

Alpha

Operations Instructions, preliminary



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1. Introduction

Welcome to AER! Thank you for choosing the Alpha – our contribution to minimal music – a professional, powerful and compact amplifier system for acoustic instruments in superb quality with AER's typical authentic, transparent and self-asserting sound performance.

One channel - two individual inputs allow parallel use of instrument and microphone even though the instrument is the main focus. Dynamic controlled 40 Watts rms and the 8"-twin-cone speaker system give perfect performance at all sound pressure levels.

2. Precautionary Measures

When you use your Alpha, always take basic safety precautions to reduce to a minimum the risk of injury by fire or by electric shock. Read all the directions in these operating instructions and make sure that you understand them.

Pay attention to all warnings, instructions and supplementary text written on the Alpha.

Always use a grounded mains connection with the appropriate supply voltage. If you are uncertain whether the connection is grounded, have a qualified expert check it.

Do not let your Alpha come into contact with water and never touch the amplifier if you have wet hands.

Always operate your Alpha in a place where no one can trip over the cables causing injury to themselves or damage to the cables.

Do not operate your Alpha near devices with strong electromagnetic fields such as large mains transformers, generators, neon lights etc.

Do not lay the signal cable parallel to power lines.

Do insure that your Alpha is switched off before plugging in the power cable to the mains.

Before cleaning your Alpha, unplug it from the mains supply. Use a damp cloth to clean it. Do not use cleaning agents, and be careful that no liquid finds its way into the amp.

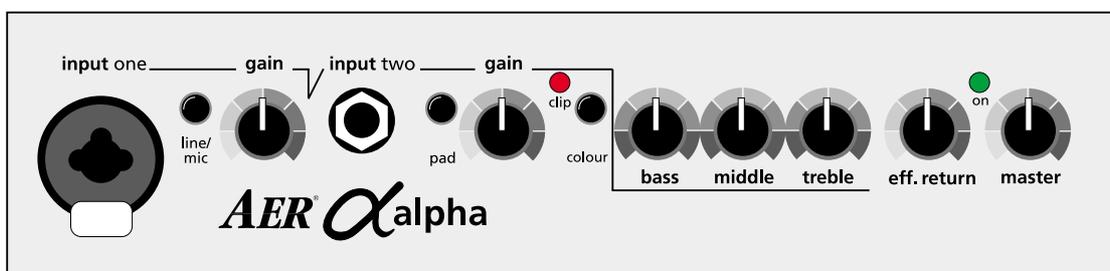
There are no parts within your Alpha that can be serviced by the user. Refer all repairs and servicing to an agent authorised by AER.

Any unauthorised repair or servicing will void the two-year warranty!

Keep these operating instructions in a safe place.

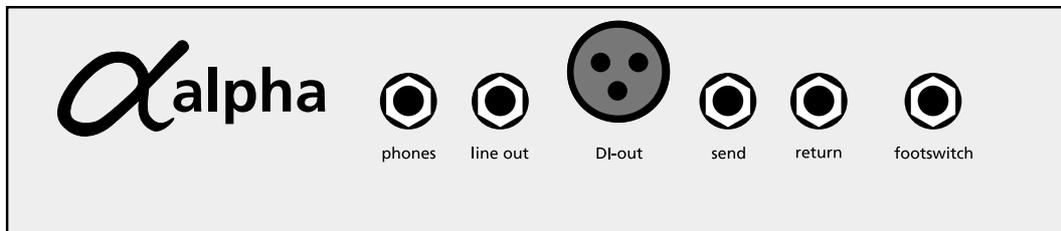
3. Operating Elements

Front (from left to right):



input one	XLR combination with a socket for a 6.3 mm jack plug and XLR male socket	return	level control for the internal effect
line/mic	preamp mode selector switch line: sources with line level, instruments with active preamplifiers and magnetic sound pick-ups, mic: symmetrical microphone input with 24 V phantom source	power	power indicator lamp
gain	input level control	master	level control for the overall volume
input two	socket for a 6.3 mm jack plug, line level		
pad	switch to adjust input sensitivity up position: standard line level down position: reduction by 10 db/V		
gain	input level control		
clip	overload indicator, for both channels		
colour	mid-range contour filter, only active for input 2		
eq	both inputs at the time Bass: tone control for bass Middle: tone control for mid-range Treble: tone control for treble		

Rear (from left to right):



outputs

phones: headphone output

line-out: preamplifier output post-master control

DI-out: XLR output pre master control

effect loop mono, parallel

send: output, to input of an external device

return: input, from output of an external device or from another signal source, e.g. CD player

footswitch: connection to a double foot switch to switch internal and external effect on and off

power: combined mains switch with a mains socket and a fuse holder (1 A slow blow)

accessory: 3/8" microphone stand adapter carrying bag

4. Summary of Operations

Connecting and starting-up

Check to ensure that the mains voltage at your location corresponds to what is permitted for operating the Alpha. You will find the necessary information on the sticker on the rear side besides Voltage e.g. 230 for Europe or 115 for the USA.

Before switching on the amp, master and return controls should be turned to zero position (as far left as they will go) and all other controls to middle position. Then make all necessary cable connections (mains, instrument and/or microphone). Now you can switch on your Alpha with the power switch on the rear of the amp. The green power indicator shows that the amp is operational.

Level control

To adjust the level properly, leave the master at zero position and open up the gain of the input in use to e.g. 11 o'clock position. Make use of pad switch and gain control to adjust various pick-up systems resp. signal sources to the Alpha. Play hard, above your average volume. Watch the clip indication. The clip indicator lights up if the incoming signal is too high. You should reduce the gain or volume control on your instrument preamp or other source to ensure distortion-free reproduction. It just should light up with your first hard stroke. When change to normal playing mode it should not be seen.

Now you know:

Your pickup system addresses the Alpha's input stage properly. You can expect best possible performance.

No clipping indication in normal playing mode - there should be any distortion heard.

Occasional flickering of the clip indication is still ok. Finally set the desired overall volume with the master control.

• Note: Every indication operates according to thresholds. It may well happen that impulses occur that are too quick for the indication. Always verify distortion free performance aurally and possibly re-adjust the gain/volume.

If the pickup and/or preamp signal is too low the Alpha cannot perform at its best.

Maximum volume cannot be achieved and the signal to noise ratio turns bad.

Always make sure to use fully charged up batteries in your instrument preamp. Often it is the reason for humming, hissing noise and distortion.

Tone controls

The Alpha is equipped with a very musical 3-band equalisation for both inputs at the same time. It is designed to provide you with an accurate tool to change the timbre of your instrument. Always compare the natural sound of your instrument to the amplified as reference. The colour switch activates an additional mid-cut treble-boost filter, which brightens up the sound, makes it kind of lighter. It is particularly appropriate for finger-style techniques and can only be made use of with input 2.

• Note: The tone controls are active and have an impact on the internal levels of the amp. Please keep an eye on the clip indication!

Effects

The Alpha has an integrated (internal) digital reverb effect on board. The return control determines the intensity of the effect (as far to the left as possible means no effect). Furthermore, a supplementary effect device can be connected (external effect). For this purpose, use the sockets send and return at the rear of Alpha to connect the external device (send to the input, return from the output of the external effect). The intensity will then be set by the controls of external effect device. A standard double foot switch can be connected to the footswitch socket on the rear of the amp with a stereo cable. This switch can be used to turn the internal and external effects on and off.

Further outputs

- phones:** socket to connect headphones to. In use the speaker will be muted.
- line out:** provides composite signal, with effect, post tone- and master control
- DI-out:** provides composite signal post tone control, without effect, pre master

Have fun with your Alpha!

- Mains Fuse: 1 A slow
- speaker: 8' twin-cone speaker-system
(96 dB 1w/1m,
freq. range 60Hz-18kHz)
- cabinet: 0.47' (12 mm) birch plywood
- dimension: 10.24' (260 mm) high
10.43' (265 mm) wide
9.25' (235 mm) deep
- finish: water based acrylic,
black spatter finish
- weight: 14.33 (6.5 kg)

5. Technical Data

- input one: XLR Combi
- line: unbalanced, 1 MEG
mic: balanced, 600 Ohm
Voice filter 300 Hz
- input two: line: unbalanced, 2.2 MEG
pad: -10dBV
eff.return: -10dBV/10k
- outputs: line: 0dBV
DI: -20dBV
send: -10dBV
- foot switch tip: built in effect
ring: external effect
sleeve: ground
- eq: bass: ± 8 dB/100 Hz
middle: ± 3 dB/550 Hz
treble: ± 11 dB/ 10 kHz
- analogue signal processor:
limiter, subsonic filter
and enhancer
- effect: digital reverb
- power amp: power consumption:
220-240 V / 50-60Hz / 55 VA
(110V / 50-60Hz)
- rating: 40 Watt / 4 ohm rms

- *** 0dBV ~ 1V
*** specifications and appearance subject to
change without notice