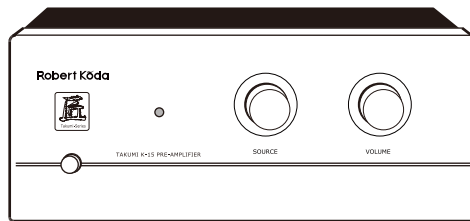


Robert Kōda



Takumi K-15 Owner's guide

Thank you

We extend our hand in deep gratitude, thanking you for selecting our flagship pre-amplifier, the Takumi K-15.

This pre-amplifier is easy to install and use but there are some precautions that need to be observed in order to attain maximum performance, safety and longevity. Please read the owner's manual thoroughly before installing your K-15.

If you have any queries or should you require any supplementary information do not hesitate to contact your distributor or Robert Koda directly.

Cordially,

Robert Koch.

Important safety information

This unit is designed to be earthed.

Please therefore ensure that the AC power cable you select to use with the K-15 is a three wire type that is earthed. Failure to do so may render a potentially dangerous situation. Certain countries may require you to use only the power cable supplied with this unit.

There are no user serviceable parts inside. Please therefore do not attempt to open, adjust or modify this pre-amplifier.

AC operating voltage.

Your K-15 may be set for 220 – 250V operation or 100 to 120V operation.

Please check the rear IEC power inlet receptacle and ensure "230V" is visible in the window if you require 220 – 250V operation. The pre-amplifier may be set externally to 100 to 120V operation if required. During this process the two fuses should be exchanged from 1A to 2A types.

Be absolutely sure your unit is set to the correct voltage before plugging it in!

Power up and power down sequence.

Due to the fact that the K-15 does not incorporate power up / down muting circuits, a pulse may be emitted from the speakers if the pre-amplifier is not powered up or down in the correct sequence. This pulse may be objectionable or even damaging to your loudspeakers and in particular active bass systems. Therefore, please note the following guidelines:

On power up, turn the pre-amplifier on for five seconds or more before turning on the power amplifier(s).

Placement requirements

Owing to the substantial weight of the K-15, this pre-amplifier should be placed on a firm, stable and solid surface. The use of a dedicated audio stand or plinth may provide some degree of increased performance.

Avoid areas of high humidity, direct sunlight, exposure to flammable gas or possible exposure to liquids when setting up the K-15.

The K-15 pre-amplifier is not designed to be placed directly on top of other audio components nor have other audio components placed on top of it.

Connections

Inputs

All five stereo inputs are available in RCA (single ended) or balanced modes. Plug in your preferred connector and set the input selector to the corresponding number between 1 and 5.

If using RCA inputs, placing a "shorting plug" on the corresponding XLR input socket will yield a measurable improvement in technical specifications and performance. Such a shorting socket should be wired as follows: Pin 1 and pin 3: Bridged together. Pin 2: No connection.

Please note that the input selector switch, power switch and volume control are all pure mechanical switches and since each has a different function, the "Feel" of each control is unique.

Outputs

Two pairs of RCA' s and two pairs XLR' s are used for output connection. Set the Balanced / SE switch to SE for single ended operation on the RCA sockets.

In Balanced output mode the XLR sockets provide a full true balanced signal with pin 1 being ground, pin 2 hot and pin 3 cold.

Connections

Output impedance

In SE mode the output impedance is 60 ohms.

In Balanced mode the output impedance is 30 ohms per phase.

The K-15 is capable of output levels in excess of 40V RMS and is also comfortable with loads as low as 1K ohm.

A Note on the RCA sockets

Great care should be taken before removing the cable from the pre-amplifier, especially with cables that fit too tightly or use locking systems that might not release or unlock sufficiently. Any undue twisting of the RCA sockets may cause them to loosen and possibly damage the fragile wires connecting them on the inside of the pre-amplifier.

Ground / Lift switch

The switch is located on the rear panel. It is the lower of the two toggle switches.

Pushing the lever to the down position results in full "grounding". That is to say that the audio circuits "0 Volt" line is directly connected to the chassis and safety earth of your home AC supply.

Lifting the lever to the upper position "Lift" will prevent "earth loops" that may otherwise exist in certain system set-ups. In the "Lift" position, the K-15 chassis remains fully connected to the AC mains protective Earth.

Ground terminal.

This terminal is always connected to the audio circuits "0 volt" line. Use this connector with external ground "management" systems if desired.

Volume control.

This control is designed to be advanced much further than is typical with most pre-amplifiers. Starting at the 12 O'clock position is a good starting point unless you have high efficiency speakers in which case the volume may be set to a lower setting. The markings indicate the actual "throughput" gain with the maximum being +8dB(V).

Power up.

The K-15 has no power up / down muting circuitry. Even so, with our power amplifiers there is no audible sound emitted from the speakers during a power up / down process even when the power amplifiers are on. We recommend, however, that in all instances the power amplifier be powered up after the pre-amplifier and when "shutting the system down", that the power amplifier be turned off before the pre-amplifier. This is good universal practice.

Power knob.

The power knob is designed to require some "initiative" to turn it. It is a 90 degree rotary switch. To turn on, rotate 90 degrees clockwise. The line on the knob will match up with the vertical line engraved on the K-15's front panel.

Power indicator.

Power "On" is indicated by means of a back lit ruby of 10mm diameter. Since the power supply is "soft start", it will take some moments before the red light reaches maximum intensity. When turning off, due to the K-15 holding considerable charge, it will take some time for the red light to completely extinguish.

Warm up time.

We advise 20 minutes warm up time before sitting down to serious listening sessions. A further 15 minutes provides full stability and peak performance. There is no merit in leaving the K-15 permanently on. As a guide, if you are not intending to use the K-15 within two to four hours after the previous listening session, we recommend switching it off.

Cleaning and maintenance

The K-15 may be dusted down with a soft cloth or clean microcloth. A cloth lightly dampened with a mild solution of soap and warm water may be effective at removing unwanted skin oils or such like.

If you live in a corrosive environment it may be worthwhile covering the K-15 with a large cloth when not in use.

It may also be beneficial to cap any unused input and output sockets with suitable covers or caps.

Servicing.

Servicing should only be undertaken when there is a fault condition within the pre-amplifier. Please contact your distributor or alternatively Robert Koda for advice and we will provide prompt assistance.

There are no user serviceable parts inside this pre-amplifier.

Basic specifications.

Circuit architecture	Robert Koda proprietary ITC Type II
Signal to noise ratio	114dB (A) at 1V output
Full output signal to noise ratio	Greater than 148 dB (A)
Voltage gain	Plus 8dB
Input impedance	50K Ohm per phase at any volume
Output impedance	30 ohms per phase at any volume
Typical midband THD	Less than 0.0003% estimated due to test equipment limits.
Power consumption	20W (On), 0W (Off)

- THD measured at 2V RMS out, balanced input drive.
- Balanced / SE output performances are identical.
- Specifications subject to change without notice.

Our sincere "Thank You" for selecting the K-15. We hope you will enjoy the many memorable music listening sessions with this fine instrument.



The meaning of "Takumi"

The meaning of the Japanese character "Takumi" can be translated as "Maestro".

Our brand endeavours to build a product in the spirit of Maestro.

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