

SSP-1 Stereo Tube Control Preamplifier

Owner's Manual





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SAFETY PRECAUTIONS



WARNING: A tube amplifier chassis contains lethal high voltage even when unplugged.

DO NOT REMOVE THE COVER. NO USER SERVICEABLE PARTS INSIDE.

DO NOT ATTEMPT TO OPEN THIS DEVICE.

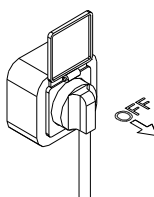
IN CASE OF MALFUNCTION CONTACT YOUR DEALER OR THE MANUFACTURER.

THIS EQUIPMENT MUST BE GROUNDED. IT SHOULD NOT BE NECESSARY TO REMOVE ANY PROTECTIVE GROUND OR SIGNAL CABLE SHIELD CONNECTIONS TO PREVENT GROUNDLOOPS.

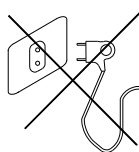
USE ONLY THE VOLTAGE INDICATED ON REAR PANEL

WARNING: Before any maintenance or placement, disconnect the device from the electrical outlets.

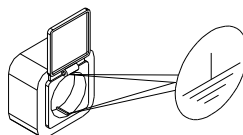
WITH THE POWER SWITCH TO OFF DISCONNECT THE DEVICE THE WAY THAT THE ARROW SHOWS



WARNING: Never use electrical outlets without earth



WARNING: Use only electrical outlets that are earthed.



DISPOSAL: Disposal According to the Directive 2002/96/EG of the European Parliament used consumer-electro technical appliances have to be disposed separately and have to be indicated with the following symbol. In the case of disposal of this component please do so in conformity with legal and environmental regulations.

TLA PROFILE

TLA was founded by Velissarios Georgiadis back in 1995, but its real origin goes back much further than this. It was back in 1957 when Velissarios' father Aristomenis, a transformer technician, started his own company, with the aim to make transformers under order for telecommunications, broadcast, medical, military and industrial implementations. It was just after 1980 when Velissarios, who was already experienced in transformer building having being taught all his father's know-how, he started to apply the additional knowledge which he gained from his university degree on Chemistry and Electronics as to develop transformers that would excel in audio applications of reference standard.

Velissarios developed, built and tested over, countless amplifiers before he transferred all this experience in **TLA** products on the year 1995. The name TrueLife Audio was chosen to underline the target market of **TLA** The search for True Life sound, where the listener would experience music at home as never before, In a True Life manner!

In the year 2005, young Aristomenis Georgiadis the second (son of Velissarios, named after his grandfather), finished his studies in Electrical Engineering and having received in the meantime all his grandfather's and father's experience in making audio transformers and amplification circuits that would excel in performance, joined the company as to assist in further improvements and the achievement of new levels for realistic sound.

"When we come with a new product, we make it for ourselves first" Velissarios says... A **TLA** amplifier starts its life with the innovative circuit it integrates being tested in the lab and optimized. Then, after the lab tests have been finalized and we are sure that our elegant innovation measures up to reference standards if compared with hi-end devices from other makers that are established in the market for their quality, we proceed to the next level which is to transform this same electronic device, into a musical instrument. As a consequence, our elegant innovations are made so that they age to improve all the time... much like a bottle of good wine... or a gorgeous guitar of the 50s!



INTRODUCTION

Your decision to own this **SSP-1 Control Preamplifier** of the **TLA's** "Supreme Series" ranks you at the very top among discriminating music listeners. You now have "The Best." The **TLA's** dedication to "Quality," is assurance that you will receive many years of musical enjoyment from this unit.

This level of accuracy and overall performance is a new achievement in the playback of music. I invite you to play your favorite recordings and experience it as you may never have before.

If I have brought you closer to the music, the artists and the full musical experience (the moments that we as audiophiles and music lovers cherish the most) then I have succeeded in my goal.

Please take a short time to read the information in this manual. We want you to be as familiar as possible with all the features and functions of your new **SSP-1 Control Preamplifier**.

I thank you once again for your investment on **TLA's** team development of the "Supreme Series"

Sincerely,

Aristomenis Georgiadis



SSP-1 Preamplifier Description

SSP-1 is a purist approach, Stereo tube preamplifier.

Pure class A, transformer coupled, Single Ended circuit build around two NOS 6J5 tubes.

Tube Rectifier power supply build around a NOS GZ32.

2 Chassis design. One for power supply circuits and one for Audio signal.

Dual Mono Design for both signal and power supply circuits, achieves total channel isolation and separation.

Output Transformers: Premium quality, using **OCC enameled copper** wire and **nanocrystalline C-core lamination** (from Hitachi metals), which increases the linearity of sound.

Power transformer: Premium quality, using **OCC enameled copper** wire and using **M6 lamination**, archiving losses lower than **0.05%** on full power.

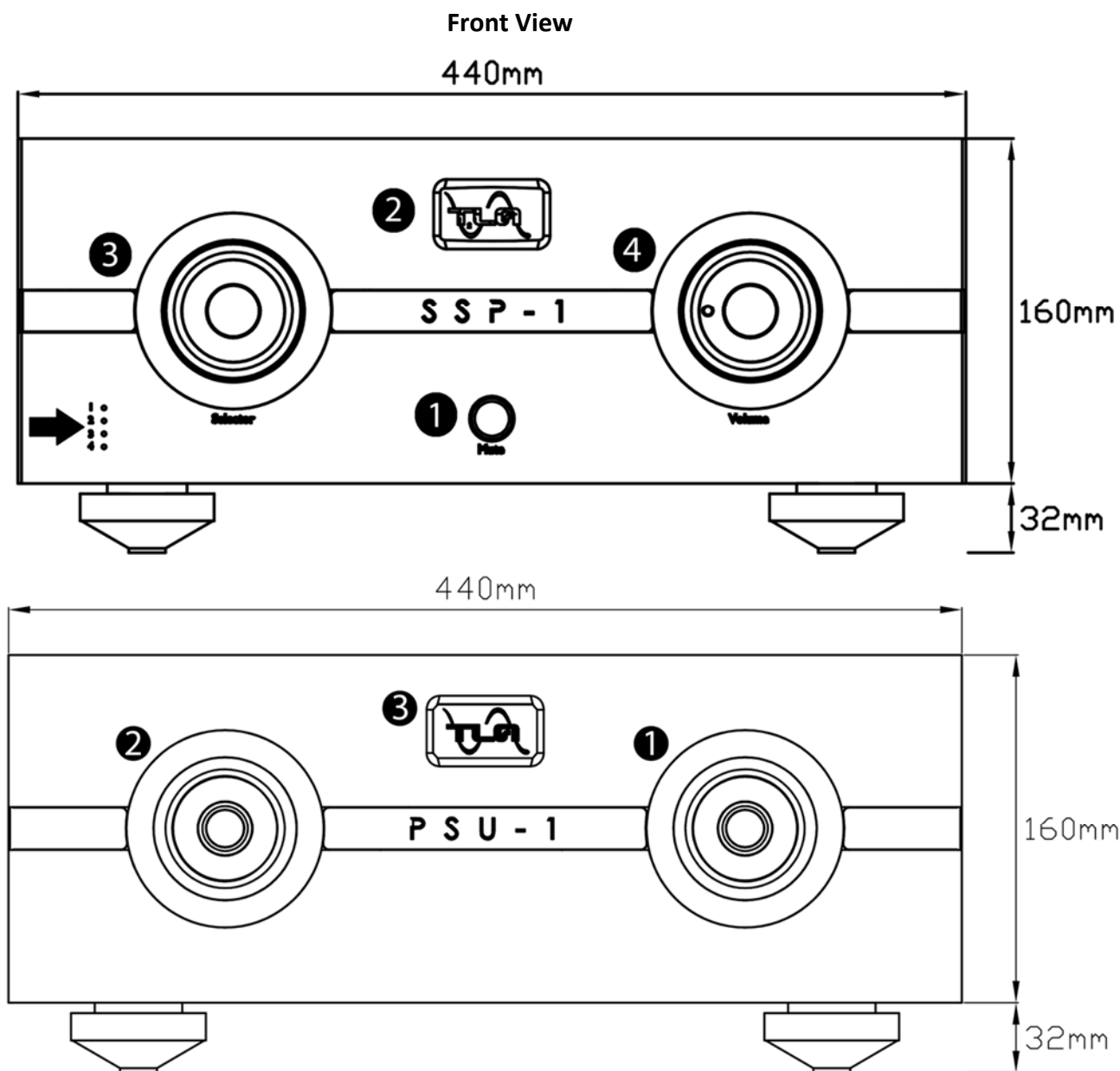
Choke: Premium quality, using **OCC enameled copper** wire and **amorphous C-core lamination**. This specifically increases the **speed** of the power supply.

11 transformers in total.

4 inputs selector.

Shunt type attenuator volume with remote control.

OCC copper solid core conductor is used for all wiring in both Signal and Power supply units.

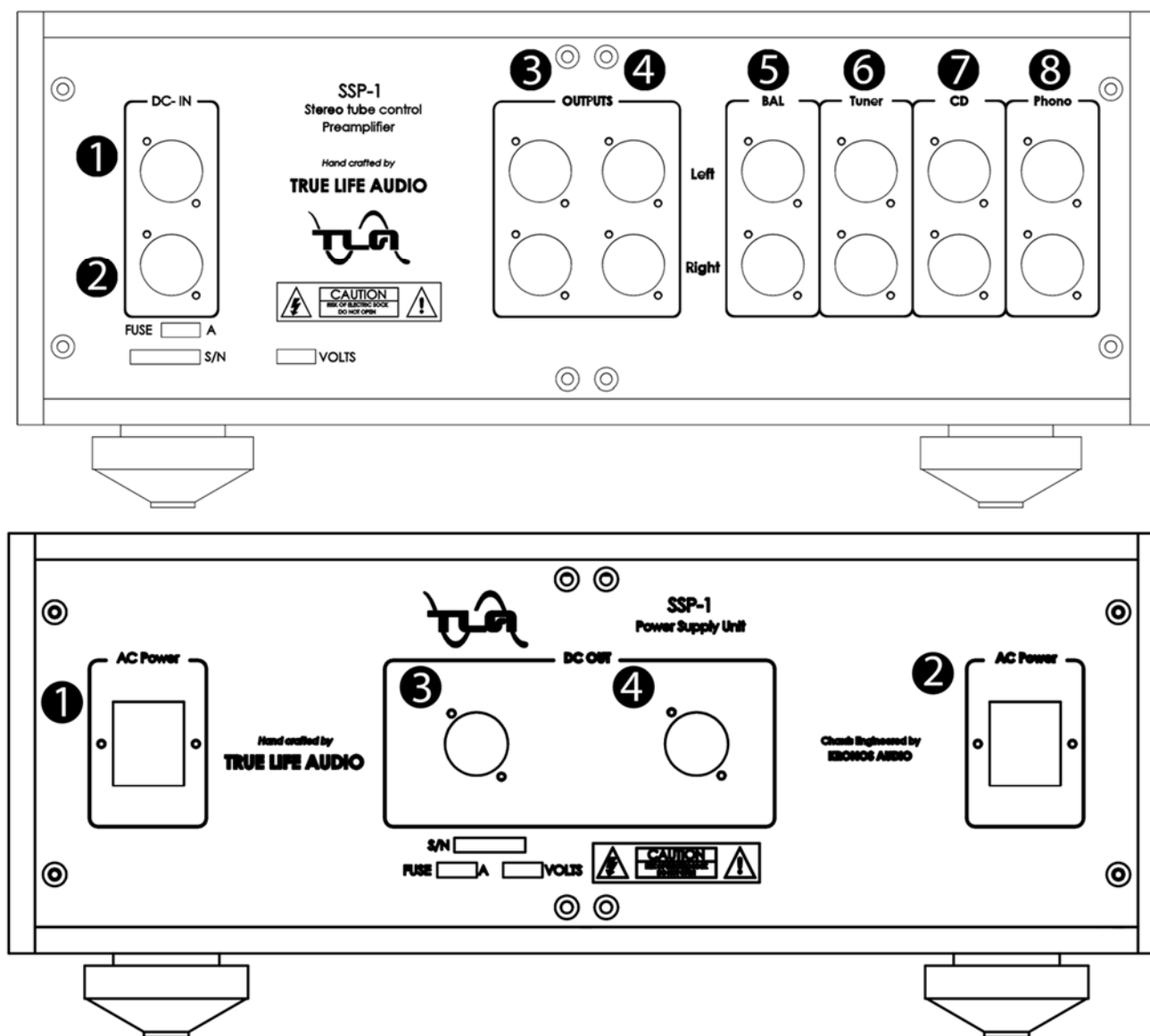


1. Mute Switch
2. Logo, lights up when power is on
3. Input selector switch
4. Volume attenuator
5. Input selector indication

PSU-1 Power Supply Unit Front View

1. Power switch (Right channel supply)
2. Power switch (Left channel supply)
3. Logo, lights up when power is on

Back View



SSP-1 Control Amplifier Unit Back View

1. Power XLR 6 pins connector from Power Supply unit (Right channel supply)
2. Power XLR 6 pins connector from Power Supply unit (Left channel supply)
3. XLR Outputs (Right and Left channels)
4. RCA Outputs (Right and Left channels)
5. XLR Line level Input (Right and Left channels-Unbalanced)
6. RCA Tuner, Line level Inputs (Right and Left channels-Unbalanced)
7. RCA CD, Line level Inputs (Right and Left channels-Unbalanced)
8. RCA Phono, Line level Inputs (Right and Left channels-Unbalanced)

PSU-1 Power Supply Unit Back View

1. IEC Power Inlet & Fuse Holder (Left channel supply)



2. IEC Power Inlet & Fuse Holder (Right channel supply)
3. Power XLR 6 pins connector to audio unit (Left channel supply)
4. Power XLR 6 pins connector to audio unit (Right channel supply)

Specifications

- **Maximum Voltage Output:** 20 Vrms
- **Input Impedance:** 100K
- **Output Impedance:** 220R
- **Voltage Gain:** 12dB
- **Frequency Bandwidth:** 10Hz-110kHz
- **Tubes:** 4 X 6J5 & 2 X GZ32
- **Voltage Options (Factory Set):**
230-240VAC
or
110-120VAC
- **Fuses (size 5x20mm):**
T315mA (Slow Blow): for 230V-240 VAC mains
T500mA(Slow Blow): for 110-120VAC mains
- **Color Options of both units (Front Plate):**
Silver
Black
- **Unit Dimensions (W x H x D) :**440 X 192 (with feet)X 445 mm **Each Unit**
- **Unit Weight:** Power supply Unit: 30K, Signal Unit: 26 Kg
- **Shipping Dimensions (W x H x D):**550 X 260X 530mm **Each Unit**
- **Shipping Weight:** Power supply Unit: 36K, Signal Unit: 32 Kg



PREPARATION AND INSTALLATION

The **SSP-1 Control Preamplifier** is a complete monaural design that consists of two separate units. The **SSP-1** Control amplifier and the **PSU-1** Power Supply Unit.

Budget a suitable space in which to place the **SSP-1 Control Preamplifier** and **PSU-1 Power Supply Unit**. Do not place the Control Unit on top of the Power Supply Unit and vice versa.

This space should also be free of excessive heat or dust and large enough to permit easy flow of cool air to the top, bottom and sides of each unit. Avoid locating both the **SSP-1 Control Preamplifier Unit** and the **Power Supply unit** where it will be exposed to direct sunlight, excessive humidity or moisture.

WARNING: To reduce risk of fire or electric shock, do not expose these appliances to rain or moisture.

Before Power-up

Connect the two provided power supply XLR 6 pins connectors (one for each channel) cables to the corresponded DC inputs of the control amplifier unit.

Keep the power off until all other system connections are completed.

Check that the mains voltage printed on the back of the Power Supply unit corresponds to the line voltage of the territory you intend to connect your **SSP-1 Control Preamplifier system**.

This **SSP-1 Control Preamplifier system** has been shipped with the vacuum tubes installed by the manufacturer.

Delayed Turn On

Since the **SSP-1 Control Preamplifier system** is an all tube design and take time for the filaments of the rectifier tubes GZ32 to warm up and supply high voltage, provides about 20 seconds delay before the Control Preamplifier is in full operation.

The Front Panel of PSU-1 Power Supply Unit

The front panel of **Power Supply Unit** includes two power on-off switches. Be sure to press on the power switches after you finish with all connections. When the left hand side power switch (left channel) is pressed on, the TLA logos on both the Control Unit and the Power Supply Unit lights up, after that the right hand side power switch has to be pressed on, to power up the right channel. When you intent to power off the **SSP-1 Control Preamplifier system**, press off the right hand side power switch and then the left hand side power switch.

The Rear Panel of PSU-1 Power Supply Unit

The rear panel of the **PSU-1 Power Supply Unit** has the two IEC Power Inlets in the center of the unit. The two XLR 6 pins DC OUT connectors are, one on the far right and one on the left side of the rear panel. Under to the IEC Inlets is the fuse holder of the mains fuse size 5x20mm that is rated T315mA (Slow Blow) for 230V-240 VAC **or** T500mA (Slow Blow) for 110-120 VAC

In case of fuse burn please replace with same type and rating fuse.

The Front Panel of SSP-1 Control Preamplifier

The front panel of **SSP-1 Control Preamplifier** includes the Mute on-off switch that mutes the signal of the output, the Volume attenuator for increasing or decreasing the output level, the Input selector switch for selecting the desired input source, the Input selector indication on the left down corner of the unit that indicates the selected input and finally the TLA logo. When the control preamplifier is powered on, the TLA logo lights up.

The Rear Panel of SSP-1 Control Preamplifier



The rear panel of the **SSP-1 Control Preamplifier** contains all input- and output connectors. The printed rear panel clearly indicates the function of each pair of connectors that is selected by the Input selector switch on the front panel. The input and output connectors have color identification for right (RED) and left (WHITE) channels.

IEC Power Inlets& Fuse Holders

The **PSU-1** Power Supply Unit is a monaural design too so it has two IEC plugs and you need two grounded IEC power cables of your choice, in order to power both channels. Check and make sure the power buttons is switched off and the Logo lights on both units is off, then attach two grounded IEC power cable jacks to the two IEC plugs.

Connecting output cables

Your **SSP-1 Control Preamplifier** has two pairs of OUTPUT connectors on the rear panel, a pair XLR Unbalanced Outputs and a pair of RCA Unbalanced Outputs, so can accommodate both types of interconnect cables.

You have to connect the right and left channel of your **SSP-1 Control Preamplifier** to the inputs of your power amplifier accordingly.

Good quality connectors provide added assurance against signal degradation due to contact corrosion. Regardless of cable or connector material, verify that the contacts are clean, and that the plug's outer shield is tight on the jack, to avoid hum.

Connecting input cables

Three pairs of INPUT RCA connectors and one pair of INPUT XLR connectors are located on the far right side of the rear panel of the preamplifier.

Shielded RCA (Unbalanced) or XLR (Unbalanced) type cables should be used to connect different sources to the four line level inputs.

How to avoid noise problems

The **SSP-1 Control Preamplifier** contains circuitry that might be sensitive to magnetic fields and RF signals. The unit should be placed well away from transformers, etc. Care should also be taken in routing all signal cables. They should not run parallel to speaker cables or AC cables mains. Keep cables as short as possible. For minimum hum, the control preamplifier unit should be placed away from the power supply unit.

How to Avoid Damages

A good operating practice is to turn off all equipment before any connections or disconnections are made.

Do not, under any circumstances, connect or disconnect equipment when power is turned on. If you insist on connecting or disconnecting while power is turned on, you should be aware that the design of the RCA plug generates a large transient when inserting the plug.



WARNINGS AND MAINTENANCE

The **SSP-1 Control Preamplifier** will be warm.

Due to the vacuum tubes used in the **TrueLife Audio** design, it is normal that the unit feels warm. Proper ventilation will be needed as described in section preparation for installation.

Make sure the preamp and power supply is off before making any system connections. Do not remove or insert the 6-pin Nutrich power supply connectors when the power supply mains switch is in the on position.

This unit contains voltages which can cause serious injury or death. Do not operate with cover removed. Refer servicing to your authorized **TrueLife Audio** dealer or other qualified personnel.

Replacing the Tubes

Before you take any action, please unplug the power cable of the unit from the mains. After unplugging let at least one hour to pass before you proceed with the replacement of the tubes. Let the preamp tube(s) cool down, if necessary, before handling. Tube heater filaments are somewhat more susceptible to damage when warm or hot.

Your **SSP-1 Control Preamplifier** uses four tubes in the audio preamplifier unit, two tubes type 6J5G for each channel and two rectifier tubes type EZ32, one for each channel in the power supply unit.

In the case that the tubes need to be replaced, follow the steps in the paragraph below.

Each tube should require only moderate force for removal and replacement. Gently rock the tube back and forth a bit during removal or replacement.

Each unit (control amplifier and power supply) have one top cover that actually consists of three pieces but can be removed as one panel. In order the top panel to be removed for replacing the tubes, you just have to use an Allen key and remove four screws closer to the front plate, then three screws closer to the back plate and finally two more on the side panels holding the middle piece. In total nine (9) screws need to be removed.

Please use only premium quality tubes that you can purchase from the local **TLA** dealer or directly from the manufacturer.

Mains

Unplug your **SSP-1 Control Preamplifier system** from the mains connection in the following cases:

- before you manipulate with cables
- before you clean your amplifier
- during thunder storms or
- before you leave for longer periods

Cleaning

Please use a soft towel for the cleaning of your Preamplifier. We recommend the use of a nonabrasive micro fiber towel. Please do not employ any solvents.

Security advice

Liquidity is not allowed to enter the Preamplifier. The electronic may be damaged seriously.

Packing



Please keep the original packing for future transports. The original packing is optimal protection against potential damages.

Service Policy

If service is needed

Your dealer will have all relevant information about the service centres in your area, and will ensure that your unit is serviced without delay. It is our general policy to have your unit returned to you within 20 working days. This is an average time, and could vary locally, depending on the workload at the service centre.

If, for some reason, there are no service facilities available in your country, please ship the **SSP-1 Control Preamplifier** to the following address:

TrueLife Audio (TLA)

Address: Ippokratous 13, Keratsini 18756, Athens, Greece

Phone: +30 210 5757605

+30 694 8787510

You are responsible for all shipping charges, insurance, re-importation to your country, and duty arrangements. When shipping a product to the factory for service, always include the following:

- 1) A sales slip or other proof of purchase if repair is claimed under warranty.
- 2) A proforma invoice with value of the goods, stating that the **SSP-1 Control Preamplifier** is returned to Greece for repair.
- 3) An accompanying note describing faults, symptoms, or problems with the **SSP-1 Control Preamplifier**.
- 4) Always ship the **SSP-1 Control Preamplifier** in the original box and packaging material to prevent damage in transit.

TrueLife Audio will not cover damages incurred in transit.

If you require further information concerning the **SSP-1 Control Preamplifier** operation, or if you have any questions related to service, please do not hesitate to contact your dealer or national **TrueLife Audio** let distributor. 210 6468010



WARRANTY

All **TrueLife Audio** equipment is covered by a limited warranty against defects in materials and workmanship for a period of 3 years from date of purchase to the original purchaser only.

Proper registration is made by filling out and returning to the factory the warranty card attached to this general warranty statement, along with a copy of the original sales receipt as proof of the original date of purchase. Only 1 card is issued with each unit, and the serial number is already recorded on it.

If the warranty registration card has already been removed then this is not a new unit, and is therefore not warranted by the factory. If you believe this to be a new unit then please contact the factory with the details of purchase.

This warranty is provided by the dealer where the unit was purchased, and by **TrueLife Audio**.

Under the terms of the warranty defective parts will be repaired or replaced without charge, excepting the cost of tubes. No warranty is offered on tubes, unless:

1. A **TrueLife Audio** preamplifier is used with the **SSP-2**, and
2. The warranty registration card is filled out.

In such a case a 6 month warranty on tubes is available with the correct recording of the serial number of the amplifier on your warranty registration card.

If a **TrueLife Audio** product fails to meet the above warranty, then the purchaser's sole remedy shall be to return the product to **TrueLife Audio**, where the defect will be repaired without charge for parts and labour.

The product will then be returned via prepaid, insured freight, method and carrier to be determined solely by **TrueLife Audio**. All returns to the factory must be in the original packing, accompanied by a written description of the defect, and must be shipped to **TrueLife Audio** via insured freight at the customer's own expense. Charges for unauthorized service and transportation costs are not reimbursable under this warranty, and all warranties, express or implied become null and void where the product has been damaged by misuse, accident, neglect, modification, tampering or unauthorized alteration by anyone other than **TrueLife Audio**.

The warrantor assumes no liability for property damage or any other incidental or consequential damage whatsoever which may result from failure of this product. Any and all warranties of merchantability and fitness implied by law are limited to the duration of the expressed warranty. All warranties apply only to **TrueLife Audio** products purchased thru **TrueLife Audio** directly, an authorized dealer or national **TrueLife Audio** let distributor.



WARRANTY REGISTRATION CARD

We ask that you please fill out this registration form and send it to:

TrueLife Audio (TLA)

Address: Ippokratous 13, Keratsini 18756, Athens, Greece

Phone: +30 210 5757605

+30 694 8787510

Email: info@truelifeaudio.com

or email to info@truelifeaudio.com with all the info requested below and a note stating this is Warrantee Registration.

Registration entitles you to product support, full warranty benefits, and notice of product enhancements and upgrades. You MUST complete and return the following to validate your warranty and registration.

Thank you again for choosing **TrueLife Audio**.

MODEL _____ SERIAL No. _____

PURCHASE DATE _____ SUPPLIER _____

NAME OF OWNER _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER _____

FAX _____

EMAIL _____



CONTACT INFORMATION

Address: Ippokratous 13,

Keratsini, 18756

Athens, Greece

Phone: +30 210 5757605

Email: info@truelifeaudio.com