

ayon

Vulcan

PSE Triode Mono-Power Amplifier



Owner's Operating Manual

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WARNING

PRECAUTION AND SAFETY

TO PREVENT SHOCK OR FIRE HAZARD DO NOT OPEN THE UNIT OR EXPOSE TO RAIN OR MOISTURE. REFER ALL SERVICE TO AYON AUDIO COMPANY OR AN AYON AUTHORIZED SERVICE FACILITY. THERE ARE NO USER SERVICEABLE PARTS INSIDE THE VULCAN. REFER ALL INTERNAL SERVICE, UPDATES, OR MODIFICATIONS TO QUALIFIED SERVICE PERSONNEL.

HIGH VOLTAGE IS PRESENT INSIDE AN OPERATING VULCAN.

DO NOT REMOVE BOTTOM PLATE OR INSERT ANY OBJECTS THROUGH OPENINGS IN THE CASE.

OPERATING VOLTAGE

The operating voltage is factory set for the destination country and is not user adjustable. Unauthorized attempts to modify the operating voltage may damage the unit and will void the manufacturer warranty.

FUSE

The AC power line fuse is located in a snap-out receptacle on the underside of the power inlet (rear panel). The correct value of Slow-Blow fuse is 5A. Do not replace the fuse with a higher than indicated. Disconnect the power cord before changing fuse. A blown fuse in your unit can be an indication of a serious problem. If a replacement fuse fails as well, no further attempts should be undertaken. Please contact the factory for professional service.

Serial Number:

Voltage:

Distributor:

INTRODUCTION

Thank you for your purchase of the Ayon Vulcan power amplifier. Please read this owner's manual to obtain the full benefit of the Vulcan amplifier in your system. This manual provides you with necessary safety information and operation procedures for this unit. With this amplifier, you have entered into the world of exclusive design which will give you great satisfaction and privilege of enjoying the advanced technology of Ayon Audio products. It is designed to serve as a high standard of truthful real musical performance. The care in engineering and manufacturing of this product anticipates a long time of enjoyment. We also encourage you to enlist the aid of the dealer from whom you purchased this Ayon Vulcan amplifier. Your dealer is an excellent source of information on compatibility, installation, and troubleshooting, and should be capable of helping ensure that your overall music system provides you with maximum performance and satisfaction.

WHY VACUUM TUBES

The output level of studio microphones under typical recording conditions contain peaks far in excess of what VU meters display. Everyone knows that, but the peaks, as measured with an oscilloscope, are really quite high, easily exceeding 1 volt! The tube or transistor used in a condenser microphone, or in a microphone preamplifier, often will be driven into severe overload by these peaks. The peaks are short, so the sound isn't grossly distorted-sounding; but the distorted peaks do affect what we hear. All preamps (and condenser microphone electronics) are overloaded by these peaks, but tubes handle it differently than solid-state devices. When transistors overload (in a discrete circuit or in an OP amp), the dominant distortion product is the third harmonic. The third harmonic "produces a sound many musicians refer to as blanketed". Instead of making the tone fuller, a strong third actually makes the tone thin and hard. On the other hand, with tubes (particularly triodes) the dominant distortion product is the second harmonic: "Musically the second is an octave above the fundamental and is almost inaudible, yet it adds body to the sound, making it fuller". Tubes sound better because their distortion products are more musical. Tubes provide a more appropriate load to transducers. Those are the fundamental reasons why tubes simply sound better.

CAUTION & HANDLING TIPS

1. Always be sure your hands are clean and free of any dirt or oil before carrying your Ayon Vulcan. Carry the amplifier with both hands by gripping its side.
2. Never hold the face plate against your clothing as coarse materials, stitching, belts and the rivets from denim pants can mar the surfaces.
3. Never put any objects directly on top of the unit.
4. Use a soft cloth with non-abrasive cleaning product to clean your amplifier.
5. Gloves or a soft cloth will prevent "fingerprinting" of the tubes during their installation. Do not touch the tubes without the use of a cotton glove or soft cloth.
6. Take care of the precision toggle switch selectors on the rear when moving or transporting the Vulcan.
7. When the unit is on, be careful not to touch the vacuum tubes. Vacuum tubes get HOT.
8. The unit should be put on an adequate ventilated place; The Vulcan gets very warm! Allow clearance of a couple inches in all directions so as to allow air to flow. Do not place the amplifier directly on a carpet or any surface that will block air circulation under the amp.
9. Avoid placing the unit indirect sunlight or near sources of damp.
10. Never touch power plug with wet hands.
11. Disconnect from power before removing bottom plate is mandatory.
12. Please pull out the AC power cord by the plug instead of dragging it.

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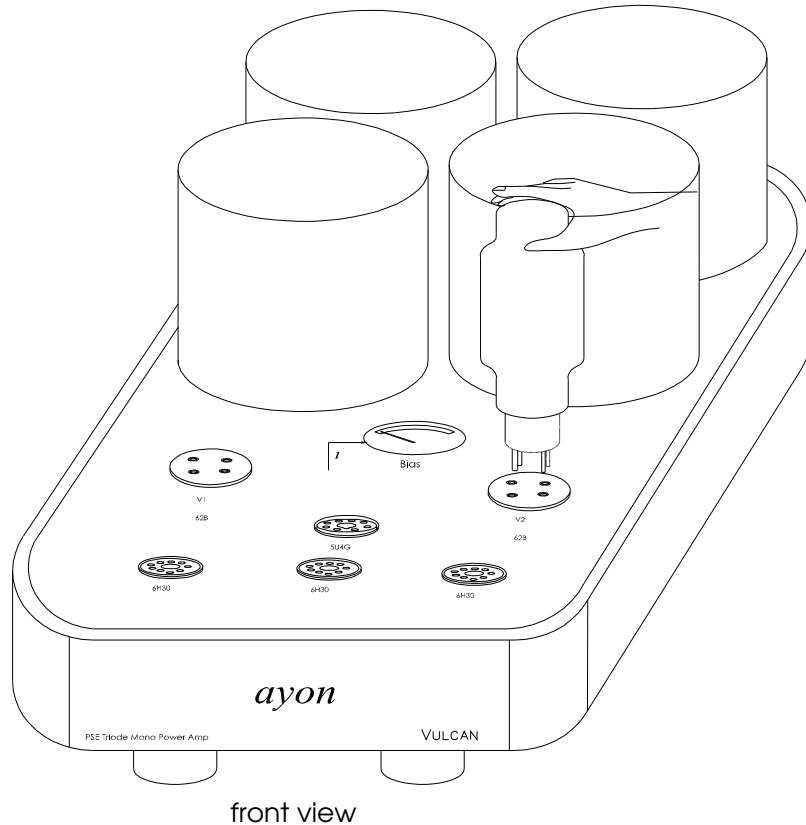
SPECIFICATION

VACUUM TUBES

WARRANTY AND SERVICE

OPEN CARTON - UNPACKING THE VULCAN

To avoid damaging the vacuum tubes please don't turn the cardboard box upside down. Open the box and carefully take out the vacuum tubes and then the amplifier. The amplifier is very heavy!



- (1) red backlit ayon logo
- (2) analog bias meter
- (3) vacuum tube socket – 6H30
- (4) vacuum tube socket – 5U4G
- (5) vacuum power tube – AA62B
- (6) output transformer
- (7) power transformer – high voltage
- (8) power transformer – filament, low voltage

WHAT IS IN THE BOX

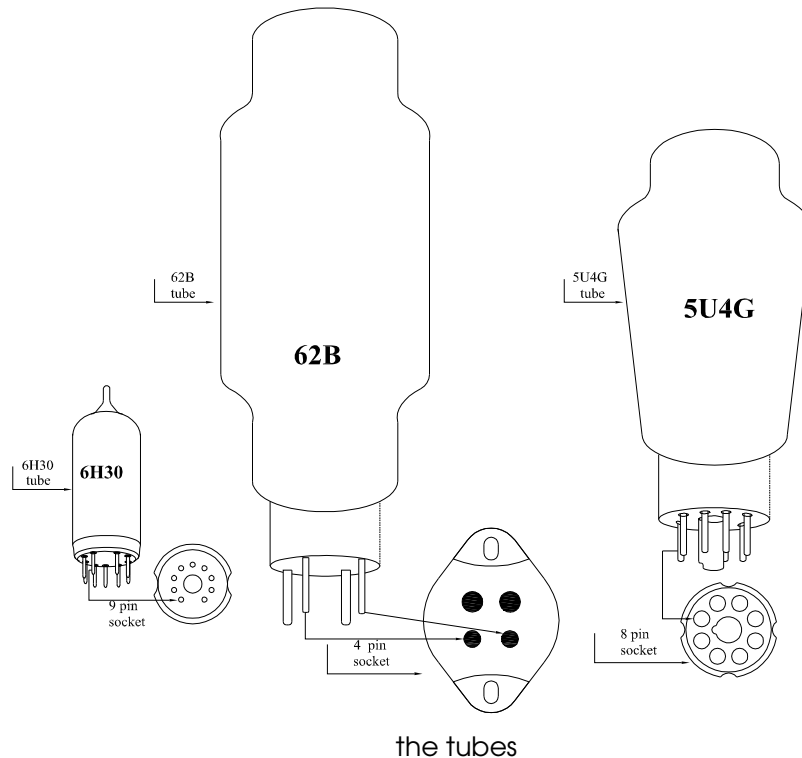
Please confirm that the following accessories for each monoblock are in the box when you open it.

- 2 x AA62B power tubes,
- 3 x 6H30 signal tubes,
- 1 x 5U4G rectifier tube,
- 1 x AC power cord,
- 1 x Owner's operating manual for both monoblock's

OPERATION

1. Installing the vacuum tubes

Please remove the vacuum tubes and the Vulcan from box and place the Vulcan on a firm, level surface. Insert the vacuum tubes in accordance with the designated tube numbers into their relative assigned sockets. **Note:** It is very important to insert the tubes in the correct location. **Important:** Pay close attention to the direction of socket pins. If the direction is wrong and you force the tube, damage to the socket pins will occur. NEVER FORCE A VACUUM TUBE INTO PLACE. Tube should glide right in and have to fit tighten (good pin contact). Ensure that all of the tubes are fully seated in their sockets.



2. Connecting

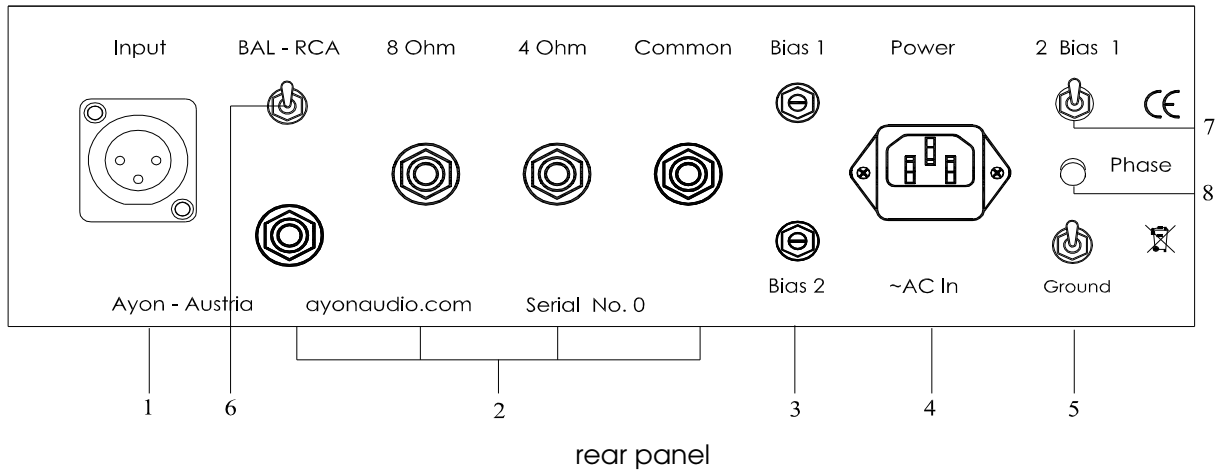
To assure reliable operation always turn the Vulcan OFF while making or changing input or speaker connections. No connections should be made while the amplifier is ON.

Rear panel

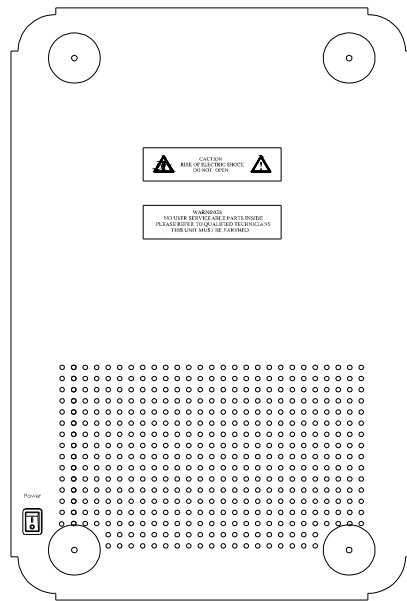
All input and output connectors are clearly marked on the rear panel.

SPEAKER CONNECTION: There are three sets of gold speaker output terminals at the rear panel: common, 4 ohm and 8 ohm. Connect the speaker input terminals to corresponding speaker output terminals at the rear panel according to the impedance of the speaker with high quality audio cord. Pay close attention to proper matching of positive and negative and left and right channels.

INPUT CONNECTION: Select RCA or XLR input to connect your preamp and set toggle switch accordingly.



- (1) input (RCA or XLR)
- (2) speaker output terminal (common, 4 Ohm or 8 Ohm)
- (3) potentiometer for bias adjustment: Bias 1 & Bias 2
- (4) power inlet - with fuse
- (5) ground switch
- (6) toggle switch for RCA or Balanced mode
- (7) bias meter selector (2 Bias 1)
- (8) phase indicating lamp - 230V Schuko only



bottom plate

Note: The power switch (on/off) is located at the front left corner of the bottom plate. Plug the AC power cord into receptacle. Power switch off = "0" - Power switch on = "I".

It is recommended that you do not use a power conditioner or re-generator as it may limit the current available to the amplifier.

Note: When the phase control indicator glows red the Phase polarity is wrong. Reverse the AC plug! (This function applies for 230V and Schuko plug version only)

3. Turn ON procedure

When all sources are connected properly, turn down the volume (preamp) to minimum, switch on the power - the Ayon-logo glows; it will go through a gentle power-on sequence first. Please wait for min. 60 seconds before turning the volume up. After 60 seconds, the unit is operational. Now you can increase the volume.

Follow this procedure each time you turn your Vulcan on.

Some preamplifiers and sources can generate dangerous transients that can damage loudspeakers. To avoid letting dangerous transients reach your loudspeakers turn your system on in the following order:

- 1) Turn on all sources (CD, tuner, etc.) that you will be using.
- 2) Turn on the preamplifier.
- 3) Wait until preamp has stabilized.
- 4) Power up Vulcan mono amplifiers.
- 5) Select listening source and play music.

Note: The Vulcan is using a big power supply with large high voltage capacitor storage, during power ON an electrical capacitor charging noise – hum may be heard especially when the amp was turn off for a while. This is not cause for alarm, it is normal.

4. Turn OFF procedure

When powering down your system, always turn the amplifiers off first.

The unit can be turned off at any time (even while playing).

Important: If the Vulcan was turned OFF even for a short period of time, you should wait at least 2 minutes before turning it back ON.

Do not turn it ON then OFF and then ON again in quick succession.

This precaution will minimize the stress (high voltages) on internal components.

Follow this procedure each time you turn your Vulcan OFF / ON.

5. Security caution in operation

A. Handle the Vulcan with respect, it is heavy.

B. Insert the vacuum tubes in accordance with the designated tube numbers into their relative assigned sockets. **Important:** Pay close attention to the direction of socket pins NEVER FORCE A VACUUM TUBE INTO PLACE. Tube should glide right in. If the direction is wrong and you force the tube, damage to the socket pins will occur.

C. Turn volume control (preamp) down to the minimum position.

Rotate input selector knob (preamp) to the corresponding position for input device connected.

D. Check your speaker connections! DO NOT OPERATE AMPLIFIER WITHOUT INSURING THAT SPEAKERS ARE CONNECTED TO THE AMPLIFIER. DAMAGE WILL OCCUR.

E. Insure that the Ayon logo, located on the front panel of the Vulcan, illuminates.

F. The Vulcan amplifier SHOULD NOT BE LEFT RUNNING WHEN NOT IN USE.

If you will not be listening to the amplifier for more than an hour, it is advised that the amplifier be turned off. Unlike solid state amplifiers, tube amplifiers should be shut down when not being used. This will greatly prolong tube life.

G. It is normal for a vacuum tube equipment to run very warm if used for prolonged periods.

H. Do not use a speaker with impedance lower than 2 ohms on either of the outputs.

I. In case of a hum loop operate the ground switch. If the hum doesn't disappear although you are using the ground switch, please read # 5 "Grounding".

Note: NEVER REMOVE THE BOTTOM PLATE OF THE VULCAN BEFORE UNPLUGGING THE UNIT FROM THE WALL!

6. Grounding

Make sure that Vulcan monoblock's are grounded to your wall ground first.

If there is a hum loop (hum audible from more than a few inches from the loudspeakers) flip the grounded/ungrounded switch. If the hum doesn't disappear then use a two prong plug to "float" one monoblock first and if it is necessary then "float" the second one too.

Due to the amplifier's high power rating, it is important to assure the good quality power line for each channel. If separate circuit outlets are used for left and right channels, it is recommended that both circuits be connected to the same phase of the power line. Otherwise, a high level of hum can be present.

7. Bias adjustment – important!

The output power tubes need to be "biased" with a grid voltage that controls the flow of electrical current through the tube. Tube biasing on the amplifier has been designed to be both simple and effective. The bias is set individually for each tube so that the correct operating point is assured. An added benefit to this approach is that, should a tube fail prematurely, the single tube can be replaced without having to purchase a matched set.

Use the following procedure to set the tube bias:

To adjust bias of tube V1 switch the bias selector to position "Bias 1".

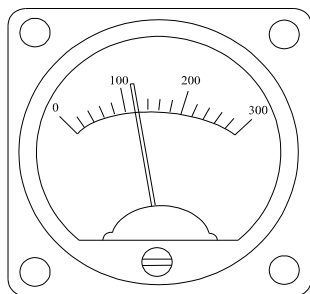
Adjust bias 1 with potentiometer at **120mV**.

To adjust bias of tube V2 switch the bias selector to position "Bias 2".

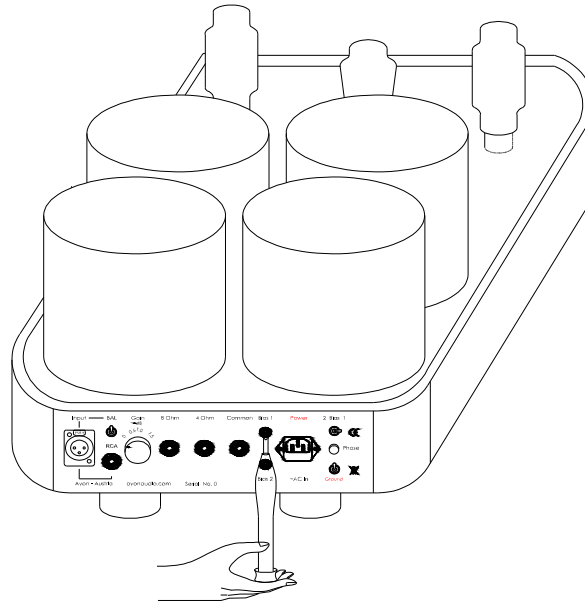
Adjust bias 2 with potentiometer at **120mV**.

Important: Please check the bias voltage several times during the first 20 minutes of warm up and adjust if necessary to the recommended value.

Important notice for new tubes or new amplifier: When using the amplifier for the first time or after any exchange of the AA62B tubes, the bias voltage for the AA62B tubes should be set to around 80mV and the amplifier should be run with this value for some hours to allow for a smooth initial run-in of the tubes. After completion of this "warm up" phase, the bias should be slowly increased towards the optimal value of 120mV.



bias meter



bias adjustment

9. Power tube – protection board

In order to protect the output level to the tubes, this unit is equipped with a special protection power tube circuit to detect over currents and voltages. When an over current or DC-input from the sources is detected or a power tube itself has a problem, the protection circuit will shut off the output tube's current and continue to do so until the power is switched off. The protection circuit may also activate when it is connected to a speaker with lower impedance than allowed, resulting in a large input that creates an over current. When the protection circuit has activated, turn off, wait 2 minutes and then turn the power back on. Should the protection circuit continue to activate even after removing the cause (power tubes, signal tubes or DC input source signal) of the over current, please contact your dealer.

Note: When a large signal is input while a protection circuit is functioning, a slight electrical noise from the current may be heard. This is not cause for alarm. This is the circuit maintaining its protection of the output tubes.

10. Troubleshooting – in general

If you experience any problem with this unit, please take the time to look through this chart and see if you can solve the problem yourself before you call your dealer.

No power: Check the connection to the AC power supply. Check and make sure the AC source is not a switched outlet and that, if it is, the switch is turned on. Insert the power cord into the AC inlet of this unit.

There is no sound: Press the power switch to turn on the unit, your external pre-amplifier (if any), and disc player etc. Make sure a signal is output from a pre-amplifier or a CD-player etc. Check if the pre-amplifier, speakers and source components are secure connected. Select input setting of the pre-amplifier etc. correctly. Adjust the pre-amplifier volume. The protection circuit is in operation (cut off) when there is no Bias on all TP's (tubes) readable. Turn off the unit and solve the cause of problem.

Power tube will not bias: If the meter provides a reading but the tube will not bias correctly, the tube is probably bad.

BREAK-IN PERIOD

Your new Ayon Audio electronics Vulcan tube amplifier has an initial break-in period. The unit will not perform to its full sonic potential when first installed in your system. This is partially due to a residual polarization of the dielectric materials used in the PCB, like resistors, capacitors, chokes, transformers and internal wiring. As music is played through the unit, the electrical signal will gradually anneal these materials. Only after the break-in period will the full performance of your Ayon Audio Vulcan is fully realized. The break-in process will occur naturally as music is played through the system. The recommended break-in procedure is as follows:

- ° Initial warm-up: five to eight hours of quiet music.
- ° Extended break- in: 30 to 50 hours of mid volume level and dynamic source material.

Note: For best results, do not burn-in your Vulcan continuously for more than 6-8 hours. Give the unit a break before you turn it on again. Burn-in the Vulcan without any stress and be sure to use the system, "Normally". During the break-in period, the sonic properties of your unit may undergo several gradual shifts as the various components break-in at different rates. It is therefore suggested that the fine tuning of the system be delayed until after the break-in period is completed. However, during the final phases of the break-in period, the sonic image will open up, the sound stage will bloom to perfection, the bass control and impact will increase and the overall sound will have a more involving sound stage presentation.

SPECIFICATION

Amplifier

Class of Operation
Tube Complement
Load Impedance
Negative Feedback
Bandwidth
Output Power
Peak Output Power
Input Impedance
Input sensitivity for full power
Hum
Frequency Response
Distortion at 1W
Inputs
Dimensions (WxDxH) cm
Shipping dimensions (WxDxH) cm
Weight per unit
Shipping weight per unit

Ayon Vulcan

PSE Triode, Class A
2x AA62B, 3x 6H30, 1x 5U4G
4 & 8 Ohms
0dB
8Hz-60kHz
55W
90W
100K Ohm
500mV
0,003 V
10 Hz - 45 kHz/ 0 dB
< 0,3%
RCA & XLR
36x58x25 cm
78x53x44cm
40kg
50kg

Specifications subject to change without notice

VACUUM TUBES

Ayon Audio strongly discourages changing tubes (tube rolling) for the purpose of "improving sonic performance". Tubes of the same part number from different manufacturer's and lots generally vary considerably in many operating parameters. The Vulcan has been sonically and precisely optimized for the tubes installed at the factory in Austria, by Ayon Audio. The AA62B, 5u4G and 6H30 tubes are highly selected and matched tubes by our experts at Ayon Audio. The original signal tubes will provide for many years of excellent audio performance.

WARRANTY AND SERVICE

LIMITED WARRANTY

Ayon Audio electronic components are warranted by the manufacturer to be free of defects in materials production for a period of 3 years (except all kinds of signal, rectifier and power tubes) from the date of purchase. Under this warranty defects are repaired free of charge. The purchaser is responsible for transportation from his location to the original sales agent, national distributor, or international distributor, whoever is closest. This warranty applies to the original purchaser only, and it is non-transferable to subsequent purchasers within the original 3 year period. Contact your dealer or Ayon Audio for commercial warranty policies. Requests for repair under this warranty must be accompanied by an unaltered copy of the original purchase receipt.

IN THE EVENT OF A PROBLEM

In the unlikely event of a problem with Ayon electronic, if any replacement part is required first contact your Ayon dealer. He will ensure continuous operation at the highest level of performance. The defective parts must then be returned to the factory for inspection to determine the status of the warranty claim. This on-site replacement of the parts eliminates the time and expense of shipping the entire Amplifiers to the factory for repair. All warranty claims must be made through an authorized Ayon dealer or distributor.

CONDITIONS

This warranty is subject to the following conditions and limitations. The warranty is void and inapplicable if the product has been used or handled other than in accordance with the instructions in the owner's manual, abused or misused, electric shorts from lightings or overloaded wall power outlet, the serial identification plate and serial number has been removed from the Amplifiers, damaged by accident or neglect or in being transported or the defect is due to the product being repaired or tampered with by anyone other than Ayon Audio, or an authorized party.

Ayon reserves the right to modify the design of any product without obligation to purchasers of previously manufactured products and to change the price or specifications of any product without notice or obligation to any person.

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