

Phono 2-SB Operating Options



Table of Contents

Balanced and Single Ended Operation.....	3
Gain.....	3
Cartridge Loading.....	3
Grounding.....	4
Contact LKV Research.....	5
Mailing Address.....	5
Website.....	5
Email.....	5
Phone.....	5

The LKV Phono 2-SB is a very flexible component designed with numerous adjustments that make it suitable for use in virtually any Hi-End audio system.

Balanced and Single Ended Operation.

The 2-SB's inputs and outputs have both RCA phono jacks and XLR receptacles that allow the unit to accept either single ended or balanced signals. The unit can be operated in any of four modes:

- Single ended input and output.
- Balanced in and out.
- Single ended in/balanced out.
- Balanced in/single ended out.

These modes are selected using four toggle switches on the rear panel. Their operation is illustrated in the owner's manual. Even in single ended mode, the benefits of balanced, differential amplification are not lost, for two of the three gain stages still operate in differential mode.

Gain.

The gain of the 2-SB can be adjusted for virtually all cartridge outputs. The following levels of gain are available:

- With balanced output and either balanced or single ended input: 44/50/60 dB.
- With single ended output: 38/44/54 dB.

Adjustments are made using small rocker switches located on the circuit boards in the main chassis and are illustrated in the Owner's Manual. We recommend using the lowest gain setting that will produce the desired volume level with your preamp's volume control set between 12 o'clock and 2 o'clock.

Cartridge Loading.

The 2-SB offers a wide variety of resistance values ranging from 50 ohms to 47.5K ohms for cartridge loading. The 2-SB's 47.5K ohm setting will be right for most moving magnet cartridges. For moving coil cartridges, the resistive load functions as a kind of tone control, and will need to be set anywhere from 50 or 100 ohms to 1K ohms. Decreasing the resistance will tend to attenuate the high frequencies and tame the high end peaks of moving coil cartridges, thereby softening and warming the sound, possibly at the expense of detail and brilliance. Increasing the resistance tends to boost the high end, giving a brighter, more detailed sound. The 2-SB provides full scope for making these adjustments by offering numerous loading options:

- Balanced input: 100/206/300/666/1K/2K ohms.
- Single ended input: 50/103/150/333/500/1K.

Diagrams in the Owner's Manual show how to select among these various resistive loads using rocker switches on the main circuit boards.

Grounding.

To achieve the lowest noise and avoid ground loops in a wide variety of systems, the Phono 2-SB offers three options for grounding the audio circuitry. **The safety ground permanently connects both metal enclosures to your building's power distribution ground through the third (ground) lug on the power supply cord. That safety ground should never be disconnected.** But the ground for the audio circuitry may be connected in any one of three ways by use of a triple throw toggle switch labeled "Ground Selector" on the power supply box. When this switch is "up" the circuit ground is connected to the safety ground. When it is in the middle position, the circuit ground floats, i.e., it is not connected to anything. In the down position, the switch connects the circuit ground to the gray binding post on the outside of the power supply box. This post should then be connected to a ground connection of the user's choosing. By experimenting with the three positions in your own system, you can find the one that gives you the quietest operation. See the Owner's manual for more information.

Contact LKV Research

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