

Preliminary user guide for Agena

Thank you for purchasing a Leema Agena Phono Stage. Agena provides extensive flexibility for vinyl users. Please follow the simple steps below to install and setup your new phono stage.

Agena was created by enthusiasts for enthusiasts. We wish you many years of enjoyment from your record collection.

The Leema Team.

Noise

Due to the very high sensitivity of the Agena electronics, the unit must be positioned away from any source of magnetic field.

Do not place the unit in a rack with a power amp immediately above or below – doing so will cause hum on Agena's output.

If possible, place Agena to the left or right of power amplifiers. Where this is not possible, keep as much distance between Agena and other units as possible.

Navigation

To navigate around the menu systems, use the cursor keys and OK button. To move up and down to menu items use the UP and DOWN cursor keys. To change a selection within a menu option use the LEFT or RIGHT cursor keys.

Note that changes are not actioned until OK is pressed. At this point the unit will go through a MUTE cycle while the settings are configured.

Connection and Setup

1. Two cartridge inputs are available on the rear panel. By default, connect the cartridge cable to Input 1.
2. Two outputs (plus USB monitor) are provided on the rear panel. Choose either the RCA unbalanced or XLR balanced outputs and connect them to a line level amplifier input using good quality inter-connect cables. Typically the amplifier input would be 'Aux'.
3. Apply power to unit and switch on using the power switch on the rear panel. The unit will enter standby (standby button lit on front panel).
4. Power the unit ON from the front panel standby button.
5. After the welcome screen appears, press 'Sleep Lock' to keep the processor and display awake.
6. On the front panel select Input 1 (it may already be set like this!).
7. Press 'OK' to enter menu system and navigate up to INPUT SETUP.
8. Adjust the gain, input resistance and capacitance for the cartridge that you are using. The recommended resistance and capacitance should be specified by the cartridge manufacturer and is normally found in the specification sheet packed with the cartridge or on the manufacturers web site. The gain should be set to the next higher number than the output of the cartridge i.e. if the cartridge is 300uV, use 340uV setting etc. This maintains maximum headroom.
These settings are associated with the input and headshell in use and may be different for each combination. If a different input or headshell is selected, the settings must be adjusted as required for each combination.
9. Press OK to save the set-up and exit the menu. At this point, the settings will take effect.

Front panel controls

HIGH and LOW filters, MONO and MUTE are available from the front panel.

Low Filter

The Low filter may be used to remove low frequency 'warp' and 'rumble' signals. The filter operates at 15Hz and will not degrade the normal audio signal in any way.

High Filter

The high filter may be used to remove hiss or reduce the level of clicks on poor quality or damaged discs. The filter operates at 15kHz and will therefore cause minimal degradation to the normal audio signal.

Mono

Mono combines the cartridge signals to produce a mono signal. This is useful when a mono recording is replayed. In this mode, any surface noise and clicks are also produced in mono and are therefore less objectionable. If mono is not used, mono recordings will be replayed with 'stereo' noise which can be annoying.

Mute

Mute silences the output. This is useful when cleaning the stylus or when changing arms or headshells etc.

Sleep Lock

The signals produced by the microprocessor and LCD screen can degrade the audio path if running all the time. To avoid this, by default the processor will turn off the LCD and then power itself down after a delay of around 4-5 seconds. When sleeping the unit will look 'dead' but this is normal. Pressing any button will wake up the processor and allow normal operation.

If the user wishes to keep the processor and display awake, this can be achieved by pressing the Sleep Lock button. When the button's LED is alight, the unit will not 'sleep'.

Menus

Change Headshell

This menu function allows multiple arms or headshells to be used. All input settings are associated with the input and headshell in use and may be different for each combination. The menu automatically mutes the audio and allows selection of the required headshell. The input can be selected using the input buttons at the same time.

Welcome

The welcome screen is displayed at power-up and may also be displayed from the Welcome menu. This screen shows the current software version in the unit.

Initialise

This menu option may be used to return the unit to factory defaults and reset the internal memory. Use with caution as all user settings will be lost.

USB Port

The USB port allows the user to record to a computer for ripping, archiving or restoration. With modern operation systems such as Windows XP, Windows Vista or Mac OS-X, no special driver is required. The device will be recognised automatically and will be ready to use immediately.

Any good audio recording software may then be used to record from Vinyl.

The Monitor output RCA connectors and SPDIF output will then carry the replay output from the computer. The monitor outputs would typically be connected to the amplifier 'Tape' inputs to enable monitoring of the recording.

Record Level

The record level may be adjusted in the computer recording software but clipping may occur in the Agena if an inappropriate gain setting is chosen for the cartridge. This clipping cannot be reduced in the computer and therefore a different gain setting should be chosen in Agena to achieve optimum performance.

Best regards.....The Leema Team

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