



# Owner's Reference

Owner's Reference *StellarGold* Preamplifier

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## Instructions for Use



## Stellar™ *Gold* Preamplifier

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PS Audio® Inc. 800-PSAUDIO 4865 Sterling Drive Boulder, Colorado 80301



# Owner's Reference

Owner's Reference StellarGold Preamplifier

## Safety Instructions



Read these instructions  
Heed all warnings  
Follow all instructions



**WARNING.** TO REDUCE THE RISK OF FIRE OR ELECTRICAL SHOCK, DO NOT EXPOSE THIS APPARATUS TO RAIN OR MOISTURE.

Clean only with a dry cloth. For the Piano Finish Top refer to the instructions on page 8 of the Quick Start Guide.

Do not place flammable material on top of or beneath the component.

All PS Audio components require adequate ventilation at all times during operation. Rack mounting is acceptable where appropriate.

Do not remove or bypass the ground pin on the end of the AC cord. If the provided plug does not fit into your outlet, consult an electrician for replacement of the obsolete outlet.

Protect the power cord from being walked on or pinched particularly at plugs, convenience receptacles, and the point where they exit from the apparatus. Unplug this apparatus during lightning storms or when unused for long periods of time.

When making connections to this or any other component, make sure all components are off. Turn off all systems' power before connecting the PS Audio component to any other component. Make sure all cable terminations are of the highest quality.

**THERE ARE NO USER-SERVICEABLE PARTS INSIDE ANY PS AUDIO PRODUCT. REFER ALL SERVICING TO QUALIFIED SERVICE PERSONNEL**

**NOTE:** This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class B digital device, pursuant to part 15 of the FCC Rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference in a residential installation. This equipment generates, uses and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with the instructions, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. However, there is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation. If this equipment does cause harmful interference to radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning the equipment off and on, the user is encouraged to try to correct the interference by one or more of the following measures:

- Reorient or relocate the receiving antenna.
- Increase the separation between the equipment and receiver.
- Connect the equipment into an outlet on a circuit different from that to which the receiver is connected.
- Consult the dealer or an experienced radio/TV technician for help.

Modifications not expressly approved by the manufacturer could void the user's authority to operate the equipment under FCC rules.

Please contact your authorized dealer, distributor, or PS Audio if you have any questions not addressed in this reference manual.

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Rev. A2



The exclamation point within a triangle is intended to tell the user that important operating and servicing instructions are in the papers with the appliance.



The lightning flash with arrow-head within a triangle is intended to tell the user that parts inside the product are a risk of electric shock to persons.



**WARNING:** To reduce the risk of electric shock do not remove cover or back. No user-serviceable parts inside. Refer servicing to qualified service personnel.



# Introduction

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## Welcome

The PS Audio Stellar*Gold* Preamplifier is an affordable state-of-the-art Preamp.

The Stellar*Gold* Preamplifier features two hand crafted discrete audio amplification stages, both enjoying extremely high slew rate, high bandwidth, low distortion signal handling capabilities that honor the music.

Based on a combination of JFET and BJT devices along with hand-selected purist components, the musical signal is delivered without the interference of capacitors in the signal path. Each amplification stage is based on a minimal global feedback design that achieves its low distortion status through careful balancing and high current design choices.

Its high current class A output stage is more than capable of driving long cable lengths without compromise so that your power amplifier enjoy all the benefits Stellar*Gold* Preamplifier has to offer.

Nearly as important in this level of Preamp is its power supply. Here, Stellar*Gold* Preamp enjoys the performance enhancement afforded by multiple two-stage linear power regulators for both the analog and digital sections. Feeding these ultra low noise 2-stage regulators is an oversized toroidal power transformer with separate windings for analog and digital.

The PS Audio Stellar*Gold* Preamp represents a major step up in performance for any music lover who cares about the sonic qualities afforded their systems. We believe this new instrument will further our company's quest to bring audio excellence to the world and will provide years of musical ecstasy.



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Special thanks to Hi-Fi Family member Brian Woodard for his contributions to this manual.

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# Quick Start Guide

Owner's Reference StellarGold Preamp

## Unpacking

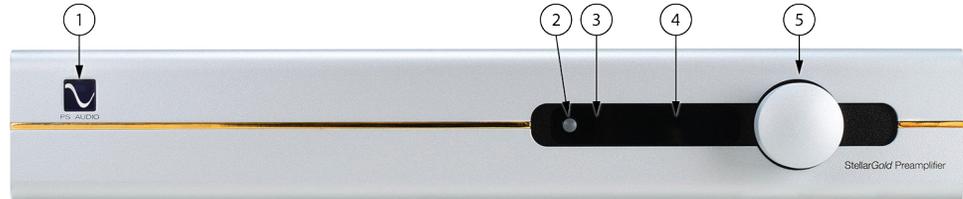


Figure 1: Front Panel Controls

	Description
1	Ready/Operational mode switch
2	Menu button
3	Remote infrared receiver
4	Display
5	Volume control

The following items are included with the StellarGold Preamp:

- Power Cord
- Stellar Remote
- This Owner's Reference

Carefully unpack the unit and place it in the chosen location. Care should be taken to keep it away from power amplifiers or large, potentially hum-inducing products.

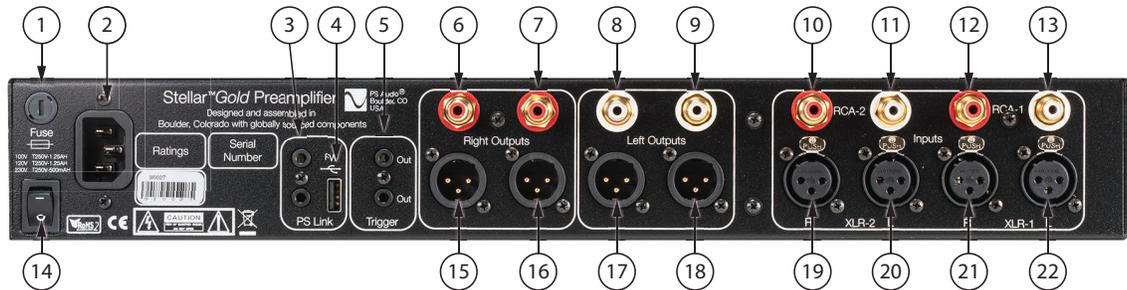
Referring to Figure 1 and the table, the remote infrared receiver (3) is located to the right of the menu button. A direct line of sight with the receiver helps when using the remote.



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## Connections



**Figure 2: Rear Panel Ports**

Item	Description
1	Fuse holder (refer to panel legend for fuse type).
2	Line cord receptacle.
3	PS Link connectors (support future advanced features).
4	Firmware update thumb drive connector.
5	Trigger outputs (connect to power amplifier trigger input to control amplifier power with front panel standby button).
6	Right channel single-ended analog output #2 (outputs #1 and #2 carry the same signal).
7	Right channel single-ended analog output #1.
8	Left channel single-ended analog output #2.
9	Left channel single-ended analog output #1.
10	Right channel single-ended analog input #2 (stereo inputs are individually selectable).
11	Left channel single-ended analog input #2.
12	Right channel single-ended analog input #1.
13	Left channel single-ended analog input #1.
14	Main power switch.
15	Right channel balanced analog output #2 (outputs #1 and #2 carry the same signal).
16	Right channel balanced analog output #1.
17	Left channel balanced analog output #2.
18	Left channel balanced analog output #1.
19	Right channel balanced analog input #2.
20	Right channel balanced analog input #1.
21	Left channel balanced analog input #2.
22	Left channel balanced analog input #1.



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## Connections (Continued)

Referring to Figure 2, connect the desired components to your *StellarGold* Preamplifier as follows:

Connect inputs to your analog sources using the appropriate connections. There are four stereo analog inputs, which are accessible via the balanced XLR inputs (19–22) and two single-ended RCA connectors (10–13). Connect your sources to the appropriate inputs.

Connect outputs to your power amplifier (or other line-level component) using the appropriate connections. The *StellarGold* Preamplifier features two output types: RCA and XLR. The RCA connector delivers a single-ended output for compatible power amplifiers while the XLR connector delivers a balanced signal to compatible inputs. Both can be connected at the same time, allowing one to drive a power amplifier and the other, a subwoofer or headphone amplifier, for example.

Please be advised that the XLR output has twice the output voltage as the RCA output. Typically this results in 6dB louder sound through units connected via the XLR input. Care should be taken to match levels accordingly.

Connect the AC cable into the receptacle (2) in back and plug the unit into your Power Plant or into the wall. While the supplied cord is of good quality, it is recommended that you replace it with a high-end power cord for optimum performance. It is also recommended that you connect your new *StellarGold* Preamplifier to one of PS Audio's award-winning AC power products such as the P12, P15, or P20 Power Plants.

Optionally, connect power amps to trigger ports (5). There are two trigger ports on the rear panel. Each of the two trigger jacks outputs a +12V signal to connected equipment when the *StellarGold* Preamplifier front panel standby button (1) is activated. The +12V signal will stop when the Preamplifier is in standby mode. These trigger outputs are typically used to switch on/off compatible power amplifiers when the *StellarGold* Preamplifier is active.

## Power Up

Once everything is connected, it is time to power up the *StellarGold* Preamplifier. Move the rear panel main power switch (14), to the ON position. We recommend the master power switch be left in the On position and AC power continue to be supplied even when the preamplifier is not in use. Use the front panel standby/operate mode switch (1) instead of the main power switch. This keeps power on to critical circuitry thereby avoiding the stabilizing warmup period and additional wear on components due to power cycling.



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## Product Registration

To register your new *StellarGold* Preamplifier, look on the back panel and note the serial number. Using any web browser, go to [www.psaudio.com](http://www.psaudio.com), click Support and select Product Registration from the menu. When you have completed the registration process, go to the Registrations page. The link to this page (🔗) is located at the top right hand corner of the website after you are logged in. Click the link then select Product Registrations in the left hand column.

If you do not have web access, you may register via mail or phone. Notification of software upgrades to this product are available only to registered owners via the website and email.



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## Main Display

When powered on, "PS Audio" appears followed by the main display as shown in Figure 3.

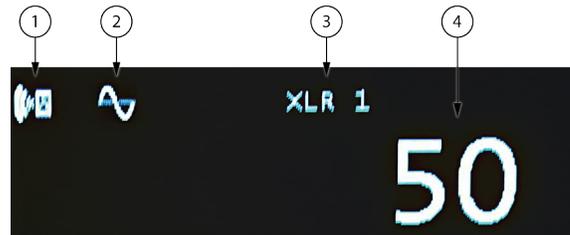


Figure 3: Main Display

	Description
1	Balance indicator. When visible, waves indicate to which side of zero center the balance is offset.
2	AC coupling indicator. When visible, AC coupling is selected.
3	Currently selected input
4	Current volume level

As shown in Figure 3, the main display shows the currently selected input (3) and the volume level (4). If the balance setting is offset to either side of zero center, the balance indicator (1) appears with a wave graphic indicating which side of center the balance is offset. Likewise, if AC coupling is currently selected, the AC coupling indicator (2) appears.

The input selection can be changed by pressing the menu button. Repeated presses scroll through the four options:

1. XLR 1
2. XLR 2
3. RCA 1
4. RCA 2

The selected input is active the instant the indicator changes. Pressing and holding the menu button or adjusting the volume restores the main display. If no further action occurs after 15 seconds, the main display returns.

## Menu System

To enter the menu system, press and hold the menu button until the display changes. Repeated pressing scrolls through the menu items while turning the volume knob adjusts the setting. Most changes take effect immediately.

For detailed operating instructions, see the Operating Guide (pages 6–15).



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## Front Panel Controls

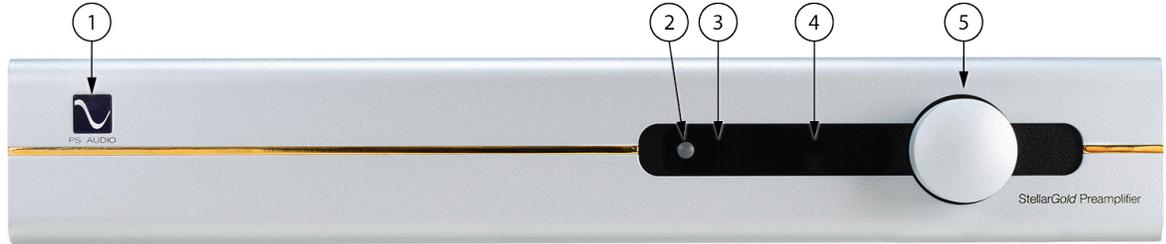


Figure 4: Front Panel Controls

	Description
1	Ready/Operational mode button
2	Menu button
3	Remote infrared receiver
4	Display
5	Volume control

## Mode Button

The Ready/Operational mode button (1) controls whether the StellarGold Preamplifier is in Operational mode (illuminated) or Ready (dark) mode. The Ready mode is designed to keep power on to critical internal circuitry, including power supply capacitors, thermally sensitive semiconductors and integrated circuits.

Press the button to select ready or operational mode. In Ready mode, the display and outputs are turned off, but all critical internal circuitry remains active.

If you wish to conserve energy consumed by StellarGold Preamp, it will be necessary to use the rear panel power switch. Using this rear panel switch will remove power from critical components. In order to gain maximum performance levels, you will need to turn the power on at least 1 hour before use.

## Restart

Should the preamp need to be rebooted, use the rear panel power switch to power cycle the unit. It's best to wait 30 seconds before powering back on.

## Volume

The volume level is shown on the display panel (4). Turn the volume control knob (5) right or left to adjust the volume level. The displayed level ranges from 0 to 100.

## Input Selection

To select an input, execute a quick press of the menu button (2) to the left of the display. Continue pressing until you land on the input you want (RCA 1 or 2, XLR 1 or 2). Alternatively, you can use the remote.

## Menus

The StellarGold Preamp features a menu display system that is accessible using the menu



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button (2). To access the menu, execute a long press of the menu button. A gear icon (see arrow) will appear in the upper right corner showing that you are in the Settings menu.



Once in the menus, a long press of the menu button (holding for more than two seconds) will also exit the menus and return the unit to the Home screen. The menu screen will also time out after 15 seconds of inactivity. Note that changes to settings are typically saved in real time as the changes are made.

## Main Menu

To scroll through menu items, press the menu button once in the menus. To change an item's values, use the volume knob. The main menu has the below features.

- Balance
- Coupling
- Versions (informational only)
- Audio (sub-menu)
- System (sub-menu)

## Balance

The Balance feature allows you to adjust the center location of the stereo image. Turn the knob to the left to reduce the gain of the right channel, thus making the image come more from the left channel. Turn the knob right to reduce the gain of the left channel, thus making the image come more from the right channel. The balance steps are each 1/4dB and the range is 48 steps each way for a maximum shift of 12dB.



If the balance setting is offset to either side of zero center, the balance indicator (blue arrow) appears with a wave graphic indicating which side of center the balance is offset

## Coupling

Use the volume knob to select AC coupled or DC coupled. A sine wave icon will appear on the home screen when AC is selected (see green arrow).

When set to AC, a capacitor in the signal path will block any DC voltage that might be coming from the source equipment. This mode is generally more compatible with various equipment, but the capacitor will add some coloring to the sound. When the coupling mode is set to DC, this capacitor is bypassed, so any DC that is coming from the source equipment will get passed (and amplified) by the preamp. If you are experiencing any ticks or pops when changing inputs (or other times) try the AC coupled mode. Otherwise, we recommend the DC coupled mode for best sound quality.

## Versions

This menu display shows the versions of the StellarGold Preamp's operating firmware. If you need to contact our customer service team for help with your unit, please have this information ready.

## Sub-Menus

There are 2 sub-menus that can be accessed from the main menu. They are:

- Audio
- System



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Click the menu button twice to enter a sub-menu. Do a quick press of the menu button to click through sub-menu items. If you need to go back one level to the previous menu, do two quick presses of the menu button.

## Audio Sub-Menu

The Audio sub-menu allows you to change the below:

- Input Names (sub-menu)
- Input Trim (sub-menu)
- DAC Input
- Phono Input
- RCA 2 Fixed Vol
- Max Volume

### Input Names (sub-menu)

The Input Names sub-menu setting allows renaming the four input connections from a preset list of common names to aid in identifying the connected source. Follow these steps to assign the names BLU RAY, CD, DVD, PHONO, SACD or STREAMER:

1. Double-click the menu button to enter the name list.
2. Turn the knob to locate the desired input. Press the menu button to select.
3. Turn the knob to select the desired name. Press the menu button to select.
4. Turn the knob to select OK or Cancel. Press the menu button to confirm or cancel.
5. Double-click the menu button to return to the main settings menu.

### Input Trim (sub-menu)

The Input Trim sub-menu setting allows trimming the volume level of each input to provide a consistent level between input sources. It is best to start by observing the level of your most used or favorite source and then trimming the other source levels to match. Follow these steps to adjust input levels:

1. Double-click the menu button to enter the input list.
2. Turn the knob to locate the desired input. Press the menu button to select.
3. Turn the knob left or right to set the level. Changes take effect immediately.
4. Double-click the menu button to return to the main settings menu.

### DAC Input

The DAC Input sub-menu setting optionally identifies which input is connected to your DAC. When set, the *StellarGold* Preamplifier automatically switches to that input whenever a valid DAC IR remote control code is received, saving you the step of first selecting the DAC input. Follow these steps to identify the input:

1. Turn the knob to select "Off" or the desired input to identify.
-



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2. Press the button to select.
3. Double-click the menu button to return to the main settings menu.

## Phono Input

The Phono Input sub-menu setting, like the previous setting, optionally identifies which input is connected to your phono stage. When set, the *StellarGold* Preamplifier automatically switches to that input whenever a valid phono stage IR remote control code is received, saving you the step of first selecting the PHONO input. Follow these steps to identify the input:

1. Turn the knob to select "Off" or the desired input to identify.
2. Press the button to select.
3. Double-click the menu button to return to the main settings menu.

## RCA 2 Fixed Volume

The RCA 2 Fixed Volume sub-menu setting allows fixing the volume setting of the RCA 2 input. This feature allows connecting a source to RCA 2 that has its own volume control or other conditions where a constant volume level is desired. Options are "Off" (disabled) or 1–100. Follow these steps to set the volume level:

1. Turn the knob to select "Off" or the desired volume level.
2. Press the button to select.
3. Double-click the menu button to return to the main settings menu.

## Max Volume

The Max Volume sub-menu setting sets the upper limit of the main volume control. Use the volume knob to set the max volume (1-100). Set to 100 to disable this feature. This value is ignored if the Fixed Volume setting is enabled. Follow these steps to set the volume level:

1. Turn the knob to select "100" or the desired maximum volume level.
2. Press the button to select.
3. Double-click the menu button to return to the main settings menu.

## System Sub-Menu

The System sub-menu allows setting various control parameters. The sub-menu is entered by double-clicking the menu button which presents the following settings:

- Backlight
- Trigger Timeout
- IR Enable
- Firmware Update (sub-menu)
- Factory Reset (sub-menu)



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## Backlight

The Backlight sub-menu setting allows adjusting the brightness of both the Standby mode switch (1) and the Display (4) to compliment the room lighting. Options range from 1–10 with 10 being brightest. Follow these steps to set the brightness:

1. Turn the knob to select the desired brightness level.
2. Press the button to select.
3. Double-click the menu button to return to the main settings menu.

## Trigger Timeout

The Trigger Timeout sub-menu setting permits adding a delay to the trigger output signal to adjust the time between placing the StellarGold Preamplifier in Operational mode and when a power amplifier connected to the trigger output is signaled to power up. The delay can be set to one of “Off”, “0s”, “5s”, “10s”, “20s”, “30s”, “45s” or “1m”. Follow these steps to set the delay:

1. Turn the knob to select “Off” or the desired delay time.
2. Press the button to select.
3. Double-click the menu button to return to the main settings menu.

## IR Enable

The IR Enable sub-menu setting can be used to prevent the remote control from interfering with other remote-controlled components in your system. Turn the knob to select one of the following:

- Off: disables the remote control function eliminating all interference.
- IR1: The default setting. Use this if no interference is experienced.
- IR2: Selects alternate code set. Use this if the Stellar remote affects other components.

When you change this setting, you also need to change it on the remote. To do so, press and hold the Light Bulb button (bottom of the remote) and the circular Off button (top center of the remote) at the same time. If the remote backlight flashes white once, you are now on IR1. If it flashes white twice, you are now on IR2.

## Firmware Update (sub-menu)

This feature allows you to select from multiple firmware loads on a USB thumb drive. It provides a faster and easier method of upgrading and downgrading new firmware for A/B style testing.

### *Preparing the USB thumb drive*

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- You can have as many files on the USB thumb drive as you want, but only the first five valid files for the device are displayed.
- The files must be named stellar\_pre\_v#.##.bin. For example, stellar\_pre\_v2.4.1.bin.
- You can have other bin files for other products on this thumb drive (for example, stellar\_dac\_v2.1.2.bin). Only files that start with "stellar\_pre\_" will be loaded by the StellarGold Preamp.

**WARNING:** In the past, you would update a unit by copying an "image.bin" file to the thumb drive. This method still works to automatically update a unit after a reboot (you do not need to go through the menus to use the image.bin file). The image.bin file takes precedence over the stellar\_bin\_XXX.bin files. It is recommended to NOT have an image.bin file on the thumb drive if you are using the stellar\_pre\_XXX.bin files and the System | FW Update method to update files.

## Upgrading/ Downgrading

- Plug the USB thumb drive into the unit in USB-A slot on the back panel marked FW.
- Enter the menus and go to System | FW Update.
- The files will display on the screen in alphabetical order.
- Scroll up or down to highlight the file you want to load.
- Press the menu button to select the file.
- A progress screen will display. The update process will initialize and then a progress indicator in percentage complete will display.
- Once complete, the progress screen will indicate the unit is resetting.
- The unit will reset. The Logo LED will blink rapidly as the unit is being programmed.

## Notes

- If you select the same version that is already loaded, the upgrade will be skipped and the Logo LED will not blink. The unit will still reset.
- If there is an error, the error will be displayed.
  - If you have problems with loading firmware, you can contact PS Audio customer support with the error you see.
  - Press the menu button to exit from the error screen
- You can exit the FW Update screen using a long press of the menu button.

## Factory Reset (sub-menu)

The Factory Reset sub-menu setting returns all menu items to their original factory settings.

*Note:* Any custom settings performed since the last Factory Reset, or first use, will be lost.

1. Double-click the menu button to start the reset process.
2. Turn the knob to select "Reset".
3. Press the menu button to begin.

After a few seconds, the preamplifier automatically restarts at the main menu with restored factory settings.



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## Remote

Your StellarGold Preamp comes with a full-function remote control. In addition to operating your StellarGold Preamp, this remote works with all Stellar products and most functions will translate to the PerfectWave line.

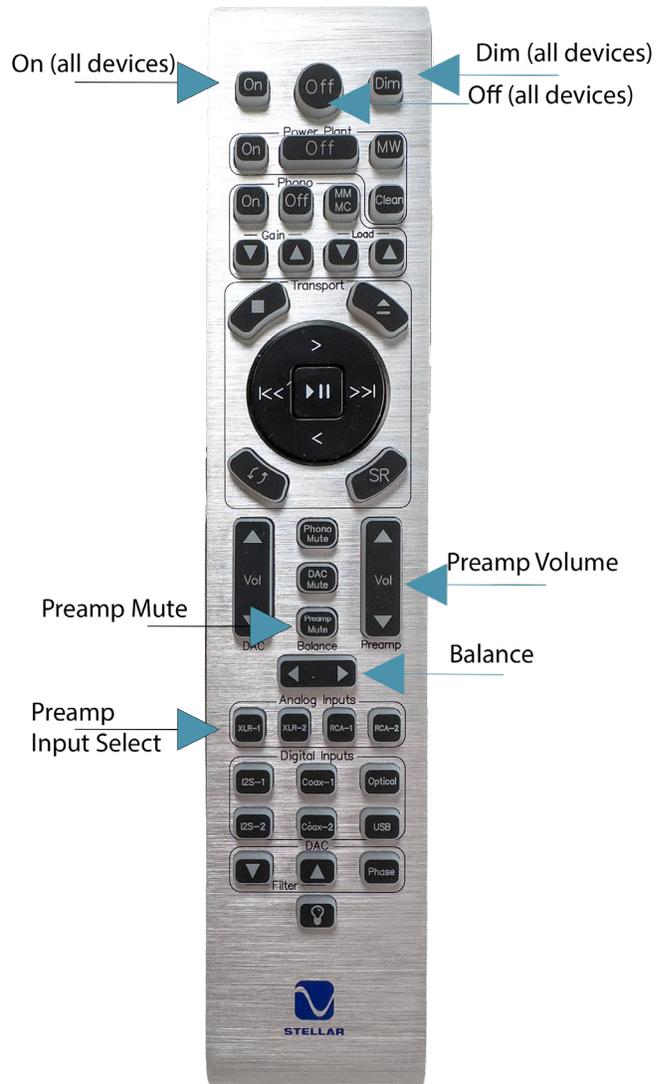
### Remote Code Settings:

Your StellarGold Preamp comes with a default code set. If your remote is interfering with other devices, you can switch to the second code set. To do so, press and hold the Light Bulb button (bottom of the remote) and the circular Off button (top center of the remote) at the same time. If the remote backlight flashes white once, you are now on IR1. If it flashes white twice, you are now on IR2.

You will also need to update the unit. See Firmware Update section of this manual for instructions.

### Button Guide:

- **On:** Takes the Preamp out of Ready (Idle) mode and puts it in Operational mode. In addition, it undoes the Dim function.
- **Off:** Puts the Preamp in Ready (idle) mode.
- **Dim:** Dims the logo button and turns off the screen and control navigation backlight. Press On to undo it.
- **Analog Inputs:** Lets you select the desired input.





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## Product Specifications

<b>Physical:</b>	
Unit Weight	24.1 lbs or 10.9 kg
Unit Dimensions	17"W x 3.3"H x 13"D (with knob, without knob 12"D) [43.18 cm x 8.38 cm x 33.02 (with knob, without 30.48 cm)]
Shipping Weight	27.6 lbs or 12.5 kg
Shipping Dimensions	22"W x 8"H x 17"D [55.88 cm x 20.32 cm x 43.18 cm]
<b>Power Requirements:</b>	
Input Power	Model specific 100VAC, 120VAC, or 230VAC 50 or 60Hz
Power Consumption	15W
<b>Connectors:</b>	
Audio Inputs	RCA / Single-Ended: 2 pair XLR / Balanced: 2 pair
Audio Outputs	RCA / Single-Ended: 2 pair XLR / Balanced: 2 pair
Trigger Output	2
USB	For USB firmware update only
<b>Performance:</b>	
Max Gain	12.6dB
Frequency Response	15Hz-150kHz, +/- 0.1dB
Input Impedance	50K $\Omega$ RCA / Single-Ended 100K $\Omega$ XLR / Balanced
Bandwidth	5Hz-500kHz, -3dB
THD	< .0002% @ 1kHz, 1VRMS input



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THD+N	< .0003% @ 1kHz, 1VRMS input
IMD	.0005% @ 1VRMS input, CCIF, 20kHz mean, 1kHz difference
Crosstalk	-115dB, One channel driven
Output level	10VRMS Single-ended / 20VRMS Balanced @ 1% THD+N
Output Impedence	100 ohm



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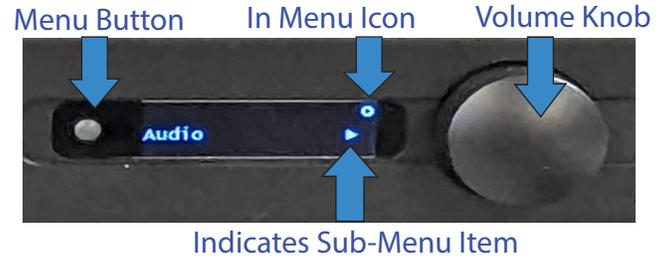
## Menu Charts

### Navigating the Menus:

- To enter the menus, do a long press of the menu button. A gear icon will appear in the right corner of the screen to show you are in the menus. Do another long press to leave the menus.

*Note:* Menu time out after 15 seconds of inactivity.

- Scroll through menu and sub menu items using one press of the menu button. Use the volume knob to change values for specific items.
- Unless otherwise specified, scrolling to your choice and leaving it on the screen updates your settings.
- Menu items with sub-menus are indicated by a right arrow. Press the menu button twice to enter them.
- Two quick presses of the menu button take you back one menu level. For example, if you are in the Audio sub-menu and press the menu button twice, you will return to the top level menu.



*Note:* You do not enter the menus to change the input. Instead, do a quick press of the menu button. Continue pressing until you land on the input you want (RCA 1 or 2, XLR 1 or 2). Alternatively, you can use the remote.

## Top Level Menu

Top Level Menu	
Press the menu button once to scroll through menu and sub-menu items. Use the volume knob to change menu item values.	
Balance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Turn knob left to reduce the gain of the right channel, thus making the image come more from the left channel.</li> <li>Turn the knob right to reduce the gain of the left channel, thus making the image come more from the right channel.</li> </ul>
Coupling	Turn knob to select AC or DC coupling.
Versions (Informational Only)	Turn knob to scroll through the operating firmware versions.
Audio (Sub-Menu)	Hit menu button twice to access the below settings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Input names</li> <li>Input Trim</li> <li>DAC Input</li> <li>Phono Input</li> <li>RCA2 Fixed Volume</li> <li>Max Volume</li> </ul>
System (Sub-Menu)	Hit menu button twice to enter this sub-menu and access the below settings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Backlight</li> <li>Trigger Timeout</li> <li>IR Enable</li> <li>Firmware Update (sub-menu)</li> <li>Factory Reset (sub-menu)</li> </ul>



# Reference

Owner's Reference StellarGold Preamplifier

## Audio Sub-Menu

Audio Sub-Menu	
From the main menu, find Audio then press the menu button twice to enter the Audio sub-menu. Hit the menu button once to scroll through the sub-menu options.	
Input Names (Sub-Menu)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hit the menu button twice to enter Input Names.</li> <li>• Use volume knob to scroll through inputs and highlight the input you want to change.</li> <li>• Once the name is highlighted, hit the menu button once.</li> <li>• Use the volume knob to scroll through the naming options.</li> <li>• Once the name you want is highlighted, hit the menu button once to select it.</li> <li>• A pop up will appear and ask "Rename...?" Hit the menu button to select OK or use the volume knob to highlight Cancel first if you change your mind.</li> </ul>
Input Trim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use the volume knob to highlight the input you would like to trim.</li> <li>• Hit the menu button once to select it.</li> <li>• Turn the volume knob right to add dBs and left to lower dBs.</li> </ul>
DAC Input	Use the volume knob to find the input your DAC is attached to. Now when you hit buttons relating to the DAC on your remote, the Preamp will automatically switch to that input.
Phono Input	Use the volume knob to find the input your Phono is attached to. Now when you hit buttons relating to the Phono on your remote, the Preamp will automatically switch to that input.
RCA2 Fixed Volume	Use the volume knob to select a fixed volume (1-100) for RCA2. To disable this feature, scroll to 0 or off.
Max Volume	Use the volume knob to select a max volume (1-100). If undesired, select 100 to disable.

## System Sub-Menu

System Sub-Menu	
From the main menu, find System then press the menu button twice to enter the System sub-menu. Hit the menu button once to scroll through the sub-menu options.	
Backlight	Use the volume knob to select a brightness setting for the display and logo button. Options are 1-10, where 10 is the brightest.
Trigger Timeout (delay output to other devices for short period after StellarGold Preamp activated)	Use the volume knob to select Off, 0s, 5s, 10s, 20s, 30s, 45s or 1 minute for trigger timeout. Select off to disable.
IR Enable	Use the volume knob to select Off (no remote works), IR1 (default) or IR2 (if remote is interfering with other devices).
Firmware Update (sub-menu)	This is a multi-step process. Please see the Firmware Update section of this manual for instructions.



# Reference

Owner's Reference *StellarGold* Preamp

System  
Sub-Menu  
Continued

Factory Reset (sub-menu)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hit the menu button twice to select factory reset.</li><li>• A pop up will appear and ask "Factory Reset System?" To continue with the reset, use the volume knob to highlight Reset and press the menu button. If you changed your mind, leave Exit highlighted and hit the menu button.</li><li>• After hitting the menu button, there will be a about a 5 second delay and then your Preamp will automatically switch off and then back on.</li></ul>
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# Warranty

Owner's Reference StellarGold Preamplifier

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## Registering

### Product registration

By registering your product, you are validating the start date of your limited warranty. This limited warranty is in effect for 3 years from the date the unit was first purchased from PS Audio or its dealers and agents. If you do not register your product within 30 days of service, a copy of your purchase receipt from an authorized PS Audio dealer may be used as proof of purchase to establish the warranty start date. If no proof of purchase from an authorized PS audio dealer or registration is provided, the production date of the product will be used to determine the warranty start date. You can register your product online, by phone, by mail, or by email.

## Coverage

### What this warranty covers

This warranty covers defects in material and workmanship for products purchased from PS Audio or its authorized dealers and agents. In the event your product fails, your sole remedy under this limited warranty shall be to return the product to PS Audio or an authorized PS Audio repair center. At the option of PS Audio, the product will be repaired without charge for parts or labor, replaced, or the purchase price refunded through the original point of purchase.

## Shipping

### Shipping

You are responsible to pay for the safe and proper shipment of the warranted product to PS Audio or its authorized repair center. Under this limited warranty, PS Audio or its authorized repair center will pay the cost of returning the repaired or replacement product to you.

## Not Covered

### What this warranty does not cover

This warranty does not cover damage due to:

- Accidents, carelessness, improper transportation, misuse, neglect, or abuse
- Failure to follow the operating instructions that are provided by PS Audio in the Owner's Reference Manual (available for download at [www.psaudio.com](http://www.psaudio.com))
- Use in any manner inconsistent with PS Audio's operating instructions (available for download at [www.psaudio.com](http://www.psaudio.com))
- Lack of routine maintenance
- Connection to an improper voltage supply
- Alterations or modifications to the unit
- Improper or unauthorized repair, including repairs not authorized by PS Audio or a PS Audio authorized repair center



# Warranty

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- Fire, lightning, flood, “Acts of God,” or other contingencies beyond the control of PS Audio
- Products purchased through an unauthorized source (if you have questions as to whether or not a dealer is authorized, please contact customer support at [www.psaudio.com](http://www.psaudio.com))
- Products with a factory-applied serial number that has in any way been altered, defaced, or removed

## Limitations

### Limitations under this warranty

In no event will PS Audio’s liability to you exceed the original purchase price of your unit. This warranty does not cover the cost of custom installation, customer instruction, setup adjustments, or signal reception problems. Consequential and incidental damages are not covered under this warranty. However, some states do not allow the exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages, so this limitation or exclusion may not apply to you. In the event that your warranted product cannot be repaired, PS Audio will either replace or refund the cost of the unit. We reserve the right to replace any out-of-stock, discontinued, or limited edition products with a comparable product. Discontinued products may not be available for warranty

## Warranty Transfer

### Warranty transfer

This warranty is for the benefit of the original purchaser of the product. The warranty may be transferred to a subsequent purchaser during the 3 year warranty period. To do this, you must contact PS Audio directly to set up a transfer of warranty registration.



# Service

Owner's Reference StellarGold Preamplifier

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If you require service in North America

## Warranty Service within North America

Please contact PS Audio customer support for service assistance, help with locating an authorized PS Audio repair center, help with the operation of a product, or for more information.

Obtain an RMA number

## Obtaining an RMA#

In order to receive warranty service, you must first obtain a Return Merchandise Authorization Number (RMA#) prior to returning any item. Please contact PS Audio or an authorized PS Audio repair center to receive an RMA#. The RMA# must be on all returned items. If it is not clearly marked, PS Audio will return the package back to you, freight collect.

Use original packing

## Packaging and Shipping

Original packaging should be used for the safe transit of your PS Audio unit to the repair center. If you do not have the original packaging, PS Audio can sell and ship replacement packaging to you. You are responsible for the cost of shipping the product to a PS Audio authorized repair center. You should insure the product for its full retail cost, in the event it gets lost or damaged in transit. PS Audio is not responsible for damage incurred during the transit of products sent to us. Shipping your product in non-PS Audio packaging may void this warranty. PS Audio reserves the right to charge you for new factory packaging to return your product after a repair.

State law

## State Law

This warranty gives you specific legal rights. You may also have other rights, which vary from state to state.

If you are outside the US

## International Warranty Service

PS Audio has authorized distribution in many countries of the world. In each country, the authorized importing distributor has accepted the responsibility for warranty of the products sold by that distributor. Warranty service should be obtained where the product was purchased.

## Changes to Our Products

PS Audio reserves the right to modify the design of any product without obligation to purchasers of previously manufactured products, and to change the prices or specifications of any products without notice or obligation to any person.



# Notes

Owner's Reference *StellarGold* Preamplifier

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# Notes

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# Notes

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# Quick Start Guide

Owner's Reference StellarGold Preamplifier



At PS Audio, we're family.

Not just a family that runs in bloodlines, but in frequencies.

Because while we may not all share the same genes here, we are all related by a passion, nay, obsession with listening to the music we love at the highest, most breathtaking quality possible.

And in our minds, that makes us kin.

In fact, we believe that every nutty, hertz counting audiophile out there is part of our tribe.

That's how we've built our company over the last 50 years - with the kind of care and respect that you give to your family.