

# ARAGON

## Stage One 7.1-Channel Preamplifier-Processor Product Information Guide

- THX Ultra 2 certified
- Styled to match all Aragon power amplifiers
- 432 mm width ensures cosmetic compatibility with a wide variety of source components
- Audiophile quality analogue preamp and digital surround processor in a single chassis.
- Ideal for Home Theatre and music reproduction
- Outstanding build quality
- Connection labels feature normal and upside-down script for hassle-free connections
- True analogue preamplifier: the Stage One delivers analogue stereo quality that most processors which use the “preamp” functions of their DSP circuit do not.
- Pronto Neo Remote Control: - software upgradeable, multi function learning remote handset offers full flexibility and comprehensive adjustments: learning function for controlling VCRs, CD/DVD players, TVs, etc.
- All modes and adjustments are detailed on the handset display. No need for on screen display, minimises digital noise and progressive scan issues with digital screens.
- Unit can be locked so user settings cannot be altered
- Level Calibration (access from Advanced Menu) controls all modes including 8 channel pass through, Allows for compensation of level differences by input or digital vs. analogue inputs from any source.
- Available in Anodised Black or Silver



### Signal Sources and Modes

- THX, THX Surround EX, THX Ultra 2 – music and movie modes.
- Dolby Digital – All modes including EX; Dolby Pro Logic II.
- DTS, DTS ES – Discrete and Matrix, DTS Neo 6: (DTS music mode has the proper 10db compensation for DTS music CDs/DVDs, and 4db offset for DTS movie tracks)
- SACD, DVD-A, DTS 96/24 – (decode by the CD/DVD player and connected via the DB 25, 8 channel connector. \*) DTS 96/24 can be decoded by the Stage One at 48/24  
\* (Several companies offer DB-25 to RCA connectors including AudioQuest, Supra and Straightwire)
- Multi-channel enhancement of stereo sources via Party, Club and 5 Channel Stereo modes.

### Set It and Forget It!

- Once set up, the user merely selects the desired input. No further adjusting is needed.
- Each input remembers its stored settings and changing inputs invokes all settings programmed for that source.
- With the Stage One in the Off position, select the input and the unit will power up at the last volume set for that input. It will also automatically select the proper mode for the signal it

receives at the input selected.

- If the last volume set was very high the unit will power on at a safe low volume – no problem with neighbours, etc.

### Easy Mode select (User settings are remembered)

- Easy adjustment from the Front Panel – just select an input and set the scene with the Manager knob –that's it!
- Change an input setting: the processor reinstates those settings when that input is selected.
- Hold down an input button to select the post-processing mode with the Manager knob. Release and the mode is set.

### Auto Format Detection

- The Stage One automatically detects the format of a digital signal and selects the proper mode of operation.
- If a PCM or analogue signal is detected (not Dolby Digital or DTS): The Stage One will select the mode last used to play or process that format.
- When listening to a multi-channel signal, the up/ down buttons on the Pronto remote provide front/rear balance.
- When listening in stereo mode, the left/ right buttons on the Pronto remote provide left/ right balance. No need to drill down into a menu to access balance.

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## Some Other Features

### Mode Tips

- Dolby Digital 2.0 tracks: If a DD 2.0 signal is the only mode on the disc, use Neo 6 to get all 7 channels to play. (If selected from the remote it will be saved as default for DD 2.0 source material)
- When a DD 2.0 disc is flagged "Surround Yes" in the disc: Post processing modes will not provide more than 2 channel sound (Club etc.) Use 'Neo 6' to hear all 5 (or 7) channels.
- If DD 2.0 material is flagged "Surround No" or not flagged, post processing modes work as normal.
- Dolby Pro Logic II Modes - for any 2 channel input
- PLII Movie mode: Use for stereo TV or any Dolby Surround signal.
- PLII Music mode: Use with stereo recordings to deliver surround experience.
- Center Channel Width: Adjusts in 8 steps whether center or main speakers deliver most output.
- Dimension - adjust front to rear balance for seat position relative to rear speakers and for too much / too little surround.
- PLII Matrix: great for mono TV audio
- Panorama mode: wraps Left and Right around to include side surrounds. (Center width and Dimension functions work as above)
- Pro Logic mode - emulates old Dolby Pro Logic.

### Bass Management

- Variable in 5 Hz increments 20 - 120 Hz.
- Separate settings for Surround and Stereo modes - you can have the Sub on in Surround, off for Stereo 2 Channel music.
- Bass Mgt. crossover setting affects all 5 channels.
- High pass and full bass management can be applied in analogue stereo.
- In Stereo Direct, you can choose full range main speakers (without DSP) or DSP managed low pass to subwoofer.
- When bass is routed to the main speakers, it is done in the analogue domain to preserve highest s/n ratio.

### Level Calibration (access from Advanced Menu)

- Controls all modes including 8 channel pass through.
- Allows for compensation of level differences by input or digital vs. analogue inputs from any source.

### ASA - Advanced Speaker Array

- Compensates for excess distance between rear surrounds
- Works in THX Ultra Cinema mode and THX Music mode so rears sound like diffuse (movie) or direct (music) designs.
- In THX Ultra 2 Cinema mode, ASA blends side and rear surrounds for best mix of diffuse and direct rear effects.
- In THX Music mode ASA enhances rear image allowing speakers to emulate narrow dispersion designs.

## Specifications

### DESIGN:

8-ch THX Ultra2 Surround Preamplifier

### FREQUENCY RESPONSE:

10Hz-100kHz +0/-3dB

### DIRECT INPUTS FREQUENCY RESPONSE:

10Hz-20kHz +0/-0.2dB

### ANALOG INPUTS FREQUENCY RESPONSE:

20Hz-20kHz +0/-0.5dB

### DIGITAL INPUTS FREQUENCY RESPONSE:

20Hz-20kHz +0/-0.5dB

THD: <0.02% (20Hz-20kHz)

S/N RATIO: 108dB (Direct Inputs)

MAXIMUM OUTPUT: 7V rms

DSP ENGINE: Motorola 56367

D/A CONVERTERS: Crystal 24-bit/192kHz - all 8 channels

ANALOG AUDIO INPUTS: 7 Pair Left/Right Gold-plated RCA Phono

DIGITAL AUDIO INPUTS: 7 Coaxial, 3 Toslink Optical

### VIDEO INPUTS:

7 Composite, 7 S-video, 3 Component Video (HD Compatible)

MULTICHANNEL EXTERNAL AUDIO INPUTS: 8-ch via DB-25

ANALOG PREOUTS: 8 Gold-plated RCA Phono Jacks

### RECORD/TAPE LOOP OUTPUTS:

2 Pair Left/Right Gold-plated RCA Phono Jacks

DIGITAL AUDIO OUTPUTS: 1 Toslink Optical

### VIDEO OUTPUTS:

2 Composite, 2 S-video, 1 Component Video (HD Compatible)

### COMMUNICATION AND CONTROL:

RS-232, 12VDC Trigger Out, IR Input

REMOTE CONTROL: Philips ProntoNEO Touchpanel Learning

POWER CONSUMPTION: 40W

### DIMENSIONS (H x W x D)

5.8" (14.7cm) x 17" (43.2cm) x 15.25" (38.7cm)

WEIGHT: 27 lbs. (12.3kg)