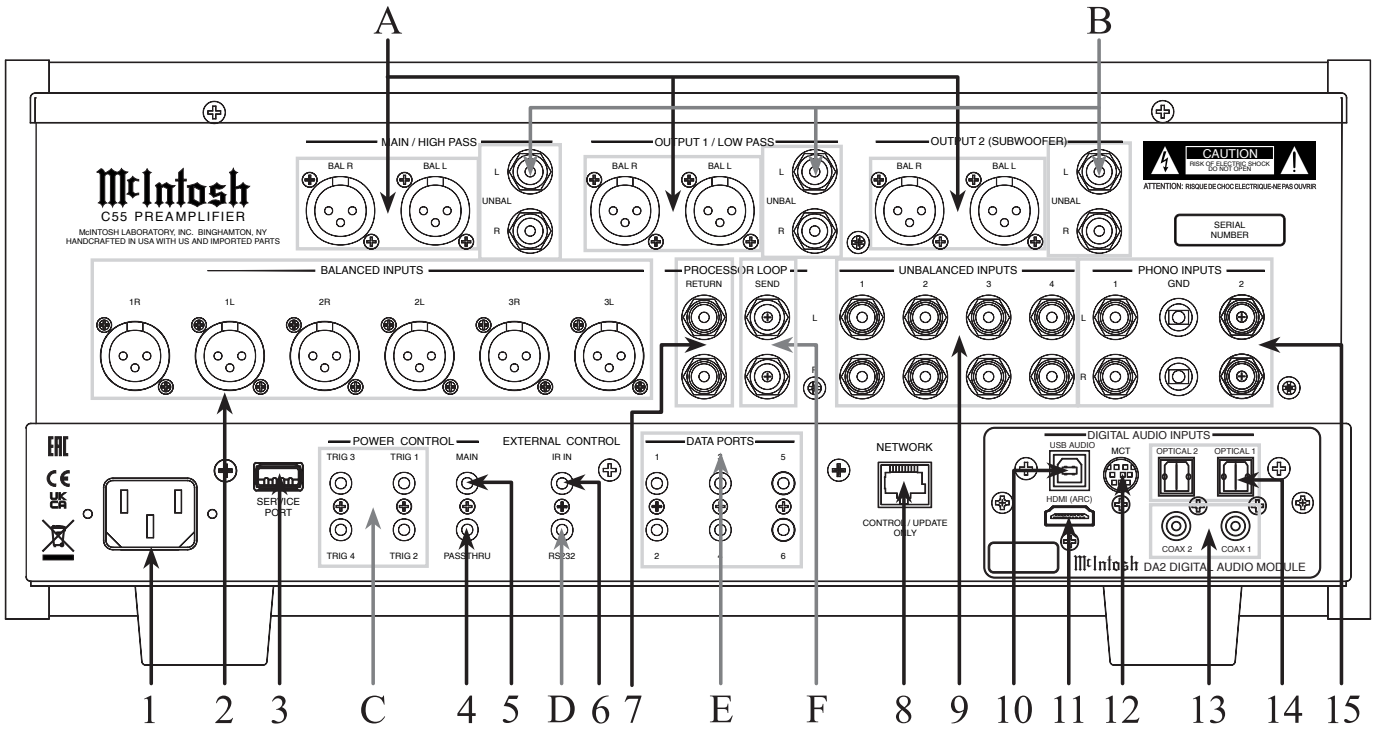


- **Electromagnetic Input Switching with Level Trim Adjustment**
  Digital logic circuits drive electromagnetic switches on all inputs and operating functions for reliable, noiseless, and distortion-free switching. The analog inputs can be matched in level, preventing abrupt changes in volume levels.
- **Phono Inputs with Adjustable Gain**
  The C55 has two precision phono preamplifier circuits. They have the ability to be configured for moving coil or moving magnet cartridges. The close tolerance resistors and capacitors used in the RIAA correction equalization circuitry provide an extremely flat frequency response.
- **Selectable Phono Cartridge Loading**
  Adjustable capacitance and resistance loading are available for both moving coil and moving magnet phono cartridges. Capacitance loading is selectable from values of 50 picofarads to 400 picofarads. Resistance loading is selectable from values of 25 Ω to 47 kΩ.
- **Digital Audio Inputs**
  The digital inputs decode PCM and DSD signals from external sources. Coaxial, optical, and HDMI inputs process digital signals up to 192 kHz with 24-bit resolution. The digital MCT input circuitry directly decodes SACD/CD signals from an external transport component. The USB input for streaming audio processes digital signals up to 384 kHz with 32-bit resolution, decodes up to DSD512 digital signals and DXD 24-bit with a sampling rate up to 384 kHz.
- **Balanced Inputs**
  The balanced inputs allow the connection of a source component using long cable lengths without a loss in sound quality.
- **Precision Tracking VOLUME Knob**
  Volume levels are controlled by a precision balanced digitally controlled attenuator system with an encoder rotary control. This assures a 0.1 dB tracking accuracy between channels.
- **Variable Rate Volume and Balance Controls**
  The C55 preamplifier's volume and balance control circuitry provides an ideal rate of change with control rotation.
- **Equalizer Controls**
  The eight front panel equalizer controls provide 12 dB of boost or cut at their center frequencies. The C55 remembers the equalizer circuitry ON/OFF setting for each input.
- **HXD® for Headphones**
  The C55 Headphone Crossfeed Director circuitry (HXD®) improves the sound localization for headphone listening. HXD™ restores the directionality component of the spatial sound stage normally heard with loudspeaker listening.
- **Vacuum Fluorescent Display**
  The front panel information display indicates the source selection, volume/balance levels, and menu selections. The display intensity is adjustable.
- **PassThru Mode**
  The automatic PassThru mode allows the C55 to become part of a home theater multichannel sound system.
- **Remote Control with External Sensor Input**
  The remote control provides control of the C55 operating functions and McIntosh source components connected to it. Enjoy your McIntosh system from another room in your home by connecting an external sensor.
- **Power Control Output and Trigger Assignment**
  A power control connection for convenient turn-on of McIntosh power amplifiers, source components, and accessories is included. The power control trigger outputs may be assigned to activate when a given input/output is selected.
- **Special Power Supply**
  Fully regulated power supplies and a special R-Core power transformer ensure stable, noise-free operation even though the power line varies.
- **Glass Front Panel with LED Illumination**
  The famous McIntosh glass front panel is evenly illuminated by multiple extra long life Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs) arranged with a special orientation. The pristine beauty of the C55 will be retained for many years.
- **Bi-Amp Outputs**
  Built-in adjustable highpass and lowpass outputs for bi-amping your speaker system.



Front Panel

1. **INPUT knob** is used to select a source for listening and recording. The knob is also used for menu navigation.
2. **IR sensor** receives commands from a remote control.
3. **NETwork Status LED** indicates the network connection status.
4. **VOLUME knob** allows adjustment of the listening level for both channels, trim mode adjustments, and various SETUP Functions.
5. **STANDBY/ON button** with indicator switches the C55 ON or OFF (Standby) and resets the microprocessors.
6. **MUTE button** mutes the audio from the loudspeakers and headphones.
7. **EQUALIZER button** allows the user to select whether or not the equalizer circuit is engaged. In the Off mode, the front panel adjustment knobs are bypassed and the audio signal is unaltered. In the On mode, the audio signal can be adjusted via the front panel frequency knobs.
8. **Eight Band Equalizer knobs** allow the user to boost or cut any individual frequency or any combination of frequencies. *Refer to Equalizer Controls on page 18.*
9. **Information Display** indicates the sources, volume, other audio settings, operational functions, and menu settings
10. **OUTPUT 1 and 2 buttons** with indicators switch the Preamplifier Outputs 1 and 2 On or Off.
11. **HEADPHONES Connection** to use with low impedance dynamic headphones for private listening.



Rear Panel Inputs

1. **AC Input** uses a power cord to connect to an AC outlet.
2. **BALANCED INPUTS (1 thru 3)** accept high-level program source signals.
3. **SERVICE USB** is a USB Type-A port used for service purposes only.
4. **PASSTHRU control input** receives On/Off signals from an Audio/Video Processor.
5. **MAIN control output** sends On/Off signals to a McIntosh component when the C55 Preamplifier is switched On/Off.
6. **IR IN** accepts an external IR receiver using a 3.5 mm stereo mini phone plug cable.
7. **PROCESSOR LOOP RETURN** receives audio from an external equalizer or room correction processor.
8. **NETWORK** for a wired internet connection via Ethernet.
9. **UNBALANCED INPUTS (1 thru 4)** accept high-level program source signals.
10. **USB AUDIO Input** is a USB Type-B connector used to connect the C55 to a computer.
11. **HDMI (ARC) Input** connects with a compatible ARC TV using an HDMI cable to share control and digital audio connectivity.
    Note: The HDMI ARC functionality of the C55 is only compatible with ARC TVs.
12. **MCT Input** transfers signals from McIntosh products with an MCT connector and is required for SACD audio.
13. **COAX Inputs (1 and 2)** accept coaxial cables for digital signals.
14. **OPTICAL Inputs (1 and 2)** accept optical connections for digital signals.
15. **PHONO INPUTS** accept signals from a phono cartridge.

Outputs

A. **BALanced Outputs** each use an XLR connector cable for a balanced output signal.
B. **UNBALanced Outputs** use an RCA connector cable for an unbalanced output signal.
C. **POWER CONTROL TRIG (1 thru 4)** send On/Off signals to other McIntosh components.
D. **RS232 control port** communicates with external control devices using a 3.5 mm stereo mini phone plug cable.
E. **DATA PORTS** retransmit remote control signals to source components.
F. **PROCESSOR LOOP SEND** output delivers audio to an external equalizer or room correction processor.

Dimensions

The following dimensions can assist in determining the best location for your C55.

A Note on Placement:

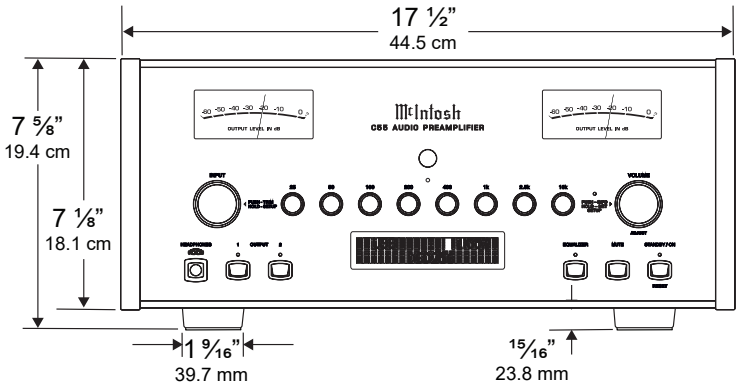
It is important to keep your McIntosh unit out of direct sunlight and only use appropriate gentle cleaners because the organic anodize can become discolored over time.

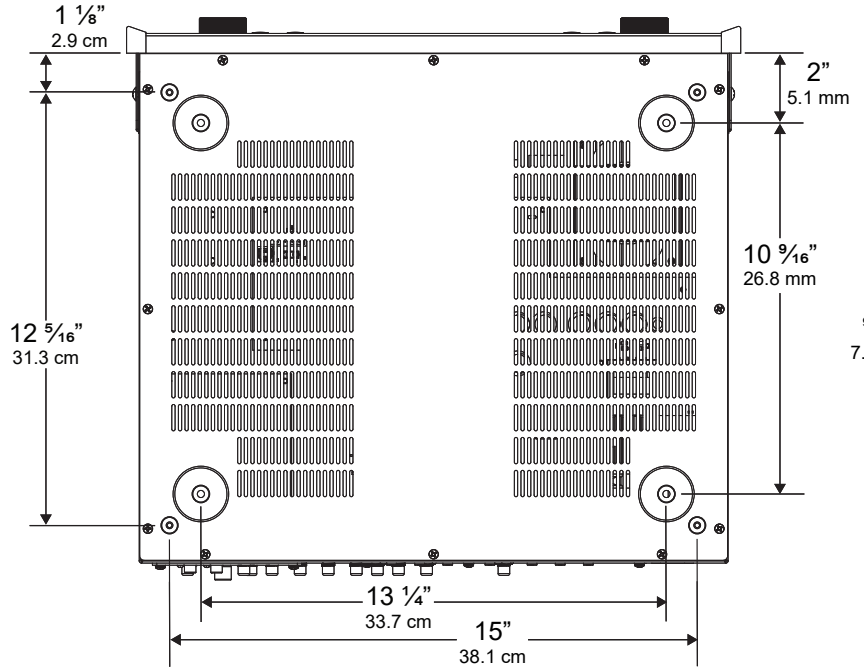
While most products will maintain their classic dark features for their lifetime, some situations can accelerate discoloration. The most pervasive culprit is UV light, especially light directly from the sun, or high intensity spotlights. Even high intensity short-term exposure can result in discoloration.

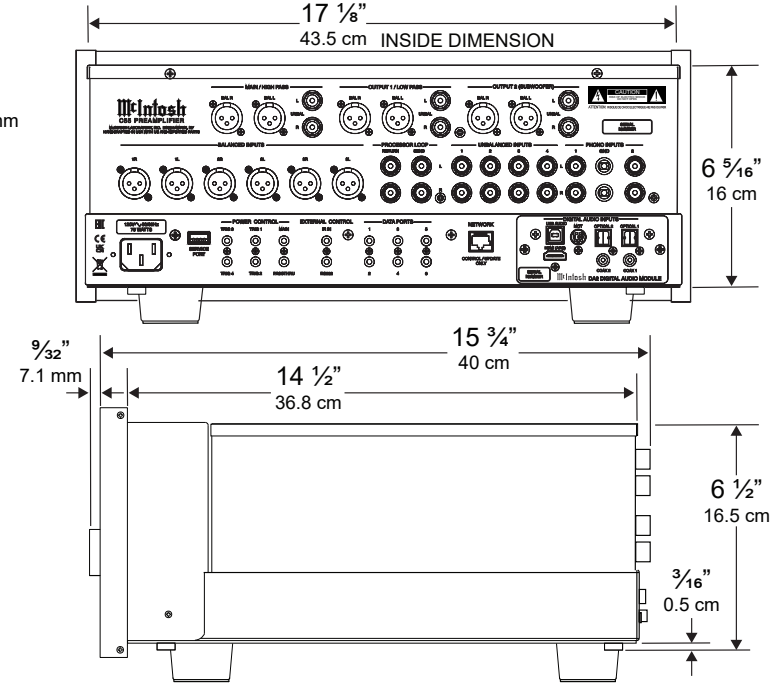
Chemicals can alter the finish of the anodize. Aggressive cleaners will take their toll over time and etch away the anodize finish.

Installation

The C55 should be installed upright on its four feet. Adequate ventilation is important and will aid in a long trouble-free life of the C55. You must ensure proper airflow by allowing at least 3 inches (7.6 cm) above the unit and 3 inches (7.6 cm) for the front, rear, and sides. Do not remove the feet to ensure adequate airflow beneath the C55. There must be openings for cool air to enter (below) and warm air to escape (above) the C55.







Remote Control Navigation

1. **Switch Device** jumps through different devices for remote operation. The selected device is indicated by the LED's to the right of the button.
2. **Numbers** select tuner presets, manually enters disc tracks and radio stations, and performs various other operations.
3. **SETUP** accesses additional functions of the AM and FM buttons, working as a "shift" key to access OUTPUT 1 and OUTPUT 2 functions. *The SETUP button cannot be used to enter the C55's Setup menu.*
4. **AM Tuner/OUTPUT 1** accesses AM Tuner, or toggles Output 1 if pressed after the SETUP button.
5. **LEVEL UP/MENU** accesses Trim functions in the Settings menu of compatible devices.
6. **TRIM/GUIDE** enters Trim menu, and opens Guide on compatible devices.
7. **INFO/LEVEL DOWN** accesses Trim functions in the Iettings menu of compatible devices.
8. **Mute** silences all audio playback.
9. **INPUT** changes and selects different inputs.
10. **Play/Pause1** halts playback of active media, and resumes upon pressing the button again1.
11. **Stop1** cancels playback, and resets progress in the active media.
12. **Previous/Previous PRESET[1]** goes back to the previously selected media, and navigates to a previous tuner preset.
13. **Fast Reverse/SEEK Down[1]** navigates backward through the active media, and adjusts the Tuner downward.
14. **Fast Forward/SEEK Up[1]** navigates forward through the active media, and adjusts the tuner upwards.
15. **Next/Next PRESET[1]** moves forward to the next media selection, and navigates to a later tuner preset.
16. **Record[1]** records actively playing media1.
17. **VOL** adjusts the volume.
18. **BAND1** changes the band on the connected tuner, and selects certain options on various McIntosh models.
19. **MODE/EXIT** exits the Trim menu, and displays information and options.
20. **SELECT[1]** picks the highlighted option where applicable.
21. **FM Tuner/OUTPUT 2** accesses FM Tuner, or toggles Output 2 if pressed after the SETUP button.
22. **PRESET[1]** selects a stored preset when pressing PRESET followed by the number (0-9) associated with the desired preset.
23. **Power Off** turns off the selected device.
24. **Power On** turns on the selected device.

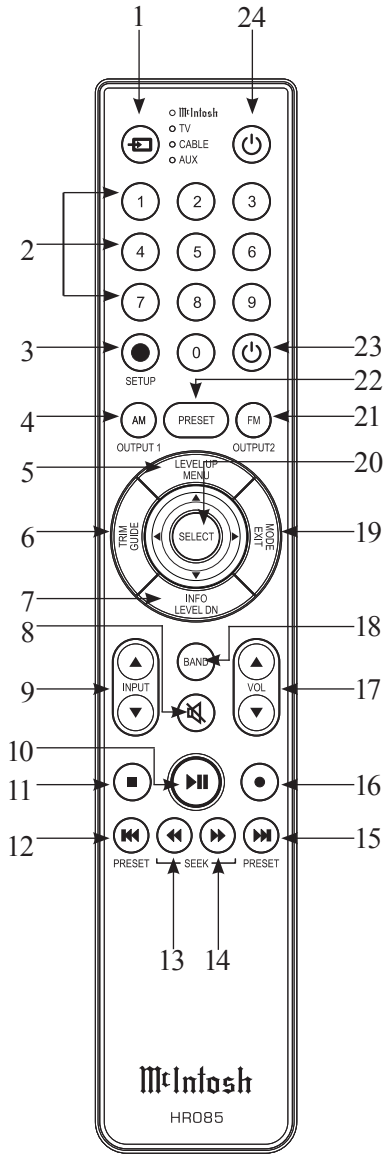
Additional Discrete Commands

Additional discrete commands for external control systems are available for toggling power, and selecting audio inputs.

These additional commands can be accessed using an optional McIntosh HR093 service remote control.

Contact McIntosh Technical Assistance, or your dealer for more information.

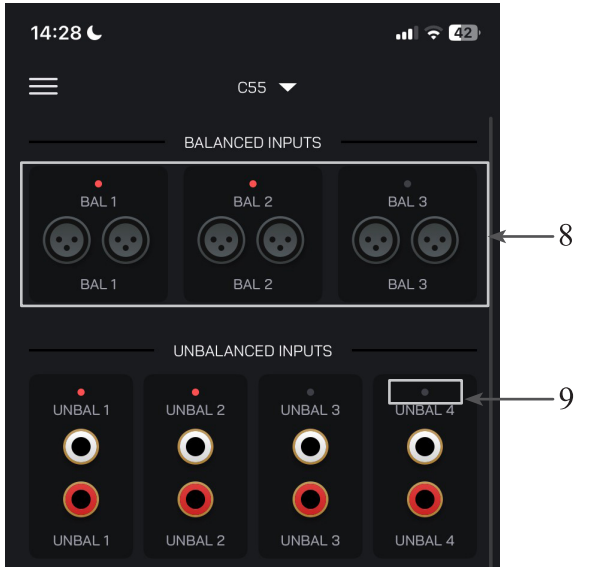
Note1: The included McIntosh HR085 remote control has buttons used to control multiple devices. While operating the C55 with the remote, nothing will happen when pressing buttons that activate features not present on the C55.

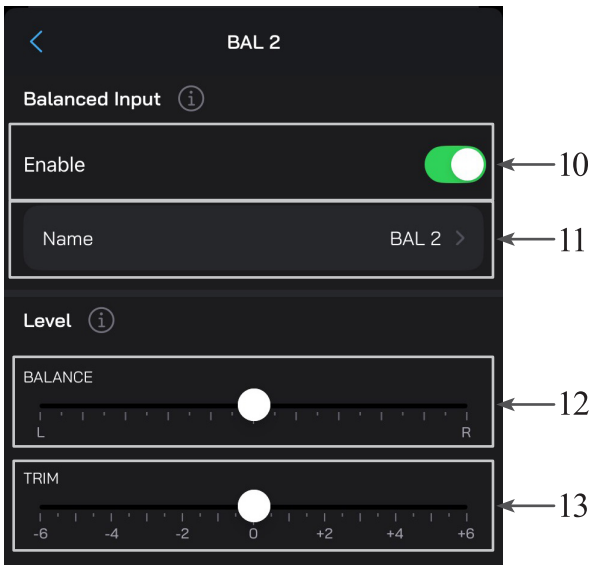


McIntosh Connect App Control



1. Device Selection navigates to the Home tab of any McIntosh product that has already been registered through the McIntosh Connect app. Register a new product here by pressing the plus icon that appears at the bottom of the device list.
2. Power Toggle allows the C55 to be turned on and off.
3. Volume Control adjusts the volume level up or down using the discrete buttons, toggle mute, or tap the volume level indicator in the center to reveal a volume slider.
4. Input Select opens a menu to change the active input of the C55.
5. Input Trim opens a menu for the selected input's balance and trim levels.
6. Inputs tab accesses all inputs and their Trim settings, allowing the user to manage input-specific settings such as renaming, enabling/disabling, and trim level.
7. Source Control tab allows the user to pause, play, and move through source options for the C55.
8. Select any input to manage its settings.
9. Indicator signifies whether an input is enabled (red), or disabled.
10. Enabled inputs will appear in Input Selection. To hide unused inputs, disable them here.
11. Each input can be given a custom name for easier identification when selecting an input.
12. Balance changes the volume level between the left and right channels.
13. Trim Level biases the input's signal level when that input is active. This allows each audio source to have the same relative volume when changing inputs.





Setup Menus

The Setup Menus are listed below.

- System
- Digital
- Inputs
- Outputs
- Triggers
- Data Out
- External Control

How to Navigate the Setup Menus

Your McIntosh C55 has been factory configured for default operating settings that will allow immediate enjoyment of superb audio without the need for further adjustments. If you wish to make changes to the factory default settings, a Setup Menu is provided to customize the operating settings using the front panel information display.

Note: If the C55 is currently On, proceed to step 2.

1. Press and hold in the INPUT knob until the front panel information display indicates

```
SETUP: Menu Select
   <  SYSTEM  >
```

2. Rotate the INPUT knob to select any of the available submenus.
3. To enter the selected submenu, press and hold the INPUT knob.
4. Rotate the INPUT knob to navigate available options in the selected submenu.
5. Rotate the VOLUME knob to change the selected option's value.
6. To exit from the Setup Menu, or any of the submenus, press the INPUT knob.

System Setup Menu

Settings	Options
Product	C55 XXX _ _ _ _
Firmware	_._._
Update	**Automatic**, Manual
PassThru	**Off,** BAL 1-3, UNBAL 1-4
ProcLock	Disabled, **Enabled**
Auto Off	Disabled, **Enabled**
Power Save	**Disabled**, Enabled
Restore Defaults	Default Settings
Factory Reset	Default Settings

Product Information

Specific identifying information for the C55, including the system firmware version, can be found on the product information page of the System Setup Menu. This firmware effects the main circuitry and can be identified by opening the System Setup Menu.

Firmware

The C55 will periodically check for updates. The current firmware version will be displayed here.

Update

By default, the C55 will periodically check for updates. To disable automatic updates, perform the following steps:

1. Use the INPUT knob to enter the System Setup Menu.
2. Rotate the input until the following appears on the information display.

```
SYSTEM: < Update >
    Automatic  >
```

3. Rotate the VOLUME knob to until the following appears on the information display.

```
   SYSTEM: < Update >
<  Manual (Hold Input)
```

4. To check for a firmware update in manual mode, hold the INPUT knob. The information display will indicate that a check is being performed. If an update is found, it will be deployed immediately.
5. Exit the System Setup Menu by pressing the INPUT knob.

In the absence of a network connection, a manual update can also be performed via the USB service port. If valid firmware is detected when the update is invoked it will be deployed to the C55.

PassThru

When the C55 is part of a home theater or multichannel audio system, the left and right front channels from an audio/video processor or surround decoder can pass through the C55 and onto its associated power amplifier(s). The PassThru setting allows selection of the specified C55 input to be used for the left and right front channels. In the example below, the left and right front channels from the audio/video processor will be connected to the BALanced 2 input connectors on the C55.

Note: The Phono and Digital Inputs are not assignable as a PassThru Input.

1. Use the INPUT knob to enter the System Setup Menu.
2. Rotate the INPUT knob until the following appears on the information display.

```
SYSTEM: < PassThru >
     Off  >
```

3. Rotate the VOLUME knob to select "BAL 2" Input.

```
SYSTEM: < PassThru >
   <  BAL 2  >
```

4. Exit the System Setup Menu by pressing the INPUT knob.

System Setup Menu *continued*

ProcLock
If the processor loop is set to On in the Trim Menu, the loop will remain active each time the unit is turned On. This is the normal ProcLock enabled selection. If you would like the loop to be deactivated after each listening session, you can disable ProcLock and the loop will not remain On the next time the unit is turned On.

Auto Off
The C55 incorporates an Auto Off feature which automatically places the preamplifier into the StandBy/Off Mode. This occurs approximately 30 minutes after there has been an absence of user activity or absence of an audio signal. This feature is turned on by default but can be disabled in the System Setup Menu.

Power Save
Disabled: Using the disabled mode will allow the network connection to stay active even when the preamp is in Standby mode. This will reduce the preamp's "wake up" time when powered on.
Enabled: The network connection will be lost in standBy. The unit can be turned on by IR remote control, power control, RS232, or by pressing the front panel STANDBY/ON button.

Restore Defaults
To reset all the adjustable settings (Setup and Trim Settings) to the factory default values, perform the following steps:
1. Select the defaults option in the System Setup Menu. The following should be on the information display.

```
SYSTEM: < Defaults >
Hold INPUT to Reset
```

2. Press and hold in the INPUT knob until the information display indicates that the reset has been triggered.
3. Press the front panel STANDBY/ON button to switch the C55 on.

Factory Reset
To reset all adjustable settings and clear all network information, select Factory Reset and follow the same process as above.

Digital Setup Menu

Settings	Options
DA Firmware Version	
DA Update	Service Purposes Only
OPT 1 Gain	0 dB to +15 dB in 1 dB intervals
OPT 2 Gain	0 dB to +15 dB in 1 dB intervals
HDMI Gain	0 dB to +15 dB in 1 dB intervals
HDMI Lip Synchronize Mode	Manual, **Automatic**
HDMI CEC Power	Disabled, **Enabled**
HDMI CEC Volume	Disabled, **Enabled**

DA Firmware Version
The C55 functionality is controlled by internal software that is know as firmware. The firmware number for the digital audio circuitry of the C55, and can be viewed by following the steps below:
1. Press and hold the INPUT knob to enter the Setup Menu.
2. Rotate the INPUT knob until the front panel information display indicates

```
SETUP: Menu Select
<   DIGITAL   >
```

3. Press and hold the INPUT knob to open the Digital Setup Menu and the information display will show the DA Firmware Version.

Digital Gain
The C55 offers digital gain adjustments for the HDMI, OPTICAL 1 (OPT 1), and OPTICAL 2 (OPT 2) inputs. The change in gain of a specific digital input will produce a change in playback volume of the music. To change the gain for the HDMI input perform the following steps:
1. Use the INPUT knob to enter the Digital Setup Menu.
2. Rotate the INPUT knob until the following appears on the information display.

```
DIGITAL: < HDMI (ARC) >
+15dB
```

3. The gain can be adjusted in 1 dB gain steps by rotating the VOLUME knob counterclockwise to reduce the gain downwards from +15 dB all the way to 0 dB.
4. To adjust other gain values, rotate the INPUT knob to select OPT 1 or OPT 2 and the gain is adjustable in 1 dB gain steps. 0 dB is the default setting for Optical 1 and Optical 2.

```
DIGITAL: < OPT 1 >
0 dB
```

5. The gain can be increased by rotating VOLUME knob clockwise to increase the gain from 0 dB with an increase all the way up to +15 dB or +8 dB from 0 dB.

HDMI (ARC) CEC Power
The C55 HDMI input connector has (ARC) Audio Return Channel circuitry, allowing the audio selection and control command of HDMI TV/ monitor devices. By default the HDMI input is configured to accept power commands via CEC. To prevent the CEC power control of the C55, simply change HDMI CEC power from On to Off.

```
DIGITAL: < CEC Power >
< Enabled
```

Digital Setup Menu *continued*

HDMI (ARC) CEC Volume

To change the Consumer Electronics Control (CEC) of the volume, perform the following steps:

1. Use the INPUT knob to enter the Digital Setup Menu.
2. Rotate the INPUT knob until the following appears on the information display.



3. To deactivate the Consumer Electronics Control (CEC), rotate the VOLUME knob until the following appears on the information display.



HDMI (ARC) Lip Sync Mode

The C55 HDMI input connector (ARC), also has another control function. When listening and viewing a TV/monitor HDMI input signal, the ARC circuitry provides a synchronized video and audio TV/monitor signal. To switch Off the AUTO synchronised video and audio TV/monitor signal, perform the following steps:

1. Use the INPUT knob to enter the Digital Setup Menu.
2. Rotate the INPUT knob until the following appears on the information display.



3. To manually configure the lip sync delay, rotate the VOLUME knob until the following appears on the information display.



4. The delay time can then be adjusted from the Trim Menu when the HDMI (ARC) input is selected.

Inputs Setup Menu

Setting	Options
Enable	Off, **On**
Name	

Hold the INPUT knob to open the Inputs Setup Menu and from there, the following changes can be made:



Disable Inputs

Unused Inputs can be hidden from the set of assignable Inputs. When scrolling through Inputs from the Home screen, hidden Inputs will be omitted. By default, all Inputs are enabled.

Renaming Inputs

The McIntosh Connect app provides the most convenient way to assign a custom name to an Input, but this can still be achieved from the Setup Menu if a network connection is not available. While in the selected input's submenu, use the INPUT knob to navigate to the Name setting, then hold the INPUT knob to begin renaming. The character you are currently adjusting will blink. Rotate the INPUT knob to select which character you want to change, and use the VOLUME knob to change the character.

Note: Custom names have a 10 character limit and will not save if you type more than 10 characters.

Outputs Setup Menu

The Outputs Setup Menu provides the ability to change how the C55 Output 1, Output 2, and Headphones function.

Settings	Options
Output Mode	Switched, Unswitched, Bi-Amped (Fixed), Bi-Amped (Split)
Output Trim Level (only Output 1)	-6.0 dB to +3.0 dB in 0.5 dB intervals
Bi-Amp Center Frequency (only Fixed Mode)	150 Hz, 350 Hz, 900 Hz
Bi-Amp High Pass Frequency (only Split Mode)	Bypass, 50 Hz, 100 Hz, 250 Hz
Bi-Amp Low Pass Frequency (only Split Mode)	600 Hz, 1200 Hz, 3000 Hz
Dual Mono (Output 2)	Off, On
Headphones	Mute All Outputs, Mute No Outputs

Output Mode

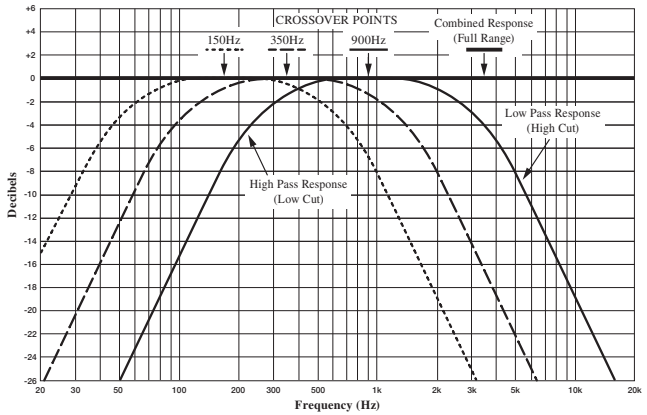
The Outputs on the C55 can be independently configured to operate in one of several modes.

- Switched (Default) - The output is set to allow toggling by using the front panel OUTPUT 1 and 2 buttons, or by using the OUTPUT 1 and 2 buttons on the remote control.
- Unswitched - The output is set to On, and toggling is disabled.
- Bi-Amped (Fixed) - This mode is a variant of unswitched that is exclusive to Output 1 and enables the Bi-Amp Circuitry in Fixed Mode.
- Bi-Amped (Split) - This mode is the same as Bi-Amped (Fixed) but Bi-Amp Circuitry is in Split Mode.

Outputs Setup Menu *continued*

Output Trim Level
Adjusts the level of Output 1 relative to the Main Output. This setting is always active, and is useful for bi-amping.

Bi-Amp Circuitry
The C55 has internal adjustable crossover. The C55's crossover tailors the output frequency range of each amplifier section to the attached loudspeaker. In fixed mode, simply set the center to the loudspeaker's crossover point, then frequencies above the crossover point will be sent to the Main Output and frequencies below the crossover point will be sent to Output 1. In split mode, the filter's corner frequencies can be independently configured. As an example, the high pass outputs could be sent to a vacuum tube amplifier, and the low pass outputs could be sent to a solid-state amplifier. This adjustable crossover allows you to optimize the performance of your amplifiers to your speaker's specifications and to your listening preferences. A direct feed can also be connected to each amplifier section, thus bypassing the internal crossover.



Dual Mono
Output 2 can be configured as either a stereo or mono output. These connections can feed an additional full range amplifier and speaker system, or can feed a single mono subwoofer or 2 separate left/right subwoofers.

Headphones
The C55 default setting for using headphones is to automatically mute all the output connectors when the headphone cable plug is inserted into the C55 front panel HEADPHONES jack. There are two available settings, Mute All Outputs and Mute No Outputs.

1. Rotate the INPUT knob until the following appears on the information display.

```
OUTPUTS: < HEADPHONES
   Mute All Outputs >
```

2. Rotate the VOLUME knob to change the current HEADPHONES setting.

```
OUTPUTS: < HEADPHONES
  < Mute No Outputs
```

3. Exit the Outputs Setup Menu by pressing the INPUT knob.

Triggers Setup Menu

The C55 has four power control triggers connections. When the C55 is on, the triggers are either activated or deactivated. Trigger 1-4 settings can be assigned to one of the available outputs, or any combination of inputs. These settings will control the operational power to the components connected to the various C55 trigger output connectors. Perform the following steps to setup the trigger:

1. Rotate the INPUT knob in the SETUP menus until the following appears on the information display.

```
SETUP: Menu Select
  <  TRIGGERS  >
```

2. Press and hold in the INPUT knob to select the Triggers Menu.
3. Rotate the INPUT knob to select between TRIGger 1, TRIGger 2, TRIGger 3, or TRIGger 4.
4. Rotate the VOLUME knob to change the selected trigger's assignment.
5. If "INPUT" is selected as in the image to follow, the trigger will be configured according to the inputs that are enable in the corresponding submenu.

```
TRIGGERS:   TRIG 1 >
< Input (Hold INPUT)
```

6. To change the trigger's input configuration, press and hold in the INPUT knob.
7. Rotate the INPUT knob to navigate the set of inputs, and the VOLUME knob to enable / disable the selected input as in the following image.

```
TRIGGERS:   TRIG 1 >
  < BAL 1 > : Off
```

8. Exit the Triggers Setup Menu by pressing the INPUT knob a couple times.

Data Out Setup Menu

Data port connections between the C55 and a McIntosh source component allow for basic function control of the source component using the C55 supplied HR085 remote control. By default, all of the four data ports are set to send the same data to the selected source. To dedicate a given data port for only one source component (example: source component connected to the BAL 1 Input will be assigned to data port 1) perform the following steps:

1. Use the INPUT knob to enter the Data Out Setup Menu.
2. Rotate the INPUT knob until the following appears on the information display.

```
SETUP: Menu Select
<  DATA OUT  >
```

3. Press and hold in the INPUT knob until the following appears on the display.

```
DATA OUT:   PORT 1 >
      All Data  >
```

4. Rotate the VOLUME knob to select “BAL 1” input.

```
DATA OUT:   PORT 1 >
<  BAL 1  >
```

5. In a similar manner, perform steps 3 and 4 to assign any additional data ports.
6. Exit the Data Out Setup Menu by pressing the INPUT knob.

External Control Setup Menu

Settings	Options
Front IR	**Enabled**, Disabled
RS232 Baud Rate	115200 Baud
IR Codes	**Normal**, Alternate

IR Codes

The remote control included with the C55 utilizes the normal McIntosh control codes. The second set of control codes the C55 will respond to is referred to as the alternate codes. The alternate codes are used when the C55 is used in the same location as another McIntosh preamplifier and/or a/v processor. This will prevent the remote control from affecting the operation of both units at the same time. To activate the remote control alternate codes perform the following steps:

1. Use the INPUT knob to enter the External Control Setup Menu.
2. Rotate the INPUT knob until the following appears on the information display.

```
EXT CTRL: < IR Codes
< Normal
```

3. Rotate the VOLUME knob to the alternate codes.

```
EXT CTRL: < IR Codes
     Alternate >
```

4. It is now necessary to change the HR085 remote control over to the alternate codes. Information on the HR085 remote control is available for download from the McIntosh website.
5. Exit the External Control Setup Menu by pressing the INPUT knob.

Front IR

The C55 front panel sensor, which receives the signals from the HR085 remote control, can be switched off to prevent interference when an external IR Sensor is connected. To de-activate the front panel IR sensor perform the following steps:

1. Use the INPUT knob to enter the External Control Setup Menu.
2. Rotate the INPUT knob until the following appears on the information display.

```
EXT CTRL:   Front IR >
< Enabled
```

3. Rotate the VOLUME knob to select “Disabled.”

```
EXT CTRL:   Front IR >
     Disabled >
```

4. Exit the External Control Setup Menu by pressing the INPUT knob.

RS232 Baud Rate

The C55 may be remotely controlled from other equipment connected to the rear panel RS232 jack. The speed at which the C55 communicates (8 bit, no parity, and 1 stop bit) with other equipment is adjustable from 9,600 bits per second to 115,200 bits per second. To change from the default speed of 115,200 bits per second, perform the following steps:

1. Use the INPUT knob to enter the external control setup menu.
2. Rotate the INPUT knob until the following appears on the information display.

```
EXT CTRL: < RS232 >
<  115200 Baud
```

3. Rotate the VOLUME knob to select the desired baud rate speed.
4. Exit the external control setup menu by pressing the INPUT knob.

Network Information Menu

Settings	Options
Connection Type	Displays Connection Type
IP Address	Displays IP Address
Ethernet MAC Address	Displays Ethernet MAC Address
Wi-Fi MAC Address	Displays Wi-Fi MAC Address

McIntosh Connect App

Press and hold the VOLUME knob to put the C55 into network setup mode. The NETwork status LED will blink–indicating that network settings can be configured from the McIntosh Connect App.

Note: The C55 will exit Network Setup Mode if put into StandBy.

Forget Wi-Fi Network

When viewing the Connection Type, press and hold the VOLUME knob to disconnect from and forget the current Wi-Fi network.

System Configuration

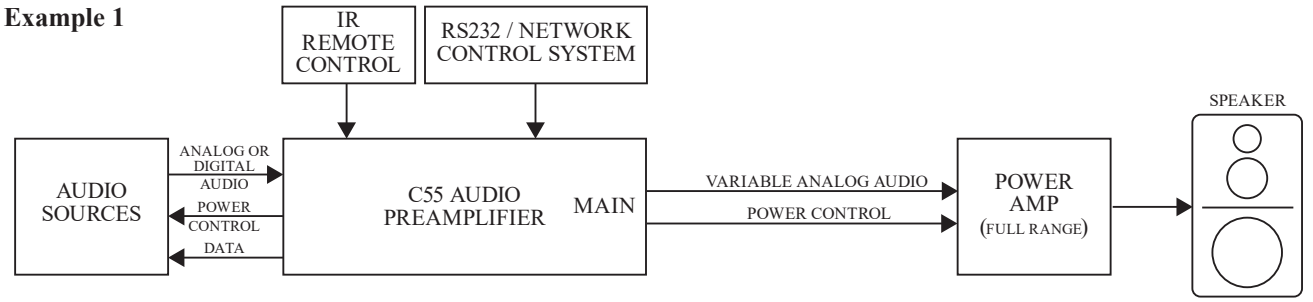
Shown below are two typical system configurations. Your system may vary from this, however the actual components would be connected in a similar manner.

Note: The preamplifier or power amplifier may be connected to the C55 balanced or unbalanced outputs.

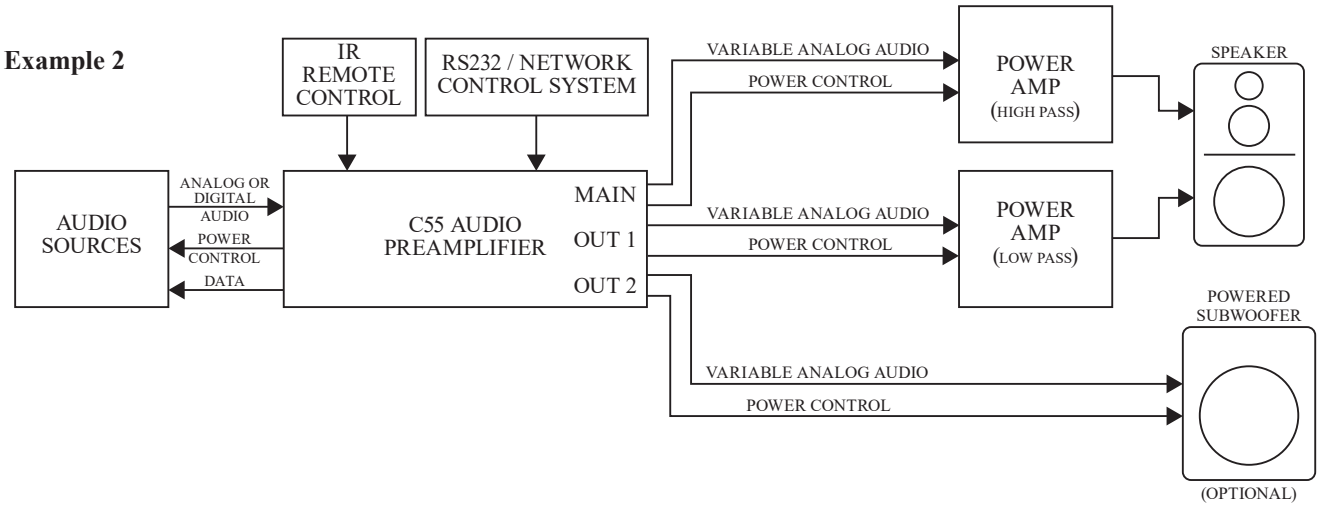
Connecting Components

The C55 has the ability to automatically switch power On/Off to source components via the power control connections. The data port connections allow for the remote operation of basic functions using the C55 remote control HR085. With an external sensor connected to the C55, remote control operation of the system is possible from another room and/or when the C55 is located in a cabinet with the doors closed.

Example 1



Example 2



How to Select and Adjust Trim Functions

The trim settings are stored in memory independently for each Input source selected, except the meter illumination and display brightness settings of on or off. ***Selection and adjustment of all trim functions may be performed by pressing the front panel INPUT control, then rotating it to select the desired trim function for the active input. Use the VOLUME knob on the front panel to adjust the setting. The TRIM button on the remote control may be used to move through each trim function, while the LEVEL UP/LEVEL DN buttons control the selected setting.***

1. Press the front panel INPUT knob to open the Trim Menu.
2. Rotate it to select the desired trim function.
3. Rotate the VOLUME knob to change the setting.

Approximately 5 seconds after making any changes, the information display will return to indicate the source selection and volume level.

Settings	Options
Balance	L, Center, R
Input Trim	-6 dB to +6 dB in 0.5 dB intervals
Equalizer Mode	**Off**, On
Mono/Stereo Mode	**Stereo**, Mono
Processor Loop	**Off,** On
Meter Lights	Off, **On**
Brightness	25%, 50%, **75%**, 100%
Phono Capacitance	50 pF to 400 pF in 50 pF increments
Phono Resistance	25, 50, 100, 200, 400, 1k, 47 kΩ
Phono Gain	40dB to 64 dB in 6 dB intervals
Lip Sync Delay	0 to 150ms in 10ms intervals
HXD Mode*	**Off,** On

Note: HXD Mode will only appear if headphones are plugged in.

Balance

Listening balance varies with different program sources, room acoustics and listening positions relative to the loudspeakers. Use the balance as needed to achieve approximately equal listening volume levels in each loudspeaker.
The front panel display indicates the balance changes are from 0 to 50 dB.

Input Trim Level

Source components can have slightly different volume levels, resulting in the need to readjust the C55 volume when switching between different sources. The C55 allows the adjustment of levels for each of the input sources for the same relative volume. Adjusting this setting changes the trim for the currently selected input.

Mono/Stereo Mode

Stereo allows separate left and right audio signals to be sent to their respective speaker. Mono sums the left and right audio signals before sending the same signal to each speaker. By default, the stereo mode is active for all inputs, however, any input source may be assigned to the mono mode of operation.
Note: The audio signal present at the SEND fixed output is affected by the Stereo/Mono setting.

Processor Loop

Connects or disconnects an external equalizer or room correction processor for use in the main listening area. The processor loop is automatically disconnected when headphones are plugged in, and the selection will not be shown in the Trim Menu. *Refer to pages 12 and 21 for the related ProcLock setting.*

Meter Illumination

The meter illumination of McIntosh power amplifiers, when connected to the C55, may be switched On or Off. *If using non-McIntosh components see page 22.*

Information Display Illumination

The brightness level of the front panel information display can be adjusted. It has 4 levels that vary from dim to bright.

Phono Adjustments

First select the Phono 1 or Phono 2 Input then press and rotate the INPUT knob to display the active type of load setting for the phono cartridge selected.

Phono Capacitance

The capacitance setting controls the flow of voltage, allowing for more consistent sound output. Higher capacitance is used to maintain stable power supply and volume for lower frequencies, while lower capacitance is used for higher frequencies.
The available settings are: 50 pF, 100 pF, 150 pF, 200 pF, 250 pF, 300 pF, 350 pF, and 400 pF.

Phono Resistance

The resistance setting controls the resistive value, in ohms, added to the input signal path for a flat frequency response from the connected cartridge. It is important for the phono cartridge to be connected to electronics with an input impedance (resistance and capacitance) the same as the cartridge load specifications.
The available settings are: 25 Ω, 50 Ω, 100 Ω, 200 Ω, 400 Ω, 1 kΩ, and 47 kΩ.

Phono Gain

The gain setting controls the amount an incoming signal is amplified. The higher the dB, the stronger the signal.
The available settings are 40 dB, 46 dB, 52 dB, 58 dB, and 64 dB.

Trim Functions Menu *continued*

Lip Sync Delay
When the lip sync mode is set to Manual, and when the HDMI input is selected, the trim menu will allow the HDMI audio lip sync delay to be adjusted from 0 to 150 ms in 10 ms intervals.

HXD Mode
When headphones are connected to the C55 front panel jack, an additional trim function becomes available. McIntosh's HXD brings the acoustical depth and spatiality of music normally heard with loudspeakers, to your headphones.

Note: The headphone output is optimized for impedances ranging from 100 to 600 Ω.

Equalizer Mode
The built-in eight band frequency equalizer provides more precise adjustment of sound than standard bass and treble controls. By default, the equalizer is off for all input sources and the equalizer circuitry is bypassed. Any input source may be assigned to have the equalizer on when selected.

Note: The audio signal present at the SEND fixed output is unaffected by the equalizer settings.

Equalizer Controls

The C55 equalizer has eight frequency controls which will raise or lower by 12 dB, the amplitude of the band of frequencies centered at the frequency marked above the controls. The center frequencies of these controls are at 25 Hz, 50 Hz, 100 Hz, 200 Hz, 400 Hz, 1 kHz, 2.5 kHz, and 10kHz. Both left and right channels are affected. At the center detent or flat position of the controls, the tone circuit components are removed from the signal path.

Note. The audio signal present at the SEND fixed output is unaffected by the equalizer circuitry.

How to Operate the C55

Power On and Off
The red LED above the STANDBY/ON button lights to indicate the C55 is powered. To switch ON the C55, press the STANDBY/ON button on the front panel or the ⏻ (Power - Green) button on the remote control. The C55 will go through a brief startup initialization with the front panel information display indicating the last used source and volume setting.



To switch OFF the C55, press the STANDBY/ON button on the front panel or the (Power - Red) OFF button on the remote control.

Note: For an explanation of the remote control button functions, refer to page 9.

Input Selection
Rotate the INPUT knob to select the desired audio input, or press the INPUT ▲ (up) or ▼ (down) button on the remote control.



VOLUME Knob
Rotate the front panel VOLUME knob or use the VOL ▲ (up) or ▼ (down) buttons on the remote control for the desired listening level.

Mute
Press the MUTE button, on the C55 front panel or on the remote control, to mute the audio in all outputs (Main, Output 1, Output 2, and Headphones) except the SEND fixed output. The front panel information display will indicate the source name and the word MUTE in place of the actual volume setting.



Pressing the Mute button a second time or adjusting the VOLUME knob (either the front panel or remote control) will unmute the C55.

Output 1 and 2
Press the front panel OUTPUT 1 or OUTPUT 2 button or use the remote control and press the SETUP/blue button followed by the OUTPUT 1 or OUTPUT 2 button, to send audio to separate power amplifiers connected to the rear panel OUTPUT 1 or 2 jacks. It also activates the POWER CONTROL TRIGger 1 or 2 jacks on the rear panel of the C55. To stop the audio and power control signals from going to the separate Power Amplifiers, press the same button(s) a second time.

PassThru
The C55 will automatically turn on and switch to the previously assign PassThru input when the McIntosh a/v processor or multichannel surround decoder is turned-on. The information display will indicate "PassThru."

The C55 OUTPUT 1 and 2 are active when in the PassThru mode. The other front panel controls and buttons are deactivated as long as the PassThru mode is active.

Headphone Jack

Connect a pair of dynamic headphones to the headphones jack with a 1/4" (0.635 cm) stereo phone type plug for private listening. The default setting is for all of the power amplifier output connections (1 and 2) to automatically mute.

How To Make a Recording

1. Select the desired signal source you wish to record by using the front panel INPUT knob or using the INPUT UP / DOWN button on the remote control.
2. Adjust the record level using the recorder level control and proceed with the recording process.
3. Listen to the playback of the program source just recorded by selecting the input source connected to the recorder component output.

Connecting a Turntable

The phono inputs on your preamp are adjustable in gain, capacitance, resistance, and level trim. The following section will guide you through how to adjust your preamp for best performance for your turntable.

Plug the left and right channel audio plugs into the corresponding left and right channel PHONO 1 audio jacks of the preamp. PHONO 2 is used if you have two turntables. Each phono input is fully and independently adjustable.

Most turntables also have a thin ground wire, which should be connected to the ground terminal on the preamp. Loosen the ground terminal by turning it counter-clockwise.

If your turntable's ground wire has a small "spade lug" attached at the end, the prongs may be too close together to comfortably fit into the hole in the grounding terminal. Pliers may be used to bend back one of the prongs of the spade lug and inserting the other prong into the hole in the grounding terminal. Tighten the terminal by rotating it clockwise. Before using the turntable, you'll want to know what type of phono cartridge your turntable uses. The majority of phono cartridges fall into one of three categories:

Moving Magnet: The most common phono cartridge.

Moving Coil (Low-Output): The phono cartridge which needs more Gain than other cartridges.

Moving Coil (High-Output): The phono cartridge which needs less gain than a low output moving coil cartridge, but more gain than a moving magnet cartridge.

Moving Magnet

GAIN: If your have a moving magnet cartridge in your turntable, you will want to start with the gain of the preamp at 40 dB. If you find that the volume from your turntable is much lower than that of other sources in your system, the gain can be increased to 46 dB.

CAPACITANCE: Some moving magnet cartridges work best into a certain capacitance, and your preamp has such an adjustment. Check the specifications of your cartridge. It might say, for example, that 300 pF of capacitance is ideal. Since most audio cables supplied with turntables provide about 150 pF of capacitance themselves, you will want to add 150 pF with the preamp capacitance adjustment.

Please note that many modern phono cartridges are quite insensitive to changes in capacitance and changing the setting may not alter the sound.

RESISTANCE: Almost all moving magnet phono cartridges are designed to work best into a resistance of 47 kΩ. Unless your cartridge's specifications call for a different setting, you'll want to set the preamp to provide 47 kΩ of resistance.

INPUT LEVEL TRIM: It's common for the volume level from a turntable to be lower than other sources even after setting the preamp Gain properly. The input level trim adjustment in the preamp will allow you to bring the level of the turntable up, and/or the levels of other sources down to more closely match each other. The sound quality you'll experience will not change when you adjust the trim levels.

See pages 17 and 18 for Trim Menu instructions and options.

Moving Coil (Low-Output Type)

GAIN: If you have a low-output moving coil cartridge, you will want to start with the gain of the preamp at 58 dB. If you find that the volume from your turntable is much lower than other sources in your system, the gain can be increased to 64 dB.

CAPACITANCE: Low-output moving coil cartridges have a low output impedance, because of that they are not sensitive to capacitance. You can leave the capacitance at the lowest setting.

RESISTANCE: Most low-output moving coil phono cartridges are designed to work best into a resistance of between 25 and 400 Ω. Consult the specification sheet of your phono cartridge for the ideal resistance setting.

Some listeners may prefer to set the resistance for a low-output moving coil cartridge "by ear" for the sound they prefer. This is best done from your favorite listening position using the IR remote control. Start with the resistance at 1 kΩ (1000 Ω). Play a record with a wide range of instruments plus female voice. Start decreasing the resistance, step-by-step until the audio is suited to your personal taste.

INPUT LEVEL TRIM: It's common for the volume level from a turntable to be lower than other sources even after setting the preamp gain properly. If you have that situation, the input level trim adjustment in the preamp will allow you to bring the level of the turntable up, and/or the levels of other sources down to more closely match each other. The sound quality you'll experience will not change when you adjust the trim levels.

See pages 17 and 18 for Trim Menu instructions and options.

Moving Coil (High-Output Type)

GAIN: If you have a high-output moving coil cartridge in your turntable, you will want to start with the gain of the preamp at 46 dB. If you find that the volume from your turntable is much lower than that of other sources in your system, the gain can be increased to 52 dB.

CAPACITANCE: High-output moving coil cartridges usually have a fairly low output impedance, and are not sensitive to capacitance. You can leave the capacitance setting of the preamp at the lowest setting, which is 50 pF.

RESISTANCE: Many high-output moving coil phono cartridges are designed to work best into a resistance of 1 kΩ or 47 kΩ. Consult the specification sheet of your phono cartridge for the ideal resistance setting, and adjust the preamp accordingly.

INPUT LEVEL TRIM: It's common for the volume level from a turntable to be lower than other sources even after setting the preamp gain properly. If you have that situation, the input level trim adjustment in the preamp will allow you to bring the level of the turntable up, and/or the levels of other sources down to more closely match each other. The sound quality you'll experience will not change when you adjust the trim levels.

See pages 17 and 18 for Trim Menu instructions and options.

Turntables With Phono Cartridge Of Unknown Type

If you are not sure what type of phono cartridge you have, you may wish to contact your audio dealer for advice. It's useful to have the make and model of the cartridge, if visible to you, when you call. A photo may also be invaluable for identification purposes.

Turntables With Built-In Preamps

Some turntables have built-in phono preamps, and are designed to be used with systems that do not have phono inputs. If you have a turntable with a built-in preamp that cannot be disabled, do not plug it into the phono inputs on your preamp, it should be connected to one of the unbalanced inputs on the preamp. Many turntables with built-in preamps have a switch on the rear panel (or sometimes underneath the platter, see your turntable owner's manual for this information) that allows the built-in preamp to be bypassed.

Since the phono preamp of your McIntosh will, in most cases, be of much higher quality than those found in a turntable with its own built-in phono preamp, it's usually advisable to turn OFF the preamp inside the turntable if the option is available. In that case, switch off the turntable's built-in preamp, then connect the turntable to the phono inputs on the preamp, and set the preamp for use with a moving magnet cartridge as described above. One exception to this rule is if you need to place the turntable more than ten feet (three meters) from the preamp. In such cases, you will want to use the preamp in the turntable and connect the turntable to an unbalanced input on the preamp, not a phono input. This is because unamplified phono signals are low in level, and may pick up hum and noise if they travel down an audio cable of more than about ten feet.

Processor Loop Lock
The processor loop of your preamp is useful for connecting to the inputs and outputs of an equalizer, room correction device, dynamic range expander, or many other types of sound processors. When used in this way, you will likely want the processor loop to be "ON" for your normal listening. In that case, after activating the processor loop "ON," you will want to ensure that the processor loop lock is activated. This will keep the loop activated, and your sound processor active after changing listening sources, and when the preamp is cycled off and on.
It can also be used with analog 3-head tape recorders, enabling you to monitor a tape recording as it is being made. In this way, it can act as a tape monitor loop. When used in this way, you will likely want the processor loop to be "OFF" for your normal listening. In that case, you will want to ensure that the processor loop lock is not activated. This will deactivate the loop after the preamp is cycled off and on. The loop will only activate for tape monitoring when you manually activate it in the trim menu.

Digital Inputs
When a digital input on the C55 is selected, the front panel information display indicates the sample rate or audio format when a signal is present.
During the time there is no digital signal present the display will indicate "_____."

MCT Input
When playing a multi-layer SACD, select the stereo (SACD) or CD player. The multi-channel layer will not reproduce sound.

Optical
The two optical inputs allow digital sources to be connected to the C55 using TOSLINK cables also known as "optical audio cables." The optical inputs can handle high resolution digital audio up to 192 kHz / 24-bit. The C55 DAC will process standard format S/PDIF PCM signals, Dolby Digital, and DTS bitstreams. Unsupported formats can result in strange and/or unpleasant sounds.

Coaxial
The two digital coaxial inputs allow digital sources to be connected to the C55 using digital audio RCA coaxial cables. The coax inputs can handle high-resolution digital audio up to 192 kHz / 24-bit. The C55 DAC will process standard format S/PDIF PCM signals, Dolby Digital, and DTS bitstreams. Remember, unsupported formats can result in strange and/or unpleasant sounds.

HDMI ARC
The HDMI ARC (Audio Return Channel) allows you to use your entire audio system to play the sound from your TV.

Notes:
- *Ensure you are connected to the TV's HDMI input port that is labeled "ARC."*
- *Your TV's setup menu and settings may need to be adjusted before sound is heard.*
- *When the C55 is set to the HDMI input, the unit will automatically turn On and Off with the TV.*
- *Multi-channel formats will be down mixed to a 2-channel output.*

Audio formats supported by HDMI ARC:
- PCM (2 channel)
- Dolby Digital (up to 5.1 channel)
- DTS Digital Surround (up to 5.1 channel)

USB Audio
The USB audio input of the C55 provides the capability to receive music/sound in a digital format from a connected computer.

Software Requirements
Apple® computers with OS-10.6.8 are able to communicate with the C55 without any installations necessary.
For Windows-based computers (PC), Windows 7 (Service Pack 1), or later is required. The correct McIntosh USB audio driver must be installed for the PC to communicate with the C55.
To install the McIntosh USB driver for Windows-based computers download the latest driver from the McIntosh website.
The driver can be found in the downloads section of the webpage under Software Updates. Choose the DA2 Digital Audio Module: McIntosh USB Audio Windows Driver. You may select this driver in many third-party applications such as JRiver Media Center.
The C55's display will show the sampling rate or bit rate for the USB audio input.

Troubleshooting

Reset of Microprocessors
In the unlikely event the controls of the C55 stop functioning, the microprocessors can be reset by performing the following:
1. Press and hold in the STANDBY/ON button until the LED above the STANDBY/ON button illumination is extinguished. Then release the STANDBY/ON button.
2. To switch the C55 back On, press the STANDBY/ON button.

Note: This can be performed with the C55 On or in the StandBy Mode.

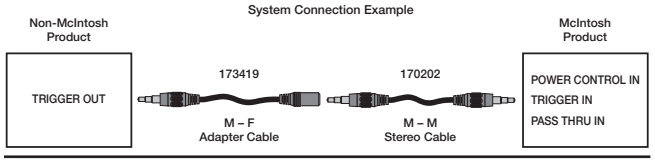
Troubleshooting *continued*

Meter Lights

Meter lights in power amps and source units have the ability to be turned On and Off by the C55. But sometimes if a non-McIntosh unit is used, the meter lighting circuit is defeated and the lights are always Off.

To remedy this, place a 173419 trigger adapter cable in-line with the normal McIntosh "CC1M" or 170202 power control cable.

This adapter leaves the ring terminal unconnected, which allows the meter lights to remain illuminated.



Specifications

Note: all measurements with EQ filters and output filters bypassed.

Frequency Response

+0, -0.5 dB from 20 Hz to 20 kHz
+0, -3 dB from 15 Hz to 100 kHz

Total Harmonic Distortion

0.005% from 20 Hz to 20 kHz

Rated Output

Unbalanced: 2.5 V
Balanced: 5 V
Fixed Output: 450 mV

Maximum Voltage Output

Unbalanced: 8 V RMS
Balanced: 16 V RMS

Sensitivity (for rated output)

Unbalanced: 450 mV
Balanced: 900 mV
Phono MM: 4.5 mV
Phono MC: 0.45 mV

Signal To Noise Ratio (A-Weighted)

High Level: 100 dB (Below rated output)
MM Phono: 82 dB (Below 5 mV input)
MC Phono: 80 dB (Below 0.5 mV input)

Input Impedance

Unbalanced: 22 kΩ
Balanced: 44 kΩ
Phono 1, 2: 25, 50, 100, 200, 400, 1k or 47 kΩ
50 to 400 pF in 50 pF steps

Maximum Input Signal

Unbalanced: 5 V
Balanced 10 V
Phono MM: 80 mV
Phono MC: 8 mV

Equalizer Controls

25 Hz, 50 Hz, 100 Hz, 200 Hz, 400 Hz, 1 kHz, 2.5 kHz, and 10 kHz

Voltage Gain

High Level to Fixed Output: 0 dB
High Level to Main Output: 15 dB
Phono 1, 2: 40 dB, 46 dB, 52 dB, 58 dB, or 64 dB

Output Impedance

Unbalanced: 100 Ω
Balanced: 200 Ω

Headphone Load Impedance

100 Ω to 600 Ω

Digital Input Sample Rates

Coaxial: PCM -16Bit, 24Bit - 44.1 kHz to 192 kHz
Optical: PCM -16Bit, 24Bit - 44.1 kHz to 192 kHz
USB: PCM, 16Bit, 24Bit, 32Bit - 44.1 kHz to 384 kHz
MCT: PCM -16Bit, 24Bit 44.1 kHz to 192 kHz, SACD
DXD - DXD352.8 kHz, DXD384 kHz
DSD - DSD64, DSD128, DSD256, DSD512
HDMI: PCM 24bit, 44.1 kHz - 192 kHz
DTS
Dolby Digital

Power Control and Trigger Output

12VDC, 25mA

Power Requirements

Field AC Voltage conversion of the C55 is not possible. The C55 is factory configured for one of the following AC Voltages:

100 Volts: 50/60 Hz at 75 watts
110 Volts: 50/60 Hz at 75 watts
120 Volts: 50/60 Hz at 75 watts
220 Volts: 50/60 Hz at 75 watts
230 Volts: 50/60 Hz at 75 watts
240 Volts: 50/60 Hz at 75 watts
Standby Power: less than 0.5 watts
Note: Refer to the rear panel of the C55 for the correct voltage.

Overall Dimensions

Width: 7 1/2 inches / 44.4 cm
Height: 7 5/8 inches / 19.4 cm (including feet)
Depth: 18 inches / 45.72 cm (including the front panel, knobs, and cables)

Weight

Net: 28 pounds / 12.5 kg
In shipping carton: 43.5 pounds / 19.7 kg

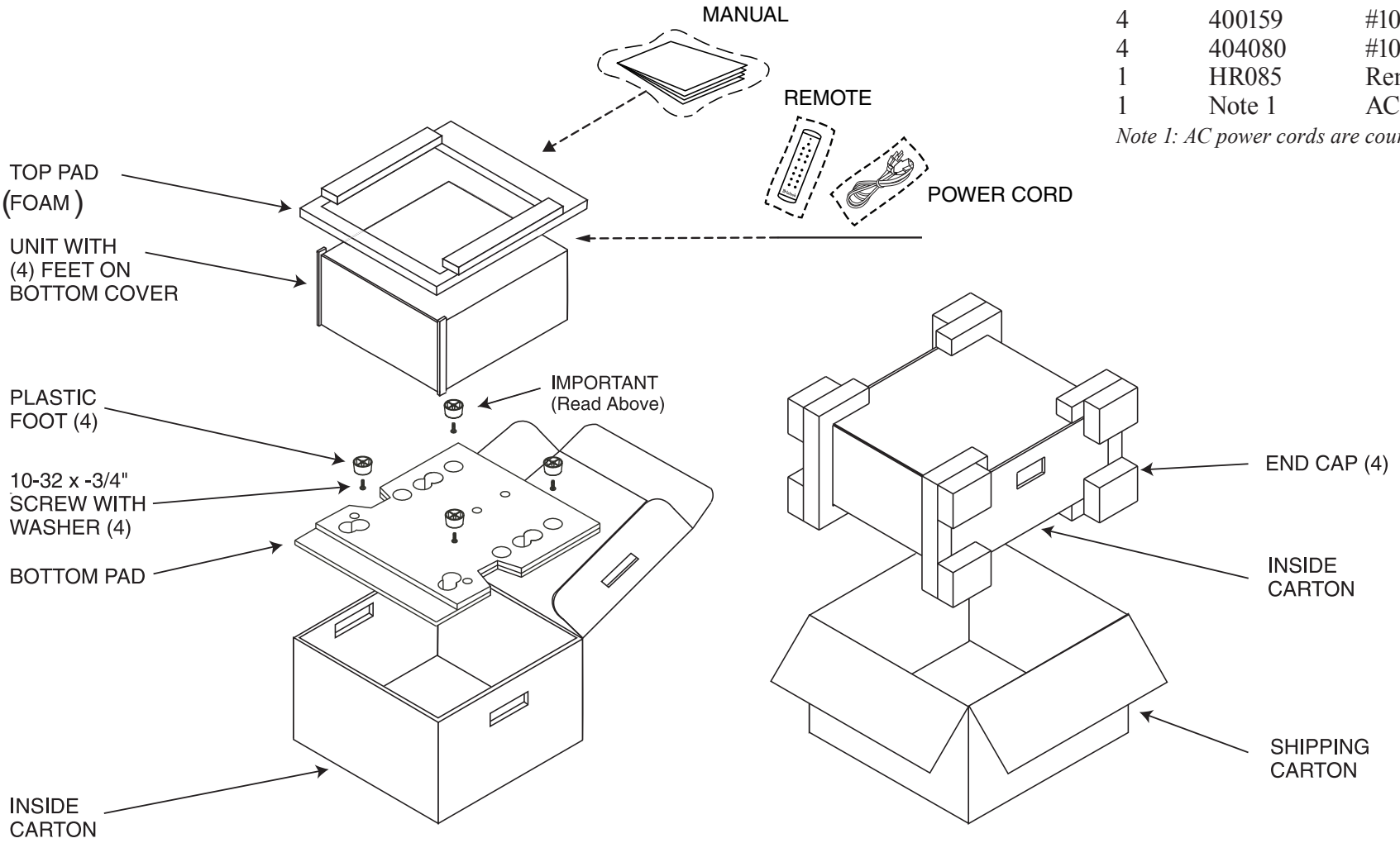
Shipping Carton Dimensions

Width: 27 inches / 68.6 cm
Height: 12 inches / 30.5 cm
Depth: 25 inches / 63.5 cm

Packing Instructions

In the event it is necessary to repack the equipment for shipment, the equipment must be packed exactly as shown below. **It is very important that the four plastic feet are attached to the bottom of the equipment. This will ensure the proper equipment location on the bottom pad. Failure to do this will result in shipping damage.**

Use the original shipping carton and interior parts only if they are all in good, serviceable condition. If a shipping carton or any of the interior parts are needed, please contact Customer Service Department. *Refer to page 3. Please see the Part List for the correct part numbers.*



Parts List

Quantity	Part Number	Description
1	033888	Shipping carton only
4	034670	End cap
1	033697	Inside carton only
1	034414	Top pad (foam)
1	034576	Bottom pad
4	017937	Plastic foot
4	400159	#10-32 x 3/4” screw
4	404080	#10-7/16” Flat washer
1	HR085	Remote Control
1	Note 1	AC Power Cord

Note 1: AC power cords are country specific.

McIntosh®

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