



# AMR PH-77

## A Weighty Sound Argument

Not many in this country have heard of AMR. With the **PH-77**, this company deserves some attention. This 30-kilo behemoth not only sounds excellent; but it can be meticulously adjusted to suit any cartridge and offers 23 different equalisation curves. In addition, this valve phono preamplifier features a USB-A/D-Converter

The first encounter with the AMR PH-77 can be a frustrating experience or the beginning of a wonderful long-term relationship: depending on the perspective of the viewer. Some 50 kilos has to be hoisted for which two persons are required, (this is for one's benefit because of the bulky size of the elaborate transport packaging).

The colleagues chosen to do this job had to be provided with an explanation: "Yes, the packaged part weighs as much as an amplifier! No, the huge flightcase is not a special demo case from Fast Audio, but standard for all AMR 77 devices."

Even unpacked, this valve phono preamp tips the scales at an incredible 28 kilos - no doubt an extraordinary achievement for a mere phono equalizer.

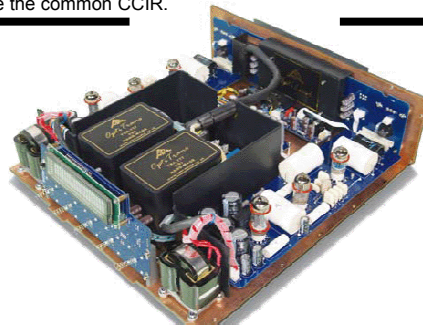
**A MACHINE BY PROFESSIONALS FOR PROFESSIONALS: PERFECT FOR ANY SITUATION**

This giant baby from German-born developer Thorsten Loesch offers 23 equalization curves no less, because even after its introduction in 1954, the RIAA standard was not globally adopted. Eastern Bloc countries for example, continued to use the common CCIR.

**Sumptuous effort:** AMR's versatile PH-77 comes in a vault-like aluminum chassis with a large front display. The dimensions are the same as the Integrated amplifier and CD Processor in the 77-series

Behind this rare luxury, that most definitely enables one to hear differences - such as less aggressive highs in certain DMM pressings - lies co-operation AMR enjoyed from audio engineers and sound archivists from the BBC, the British Library Sound Archive and the Munich Institute for Radio Technology (IRT): all of them big names that bear witness to the know-how of Abbingdon Music Research (the company's full name).

In addition to professional collectors, private collectors with a large collection of historical records will benefit greatly from the adjustable equalisation-curves; those who own only current discs may need it less so.

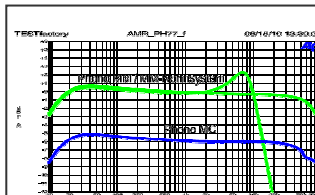


**VIP-area:** The phono internal compartments are separated and sealed by partition walls with no negative feedback and single-ended Class-A circuitry.

The large matrix display shows stored names such as the cartridge type.

### Laboratory

The AMR PH-77 is designed with a very wide dynamic range. The upper limit frequency (-3 dB) is 90 kilohertz. However, frequency response drops slightly from a 1-dB peak at 50 Hertz towards high frequencies. The subsonic filter cannot be switched off. The tube-like distortion spectrum shows K2-emphasis, i.e. soft distortion in a similar distribution as the Audio Research in all, to a lower level of distortion, though. Depending on the setting, noise with MM-phono is about 60 db below the desired signal; the PH-77 is rather more recommendable as an MC-phono where the signal-to-noise ratio of 76 db puts the AMR at eye-level with AR and Burmester.



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Very slight but smooth and linear drop towards high frequencies; fixed rumble filter.

Another argument for a more detailed consideration of the AMR is its appealing technical approach: the no negative feedback single-ended Class-A valve output stage is impressive but by no means intrusively displayed through square perspex hatches built into the massive aluminum cover.

Gain can be set to eight different levels to match the output voltage of the cartridge. This was particularly helpful to adjust when the owner uses this in conjunction with a further highlight of the PH-77: the 24-Bit/96-kHz-A/D-Converter to digitise vinyl by transmitting the data via USB to a PC or Mac. Reproduction of thus converted vinyl from the hard drive can come full circle when used with the near identical CD-Processor CD-77, because it has a USB input. Three switchable audio inputs, RCA and XLR outputs, with 32-step adjustment plus possibilities for impedance and capacitance matching and a solid remote control complete the features list.

### Full Palette of Colors

In this league one is interested in the first place, what the phono preamp with high-quality MC systems such as the Lyrä Delos is able to deliver. After warm-up the PH-77 immediately offers a rich sound that recreates the vivacity of each instrument. This English machine presents a very precise focus and presentation of solo voices was pinpoint and immovably centered between the speakers. Microdynamics such as the finger snapping in Elvis Presley's "Fever" reached the required standard in this class of equipment. Macro dynamics however, especially bass, was defined in a class of its own: with Phil Collins' "In The Air Tonight" when the drums kick-in in for the climax, was as if an acoustic tsunami rolled into the listening position.

### FACTS

#### AMR PH-77

Distribution	Fast Audio 0711 / 480 88 88
www.	fastaudio.com
List price	€ 8800
Warranty	2 years
Dimensions	W×H×D 46×16×47 cm
Weight	28KG

#### Connections

MM / MC	• / •
other inputs	—
Outputs RCA / XLR	• / •
Level control	•
Digital / USB	— / •

#### Features

Adaptation MC	(47 Ω – 47KΩ)
Adaptation MM	(47KΩ, 70-680pF)
Subsonic filter	fixed
Remote control	•
Extras	Equalisation adjustment, A / D converter with USB

### AUDIOGRAMM

	+ Very colourful, stable and palpable, rich bass. Very high flexibility.
	- MM hisses strongly
Sound MM / MC	- /130
Features	outstanding
Ease of Operation	very good
Build quality	outstanding
<b>AUDIO overall</b>	<b>130 points</b>

Owners of unusual discs such as Carl Orff's "Die Kluge" in the DDR version, will also experience an essential increase in sound quality using the appropriate equalisation (in this case, CCIR).

With a rich sound and excellent features, AMR has created a gem for any dedicated record collector.