PRE32
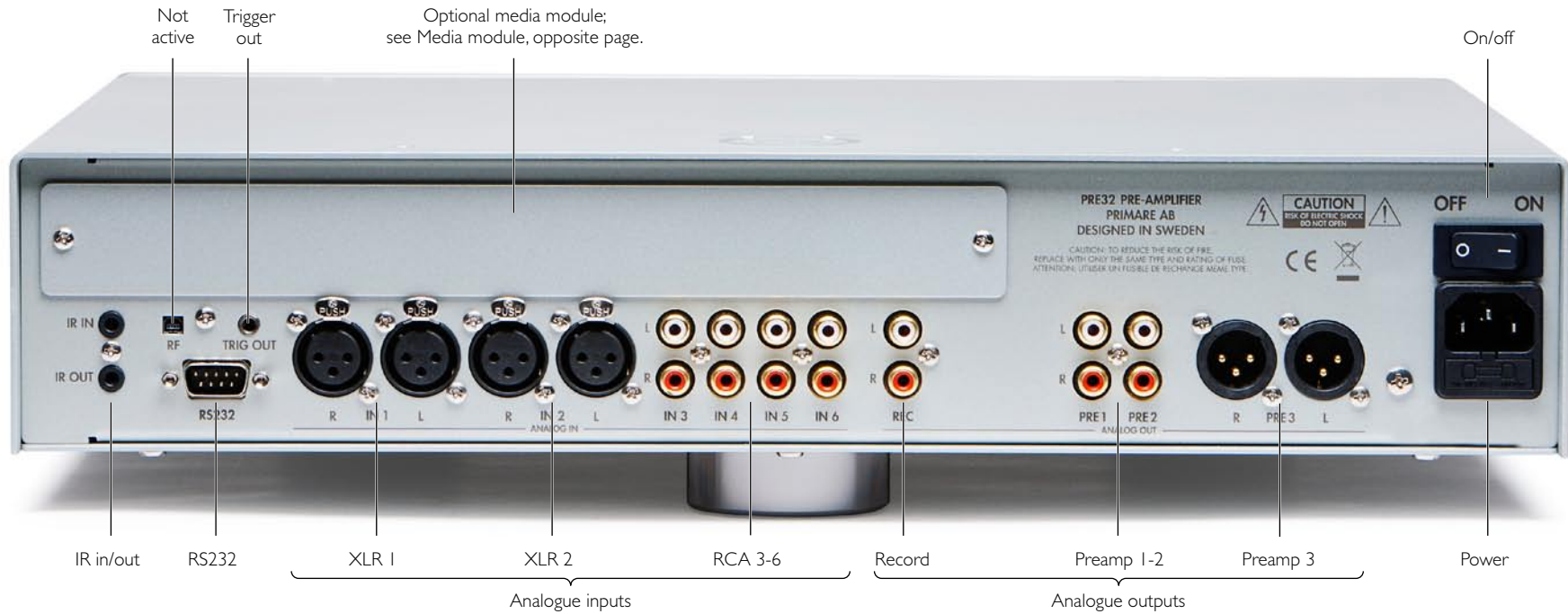
AUDIOPHILE
PREAMPLIFIER

WELCOME!

Welcome to the Primare PRE32! Your PRE32 is a high-quality audiophile preamplifier, designed as the ideal centrepiece of a home hi-fi system.

Not active | Trigger out | Optional media module; see Media module, opposite page. | On/off

IR IN | RF | TRIG OUT

IR OUT | RS232

PRE32 PRE-AMPLIFIER
PRIMARE AB
DESIGNED IN SWEDEN

OFF | ON

IR in/out | RS232 | XLR 1 | XLR 2 | RCA 3-6 | Record | Preamp 1-2 | Preamp 3 | Power

Analogue inputs | Analogue outputs

GETTING STARTED

Set up your PRE32 in four simple steps:

1 UNPACK THE PRE32

Your PRE32 is supplied with the following components:

- Mains cable.
- Trigger cable.
- C23 remote control.
- Two batteries for the remote control.

If any of these items are missing please contact your supplier. We recommend you retain the packaging in case you need to transport the unit at a later date.

2 CONNECT TO A POWER AMPLIFIER

The PRE32 is designed to be connected to a power amplifier with either balanced or unbalanced inputs.

- If the power amplifier provides balanced inputs, such as the Primare A34.2, connect the PRE3 L and R outputs from the PRE32 to the L and R balanced inputs in the power amplifier, using high quality XLR cables.
- If the power amplifier only provides unbalanced inputs, connect the PRE1 (or PRE2) L and R outputs from the PRE32 to the L and R inputs on the power amplifier, using high quality RCA cables.

3 CONNECT INPUTS

You can connect up to two balanced sources and up to three unbalanced sources to the analogue inputs on the back panel.

Balanced inputs
- Connect the balanced inputs IN1 and IN2 to balanced sources, such as a Primare CD32 CD player, using high quality XLR cables.

Unbalanced inputs
- Connect the unbalanced inputs IN3, IN4, IN5, and IN6 to unbalanced sources, using high quality RCA cables.

Media module
Additional inputs are provided by the optional media module. This offers streaming of files from the Internet, NAS, or PCs; Internet radio content; and digital audio input from devices including CD players, smart phones, personal players, and satellite boxes.

For more information see the documentation supplied with the upgrade.

4 CONNECT POWER

- Plug one end of the mains cable supplied with the PRE32 into the power connector on the back panel, and connect the other end to a wall socket.

If this cable is not suitable for your power outlets please contact your supplier for an alternative cable.

Note: See *Phase*, page 8, for information about getting the best sound from your PRE32.

⚠️ **WARNING:** Always disconnect the PRE32 from the mains power before connecting or disconnecting any cables.

- Switch on the PRE32, using the switch on the back panel.

The standby indicator will light up on the front panel.

To switch on from standby
- Press ⏻ on the front panel or remote control.

The display shows:

> **PRIMARE**

followed by the currently selected source and volume setting.

Press ⏻ again to switch to standby.

USING THE PRE32

This page explains how to operate your PRE32, using the functions available from the front panel or C23 remote control.

FRONT PANEL CONTROLS

Volume
Changes the volume.

Standby ⏻
Switches the PRE32 to standby, or switches it on from standby.

Menu ▤
Press and hold to display the settings menu.

Select ↵
In the settings menu: Edits a setting.

Cancel ↶
In the settings menu: Cancels editing a setting, or saves an alias.

Selector
Selects an input.

In general settings: Selects a setting.

SELECTING A SOURCE

The PRE32 provides a choice of six inputs. Initially these are labelled IN1 to IN6, but you can give them your own aliases to suit the sources in your system; see *To give an alias to a source*, page 6.

To select a source
● Turn the SELECTOR until the source is indicated on the front panel display; for example:

> **IN2**

● Alternatively, press the ▲ or ▼ buttons on the remote control to step between sources, or press one of the buttons **1** to **6** on the remote control to select the corresponding source directly.

CHANGING THE VOLUME

The PRE32 allows you to vary the volume from 0 (silence) to 99 (maximum).

To change the volume
● Rotate the VOLUME control on the front panel, or press the **+** or **–** buttons (or the ◀ or ▶ buttons) on the remote control.

The current volume setting is shown on the front panel; for example:

> VOL**28**

CHANGING THE DISPLAY BRIGHTNESS

To change the front panel display brightness
● Press the **DIM** button on the remote control to step through the three levels of illumination and blank.

The display auto-dims after a few seconds and returns to the selected brightness when you operate any control.

CHANGING THE BALANCE

You can change the balance of the sound between the left and right channels to shift the position of the stereo image.

To change the balance
● Press the **BAL/ST** button on the remote control.

The front panel display shows the current balance setting, where **00LR-9** corresponds to the leftmost position, **00LR00** corresponds to centre, and **-9LR00** corresponds to the rightmost position.
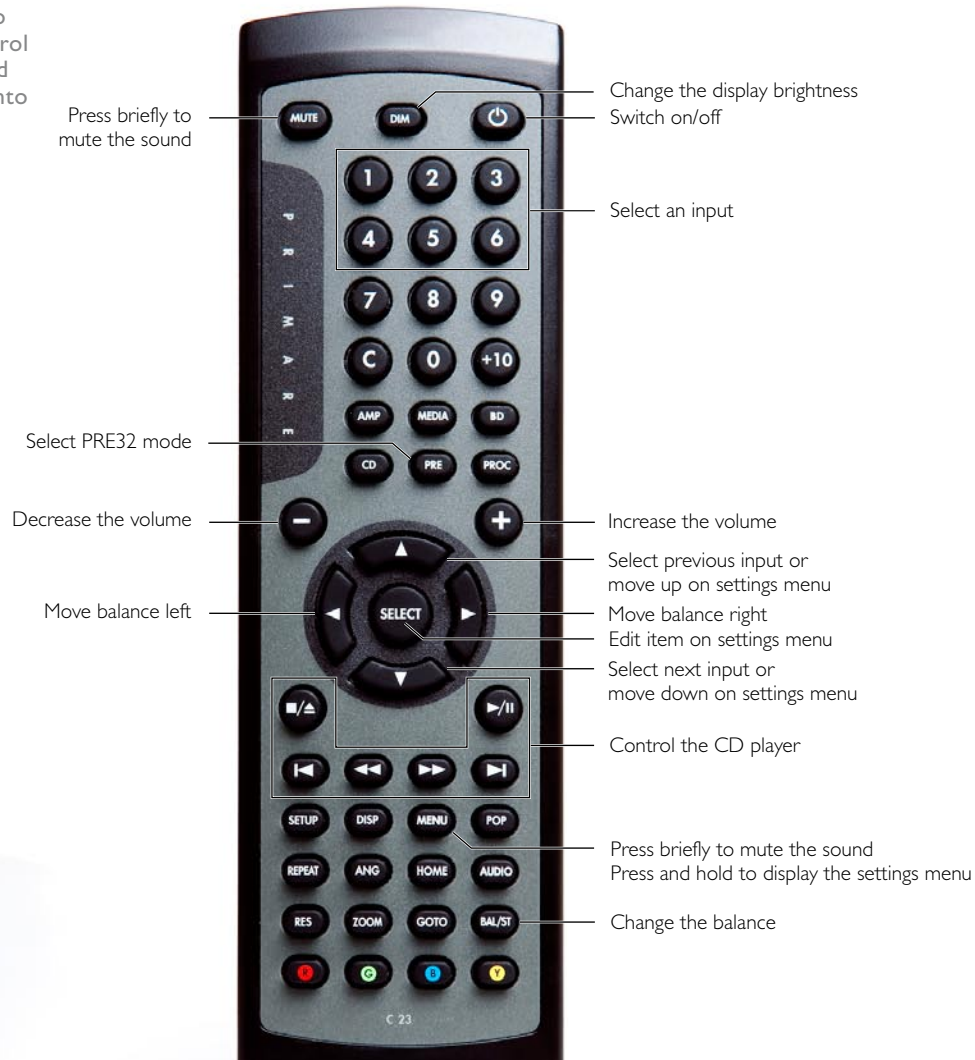
● Rotate the VOLUME control on the front panel, or press the ◀ or ▶ buttons on the remote control.

The current balance setting is shown on the front panel; for example:
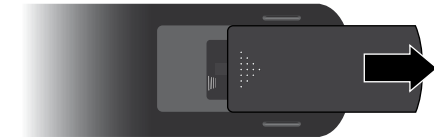
> **-7LR00**

USING THE REMOTE CONTROL

This page explains how to use the C23 remote control to operate the PRE32, and how to fit the batteries into the remote control.
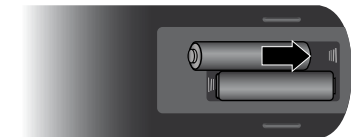
Press briefly to mute the sound

Change the display brightness
Switch on/off

Select an input

Select PRE32 mode

Decrease the volume

Increase the volume

Select previous input or move up on settings menu

Move balance left

Move balance right
Edit item on settings menu

Select next input or move down on settings menu

Control the CD player

Press briefly to mute the sound
Press and hold to display the settings menu

Change the balance

FITTING THE BATTERIES

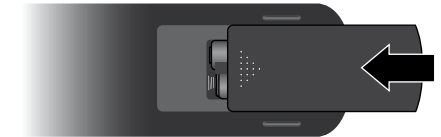Before using the remote control you need to insert the two AAA batteries supplied with the C23.

● Gently slide open the cover on the back of the remote control:

● Insert the two batteries, observing the polarity printed on the bottom of battery compartment:

● Slide back the cover until it clips into place:

⚠ **Note:** Replace only with alkaline batteries type AAA, LR03, or equivalent.

When disposing of old batteries please be considerate to the environment.
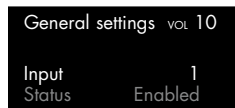
CONFIGURING THE SETTINGS

The PRE32 includes a General settings menu that allows you to customise the inputs to suit the sources in your system. It also allows you to configure general aspects of the PRE32's operation.

USING THE SETTINGS MENU

To display the settings menu
- Hold down the ▤ button on the front panel, or press and hold the **MENU** button on the remote control.
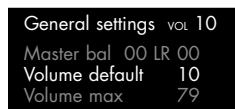
The settings menu is displayed:

> General settings VOL 10
>
> Input   1
> Status   Enabled

To step between settings
- Turn the SELECTOR control on the front panel, or press the ▲ or ▼ buttons on the remote control.

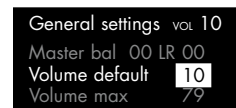The current setting is shown highlighted:

> General settings VOL 10
>
> Master bal 00 LR 00
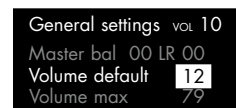> Volume default   10
> Volume max   79

To change a setting
- Press the ↵ button on the front panel, or the **SELECT** button on the remote control.

The current value is shown highlighted:

> General settings VOL 10
>
> Master bal 00 LR 00
> Volume default   10
> Volume max   79

- Turn the SELECTOR control on the front panel, or press the ▲ or ▼ buttons on the remote control, to change the value of the setting.

As you change it the new value is shown in the menu:

> General settings VOL 10
>
> Master bal 00 LR 00
> Volume default   12
> Volume max   79

- Press the ↵ button on the front panel, or the **SELECT** button on the remote control to save the value you have set.
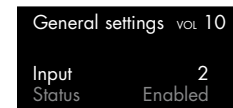
To exit from the settings menu
- Hold down the ▤ button on the front panel, or press the **MENU** button on the remote control.

CUSTOMISING INPUTS

The first four items on the settings menu allow you to customise the five inputs to suit the sources in your system.

To select a source
Set the **Input** setting to the number of the input you want to customise:

> General settings VOL 10
>
> Input   2
> Status   Enabled

The following items then allow you to customise the settings for that source:

Status can be changed to **Disabled** to remove the source from the sources you can select.

Alias allows you to give a name of up to six letters or digits to each source; see next section.
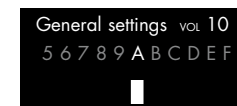
Source bal allows you to customise the balance for the source, from 0 to -9 in either direction.

Source offset allows you the adjust the relative volume of the source, between +10 and -10.

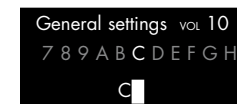## To give an alias to a source
- Highlight the **Alias** item, then press the ↵ button on the front panel, or press the **SELECT** button on the remote control.
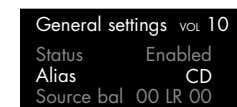
The alias editor is displayed:

> General settings VOL 10
>
> 5 6 7 8 9 A B C D E F
>   ▮

- Turn the SELECTOR control on the front panel, or the ◀ or ▶ buttons on the remote control, to select the first letter.
- Press the ↵ button on the front panel, or the **SELECT** button on the remote control, to select it:

> General settings VOL 10
>
> 7 8 9 A B C D E F G H
>   C▮

- Repeat for the remaining letters.
- Press the ☏ button on the front panel.

The source will be displayed with your alias:

> General settings VOL 10
>
> Status   Enabled
> Alias   CD
> Source bal 00 LR 00

6

CUSTOMISING THE VOLUME AND BALANCE

The settings menu also allows you to customise the start-up volume and balance, set when you turn the PRE32 on from standby, and the maximum volume.

To set the start-up volume
Set the **Volume default** setting to the volume you want to use:

> General settings VOL 10
> Master bal 00 LR 00
> **Volume default   25**
> Volume max   79

To set the start-up balance
Set the **Master bal** setting to the balance you want to use:

> General settings VOL 10
> Source offset   0
> **Master   00 LR 00**
> Volume default   10

To set the maximum volume

Set the **Volume max** setting to the highest volume you want to allow:

> General settings VOL 10
> Volume default   10
> **Volume max   60**
> Input6   Normal

SETTING INPUT 6 TO FIXED LEVEL

Input 6 can be configured to provide high-quality amplification of the main channels of a surround-sound processor, with volume control provided by the processor.

Note: This will give full-volume output.

● Configure the **Input6** option on the settings menu to **SSP**.

> General settings VOL 10
> Volume max   79
> **Input6   SSP**
> IR input   Front

SETTING THE IR INPUT

● Set the **IR input** to **Front** to control the PRE32 using a remote control pointed at the front panel, or **Back** to control it via the IR-input on the back panel:

> General settings VOL 10
> Input6   Normal
> **IR input   Front**
> Factory DF   Reset

After setting it to **Back** you can reset it to **Front** by operating the settings menu from the front panel controls.

RESETTING THE PRE32

You can reset the PRE32 to the factory default settings.

Warning: this will reset any source settings and aliases you have defined.

To reset to the factory default settings
● Highlight the **Factory DF** item and press the ↵ button on the front panel, or the **SELECT** button on the remote control, to select it.

You will be prompted:

> General settings VOL 10
> Confirm factory DF
> Yes   No

● Turn the SELECTOR control on the front panel, or press the ▼ button on the remote control, to highlight **Yes**.

● Press the ↵ button on the front panel, or the **SELECT** button on the remote control, to proceed and reset the PRE32.

Alternatively, if you choose not to reset, highlight **No** and press the ↵ button on the front panel, or the **SELECT** button on the remote control, to select it.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

The PRE32 provides superb reproduction with very low distortion, and an ecologically-friendly low standby power.

FEATURES

The PRE32 provides an optional Media I/O module which allows you to connect digital sources, including PCs and Internet radio.

ANALOGUE INPUTS

Balanced inputs
2 pair XLR, 15kΩ impedance.

Unbalanced inputs
4 pair RCA, 15kΩ impedance.

ANALOGUE OUTPUTS

Balanced preamplifier output
1 pair XLR, 110Ω impedance.

Unbalanced preamplifier output
2 pair RCA, 110Ω impedance.

Record output
1 pair RCA, 110Ω impedance.

PERFORMANCE

Gain
16dB

Frequency response
20Hz – 100kHz, -3dB

THD
<0.003%, 20Hz – 100kHz, 0dB gain

Signal to noise ratio
-115 dBv

GENERAL

Control
12V trigger input and output
1 × RS232
IR input and output
RF

Power consumption
Standby: 0.2W
Operating: 23W

Size
430 × 385 × 105mm (WxDxH)
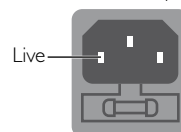
Weight
10.5kg

Colour
Black or titanium

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

These instructions help you get the best possible sound from your PRE32, and give information about using it with an A34.2 and CD32.

PHASE

The phase of the AC supply can make a significant difference to the sound.

Ensure that the live pin of the AC power cable is connected to the left-hand pin of the power connector, viewed from the back panel:

Live

BURN-IN

Your Primare will sound best after an initial burn-in of approximately 48 hours.

You will notice a further smaller improvement in sound quality for at least another 3 days' playing.

RS232 AND TRIGGER

The RS232 input allows you to connect the PRE32 to a controller system. For more information please contact Primare or visit www.primare.net.

The Trigger output allows the PRE32 to switch on other devices, such as a CD32.

USING THE PRE32 WITH AN A34.2 & CD32

Your PRE32 is an ideal companion to the A34.2 Power Amplifier and Primare CD32 CD Player. For best results link the three products together as follows using the trigger cables supplied with the A34.2 and PRE32:

To link the CD32 and PRE32
Linking the CD32 and PRE32 ensures that the CD32 switches on, or to standby, in sync with the rest of the system.

- Connect the Trigger cable from the PRE32 TRIG OUT to the CD32 TRIG IN.

- Configure the CD32 to **TRIG ON**.

Refer to the *CD32 User Guide* for details of how to configure the **TRIG ON** setting.

To link the CD32 and A34.2
Linking the CD32 and A34.2 ensures that the A34.2 switches on, or to standby, in sync with the rest of the system..

- Connect the Trigger cable from the CD32 TRIG OUT to the A34.2 TRIG IN.

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Issue: PRE32/1

The information in this guide is believed to be correct as of the date of publication. However, our policy is one of continuous development and so the information is subject to change without notice, and does not represent a commitment on the part of Primare AB.

Primare is a trademark of Primare AB.

This guide was produced by
Human-Computer Interface Ltd.
http://www.interface.co.uk

Safety compliance
This product has been designed to meet the IEC 60065 international electrical safety standard.

CAUTION
RISK OF ELECTRIC SHOCK DO NOT OPEN

ATTENTION
RISQUE DE CHOC ELECTRIQUE NE PAS OUVRIR

CAUTION: To reduce the risk of electrical shock do not remove cover (or back). No user serviceable parts inside. Refer servicing to qualified service personnel.

WARNING: To reduce the risk of fire or electrical shock, do not expose this apparatus to rain or moisture.

CAUTION: In Canada and the USA, to prevent electric shock, match the wide blade of the plug to the wide slot in the socket and insert the plug fully into the socket.

This product is designed and manufactured to meet strict quality and safety standards. However, you should be aware of the following installation and operation precautions.

1. Take heed of warnings & instructions
You should read all the safety and operating instructions before operating this appliance. Retain this handbook for future reference and adhere to all warnings in the handbook or on the appliance.

2. Water and moisture
The presence of electricity near water can be dangerous. Do not use the appliance near water – for example next to a bathtub, washbowl, kitchen sink, in a wet basement or near a swimming pool, etc.

3. Object or liquid entry
Take care that objects do not fall and liquids are not spilled into the enclosure through any openings. Liquid-filled objects such as vases should not be placed on the equipment.

4. Ventilation
Do not place the equipment on a bed, sofa, rug or similar soft surface, or in an enclosed bookcase or cabinet, since ventilation may be impeded. We recommend a minimum distance of 50mm around the sides and top of the appliance to provide adequate ventilation.

The lightning flash with an arrowhead symbol 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 electric shock to persons.

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

5. Heat
Locate the appliance away from naked flames or heat producing equipment such as radiators, stoves or other appliances (including other amplifiers) that produce heat.

6. Climate
The appliance has been designed for use in moderate climates.

7. Racks and stands
Only use a rack or stand that is recommended for use with audio equipment. If the equipment is on a portable rack it should be moved with great care, to avoid overturning the combination.

8. Cleaning
Unplug the unit from the mains supply before cleaning.

The case should normally only require a wipe with a soft, damp, lint-free cloth. Do not use paint thinners or other chemical solvents for cleaning.

We do not advise the use of furniture cleaning sprays or polishes as they can cause indelible white marks if the unit is subsequently wiped with a damp cloth.

9. Power sources
This appliance must be connected to a mains socket outlet using the supplied power cord. To disconnect this apparatus from power, you must disconnect the power cord. Make sure the power cord is always easily accessible.

Only connect the appliance to a power supply of the type described in the operating instructions or as marked on the appliance.

This is a Class 1 device and **must** be earthed.

The power switch is a single-pole switch. When the switch is in the "Off" position, the appliance is not completely disconnected from the main power.

10. Power-cord protection
Power supply cords should be routed so that they are not likely to be walked on or pinched by items placed upon or against them, paying particular attention to cords and plugs, and the point where they exit from the appliance.

11. Grounding
Ensure that the grounding means of the appliance is not defeated.

12. Power lines
Locate any outdoor antenna/aerial away from power lines.

13. Non-use periods
If the unit has a stand-by function, a small amount of current will continue to flow into the equipment in this mode. Unplug the power cord of the appliance from the outlet if left unused for a long period of time.

14. Abnormal smell
If an abnormal smell or smoke is detected from the appliance, turn the power off immediately and unplug the unit from the wall outlet. Contact your dealer immediately.

15. Servicing
You should not attempt to service the appliance beyond that described in this handbook. All other servicing should be referred to qualified service personnel.
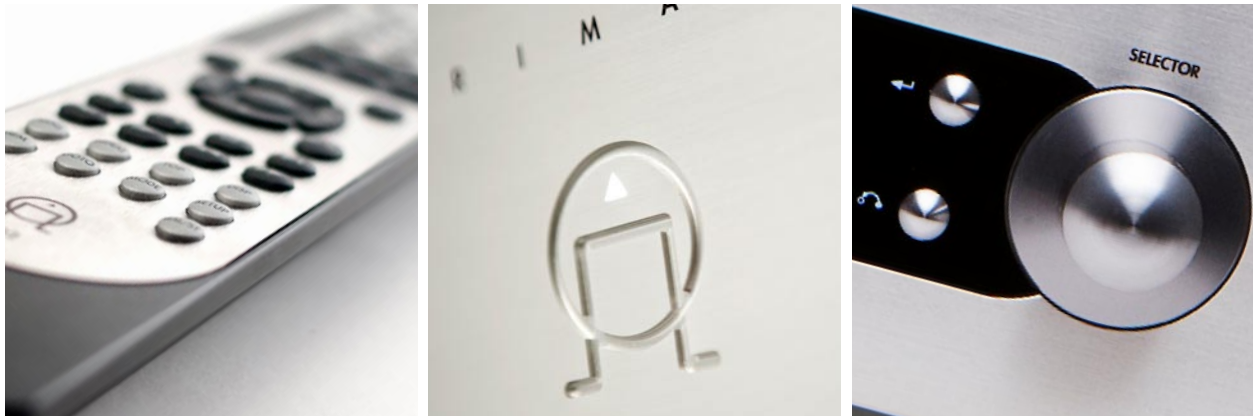
16. Damage requiring service
The appliance should be serviced by qualified service personnel when:

A. the power-supply cord or the plug has been damaged, or
B. objects have fallen, or liquid has spilled into the appliance, or
C. the appliance has been exposed to rain, or
D. the appliance does not appear to operate normally or exhibits a marked change in performance, or
E. the appliance has been dropped or the enclosure damaged.

PLEASE VISIT **PRIMARE.NET** FOR MORE
INFORMATION ABOUT OUR PRODUCTS