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## **CONSTELLATION AUDIO INTRODUCES ORION – REFERENCE SERIES PHONO PREAMPLIFIER**

Constellation Audio is pleased to announce the introduction of the Orion Reference Series phono preamplifier at CES 2015. Designed by the same Constellation Audio “dream team” that brought us the Perseus phono preamplifier (including the legendary John Curl), the Orion represents the ultimate execution of a phono preamplifier, a preamplifier which adds convenience in the form of a beautiful remote control to the sonic excellence of the hardware. Since its inception six years ago with the Altair preamplifier and Hercules power amplifiers, the Constellation Audio Reference Series has continuously established a benchmark for state-of-the-art electronics. Orion complements the Altair II and Hercules II by providing vinyl lovers with the perfect vehicle for extracting the maximum performance from their cartridge(s) of choice.

Orion builds upon the Performance Series’ award-winning Perseus phono stage and raises its performance to Reference level in several key areas. To begin with, we have sourced the finest individual components possible for use at each stage of the circuit topology including the use of hand-matched special JFET transistors in the critical input stage. While the supply of some of these parts is extremely limited, their usage elevates the performance of Orion to a new level. Mechanically, Orion optimizes the benefits of a separate control unit and power supply by utilizing three connectors and three independent power supplies: one for each of the left and right analog circuits and a separate one for the control circuitry. Because the function of a phono preamplifier is to amplify very small low-level signals, even the smallest amounts of noise become subject to amplification. To greatly reduce noise and vibration, Orion utilizes the same construction used in the Altair II Reference Series preamplifier. This includes, and is certainly not limited to, the isolation of the raft where key circuit boards are located. As the term suggests, the raft is a floating suspension that is fully isolated and shielded from mechanical or electrically induced noise or airborne vibrations. Since the gain of a phono preamplifier is so high, the isolation of the raft is critically important in controlling microphonics. The third area where Orion excels is in user convenience. With 3 discrete inputs (2 MC and 1 MM), Orion allows the listener to remotely adjust the cartridge loading as well as select

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the equalization curve of choice via the included remote control. This convenience has the benefit of real-time sonic optimization and allows the user to compare different settings and different cartridges on the fly. Aesthetically, the casework (which is designed by another part of our "dream team") matches its Reference Series siblings and is identical in size to the Altair II preamplifier.

At CES 2015, Orion will be on display at the Constellation Audio Suite in The Venetian, #34-210.

## SPECIFICATIONS

Inputs: 3, each of which can be either Stereo XLR or RCA; 2 Inputs are MC, 1 is MM

Outputs: 1 Stereo XLR, 1 Stereo RCA

Gain, B & UB (Balanced & Unbalanced): 65 dB max

THD + N: <.004% 10Hz – 20 kHz

Frequency Response: +/-0.10db 10Hz – 20 kHz

Output Noise: -100 dB re 2V output, 20 Hz to 20 kHz

Load Impedance, MC: 0Ω to 500Ω

Load Impedance, MM: 10KΩ to 100KΩ

Load Capacitance, MM: 100 to 400 pF, selectable

Output Impedance: B & SE: < 50 ohm

EQ Curve: RIAA plus user adjustable HF and LF EQ

Dimensions & Weight

Power Supply:

2.82 x 17.50 x 14.50 in (hwd), 71.6 x 444.5 x 368.3mm (hwd); 84 lbs./38.2kg.

Phono Preamplifier:

5.53 x 17.50 x 14.82 in (hwd), 140.4 x 444.5 x 376.4mm (hwd); 84 lbs./38.2 kg

Remote Control: Included

PRICING AND AVAILABILITY: The US retail price of the Orion is \$75,000. Deliveries will begin in January 2015.

## ABOUT CONSTELLATION AUDIO

Constellation Audio was formed for the purpose of bringing to discriminating listeners the highest performing audio products in their respective categories. To do this required assembling a "dream team" of the finest multi-disciplined designers and engineers in the business. Quality is assured by manufacturing all Constellation Audio products in our own factory in California.

## CONTACT

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