

ZeroUno PLUS ULTRA Preamplifier

The ZeroUno PLUS ULTRA has been developed based on the experience acquired and lessons learned from our top-of-the-line 90Wrms in pure class A La Scala power amplifier. La Scala exudes authority and maintains absolute control of your loudspeakers, with an astonishing reproduction voted to a natural reproduction in any style of music.

The 90Wrms are reached using only 6 components and without any capacitor in the signal path: mono triode, and mono MOSFET, with full transformers coupling at the input, interstage, output and, last but not least without capacitor on the signal.

ZeroUno ULTRA is the perfect partner of a reference power amplifier to reach the musical authority and effortless ease.

Into the ULTRA there is the shortest possible signal path, with only 10 components used and without any capacitor that can leave its fingerprint. Essentially one ECC82 and one JFET connected in parallel to form a complementary couple, one amorphous core transformer, and 4 resistors. All the superfluous circuitries have been cancelled, for a reproduction as natural as possible.

Of course the power supplies are the core of the unit, with 90% of the electronic implemented occupied by them.

Instead of the ECC82 the ECC88 can be used, plug and play.

To finalize the electronic design a reference chain was settled up: turntable Thuono TH400, tonearm Thiele TA01, very low output cartridge DV KARAT 17DX with gold coils, Aesthetic RHEA phonostage, LaScala power amplifier, high definition and high efficiency loudspeakers Sigma Acoustic MAAT Vector.

Exhaustive investigation and auditioning have been done for the perfect selection and match of every component inside the ULTRA, and some proprietary parts have been custom-designed.

The system was presented with success at the last HiEnd in Munich.

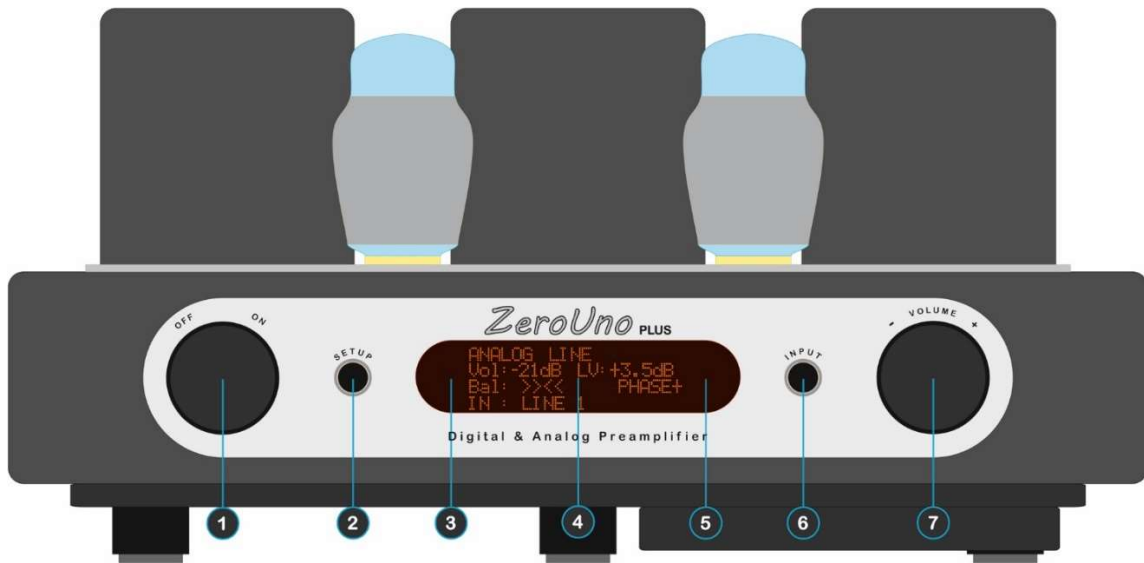
The basses are firm, well-defined, with massive attack. Together the gentle richness of detail at the medium high frequencies contribute to the preamplifier's ability to render the reproduction as natural as possible, with three-dimensional realism and instrumental placement ... what we call "natural listening", or "slow sound" to remember the "slow food" approach.

Both the ZeroUno SE, digital inputs only, and ZeroUno PLUS preamplifier, can be upgraded to the ULTRA version.

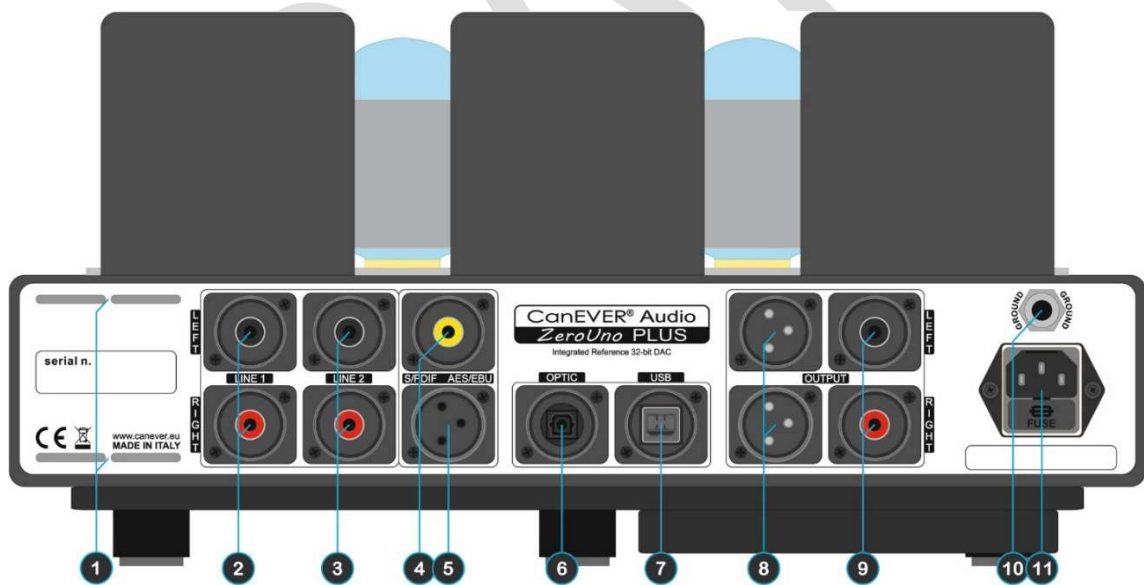


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FRONT and REAR view

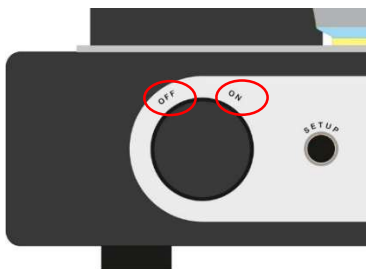


<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ① ON/OFF switch ② SETUP button if pressed for at least 2 sec. or RESTORE button if pressed for more than 10 sec ③ LED for factory use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ④ LCD Display ⑤ INFRARED RECEIVER - do not cover ⑥ INPUT SELECTOR button ⑦ VOLUME / PARAMETER knob
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ① VENT DOOR – DO NOT COVER ② LINE 1 Analog Input ③ LINE 2 Analog Input ④ S/PDIF 75Ω RCA Input ⑤ AES/EBU 110Ω XLR Input (BNC optional) ⑥ OPTICAL Input 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⑦ USB 2.0 input ⑧ Left & Right True Balanced Outputs ⑨ Left & Right Unbalanced RCA Outputs ⑩ Ground Connection ⑪ 230Vac (110Vac in alternative) IEC Socket.
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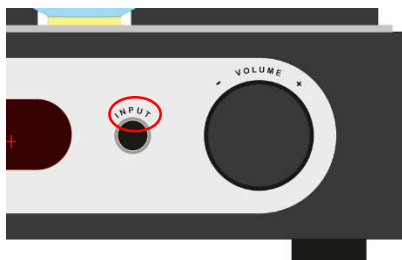
ON / OFF



The left knob is the **POWER SWITCH**.

- OFF No power to any part of the ZeroUno PLUS
- ON ZeroUno PLUS is powered on

INPUT BUTTON

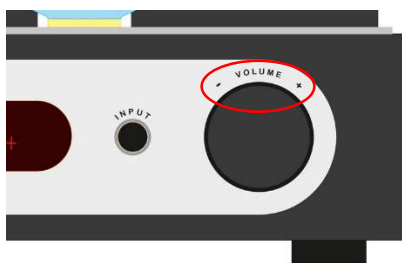


Press the **INPUT** button to switch from one input to another in the following order:

- LINE 1 / ANALOG
- LINE 2 / ANALOG
- RCA SPDIF
- XLR AES/EBU SPDIF
- OPTICAL SPDIF
- USB (i²S or DoP with auto detection)

The de-emphasis filter will be activated automatically, if the signal at the input was recorded with emphasis.

VOLUME

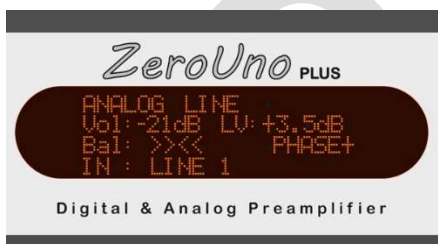


In PLAY mode turning the right knob clockwise or counter clockwise changes the **VOLUME** (up/down) in steps of 1 dB.

While rotating the volume knob, the volume level is shown at the display.

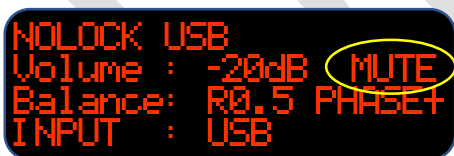
Volume range is -65dB – 0dB.

DISPLAY



In PLAY mode the display reports the status of the ZeroUno PLUS .

- The first row at the display shows the type of the incoming audio signal. In case, this is a digital signal, the lock status is shown.
- The second row shows the *volume* and *level* adjustment in dB.
- The third row shows the *balance* and the listening *phase*.
- The fourth row shows the active *input*.



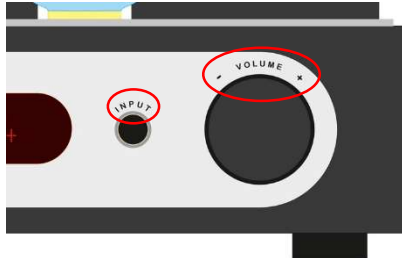
When MUTE appears in the second row at the display in standard size, there is no signal locked at the currently selected INPUT.

In this case the ZeroUno PLUS automatically switches to MUTE.

PARAMETERs SETUP

To enter the SETUP mode, press the SETUP button for at least 2 seconds, but less than 10 seconds. Press the SETUP button again to skip from one parameter to the next.

DIRECT LEVEL ADJUSTMENT



SHORTCUT for DIRECT LEVEL ADJUSTMENT

For flexibility, it is possible to adjust the LEVEL *without* the need to enter in SETUP mode.

While in PLAY mode, to adjust the level:

- Press the INPUT button and keep it pressed.
- Then rotate the VOLUME knob left or right.
- The level adjustment is shown at the display.

LEVEL ADJUSTMENT

```
2 sec to EXIT&STORE
SETUP: LEVEL
      +7.5dB
```

Display example

LEVEL

Turning the right knob (VOLUME) changes the LEVEL value. During the process the user can listen to the sound and adjust the level by ear.

Level range is from -26dB to +17dB in steps of 0.5dB.

After 10 seconds without interaction at the right knob, the display turns back into normal operation and the parameter is stored. The countdown on the first row helps to control the left time.

BIG SAMPLING RATE

```
1 sec to EXIT&STORE
SETUP: SAMPLING RATE
Show changes in BIG
```

Display example

SAMPLING RATE changes in BIG digits

Turning the right knob (VOLUME), sets the display to show the sampling rate of the music file playing in big digits.

The user can select between:

“Show changes in BIG” and “Do not show BIG digit”.

After 10 seconds without interaction at the right knob, the display turns back into normal operation and the parameter is stored.

The countdown on the first row helps to control the left time.

PHASE SETUP

```
5 sec to EXIT&STORE
SETUP: PHASE
> Absolute Polarity
```

Display example

LISTENING POLARITY (PHASE)

Turning the right knob (VOLUME) toggles the polarity listening: *absolute polarity vs. inverted absolute polarity*

After 10 seconds without interaction at the right knob, the display turns back into normal operation and the parameter is stored.

The countdown on the first row helps to control the left time.

BALANCE SETUP

```
7 sec to EXIT&STORE
SETUP: BALANCE
      RIGHT 1.5dB
```

Display example

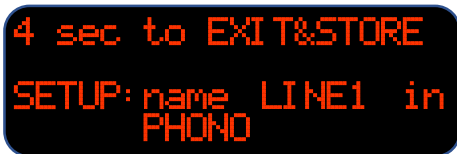
BALANCE

Turning the right knob (VOLUME) changes the BALANCE value. Balance range from 5.0dB left to 5.0dB right in steps of 0.5dB.

After 10 seconds without interaction at the right knob, the display turns back into normal operation and the parameter is stored.

The countdown on the first row helps to control the left time.

INPUT NAME



Display example

ASSIGN AN INPUT NAME TO LINE INPUT 1 and/or INPUT 2

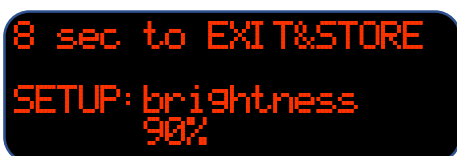
For the two analog inputs, it is possible to assign a name. The names set by the factory are LINE_1 and LINE_2.

Press the INPUT button right of the display to select LINE_1 or LINE_2.

To rename the input channel, rotate the VOLUME knob to select the desired name (PHONO, TAPE, TUNER, LINE_1, LINE_2, AUX_1, AUX_2) for the selected input.

After 10 seconds without interaction at the right knob the display turns back into normal operation and the parameter is stored. The countdown on the first row helps to control the left time.

LCD BRIGHTNESS SETUP



Display example

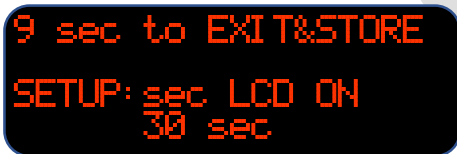
LCD BRIGHTNESS

Turning the right knob (VOLUME) changes the display brightness. Values are: 50% / 60% / 70% / 90% / 100%

After 10 seconds without interaction at the right knob, the display turns back into normal operation and the parameter is stored.

The countdown on the first row helps to control the left time.

LCD DIMMER SETUP



Display example

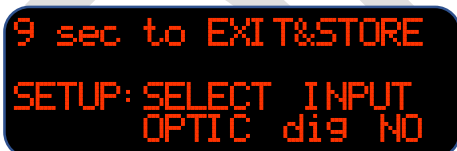
LCD DIMMER

Turning the right knob (VOLUME) changes the display ON time. Timer Settings: 10s / 20s / 30s / 40s / 50s / always on

After 10 seconds without interaction at the right knob, the display turns back into normal operation and the parameter is stored.

The countdown on the first row helps to control the left time.

INPUTs BYPASS



Display example

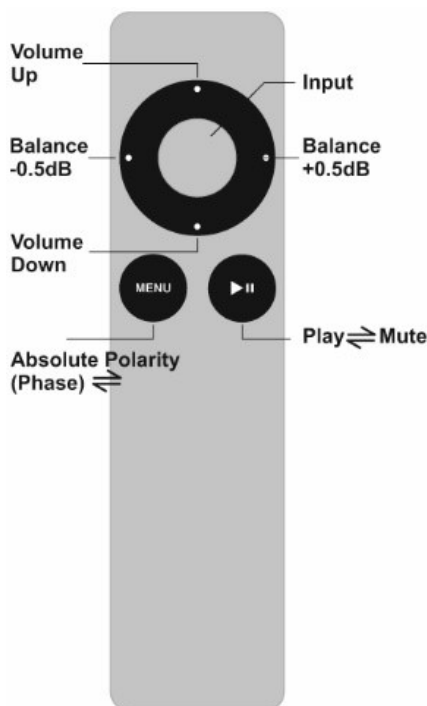
ACTIVATE OR MUTE INPUT CHANNELS

For convenience the user can activate only those input channels, which are connected to a source and mute those, which are not connected to a source. It is possible as well to mute all input channels but only two, which the user wants compare. Maybe to check the signal quality of the signal coming from a CD player and that coming from a computer or a music server via the USB input. Or, to compare the signal quality coming from an analog turntable and that coming from the music server via USB.

Press the INPUT button to select the input channel You want to mute.

Then rotate the VOLUME knob to set the selected input channel as active or as bypassed.

INFRARED REMOTE CONTROLLER



Button	Value
Balance	Left to Right in steps of 0.5dB each. Range is 0-5dB
Volume	Up and Down steps of 1.0dB. Range is -60dB to 0dB
Phase	Absolute Polarity < toggle > Inverse Absolute Polarity
Mute	Mute < toggle > Play
Input	Skip to the following active INPUT

How to pair the remote controller (RC).

The RC coming with each *ZeroUno PLUS* has been paired to the unit already in the factory by selecting one of 256 possible pairing codes.

In case of interference with the RC's of other electronics in the household, the preselected RC code can be changed at any time.

To pair the RC and the *ZeroUno PLUS* do the following:

- 1) Move the RC in front of the *ZeroUno PLUS* (about 1 meter).
- 2) Press any button on the RC.
- 3) Enter in SETUP mode pressing the SETUP button for at least 2 seconds and less than 10 seconds.
- 4) When in SETUP Mode, KEEP PRESSED the INPUT button close the Volume knob.
- 5) Holding the INPUT button pressed, PRESS again the SETUP button.
- 6) Release both buttons (INPUT & SETUP).
- 7) RC now is paired.

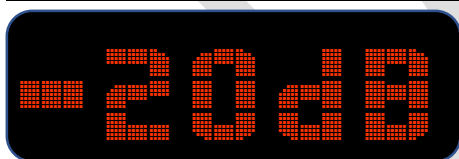
If there is still interference with other RC's in the household, please restart the process above described to generate another code.

When the RC communicates with the *ZeroUno PLUS*, a dot appears at the bottom-right corner of the display.

If this dot does not appear, check the battery inside the RC controller (battery type: CR2032B)

When replacing the battery, pay attention to insert it in the right way (check +/- position!!!).

To get an instant feedback about the *ZeroUno PLUS* status, every time the VOLUME, BALANCE and MUTE button is pressed at the RC, the display shows the value for VOLUME, BALANCE and MUTE in tall digits for 5 seconds.



When the **VOLUME** buttons are pressed the attenuation changes in steps of 1.0dB.

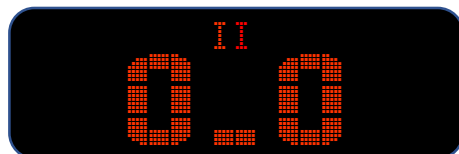
The range is -65dB to 0dB.

If the button is pressed constantly, the attenuation changes quickly.



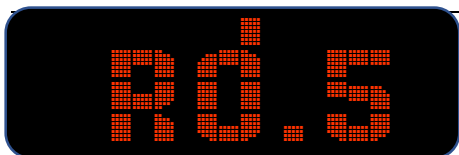
When the **BALANCE** buttons are pressed, the balance changes in steps of 0.5dB steps.

Range is LEFT -5.0dB to RIGHT +5.0dB.



To help the user the 1st row of the display reports a bar showing the position of the balance value in the range -5.0dB to 5.0dB.

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When the balance is set to 0.0dB the display shows clearly the condition.



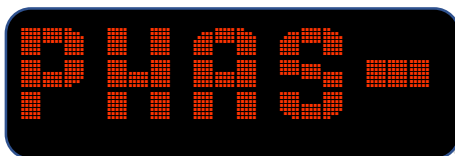
When the **MUTE** button is pressed, the *ZeroUno PLUS* is muted and the display *never* switches back to the standard size view until the MUTE button is pressed again.

After the MUTE button is pressed again, the *ZeroUno PLUS* is un-muted. The display turns back into normal operation.

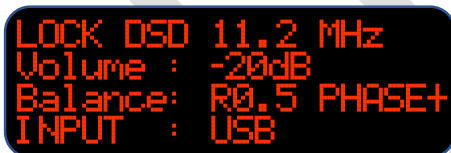
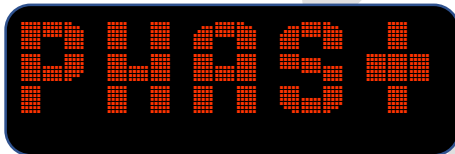


When the **MENU** button is pressed, the value switches between absolute polarity listening (PHASE+) and inverse absolute polarity listening (PHASE-).

As during the recording, the mastering and the production process the absolute polarity of the music program is changing many times, the final digital master file can be stored in inverted polarity. As some listeners are very sensitive to this fact, the *ZeroUno PLUS* gives the customer the option to change the absolute polarity of the music file by pushing the MENU button at the remote control.

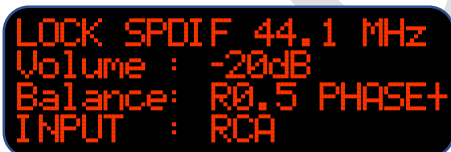


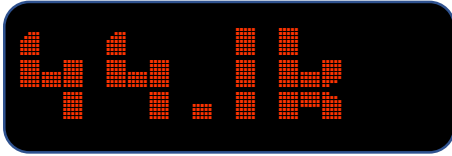
If no key is pressed within 10 seconds, the *ZeroUno PLUS* automatically stores the values shown at the display and switches back to the PLAY/MUTE mode.



When the **INPUT** button is pressed, the *ZeroUno PLUS* switches between the INPUTs.

In the last row of the display the selected INPUT is shown.



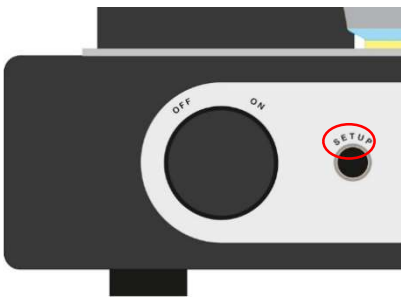


When there is a change in the sampling rate of the incoming music file, the locked frequency is shown in big digits.

By the parameter BIG SAMPLING RATE is possible to toggle on / off the function.



RESTORE OF FACTORY SETTINGS



To **RESTORE** the factory setup, the SETUP button at the front panel of the *ZeroUno PLUS* must be pressed for at least 10 seconds.

The RESTORE command takes action after the SETUP button is released.

All parameters of all INPUTs will be RESET to the factory values.

A countdown running in the second row of the display is shown, when the *ZeroUno PLUS* has engaged the RESTORE command.

Once engaged, it is no possible to stop the RESTORE command.

The Specifications in this document are subject to change without notice.

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