

constellation audio

Simply, Light Years Ahead.



Altair II owner's manual



**CAUTION**

To reduce risk of electric shock, do not remove any of the preamplifier's cover plates or screws. There are no user serviceable parts inside. Contact qualified service personnel.

**WARNING**

To reduce risk of fire or electric shock, do not expose this preamplifier to moisture, rain, or excessive humidity.



The lightning flash with arrowhead, within an equilateral triangle, is intended to alert the user to the presence of uninsulated "dangerous voltage" within the product's enclosure that may be of sufficient magnitude to constitute a risk of electrical shock to persons.



The exclamation point within an equilateral triangle is intended to alert the user to the presence of important operating maintenance (servicing) instructions in the literature accompanying the appliance.

**Thank you for purchasing the Constellation Audio Altair II preamplifier.** This new revised version of the original Altair II has been engineered to deliver a superbly user-friendly experience—and to offer a few subtle performance enhancements as well.

The Altair II employs the same revolutionary circuitry pioneered in our Altair preamp. The biggest difference is that the user can now control all functions from the front panel. As with the original, the advanced design necessarily demands a somewhat different setup process compared with typical stereo preamps. By reading this manual before you operate the Altair II, you assure that you get maximum performance from your system.

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## **Before you install the Altair II**

### **Unpacking**

Because of its machined aluminum top chassis, the Altair II is heavier than the average preamp. Have an extra person nearby to help if you need it. You may wish to use gloves to protect your fingers.

**NOTE: Prior to plugging in the Altair II, loosen the inner black 5/32" hex shipping set screws near the feet by four turns.**

### **Power supply setup**



The Altair II's separate power supply (bottom component in the picture above) must be connected to the Altair II main chassis (top component in the picture above) as shown above before you plug the unit into a wall. Make sure the power switch on the power supply is in the off (O) position.

The supplied cables are spiral-wrapped, gold-plated copper designed for aerospace use, and can handle up to 30 amps. Only these cables should be used between the power supply and the Altair II.

Connect one of the supplied cables to the Right Analog Power socket on the Altair II, then into the Right Analog Power socket on the power supply as shown above. Repeat with the Left Analog Power and Control Power connections. At this point you can plug the Altair II power supply into the wall socket. Leave the master power switch off until you connect your other equipment to the Altair II.

**DO NOT remove the power cables while the unit is powered on. If you do happen to accidentally pull one of them out, DO NOT plug it back in. Turn off the power supply using the hard switch on the rear panel, unplug the unit, then replace the cable. Failure to power down the unit before replacing a power cable can result in substantial damage to your Altair II.**

If you will be using the Constellation Audio Centaur or Hercules amplifiers (or any other high-powered amplifier), do not plug the Altair II into the same AC socket or into any other outlet connected on that circuit. Constellation Audio amplifiers draw a great deal of power and could affect the Altair II's performance if the amplifier(s) and preamp are plugged into the same electrical circuit or AC outlet.

When you connect or disconnect the AC cord, always grasp it by the plug, not by the cord itself. Pulling the plug out by the cord can damage the cord, the AC socket, and/or the Altair II.

## Installation notes

The Altair II preamplifier uses passive cooling; there are no internal fans. While the Altair II does not generate as much heat as an amplifier, it should still be located in an area with adequate ventilation.

There should be at least 6 in./15 cm of clearance between the sides and top of the preamp and the nearest wall or cabinet. If the Altair II is installed in a cabinet or an equipment closet, ensure the cabinet/closet has adequate ventilation. Installation in an unventilated cabinet or closet may cause the Altair II to overheat, significantly reducing its lifespan.

The Altair II requires a room-temperature environment to operation properly. Ambient temperature should be about 70°F/21°C, plus or minus 10°F/5°C. Never install the Altair II in a place where it may be exposed to direct sunlight, and do not install it next to a room heater, radiator, air conditioner, etc.

Make sure that the Altair II will not be exposed to moisture. Do not locate it in an area where it might be spilled on, and do not place it in a humid location (such as an unfinished basement).

The light-dependent resistors used in the Altair II's volume control need 8 hours of continuous operation to reach maximum linearity. We recommend leaving the Altair II on all the time to ensure maximum performance. If the Altair II has not warmed up for 15 to 30 minutes from a cold start, you may notice a slight left-to-right channel imbalance. This may be corrected temporarily using the balance control.

Installing the Altair II in a place where it will be exposed to direct sunlight or moisture, or where it will not have adequate ventilation, will void your warranty.

## Amplifier

The Altair II preamp is designed to be paired with any high-quality audio amplifier; ideally Constellation's own Centaur or Hercules amps. Both balanced (XLR) and unbalanced (RCA) connections are available. XLR will provide the highest quality/lowest noise signals, and should be used when possible.

Before making or changing any connection to the Altair II, first turn off the master power switch on the preamp's power supply and turn off the power amplifier.

## Source components

The Altair II preamp has eight analog audio inputs, four balanced (XLR) and four unbalanced (RCA), and can be used with any audio component with line-level analog outputs. As with the outputs mentioned above, an XLR connection will provide the highest quality signal, and should be used when possible. If you are using a record turntable, you will need to connect a high-quality phono preamplifier, such as the Constellation Audio Perseus or Orion, between the turntable and the Altair II preamp.

## In the event of malfunction

Do not under any circumstances open the chassis of the Altair II. There are no user-serviceable parts inside. Opening the chassis can present a shock hazard even if the AC power is disconnected. Any alteration or modification of the Altair II's internal parts or circuit will immediately void your warranty. If your Altair II does not function correctly, refer to the Troubleshooting section at the end of this manual. If you are still unable to resolve the problem, contact your Constellation Audio dealer. If any liquid is spilled on the preamp, or if any metal object (such as a staple or a paper clip) is inadvertently forced inside, immediately disconnect the AC power and contact your Constellation Audio dealer.

## Source device and amplifier connections

### 1. XLR inputs



On the rear of the Altair II preamp there are eight XLR inputs, four on each side. As you are looking at the rear panel, the left four XLR inputs are for the right channel, the right four inputs are for the left channel. Underneath each jack is the corresponding input number. Use of XLR connections is recommended for the best possible audio quality. To remove an XLR plug, push on the tab above the jack and pull the plug out.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** To preserve true dual-mono operation, the Altair II uses a symmetrical circuit layout. This configuration requires that the Altair II's back panel connections be laid out a little differently from those on most preamps. For example, the left-channel connection for Input 1 is at the far right side of the back panel, and the right-channel connection is at the far left side. Connecting the cables in the usual side-by-side fashion will result in an incorrect installation and the mixing of sounds from different source devices.

The input numbers from left to right, looking at the back of the Altair II are:

1<sub>right</sub>, 2<sub>right</sub>, 3<sub>right</sub>, 4<sub>right</sub> — 4<sub>left</sub>, 3<sub>left</sub>, 2<sub>left</sub>, 1<sub>left</sub>.

### 2. RCA inputs



These unbalanced inputs are provided as a convenience for use with unbalanced signal sources. Whenever possible, we recommend using XLR connections instead. Connecting to an unbalanced source is handled in the same way an XLR balanced source.

The input numbers from left to right, looking at the back of the Altair II are:

5<sub>right</sub>, 6<sub>right</sub>, 7<sub>right</sub>, 8<sub>right</sub> — 8<sub>left</sub>, 7<sub>left</sub>, 6<sub>left</sub>, 5<sub>left</sub>.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** To preserve true dual-mono operation, the Altair II uses a symmetrical circuit layout. This configuration requires that the Altair II's back panel connections be laid out a little differently from those on

most preamps. For example, the left-channel connection for Input 5 is at the far right side of the back panel, and the right-channel connection is at the far left side. Connecting the cables in the usual side-by-side fashion will result in an incorrect installation and the mixing of sounds from different source devices.

### 3. XLR outputs



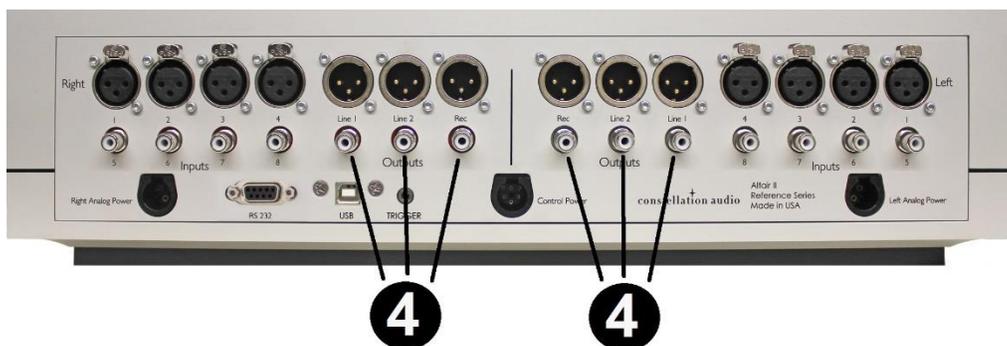
The inner six XLR connections on the rear of the Altair II are outputs. The signal at these outputs is the same—it does not matter if you use output 1 or output 2. To remove an XLR plug, push on the tab on the connector body and pull the plug out.

From left to right, looking at the back of the Altair II, the outputs are: 1<sub>right</sub>, 2<sub>right</sub>—2<sub>left</sub>, 1<sub>left</sub>.

Be sure to match the output to the correct channel on your amp. As you are looking at the back of the Altair II, the outputs on the left side are for the right channel, the outputs on the right are for the left channel.

When XLR connections are used to connect the Altair II preamp with the Centaur or Hercules amplifiers, the Constellation Link is created—an audio interface that is, in essence, perfectly balanced. The positive- and negative-going halves of the signal will exhibit near-zero difference except for their polarity.

### 4. RCA outputs



RCA unbalanced outputs are supplied for amps and recording devices not equipped with XLR inputs. The signal at these outputs is the same—it does not matter if you use output 1 or output 2.

From left to right, looking at the back of the Altair II, the outputs are: 1<sub>right</sub>, 2<sub>right</sub>—2<sub>left</sub>, 1<sub>left</sub>.

When connecting to an amplifier, be sure to match the output to the correct channel on your amp. As you are looking at the back of the Altair II, the outputs on the left side are for the right channel, the outputs on the right are for the left channel. To remove an RCA plug, grasp it by the connector body and pull the plug out.

## Other connections on the Altair II

### 5. Power inputs



These inputs connect to the power outputs of the Altair II's separate power supply. The Altair II includes special spiral-wrapped, gold-plated copper cables designed for aerospace use. Each cable is rated to handle 30 amps.

Each of these jacks mates with a matching jack on the power supply. Be sure to connect Right and Left Analog Power jacks on the preamp to the corresponding jacks on the power supply, and the Control Power jack on the preamp to the Control Power jack on the power supply.

**Before connecting these cables, switch off the Altair II's power supply and disconnect it from the AC power. Failing to do this can damage the Altair II or its power supply.**

## 6. USB / control

This USB jack is used to interface the Altair II with third-party control systems such as those from AMX, Crestron and Control4, and also to update the Altair II's firmware. For more information, contact your dealer.



## 7. Trigger

This 3.5mm input jack allows the Altair II to turn a connected device (such as a Constellation Audio amplifier) on and off automatically. When the Altair II is powered up or in Standby mode, this jack emits a 12-volt DC signal. When the Altair II is powered off entirely (by holding the front panel power button down for 5 seconds), the jack emits no signal. This jack will work with any device that can accept a standard 12-volt trigger signal.



## 8. RS-232

This DB-9 style serial connection can be used to interface the Altair II with third-party control systems such as those from AMX, Crestron and Control4. It can also be used to update the Altair's firmware. For more information, contact your dealer.



## Power supply connections

### 9. Power outputs



These outputs connect to the power inputs of the Altair II preamp. Constellation Audio has supplied special spiral-wrapped, gold-plated copper cables designed for aerospace use. Each cable is rated to handle 30 amps.

Each of these jacks mates with a matching jack on the preamp. Be sure to connect the Analog power jack on the preamp to the Analog power jack on the power supply, and the Control power jack on the preamp to the Control power jack on the power supply.

**Before connecting these cables, switch off the power supply and disconnect it from the AC power. Failing to do this can damage the Altair II or the power supply.**

### 10. DC output



This jack outputs DC voltage for accessories. It is currently unused in the Altair II.

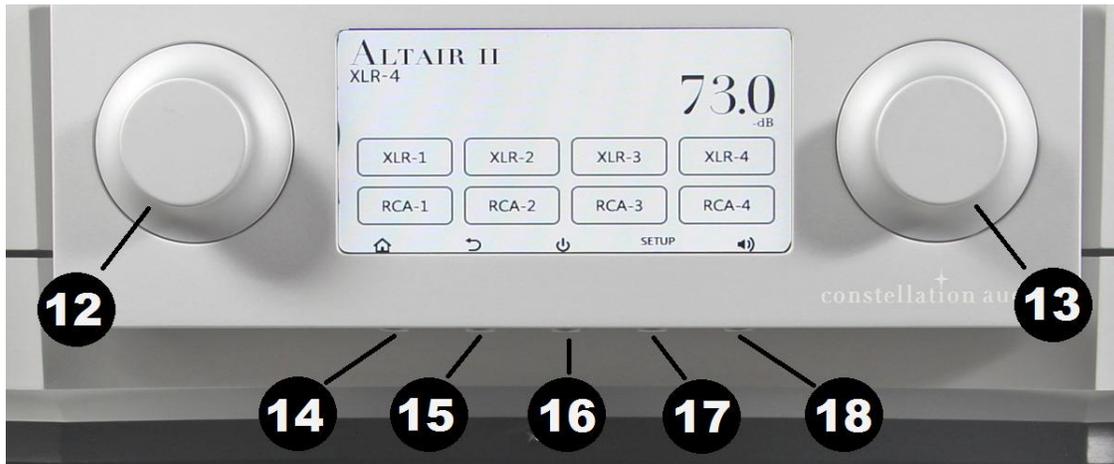
### 11. AC input



This AC input accepts standard 15-amp IEC-type power cords. You may use the high-quality power cord supplied with the Altair II, or substitute an aftermarket power cord if you wish.

## Controls / displays / indicators

### 12 – 18. Front panel controls



The front panel includes an LCD touchscreen and two knobs plus five buttons positioned underneath the display. These buttons allow you to control the Altair II without its remote. The functions of the buttons are shown using icons on the Here are the functions of the buttons and knobs:

#### **12. Balance**

This knob adjusts left-to-right balance when an input screen is displayed—i.e., when an input is selected. Turn the knob counterclockwise to shift the balance to the left, clockwise to shift the balance to the right. An onscreen indicator will indicate if the balance is centered or how far it is shifted to one side or the other.

**NOTE:** The light-dependent resistors used in the volume control reach optimal performance only after warm-up. If the preamp has not warmed up for 15 to 30 minutes after initial power-on, you may notice a slight balance difference between left and right channels. This can easily be corrected with the balance control.

#### **13. Volume**

The volume control is always active when the Altair II is powered up and the mute is deactivated. Note that the control is calibrated in negative decibels (-dB), reaching maximum volume at 0.0 dB and minimum at -99.0 dB. Thus, when you turn the volume up (clockwise), the number on the front display will decrease. When you turn the volume down (counterclockwise), the number will increase. The adjustments steps are in 1 dB increments between -99.0 dB and -50.0 dB, and 0.5 dB increments from -49.5 dB to 0.0 dB.

#### **14. Home**

This button brings you to the input select screen no matter which control screen you are currently viewing.

### **15. Return/back**

This button brings you back to the previous control screen. For example, from any input's screen, such as XLR 1, it will take you back to the input selector screen.

### **16. Standby/power**

Push this button to turn the Altair II on and off. When you turn the unit on, it will take a few seconds for the power supply and preamp to warm up. When the preamp is ready for use, its LCD screen will show the most recently selected input, and the blue LED on the front of the power supply will come on. To put the unit in Standby mode—which will silence the audio but keep the power supply on so the unit stays warmed up—press this button again after turning on the power.

Hold this button down for 5 seconds to turn the preamp off. The unit will enter cool-down mode for 10 seconds. During cool-down, no buttons on the unit or remote will operate.

### **17. Multifunction button**

The multifunction button serves different functions depending on which control screen is shown. A label on the LCD display will show the function of the button.

### **18. Mute**

Press this to button to silence the Altair II temporarily. The numerical volume readout will flash. Press again to restore the audio. Because the Altair II uses a relay to perform the mute function, it may take a second or so for this control to respond.

## Remote control

The remote operates the basic functions of the Altair II. It does not operate other Constellation Audio components.



### **19. Standby/power**

Push this button to turn the Altair II on and off. When you turn the unit on, it will take a few seconds for the power supply and preamp to warm up. When the preamp is ready for use, its LCD screen will show the most recently selected input, and the blue LED on the front of the power supply will come on. To put the unit in Standby mode—which will silence the audio but keep the power supply on so the unit stays warmed up—press this button again after turning on the power.

### **20. Mute**

Press this button to silence the Altair II temporarily. The numerical volume readout will flash. Press again to restore the audio. Because the Altair II uses a relay to perform the mute function, it may take a second or so for this control to respond.

### **21. Volume up/down**

Press these buttons to raise or lower the volume. Each press changes volume by 1 dB at volumes below -50.0 dB, and 0.5 dB at volumes above -50.0 dB. Holding the buttons down raises or lowers the volume quickly.

### **22. Balance left/right**

Press these buttons to shift the balance to the left or right. Each press changes the balance by 0.1 dB.

## 23. Input

Press this button to select among the Altair II's XLR and RCA inputs. You will have to wait a second or so between pushes of this button, because for best sound quality the Altair II uses relays to switch inputs.

## 24. Phase

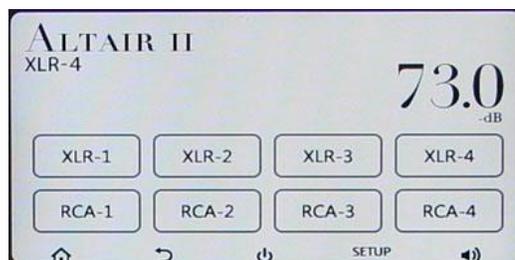
Push this to flip the phase of the Altair II's output signal for the selected input. Use whichever setting sounds best.

## Control screens

Many Altair II functions are controlled through the LCD touchscreen. Here is how the control screens function.

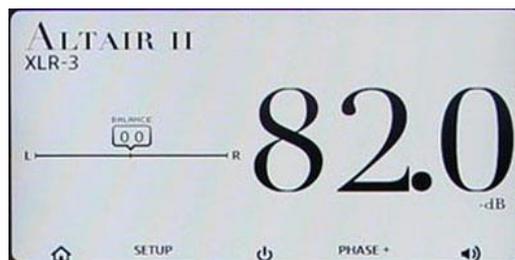
### Input selector (or home) screen

This screen appears when the power is on and the unit is warmed up. Touching any input button onscreen will switch to that input. The Setup screen can be accessed from this screen using the multifunction button below the display.



### Input screen

When you select an input, this screen will appear. It provides a large volume display as well as the display for the balance control. The balance control functions only when this screen is shown. Pushing the multifunction button under the Setup label enters the input setep screen.



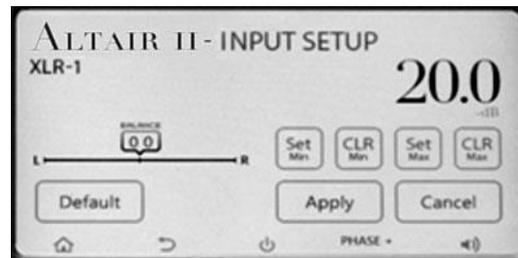
## Input setup screen

When you press the multifunction button labeled Setup on the input screen, this screen will appear. It allows you to set up a home theater bypass input; set minimum and maximum output levels, and change the phase of the output signal.

To flip the phase of the Altair II's output signal: Use the multifunction button below the display.

To set minimum and/or maximum levels: Adjust the Altair II's volume to the desired minimum or maximum level, and press either the Set Min or Set Max button, depending on which function you want, and hit Apply to accept the setting. To clear the setting, press either CLR Min or CLR Max as appropriate, or press Default to clear both settings.

To set up a home theater bypass input: First select the input you want to use for this function, then adjust the volume on the Altair II to the desired level. Push the Set Min button, then the Set Max button, then the Apply button. To clear these settings, press CLR Min then CLR Max, or press Default.



## Screen setup screen

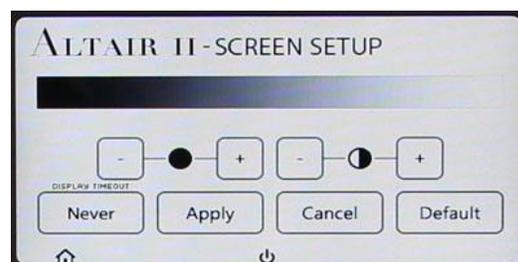
To adjust LCD brightness: Press the + and - buttons on the left side of the screen, on either side of the dark dot.

To adjust LCD contrast: Press the + and - buttons on the right side of the screen, on either side of the half-dark/half-light dot.

To adjust LCD backlight timeout: Press the Timeout button in the lower left corner to keep the screen lit for 15 sec., 30 sec., 1 min., 5 min., 10 min., and always on.

To accept or cancel screen setting changes: Press the Apply or Cancel button, respectively.

To return to the factory default settings: Press the Default button. This will bring up a screen asking "Are you sure you want to set this device to its default settings?" Hit the Yes button to go to default settings, the No button to cancel.



## **Step-by-step operating process**

We've covered all of the basic controls and indicators of the Altair II. Here's how you use them to perform the basic operations of turning the unit on, selecting a source, adjusting the sound, and turning the unit off.

**STEP 1:** Before making or changing any connection to the Altair II, first turn off the master power switch on the preamp's power supply and turn off the power amplifier.

**STEP 2:** To turn on the Altair II from the front panel, push the Standby button in the middle under the LCD touchscreen. Alternatively, you may push the Standby button on the remote.

When you turn on the power, you will hear the Altair II's internal relays click as the unit goes into warm-up mode. In a few seconds, the front touchscreen will illuminate and the blue LED on the front of the power supply will come on. The most recently used input will be selected. If you wish to let the unit warm up for a while before listening, hit the Standby button (on the front panel or remote) again to enter Standby mode. The Standby screen will appear on the LCD and the audio will be silenced until you push the Standby button again.

**NOTE:** While the Altair II will work quite well immediately upon power-up, the light-dependent resistors used in its volume control become most linear after 8 hours of continuous operation. In the first 15 to 30 minutes, you may notice a slight left-to-right imbalance, which can be temporarily corrected using the balance control. We recommend leaving the Altair II on all the time for optimum performance.

**STEP 3:** To change to a different input from the front panel, press the button under the Home icon. This will bring up the input select screen. Push an onscreen button (XLR-1, RCA-1, etc.) to select the input you want. The screen for that input will appear. Alternatively, you can scroll through the available inputs using the Input button on the remote. Enable playback on the chosen source device.

**STEP 4:** Adjust listening volume with the volume knob on the front of the unit or the volume up/down buttons on the remote. Note that the control is calibrated in negative decibels (-dB), reaching maximum volume at 0.0 dB and minimum at -99.0 dB. Thus, when you turn the volume up (clockwise), the number on the front display will decrease. When you turn the volume down (counterclockwise), the number will increase.

**STEP 5:** To adjust left-to-right balance, turn the balance knob. Counterclockwise shifts the balance to the left, clockwise shifts it to the right. Or use the buttons on the remote; left shifts the balance to the left, right shifts to right. The onscreen indicator will show you the balance setting in 0.1 dB increments.

**STEP 6:** You may wish to set a maximum output level to prevent damage to your speakers if the level is accidentally turned up to high, and a minimum output level so that the preamp always delivers an audible volume. To do this, adjust the Altair II's volume to the desired minimum or maximum level. Push the multifunction button labeled Setup. Press either the Set Min or Set Max button, depending on which function you want. Hit Apply to accept the setting, or Cancel to return to the original setting. To clear the setting, press either CLR Min or CLR Max as appropriate, or press Default to clear both settings.

**STEP 7:** If you want to use the Altair II in a home theater system, in conjunction with a surround-sound processor, you should set up one input for home theater bypass. When you switch to this input, volume and balance will be at fixed settings and your channel balance adjustments in the surround processor will be preserved. To do this, first select the input you want to use for this function. Now adjust the volume on the Altair II to the desired level. Push the multifunction button labeled Setup. Push the Set Min button, then the Set Max button, then the Apply button. To clear these settings, press CLR Min then CLR Max, or press Default.

**STEP 8:** To turn the system off, stop playback on the source device. Hold the Standby button in the middle under the LCD touchscreen or on the remote down for 5 seconds. The unit will enter cool-down mode for 10

seconds, during which no buttons will work. After cool-down mode finishes, you can turn the unit back on again as described in Step 1 above.

## **Maintenance**

The Altair II requires no regular maintenance.

If the preamplifier's surface becomes dusty, simply wipe it off with a soft dry cloth. Do not spray cleaners on the surface.

To clean fingerprints from the surface of the preamplifier, spray a small amount of mild window cleaner such as Windex onto a soft dry cloth, then use the cloth to remove the fingerprints. Do not spray the cleaner directly onto the preamplifier.

## **Troubleshooting**

### **Preamplifier will not turn on**

1. Check to see if the front blue LED on the power supply is illuminated. If it is not, try the following steps in order. After you perform each step, touch the Power button on the front of the unit and wait a few seconds to see if the blue LED is illuminated. If any one of the steps restores the power (i.e., allows the Power button to turn the unit on), there is no need to continue to the next steps.

A. Check power cable connections between the wall and the Altair II's power supply. Push the wall plug and the connector at the power supply in firmly.

B. Check power cables between Altair II and power supply. DO NOT pull out these cables while the power supply is on.

C. Make sure the master power switch on the rear of the power supply is turned on.

D. If the Altair II is plugged into an AC line conditioner, make sure the line conditioner is turned on.

F. Flip the master power switch off and on again. This will reset the Altair II's internal circuit breaker.

G. Check the circuit breaker for the AC circuit that the Altair II is plugged into. If the breaker is tripped, flip it back on. If it will not turn on, there is likely a short circuit somewhere in the lines or in a device connected to this AC circuit. Check the power cords for your components to make sure none have been damaged.

H. If none of these conditions restores power, it is possible one of the Altair II's internal fuses is blown. Do not attempt to change the fuse yourself—the Altair II requires the use of special high-voltage fuses that are not commonly available. Contact your Constellation Audio dealer for service.

### **Preamplifier is on but no sound is produced**

1. Make sure the front LED on the power supply is glowing blue, indicating that the preamp is powered up and not in warm-up mode.

2. If the LED is lit and the Standby screen is visible on the LCD panel, press the Power button under the front LCD or on the remote to restore sound.

3. If the LED is lit and the volume numbers on the LCD panel are flashing, hit the Mute button on the front panel or on the remote to restore sound.

4. If neither the Mute or the Power button restores the sound, try the following steps in order. If any one of the steps restores the sound, there is no need to continue to the next steps.

A. Check you are on the correct input. Cycle through available inputs using the front touchscreen controls, or select the desired input using the remote.

B. Check that the source component is on and playing back—i.e., if it is a CD player, make sure that the CD is playing and not in pause mode.

D. Check the connections between the Altair II and your amp, and between the Altair II and the audio source device. If a cable is disconnected, reconnect it. If this does not restore sound, try substituting a different set of cables in order to make sure the original set was functioning properly.

E. Check the connection between your amp and the speaker. Make sure the speaker cable has not come loose. If it has, turn the power off on your amp, then re-install the cable.

F. Check that the volume is at a sufficient level. Do not turn the volume all the way up to check this, as if sound is reestablished while the Altair II is set to output maximum volume, damage can be done to your speakers and amplifiers.

G. If none of these actions restores the sound, contact your Constellation Audio dealer.

### **Sound seems unfocused**

1. Play a CD of typical pop vocals and sit in front of your speakers at an equal distance from both (at least 8 feet away from each speaker). If the vocals seem to come from between the speakers, they are connected correctly. Alternatively, you can use the “barking dog” test from the *Stereophile Test CD* or a similar phase check test from another test CD.

2. If the vocals seem to come from all around you, make sure that the cables on your amplifier are connected properly, with the marked connector or cable connected to the positive (red or +) binding post on the amplifier, and the unmarked connector or cable connected to the negative (black or -) binding post.

3. If you need to change the speaker cable connection, turn the amplifier off first. To avoid possible electrical shock or damage to the amplifier, you must discharge the energy stored in the power supply. To discharge the power supply, turn the power off with music playing. It may take up to a minute or so for the sound to die out. After the sound dies out, it is OK to change or adjust the cables.

### **Sound comes from the wrong speaker**

If left-channel sounds are coming from the right or vice-versa (i.e., the violins in an orchestral recording come from the right speaker, not the left), check the cable connections between the source and the Altair II, and the Altair II and your amp. Make sure left-channel cables are connected to the left channels of the Altair II and amp, and right to the right channels.

### **Only one speaker is working, or one speaker is playing a different piece of music**

1. Check each cable, starting with the source component. Make sure the left channel of the source goes to the left input on the Altair II (which is on the right side, as you're looking at the back panel), and the right channel to the right input (which is on the left side). On the back of the Altair II, the left and right inputs are NOT next to each other. They are on opposite sides of the unit. In other words, the XLR input numbers are 1, 2, 3, 4, 4, 3, 2, 1, and the RCA input numbers are 5, 6, 7, 8, 8, 7, 6, 5.

2. Check that the cables to the amp are on the correct channels of the preamp. The XLR and RCA outputs on the back of the Altair II, from left to right, are 1, 2, 2, 1.

### **Remote control does not work**

1. Move the remote a few feet away to a different location and try again. The remote requires a clear line-of-sight to the infrared detector on the Altair II's front panel.

2. If the remote still doesn't work, use a 3/32" Allen wrench to remove the remote's battery compartment cover, then replace the remote's two AAA batteries and replace the cover.

### **Left-to-right balance seems off**

1. If the unit has not warmed up for at least 15 to 30 minutes, there may be a temporary imbalance in the volume control's light-dependent resistors that will cause a slight channel imbalance. You can compensate for this with the balance control, or just wait for the unit to warm up. Better yet, we recommend leaving the Altair II on all the time for the best performance.

### **Balance and volume controls do not function**

1. If you are using the input configured for home theater bypass, this situation is normal—volume and balance controls do not function in this mode.

2. If you are not using an input configured for home theater bypass, you need to clear out the minimum and maximum volume settings for the input you are using. Press the multifunction button labeled Setup on the screen, then press the Default button.

### **For more information**

Your Altair II preamplifier should give you many years of trouble-free, maintenance-free service. If you encounter any problems you cannot solve or have technical questions, please contact your Constellation Audio dealer.

For more information about Constellation Audio products, please visit our website:

[www.constellationaudio.com](http://www.constellationaudio.com)

