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**PRESS RELEASE**  
for immediate attention  
**October 2014**

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## **Rethinking the phonostage: Clearaudio extend the state of the art with two exciting innovations**



*Clearaudio Absolute Phono*



*Clearaudio Absolute Phono Inside*

***Introducing the Absolute Phono and Absolute Phono Inside... could this little duo be a pair of world firsts? Another ground-breaker from German analogue innovators Clearaudio: two ways to solve the problem of a small signal making a long journey.***

Consider your standard phonostage set-up. The delicate musical output signal generated within the cartridge has to travel down the internal tonearm wiring and along the external arm lead before it reaches the phonostage, at which point it is amplified and then equalized before being fed out to the preamplifier. This signal is both very small and very sensitive, hence susceptible to electrical interference at all stages of its journey from the cartridge to, and through, the phonostage.

The solution? A radical review of the fundamentals of phonostage design. Clearaudio's engineers have been working on precisely that and, after much rethinking, reworking and refining, they are poised to advance the state of the art with not one, but two new phonostages.

### **Introducing the Absolute Phono: the world's first active headshell moving coil phonostage**

How to solve the problem of a small signal making a long journey? Let's start with the radical approach: shorten the journey. Enter the Absolute Phono, the world's first active headshell moving coil phonostage, in which the input to the phonostage is

mounted within a specially modified tonearm headshell. A tiny amplifier fitted within the headshell boosts the output signal from the cartridge at source. Now the vulnerable signal only has to travel 1-2 centimetres rather than along the usual 1-2 metres of internal and external arm wiring before being amplified to a more resilient level.

This amplified signal then passes to the specially designed main RIAA phonostage, along a signal path free of the usual relays and coupling capacitors, which again enables a more clean, pure and accurate sound. The signal is then equalized and fed to both unbalanced RCA and balanced XLR outputs, each with its own output driver to ensure the utmost fidelity.

The result? The signal to noise ratio is improved by approximately ten decibels across the entire audio spectrum!

Designed for the devoted audiophile, the Absolute Phono is compatible with any tonearm in the current Clearaudio range. Customers who already own a Clearaudio tonearm can simply send it to Clearaudio for customisation on purchase of the Absolute Phono.

### **Extending the technology: the Absolute Phono Inside**

Having kicked off a revolution, how do you ensure that its benefits filter out widely? Clearaudio's engineers fully appreciated that not everyone has, or is currently ready to invest in, a Clearaudio tonearm. Which then raised a second question: how to solve the problem of a small signal making a long journey *without* shortening the journey? By fine-tuning the innovations developed for the shorter journey and applying them to a more conventional phonostage design.

The Absolute Phono Inside uses the Absolute Phono's innovative circuit design but incorporates it within the phonostage's main body. The secret weapon? Current amplification. While most phonostages rely on voltage amplification, this is, to Clearaudio's knowledge, the only duo of phonostages to use true current amplification throughout. Current amplification alleviates the need for cartridge loading at the input stage and also eliminates the usually required capacitors and resistors at various points through the signal path. The signal to noise ratio is significantly enhanced, almost matching the headshell-mounted Absolute Phono's ten decibel improvement and enabling a freer and more natural sound.

Both unbalanced RCA and balanced XLR inputs are provided for connection to any tonearm on the market.

### **Built without compromise**

As you would expect from Clearaudio, the Absolute Phono and Absolute Phono Inside are built to the highest standards, incorporating an anti-resonance sandwich

construction machined from solid blocks of aluminium and panzerholz wood. The sophisticated power supply, located in a separate matching chassis, keeps mains interference to a minimum. Resistors and capacitors, which thanks to the aforementioned current amplification are required only in the RIAA equalisation stage, are Clearaudio Silver Glimmer capacitors and non-magnetic Dale resistors, hand selected to further ensure excellent clarity and purity of sound.

For ease of use and a sleek finish, the Absolute Phono and Absolute Phono Inside are equipped with a bright blue single multi-function switch for 'On', 'Off', 'Mute' and 'Standby' modes. Standby power consumption follows the latest EU directive and is below 0.5 Watts.

The circuitry of both the Absolute Phono and Absolute Phono Inside is designed to work perfectly with any moving coil cartridge from any manufacturer with no need to set the correct load resistance or capacitance, again thanks to use of current amplification which effectively eliminates this step.

## Technical specifications

	Absolute Phono	Absolute Phono Inside
Power supply	Switching power supply Input: 50 – 60 Hz / 100 - 265 V AC	
Signal to noise ratio	90 dB (A-weighted)	
Channel separation	100 dB	
Gain (@ 1kHz)	60 dB	
THD	< 0.001 %	
Output impedance	64 Ohm (balanced XLR) 32 Ohm (unbalanced RCA)	64 Ohm (balanced XLR)
Equalisation	RIAA standard, deviation less than 0.1 dB	
Frequency response	DC – 100 kHz	
Input connections	Absolute Phono tonearm connection (this is a special connection to the modified Clearaudio tonearm)	Balanced XLR Unbalanced RCA
Output connections	Unbalanced RCA phono Balanced XLR	Balanced XLR
Power consumption	Consumption in operation: 3.2 Watt Off mode: 0.0 Watt	Consumption in operation: 6.5 Watt Off mode: 0.0 Watt
Total weight	3.25 kg (phonostage) 3.20 kg (power supply)	

	Absolute Phono	Absolute Phono Inside
Dimensions (W/D/H)	Headshell amplifier: 0.37" x 0.81" x 0.13" 9.5 x 20.6 x 3.2 mm  Phonostage: 9.5" x 5.7" x 2.2" 240 x 145 x 56 mm  Power Supply: 9.5" x 5.7" x 2.2" 240 x 145 x 56 mm	Phonostage: 9.5" x 5.7" x 2.2" 240 x 145 x 56 mm  Power Supply: 9.5" x 5.7" x 2.2" 240 x 145 x 56 mm
Warranty	5 years (provided manufacturer's guarantee is completed and returned to Clearaudio within 2 weeks)	

## Pricing and availability

Both the Absolute Phono and Absolute Phono Inside are:

- Available now in black or silver.
- Priced at £8,995.

## About Clearaudio

Since its inception back in 1978, Clearaudio has amazed music lovers in more than 80 countries worldwide with a range of analogue playback equipment that sets new standards of audio reproduction and constantly raises the bar a little higher. That range now spans high-end turntables, tonearms and cartridges; phonostages, preamplifiers and class A power amplifiers; connectors, cables and audio racks plus a wide range of accessories designed to optimise the listening experience.

Every product in Clearaudio's portfolio is conceived and produced in Erlangen, Germany by a passionate team of specialists who consult and collaborate with a wide range of experts: precision engineers, watchmakers, electronic engineers, physicists and industrial designers. The result? Uncompromisingly accurate and stunningly beautiful design. The finest materials are then intelligently combined using ingenious production technology to produce impressive forms, parts and products that bear the unmistakable Clearaudio signature.

## Consumer contacts for publication

[www.clearaudio.de](http://www.clearaudio.de)

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