MUSICAL FIDELITY

MM / MC
PHONO STAGE

M3x VINYL

Instruction Manual

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Introduction

Thank you for purchasing the Musical Fidelity M3x ViNYL.

The M3x ViNYL is a very high performance, highly accurate phono MM/MC cartridge amplifier in a beautifully designed and executed casework.

It offers state-of-the art technical and sonic performance at a very competitive price and is the epitome of the true spirit of high-end audio.

The M3x ViNYL uses entirely discrete circuitry, which results in better technical measurements and better sound. It is equipped with one single-ended inputs and one single-ended output.

But the important question is: what is so special about discrete circuits?

A discrete circuit is composed of electronic components which are disparate, individual devices, also called discrete components. These can be “passive” components, like resistors, capacitors and inductors, as well as “active” components, which in our case are transistors. The opposite to this would be an integrated circuit, which uses operational amplifiers (Op-Amps) in the signal chain.

In our industry we employ specialised Op-Amps built for audio applications, which can be expensive but also allow us to produce very small and efficient electronics, as well as saving the time of design engineers. However, countless hours of listening tests and years of experience have shown us that even the very best Op-Amps do not tend to be so neutral, natural, dynamic or vivid – all of which are characteristics of the Musical Fidelity “sound”. For that reason, we’re rediscovering our passion for traditional, discrete designs.

Where standard phono pre-amplifiers with integrated circuits have a few tens or hundreds of components, discrete designs will employ hundreds or thousands of components by comparison. That makes for an extended design process, but in our opinion results in the best sound for your money.

Selectable gain is provided to allow for different cartridge sensitivities and to suit any equipment. Cartridge type and loading is selected by front selector buttons for optimum cartridge performance.

Used carefully, it should give many years of outstanding musical reproduction.

If there are any questions about the audio system, please consult the dealer who is there to help and advise.

Safety Information

This unit is supplied in the U.K. with a mains lead fitted with a moulded 13-amp plug. If, for any reason, it is necessary to remove the plug, please remove the fuse holder and dispose of the plug safely, out of reach of children. It must not be plugged into a mains outlet.

The wires in the mains lead supplied with this appliance are coloured in accordance with the following code

Green and yellow	Earth
Blue	Neutral
Brown	Live

WARNING - This appliance MUST be earthed.

The colours of the wires of the mains lead of this appliance, may not correspond with the coloured markings identifying the terminals in the plug, proceed as follows:

- The wire which is coloured green and yellow must be connected to the terminal in the plug which is marked with the letter E or coloured green or green-and-yellow, or by the earth symbol: ⏚
- The wire which is coloured brown must be connected to the terminal which is marked with the letter L or coloured red.
- The wire which is coloured blue must be connected to the terminal which is marked with the letter N or coloured black.
- If connecting to a BS1363 plug, a 13-amp fuse must be used.

Precautions & User Information

WARNING: Any modifications to this product, not expressly approved by Musical Fidelity, who is the party responsible for standards compliance could void the user's authority to operate this equipment.

This new M3x ViNYL is designed and built to provide trouble-free performance. As with all electronic devices it is necessary to observe a few precautions:

- Heed all warnings shown on the back of the product.
- Only connect the M3x ViNYL to a mains outlet having the same voltage as marked at the back of the unit.
- Always ensure that when disconnecting and reconnecting your audio equipment the mains supply is switched off.
- Position the mains lead and signal interconnects where they are not likely to be walked on or trapped by items placed on them.
- Do not use near water, or place water-filled containers on the M3x ViNYL, for example, a flower vase or potted plants. If water does spill inside, immediately pull out the mains plug from the wall socket and inform the dealer, who should then check the unit before further use. Entry of liquid into the M3x ViNYL is dangerous and may cause electric shock or fire hazard.
- Do not place the unit near direct heat sources such as radiators, direct sunlight or other equipment.
- Do not remove any covers or try to gain access to the inside. There are no user adjustments or fuses to change without qualification. Refer all service work to an authorized Musical Fidelity agent.

Note: Unauthorized opening of the equipment will invalidate any warranty claim.

The electronics in modern hi-fi equipment are complex and may, therefore, be adversely affected or damaged by lightning. For protection of the audio system during electrical storms, remove the mains plugs. If after-sales service is required, to help the dealer identify the M3x ViNYL please quote the serial number located on the rear panel of the unit.

Installation

Introduction

This unit will deliver the ultimate performance possible from any phono source.

Cleaning

Before cleaning the unit, switch off power at the mains switch and remove the mains plug from the wall socket. Clean the cabinet and remote-control unit using a moist cloth. Using solvents, white spirit or thinners is not advised, as they could damage the surface finish.

Installation

Position the M3x ViNYL on a stable, horizontal surface where there is no risk of it being knocked or subjected to vibration such as from loudspeakers.

Power Connections

The M3x ViNYL is supplied with a standard IEC mains cable which plugs into the IEC socket at the back of the unit.

Audio Output Connections

RCA audio output: Use good quality RCA phono audio cables (fully connected signal and ground), for optimum signal transfer.

Interconnects

If necessary, please refer to the dealer who can advise on quality cables for any setup. Musical Fidelity does not endorse any other manufacturer's cables.

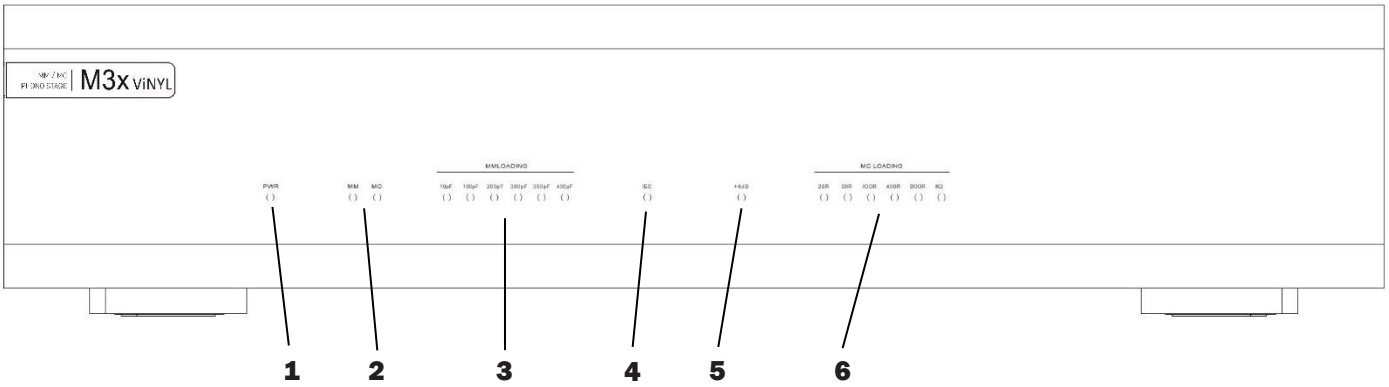
Cartridge characteristics

For setting the various loading characteristics, the cartridge manufacturer's data sheets or setup information should be consulted.

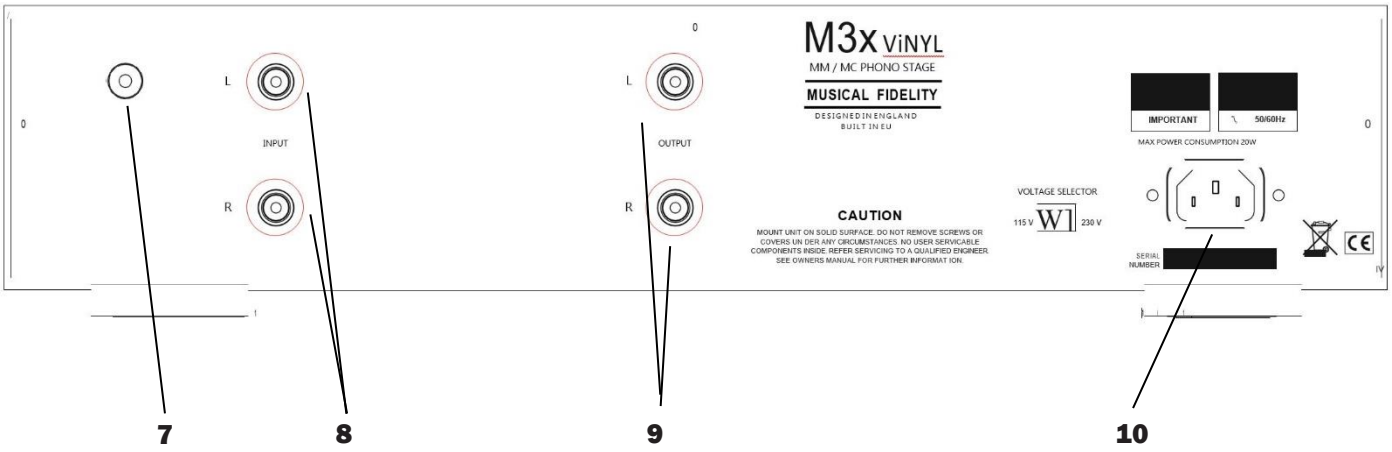
In a lot of cases the settings are not critical, and may even be changed to suit personal preference, if any audible differences are apparent.

No damage will occur to an "incorrectly" loaded cartridge; at very worse a slightly impaired or nonoptimal frequency response and/or slightly increased distortion, both most likely to be inaudible, may result.

Facilities & Connections



1 Power/Standby/Mute button and LED's
2 MM/MC Selection
3 MM Loading selection
4 IEC (on/off)
5 Gain +6db
6 MC Loading selection



7 Grounding post
8 RCA Phono Input L/R
9 RCA output L/R
10 Mains IEC socket

Operation

Once the M3x ViNYL unit is correctly wired up, and plugged into mains, the orange STBY led should be lit.

In this mode the M3x ViNYL is consuming a minimal amount of power.

To switch the unit on, press the Power button (1) on the front of the unit. The blue PWR indicator will light along with the red MUTE indicator. After a few seconds, when it has stabilised, the MUTE function will switch off and the unit is ready for use.

MM/MC selection

Press the MM/MC button (**2**) to switch between MM/MC cartridges.

MM loading

Press the MM loading button (**3**) to cycle through MM loading.

IEC

Press the IEC button (**4**) to reduce the subsonic output of the phono amplifier caused by disk warp and turntable rumble.

Gain

Press the +6db button (**5**) to increase the output gain.

MC loading

Press the MC loading button (**6**) to cycle through MC loading.

Note: A great deal of effort has gone into making sure that the unit exhibits no loud noises through the system during switching options or on/off. However, once installed into a hifi system, it is still a very high gain (amplification) amplifier at the beginning of a high amplification chain. Therefore, increasing the main amplifier volume to maximum and listening for clicks/thumps is neither recommended nor sensible. It is strongly recommended that the option buttons are only pressed when the volume is turned down (or muted), to avoid any accidental loud transients getting through to the speakers. Once options are set, the volume should then be turned back to normal listening level.

Input

The M3x ViNYL has a one RCA (single ended) phono input. Connect your turntable to this input.
The M3x ViNYL will remember the last settings applied.

Output

On the rear of the unit there is one set of RCA (single ended) outputs. Connect your M3x ViNYL to your amplifier using this output.

Troubleshooting

Problem	Probable Cause	Remedy
No power.	Power plug is not inserted into socket correctly.	Plug in securely into unit's IEC socket.
No sound.	Wrong connections between input sources and the unit	Check audio input and output lead connections.
	Cartridge incorrectly wired.	Check cartridge wiring.
Sound too quiet/loud.	Wrong MM/MC cartridge selection.	Use MM setting for MM cartridges. Use MC setting for MC cartridges.
Sound is not precise, lacking in bass and stereo image.	Cartridge incorrectly wired.	Check turntable tracking weight and cartridge setup.
	Input connector plugs not fully pushed in. Output connector plugs not fully pushed in.	Check plugs are inserted fully and securely.
Hum.	Turntable not earthed or needs earthing.	Check turntable earthing lead is connected to earthing post.
	Turntable already earthed and earthing further creates hum loop in system.	Disconnect earthing lead from earthing post.
	Earth loops already in system being amplified.	Investigate for earth loops elsewhere in system.
	Audio connector plug not fully pushed in Cable fault.	Insert plug securely and check cable is connected at both ends.
	Unsuitable Cable (e .g . cable grounds not connected).	N.B. some esoteric cables have internal wiring intentionally disconnected/ modified. For best results on all inputs AND outputs, please use good quality screened coax; fully connected signal-to signal, screen-to-screen.
Pop or click heard in speakers when switching on or off or changing options.	High gain of M3x ViNYL, amplifying normal circuit transients.	Not a fault. It is recommended that the volume level on amplifier is turned down if switching the M3x ViNYL on or off; or pressing option switches whilst connected.
Distorted sound.	Cartridge and/or tone arm not aligned properly.	Carefully follow turntable instructions to correctly re-align tone arm and cartridge.
	Cartridge fault or worn needle.	Replace needle or cartridge.
	Dirt on record.	Clean dust and dirt from record.
Distorted and loud sound.	Line outputs of M3x ViNYL plugged into PHONO amplifier inputs of following amplifier.	Use LINE level inputs only, e.g. an AUX input.

If none of these actions affect a cure, please contact the dealer, or an authorised Musical Fidelity service agent.

Remember; never open the case of the M3x ViNYL, as this will invalidate the warranty.

MM input	
Frequency response	RIAA or RIAA/IEC (selectable) ±0 .2dB
Input sensitivity	5mV in for 500mV out (at 1 kHz)
Input impedance	47KΩ
Input capacitance	50-400pF selectable
THD at 1 kHz	<0.005
Overload margin	26dB
Signal to noise ratio	>95dB
MC input	
Frequency response	RIAA or RIAA/IEC (selectable) +0.25dB, -0.3dB
Input sensitivity	500µV in for 500mV out (at 1 kHz)
Input impedance	25Ω to 1,2KΩ selectable
Input capacitance	50pF fixed
THD at 1 kHz	<0 .025%
Overload margin	26dB
Signal to noise ratio	>80dB
Outputs (RCA/XLR)	
1 pair RCA	left and right 500mV nom 10V max
Power requirement	
Mains voltages	230V/115V Internally set or 100V optional. AC 50/60Hz
Consumption	20 Watts maximum. <0 .5W in standby (orange LED on)
Weight	
Unit only, unboxed	6.4 kg
In shipping carton & incl. accessories	11.9 kg
Unit dimensions	
Wide	440 mm
High, including feet	97 mm
Deep (front to back)	385 mm
Standard accessories	
Mains lead	10 Amp IEC

Musical Fidelity reserves the right to make improvements which may result in specification or feature changes without notice.

Item Disposal Information for Europe

DISPOSAL

The crossed out wheeled bin label that appears on the back panel of the product indicates that the product must not be disposed of as normal household waste. To prevent possible harm to the environment please separate the product from other waste to ensure that it can be recycled in an environmentally safe manner. Please contact your local government office or your retailer for available collection facilities.

DISPOSITION

La poubelle sur roulettes barrées X, qui apparaît en logo sur le panneau arrière du produit, indique que celui-ci ne doit pas être traité comme un déchet domestique commun. Afin de protéger l'environnement, ce produit électronique devra être géré séparément et donc recyclé selon les nouvelles normes Européennes Rohs concernant les déchets d'appareils électroniques. Prière de contacter les services concernés gouvernementaux ou votre point de vente pour l'élimination et l'enlèvement de déchets électroniques équipés de composants électroniques.

DISPOSAL

La etiqueta cruzada hacia fuera del compartimiento que aparece en el panel trasero del producto indica que el producto no se debe reciclarse como basura normal de la casa. Para prevenir daños posible al ambiente separe por favor el producto de otras basura para asegurarse de que puede ser reciclada de una manera ambientalmente segura. Entre en contacto por favor a su oficina gubernamental local o a su minorista para las instalaciones disponibles de la colección.

RIFIUTI

L'etichetta del cassonetto barrato riportato sul retro dell'apparecchio indica che il prodotto non deve essere smaltito tramite la procedura normale di smaltimento dei rifiuti domestici. Per evitare eventuali danni all'ambiente, separare questo prodotto da altri rifiuti domestici in modo che possa venire riciclato in base alle procedure di rispetto ambientale. Per maggiori dettagli sulle aree di raccolta disponibili, contattate l'ufficio govenativo locale od il rivenditore del prodotto.

FACHGERECHTE ENTSORGUNG:

Das auf der Geräterückseite angebrachte Label deutet darauf hin, dass das Produkt nicht mit konventionellem Hauskehricht entsorgt werden darf. Um Schäden und Verschmutzungen an Umwelt und Mensch zu vermeiden, muss das Produkt fachgerecht entsorgt und von anderem Abfall getrennt werden. Wenden Sie sich bei Fragen hierzu an Ihren Fachhändler oder an eine öffentliche Informationsstelle.

AFVAL

Het label op de achterzijde van dit apparaat, een afvalbak op wielen met een kruis doorgehaald, geeft aan dat dit apparaat niet samen met gewoon huishoudafval mag worden weggegooid. Om mogelijke schade aan onze leefomgeving te voorkomen dient dit apparaat, gescheiden van gewoon huishoudelijk afval, te worden afgevoerd zodat het op een milieuvriendelijke manier kan worden gerecycled. Neem voor beschikbare inzamelplaatsen contact op met uw gemeentelijke reinigingsdienst of met uw elektronica leverancier.

HÄVITTÄMINEN

Yliruksattua jäteastiaa kuvaava tarra tuotteen takalevyssä kertoo, että tuotetta ei saa käsitellä normaalina talousjätteenä. Ympäristön suojelemiseksi on tuote pidettävä erillään muusta jätteestä ja se on kierrätettävä ekologisesti kestävällä tavalla. Ota yhteyttä laitteen myyjään tai Pirkanmaan Ympäristökeskukseen lähimmän kierrätyskeskuksen löytämiseksi.

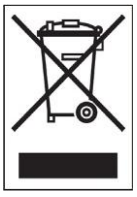
AFSKAFNING

Logoet med en skraldespand med kryds over på bagsiden af apparatet indikerer at dette produkt ikke må kasseres som normal husholdningsaffald. For at forebygge mulig skade på miljøet, bedes De separere dette produkt fra andet affald, og sikre at det bliver genbrugt på en miljørigtig måde. Kontakt venligst de lokale myndigheder eller din forhandler for oplysning om nærmeste tilgængelige opsamlingssted for elektronikaffald.

ΔΙΑΔΙΚΑΣΙΑ ΑΠΟΡΡΙΨΗΣ

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