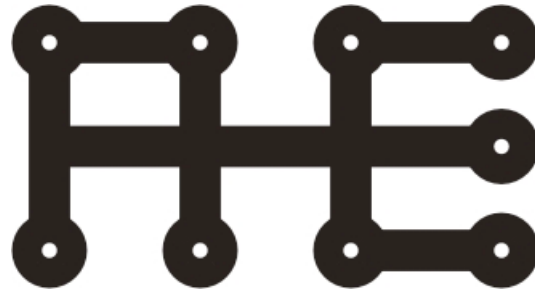


ALNER HAMBLIN ELECTRONICS LTD.



SP400 PASSIVE PREAMPLIFIER

Owners Instruction Manual

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Design Philosophy

The SP400 is not strictly a Pre-Amplifier in that it does not provide any Amplification. It would be more accurately described as an Input selection unit with adjustable attenuation.

The SP400 was designed to provide Source and Recording selection, together with Level adjustment for the SA400 Semi Digital Amplifier. The design objective was to provide Source selection and Level control that would introduce as low a distortion and noise level as possible. To reduce distortion and noise to its lowest possible level, it was necessary to eliminate any electronics or reactive components in the signal path together with any power supplies that would be needed. By removing the mains transformer there is also one less system component, which could contribute to Hum Loops.

The SP400 uses just three basic Components: -

Input and Output Sockets.

Level Control.

Rotary Switches.

All of the above components are the highest quality available to ensure that no additional noise or distortion is added to the Input Signal when applied to the SA400 Amplifier.

Equality of channel level is most Important for High Quality Audio Equipment, which has to be better than +/- 1dB. The manufacturers of Level controls in general will only guarantee this level of matching from approximately 30% to 70% or 10 o/c to 2 o/c. The gain structure of the SP400/SA400 combination ensures that the Level Control for normal listening will be in this range.

A disadvantage of the Passive design approach is that the Output Impedance is somewhat higher than that of an Active (Electronically Powered) Unit. Consequently, to avoid High Frequency attenuation, attention to Output cable Length and Capacity must be observed. The Frequency Response Table in the specification shows various cable capacities and lengths at the worst-case position of the Level Control. Ideally of course, the SP400 would be mounted beneath the SA400, and, in this position; even the highest cable capacities will still ensure a frequency response to over 70kHz.

High quality Screened cables must be used to interconnect the units.

As the unit has no powering of any kind, remote control is not possible. The SP400 has nevertheless, a Standby Switch that will put the SA400 into Standby Mode.

Cleaning

Use a soft damp cloth to clean the unit.

Do not use cleaners or solvents.

Do not use an abrasive cloth.

Guarantee Registration

Your **Alnor Hamblin SP400 Pre-Amplifier** will be guaranteed free from defective parts and Labour costs for two years from the date of purchase. Return carriage will be chargeable.

Please complete the Guarantee Registration Form and return it to the address shown for Inclusion on our database where we document the complete Service/Repair history of your Pre-Amplifier. You will also be notified of any new products or upgrades that may become available.

Should your Pre-Amplifier require repair or service, please return to the address below in its original packaging. Pre-Amplifiers not returned in their original packaging will have a new set of packaging substituted, which will be chargeable.

This Guarantee does not affect your statutory rights.

Your personal details will not be released under any circumstances to a third party.

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**Guarantee Registration For
Aler Hamblin Electronics Ltd.**

Name

Address

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Postcode

E-mail Address

Telephone No

Where Purchased

Purchase date

Model

Serial No