

constellation audio

Simply, Light Years Ahead.



Altair 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 preamplifier. You are in for a truly extraordinary musical experience.

As one of the finest and most robust audio preamplifiers ever created, the Altair was designed to give sound quality matched only by its simplicity of use. By reading through this brief manual and following the simple steps outlined within, you can ensure that your Altair performs at its very best.

Contents

<u>Page</u>	<u>Topic</u>
4	Before you install the Altair Unpacking Power supply setup Installation notes In the event of malfunction
6	Source device and amplifier connections XLR inputs RCA inputs XLR outputs RCA outputs
8	Other connections on the Altair Power inputs RS-232 USB / control Hub
9	Controls / displays / indicators Front LED status indicator Front panel buttons
12	Pyxis remote control Installation Configuration Hard controls (knobs / buttons) Powering up Normal operation Powering down
17	Step-by-step operating procedure for the Altair
18	Maintenance
18	Troubleshooting
20	For more information

Before you install the Altair

Unpacking

The Altair weighs 75 pounds, far more than the average preamp. As such, take care removing the Altair from its packaging. Two people should lift the component.

Remove the top of the flight case, then use the provided straps to assist in removal. Use work gloves to protect your fingers.

Power supply setup



The Altair's separate power supply (bottom) must be connected to the Altair (top) as shown above before you plug the unit into a wall. Make sure the power switch (right) 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.

Connect one of the supplied cables to the Left Analog Power socket on the Altair, then into the Left Analog Power socket on the power supply. Repeat with the Control Power and Right Analog Power connections.

At this point you can plug the Altair power supply into the wall socket. Leave the master power switch off until you plug in your other equipment to the Altair.

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.

If you will be using the Constellation Audio Hercules amplifiers (or any other high-powered amplifier), do not plug the Altair into the same AC socket or into any other outlet connected on that circuit. The Hercules draws a

great deal of power and could affect the Altair's performance if both 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.

Installation notes

The Altair preamplifier uses passive cooling; there are no internal fans. While the Altair 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 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 to overheat, significantly reducing its lifespan.

The Altair 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 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 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).

Installing the Altair 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 preamp is designed to be paired with any high-quality audio amplifier; ideally Constellation's own 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.

Source components

The Altair preamp has four analog audio inputs, both balanced (XLR) and 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 Orion, between the turntable and the Altair preamp.

In the event of malfunction

Do not under any circumstances open the chassis of the Altair. 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's internal parts or circuit will immediately void your warranty.

If your Altair 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 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 a true dual-mono operation, the Altair uses a symmetrical circuit layout. This configuration requires that the Altair'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 are:

1_{right}, 2_{right}, 3_{right}, 4_{right}—4_{left}, 3_{left}, 2_{left}, 1_{left}.

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.

IMPORTANT NOTE: To preserve a true dual-mono operation, the Altair uses a symmetrical circuit layout. This configuration requires that the Altair'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



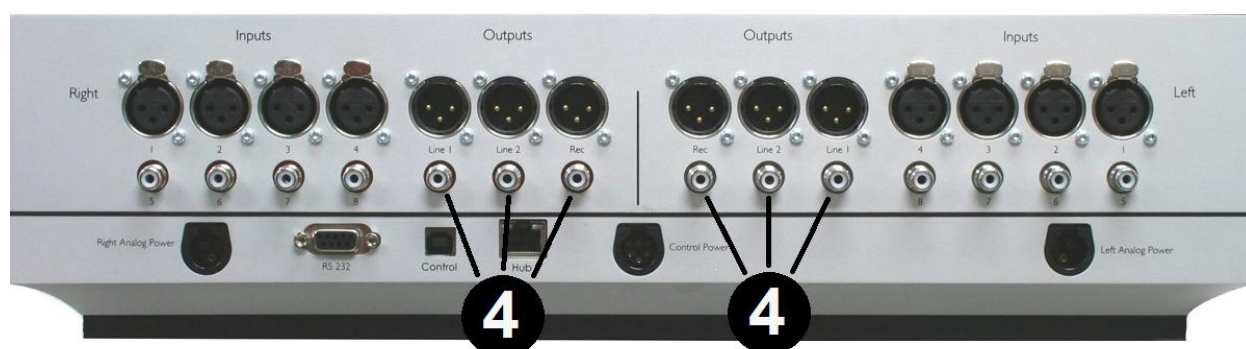
The inner six XLR connections on the rear of the Altair are outputs. The outer four of these are for connection to amplifiers, while the inner two are fixed-level outputs for connection to a recording device. To remove an XLR plug, push on the tab on the connector body and pull the plug out.

From left to right, looking at the back of the Altair, the outputs are: 1_{right}, 2_{right}, Rec_{right}—Rec_{left}, 2_{left}, 1_{left}.

Be sure to match the output to the correct channel on your amp. As you are looking at the back of the Altair, 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 preamp with the 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 also supplied for amplifiers not equipped with XLR connections. The outer four of these are for connection to amplifiers, while the inner two are fixed-level outputs for connection to a recording device.

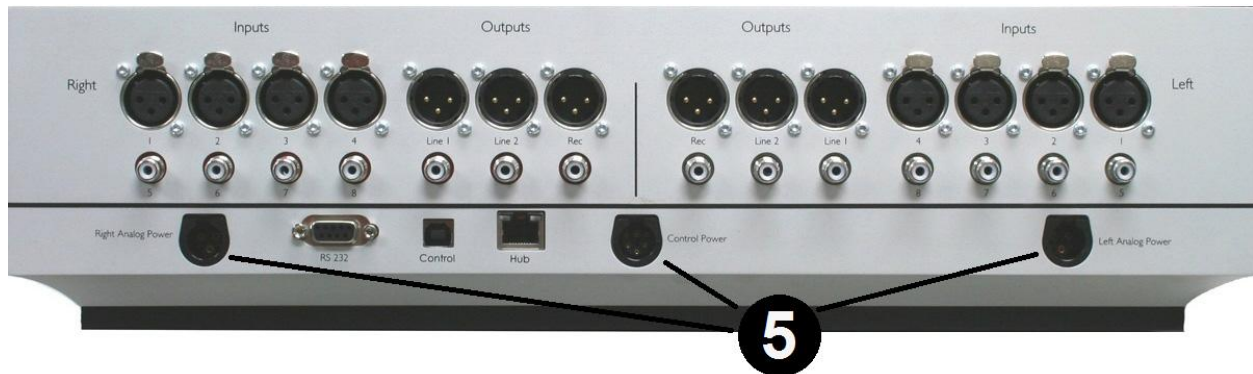
From left to right, as you are looking at the back of the Altair, the outputs are: 1_{right}, 2_{right}, Rec_{right}—Rec_{left}, 2_{left}, 1_{left}.

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, 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

5. Power inputs



These inputs connect to the power outputs of the Altair's separate power supply. Constellation Audio has supplied you with special spiral-wrapped, gold-plated copper cables designed for aerospace use. Each of these cables is rated to handle 30 amps.

Each of these jacks mates with a matching jack on the power supply. Be sure to connect the Left Analog Power jack on the preamp to the Left Analog Power jack on the power supply, the Right Analog Power jack on the preamp to the Right 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 Altair's power supply and disconnect it from the AC power. Failing to do this can damage the Altair or its power supply.

6. RS-232

This DB-9 style serial connection can be used to interface the Altair 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.



7. USB / control

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



8. Hub

In order for the Altair to communicate with the Pyxis remote control, the Pulsar RF hub must be connected. Connect a standard Cat-5 or Cat-6 Ethernet cable from the Altair's Hub connector to one of the inputs on the Pulsar.



Power supply connections

9. Power outputs



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

Each of these jacks mates with a matching jack on the preamp. Be sure to connect the left power jack on the preamp to the left power jack on the power supply, the right power jack on the preamp to the right 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 or the power supply.

10. DC output

This jack outputs DC voltage to power the Pulsar RF hub. Connect the power cable supplied with the hub to this jack.



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, or substitute an aftermarket power cord if you wish.



Controls / displays / indicators

Front status indicator

The front of the Altair has a multi-colored LED status indicator that will tell you what state the preamp is in.

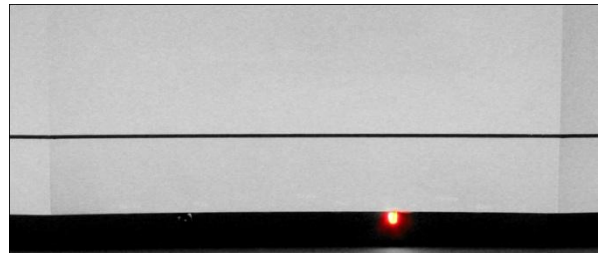
SOLID RED: Standby mode. Preamp is powered down but ready to use.

FLASHING RED: Cool-down mode. Preamp is powered off but cooling down. The power button cannot be used in this mode. This mode lasts 1 minute.

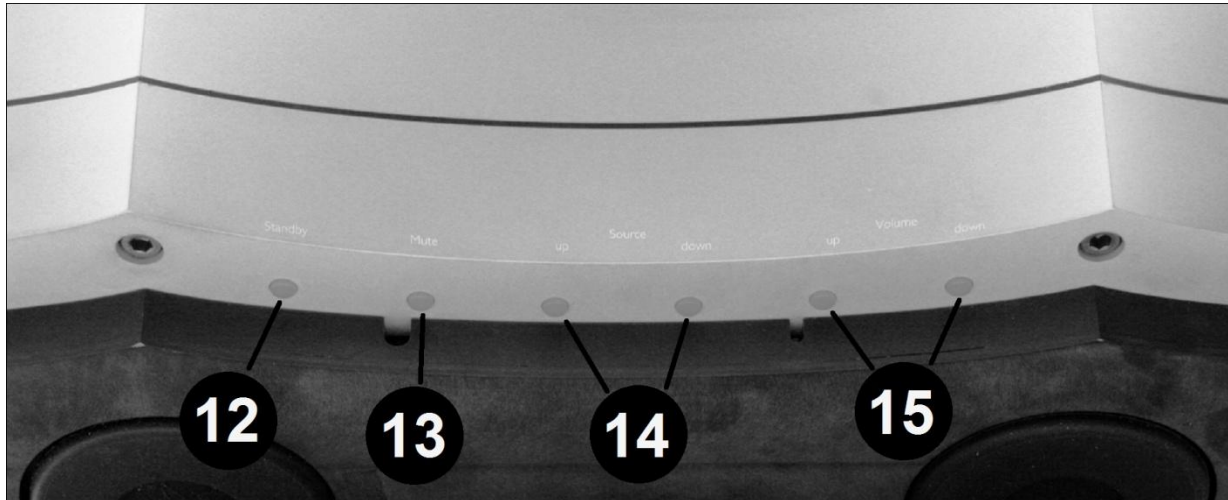
FLASHING GREEN: Warm-up mode. Preamp power is on but preamp is warming up and cannot be used. This mode lasts 1 minute.

SOLID BLUE: On mode. Preamp power is on and the preamplifier is fully functional.

FLASHING BLUE: Mute mode. Preamp is powered but will produce no sound.



Front panel buttons



Underneath the front panel are six buttons that allow you to control the Altair without the Pyxis remote. From left to right they are:

12. Standby

Pressing the Standby button while the unit is off will awaken the Altair. The LED will flash green for 1 minute while the unit warms up. While warming up the Altair will not respond to other commands. Once the Altair is ready for use, the LED will flash blue indicating Mute mode. Pressing the Standby button again will place the Altair into a powered-down standby mode. The LED status indicator will flash red while powering down, then turn a solid red when fully powered down. The Altair is still capable of being turned on via the remote in this state.

13. Mute

The Altair always defaults to mute mode when first powered on. Press this to start listening. The LED will stop flashing and remain solid blue. Press again to silence the audio.

14. Source up and source down

These buttons cycle through the eight sources.

15. Volume up and volume down

Press Up for more volume, Down for less.



Pyxis remote control

The wireless Pyxis remote control is the easiest way to control the Altair preamp and other Constellation Audio products. Other Constellation Audio Hercules products can also be controlled by the Pyxis, as can products by other manufacturers.

1. Installation

Pulsar RF hub

Before the Pyxis remote can be set up, the Pulsar RF hub must be installed. The RF hub lets up to four Constellation Audio products talk wirelessly to the Pyxis remote control. The may be placed horizontally or placed on the supplied stand so it stands vertically. Double-stick adhesive is supplied to attach the Pulsar RF hub to its stand.

A standard Cat-6 cable transmits data between the Pulsar RF hub and the Altair preamp. Connect the Altair to the port nearest the 3.5mm minijack on the Pulsar (the top port shown in the photo). Connect other Constellation Audio components to the 2nd, 3rd and bottom ports in order.

The Pulsar RF hub also requires a power supply connection, which can be provided from the DC output of the Altair power supply. A jack for an IR emitter is also supplied; contact your Constellation Audio dealer for questions concerning use of this feature.



For best results, place the Pulsar RF hub away from metal objects. Range of the Pulsar RF hub is up to 50 feet, but this range may be affected by the position and orientation of the hub. If the Pyxis remote works reliably, there is no need to be concerned about the range. If you experience inconsistent operation—i.e., if pushing a button on the Pyxis sometimes doesn't cause the components to respond—try turning the Pulsar RF hub in another direction or moving it to a different location.

Dock

The Pyxis has built-in lithium-polymer-ion rechargeable batteries, which charge automatically when the unit is placed in its dock. There will be very little energy in the batteries when the Pyxis is first removed from its box. At least 6 hours of recharging is recommended before use. The Pyxis will work when situated in its charger.

Depending on the environment and placement of the Pulsar RF hub, the Pyxis should have a range of 35-50 feet.

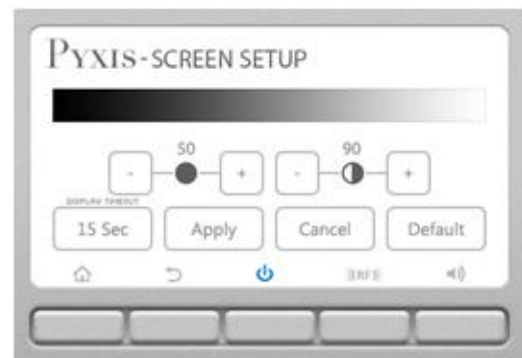
2. Pyxis basic configuration

The Pyxis remote has several settings, accessed by pressing Setup on the main page menu.

Screen setup

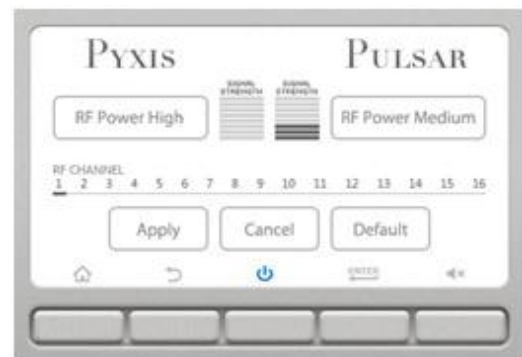
The Display Timeout onscreen button adjusts how long the backlight on the Pyxis will stay lit after the last button push or screen input. Tap this button to change the timeout setting, then tap the Apply button to save the setting. Be aware that longer timeout settings drain the battery faster.

Contrast and Brightness of the Pyxis screen are preset at the factory for optimum viewing. The Contrast and Brightness adjustments provided on this screen are for factory use and are not user-adjustable.



RF setup

The wireless systems on the Pyxis and Pulsar are factory preset for optimum performance. The settings provided on this screen are for factory use only. In the unlikely event that communication dropouts happen, contact your Constellation Audio dealer.



3. Pyxis hard controls

The Pyxis has five hard buttons along the bottom (as seen in the pictures above) as well as left and right control knobs. Button functions are described by the icons above them. From left to right the controls are:

Left knob: Adjusts left/right balance

Home: Returns the user to the screen shown here

Return: Goes back the previous screen

Standby: Places the current component into Standby mode

Multi-use button: Function changes on each screen; the icon above it describes the current function

Mute: Toggles between mute and unmute modes

Right knob: Adjusts volume

4. Powering up the system from the Pyxis

When the system is turned off, touch the Pyxis screen to bring up the Home screen. This screen will show onscreen buttons with the names of the Constellation Audio components that are connected to the Pulsar RF Hub. If you are not using Hercules amplifiers, the Hercules button will appear in light gray instead of red.

Touch the Altair onscreen button. This will take you to the Altair input selection screen. Hit the Standby hard button under the red power status indicator. The indicator will turn green and the green LED on the front of the Altair will begin flashing to indicate the unit is in its 1-minute warm-up mode.

Now hit the Home hard button on the far left. If you are using Hercules power amplifiers, touch the Hercules button to take you to the Hercules power screen. If you are not using Hercules amplifiers, wait until the Altair has completed its power cycle before turning your amps on.

To power-up the Hercules amplifiers, tap each of the onscreen Power buttons.



The components will go through a warm-up cycle lasting 1 minute. At the end of this cycle the onscreen buttons for the components should turn blue. If the Hercules button instead turns yellow, either one of the Hercules amplifiers has not been switched on or its AC power has been disconnected. To correct the problem, return to the Hercules power screen by tapping the onscreen Hercules button.

Note also that when Altair is powered-up, the volume level display in decibels (dB) appears on the Pyxis screen.

When the components are warmed up and ready for operation, the onscreen buttons for Altair and Hercules are both blue, the system is warmed up and ready to play. However, you will hear no sound in this mode because the units are muted. You can tell when the system is in mute mode because the small speaker icon in the lower right corner of the screen has an X next to it.

Check to make sure the volume is not turned up high, then touch the mute button (the hard button on the far right). The X will disappear, replaced by two curved lines. The system is now operational.

If you are using Hercules amplifiers, be especially mindful to set the volume low before you take the system off mute. If your source device is emitting a high-level audio signal and the volume is turned up to full, the extremely high power output of the Hercules amplifiers can damage your speakers.



5. Normal operation using the Pyxis

The Home screen (accessible by touching the hard button at far left below the Home icon) shows the volume level in decibels (dB) and the Constellation Audio components that are connected to the Pulsar RF Hub.

Touch the Altair onscreen button to go into the Altair control screens.

The first screen you will see is the input selection screen. Pressing any input button, such as XLR-1, switches to that input and brings up the display screen for that input.

The display you will see now shows the name of the input and the volume labels in decibels. This is the normal operating screen. You can now adjust the volume using the right knob on the Pyxis, and left/right balance using the left knob.

6. Powering down

To turn off the Altair and other Constellation Audio products connected to the Pulsar RF Hub, touch the Home button (the far left hard button below the screen). Hit the Altair button, which will bring you to the Altair input selector screen. Now hit Standby, the center hard button below the screen. The front LED on the Altair will flash red, showing it is in cool-down mode.

To turn the Hercules amplifiers off from the Pyxis, hit the Hercules button on the home screen, then touch the onscreen Power button for each amplifier. When the system is powered down, the volume display will disappear and the onscreen Altair and Hercules buttons will turn red.



Step-by-step operating process for the Altair

Although we've covered all of these steps already in the manual, we thought it would be helpful to have the operating steps listed in order. The following steps will lead you through turning the unit on, listening to a source, and turning it off.

STEP 1: To turn on the Altair from the front panel, push the Standby button at left under the front panel face. You will hear the Altair's internal relays click and see the front LED begin flashing green, indicating the Altair is in warm-up mode. If you are using Hercules amplifiers and wish to turn them on from their front panels, press the power switch on the front of each one. It will begin flashing green.

If you prefer to turn on the system using the Pyxis remote, touch the screen on the Pyxis to activate its display. To turn on the Altair, touch the Altair onscreen button. Now touch the Standby hard button at bottom center. The Altair will click as it turns on and the front LED will go from solid red to flashing green for 1 minute. If you have Hercules amplifiers, turn them on by hitting the Home hard button at bottom left on the Pyxis, then hit the Hercules button. When the Hercules power screen comes up, touch the onscreen Power button for each amplifier. Now touch the Home hard button again.

After 1 minute, the front LED will change to flashing blue, indicating mute mode. The Altair and Hercules buttons on the Pyxis will turn blue. Note that an X appears next to the speaker icon in the lower right corner of the Pyxis screen.

STEP 2: Select the desired input. Enable playback on the chosen source device.

STEP 3: Press the Mute button on the Pyxis or the Altair front panel. The LED will now stop flashing and glow solid blue. Two curved lines will appear next to the speaker icon in the lower right corner of the Pyxis screen. Adjust listening volume with control knobs on Pyxis or the front panel volume buttons. Note that the volume steps are in 0.1 dB increments from 0 dB (maximum volume) down to -30 dB; in 0.5 dB increments from -31.5 dB to -60 dB; and in 1 dB increments from -61 dB to -90 dB.

STEP 4: Enjoy your listening!

STEP 5: Unless you have deactivated the timeout on the Pyxis screen, the screen will go blank after a certain amount of time. Touch anywhere on the screen to activate the display and backlight. Touch the Standby hard button below the screen to turn the display off again.

STEP 6: To turn the system off, stop playback on the source device. If you prefer to use the front panel controls, press the Standby button on the Altair and the power buttons on the fronts of the Hercules amplifiers. The LED indicators on all of the components will flash red for 1 minute, indicating they are in cool-down mode.

To turn the system off from the Pyxis, press the Home hard button below the screen at the left. Press the Altair onscreen button, then press the Standby hard button below the screen in the center. The LED on the Altair will flash red for 1 minute to show it is in cool-down mode. Now hit the Home button again and touch the onscreen Hercules button. When the Hercules power screen appears, touch both Power buttons. The LEDs on the Hercules amps will flash red for 1 minute to show they are in cool-down mode. When the cool-down cycles are completed, the LEDs will stop flashing and become solid red.

STEP 7: Replace the Pyxis on its base if it needs charging.

Maintenance

The Altair 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 panel LED is illuminated red. If it is not, try the following steps in order. If any one of the steps restores the power, there is no need to continue to the next steps.

- A. Check power cable connections between the wall and the Altair's power supply.
- B. Check power cables between Altair and power supply. DO NOT pull out these cables while the power supply is on.
- C. Make sure the master power switch on the lower right rear of the preamplifier's power supply is turned on.
- D. If the Altair 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's internal circuit breaker.
- G. Check the circuit breaker for the AC circuit that the Altair 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's internal fuses is blown. Do not attempt to change the fuse yourself—the Altair requires the use of special high-voltage fuses that are not commonly available. Contact your Constellation Audio dealer for service.

2. If the front panel LED is illuminated red, push the Standby button on the left of the front panel. The LED should begin to flash green. If it does, wait for 1 minute for the preamplifier to warm up. When the LED turns blue, the preamplifier is ready to use but in Mute mode. You will need to press the Mute button on the Pyxis remote or on the front panel to hear audio.

If the front LED glows red but does not change color when you push Standby, contact your Constellation Audio dealer.

Preamplifier is on but no sound is produced

1. Make sure the front LED is glowing blue, indicating that the preamp is in active mode. If the LED is glowing red, push the Standby button and wait 1 minute for the amp to warm up and the LED to glow blue.

2. If the LED is flashing blue, the preamplifier is in mute mode. Hit the Mute button on the front panel or on the Pyxis remote to restore sound.

3. If the LED is glowing solid blue and you hear no audio, 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 panel controls, or select the desired input using the Pyxis 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 and your amp, and between the Altair 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 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.

Pyxis remote is asking for a Product Activation Code

This will normally be entered by your Constellation Audio dealer. If your Altair preamp is asking you for the code and your dealer cannot supply you with one, please contact Constellation Audio.

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, and the Altair and your amp. Make sure left-channel cables are connected to the left channels of the Altair 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 (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, 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.
2. Check that the cables to the amp are on the correct channels. The XLR outputs on the back of the Altair, from left to right, are 1, 2, Rec, Rec, 2, 1.

Pyxis screen is blank

1. Touch anywhere on the screen. If the display and backlight are not activated, the rechargeable battery is likely depleted. Place the Pyxis back on its recharger base. The Pyxis can be used while in its base. A full recharge will take several hours.
2. If the Pyxis still doesn't work while in its base, check that the recharger base is plugged into an active AC outlet.
3. If these steps do not revive the Pyxis, please contact your Constellation Audio dealer.

Pyxis seems to work, but doesn't control anything

1. Check that the power cable for the Pulsar RF hub is plugged into the DC output jack of the Altair power supply, and plugged into the desired components via Cat-6 cable.
2. Try unplugging the Pulsar RF Hub's power cable, letting it sit for 30 seconds, then plugging it back in.

For more information

Your Altair 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

