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› AudioOrigin Headshell and Cartridge Installation Guide for Yamaha Turntables

AudioOrigin P 350

AudioOrigin Headshell and Cartridge Installation Guide

For Yamaha P 350, P 450, P 550, P 20, P 751, P 850, P 750 Turntables

1. INTRODUCTION

This manual provides instructions for the proper installation and maintenance of your AudioOrigin headshell, mount, cartridge, and stylus. This product is designed to deliver pure, rich, and warm sound for compatible Yamaha P-series turntables. It features gold-plated (OFC) wires for optimal signal transfer and is made to order in England.

Compatible Devices: YAMAHA P 350, P 450, P 550, P 20, P 751, P 850, P 750.

2. SETUP AND INSTALLATION

Careful installation is crucial for optimal audio performance and to prevent damage to the stylus or turntable. Always handle the components with care, especially the delicate stylus.

2.1 Unpacking and Inspection

- Carefully remove all components from the packaging.
- Inspect the headshell, cartridge, and stylus for any visible damage.
- Ensure all included components are present: headshell, mount, cartridge, needle (stylus), and gold-plated wires.

2.2 Connecting the Cartridge to the Headshell

1. Identify the four color-coded wires on the headshell: Red (Right Hot), Green (Right Ground), White (Left Hot), Blue (Left Ground).
2. Carefully connect these wires to the corresponding pins on the back of the cartridge. The pins are usually color-coded or labeled. Use tweezers if necessary to gently attach the connectors.
3. Ensure a secure connection without bending the pins.

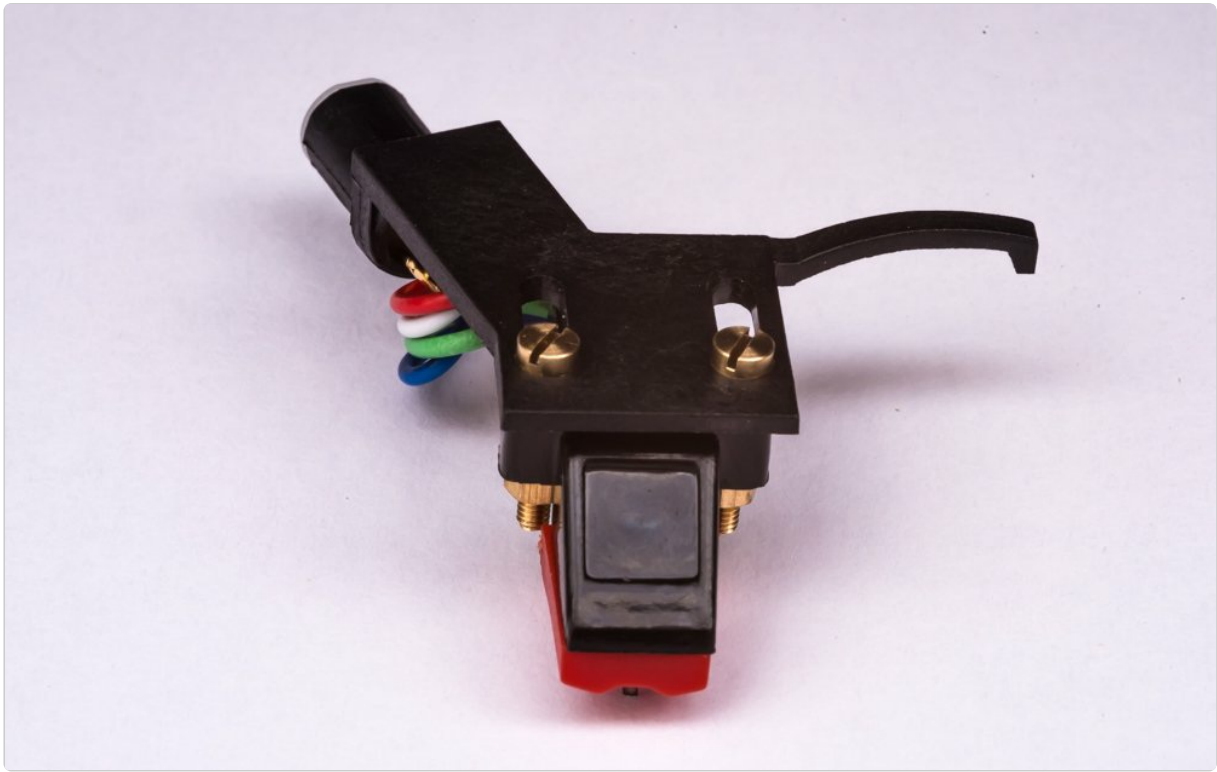


Image: Close-up of the headshell's gold-plated wires connected to the cartridge pins. Ensure correct color matching for proper stereo sound.

2.3 Mounting the Cartridge to the Headshell

1. Align the cartridge with the mounting holes on the headshell. This headshell uses a top-mounted screw fitting.
2. Insert the provided screws through the headshell and into the cartridge.
3. Gently tighten the screws, ensuring the cartridge is firmly secured but not overtightened, which could damage the cartridge body.

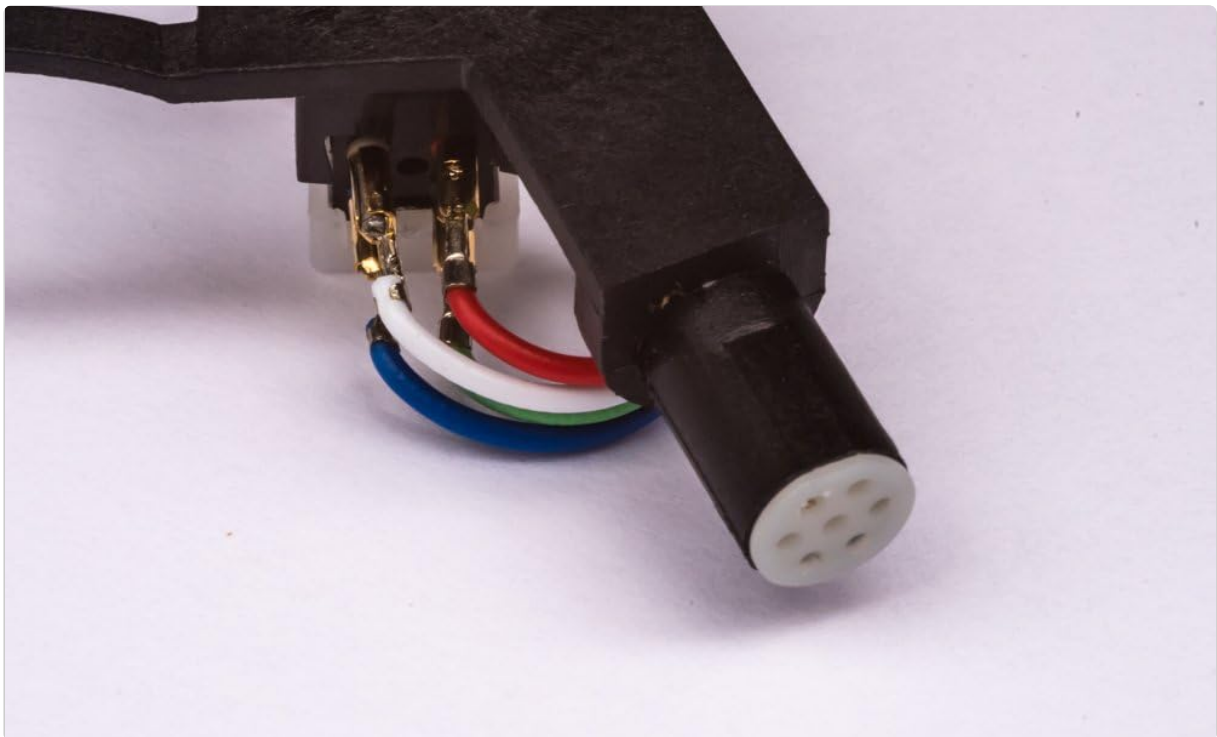


Image: Top-down view of the assembled headshell with the cartridge and stylus securely mounted.

2.4 Attaching the Headshell to the Tonearm

1. Hold the headshell by its body, avoiding contact with the stylus.
2. Insert the headshell connector into the front end of your turntable's tonearm.
3. Twist the locking collar on the tonearm clockwise until the headshell is securely fastened. Do not overtighten.

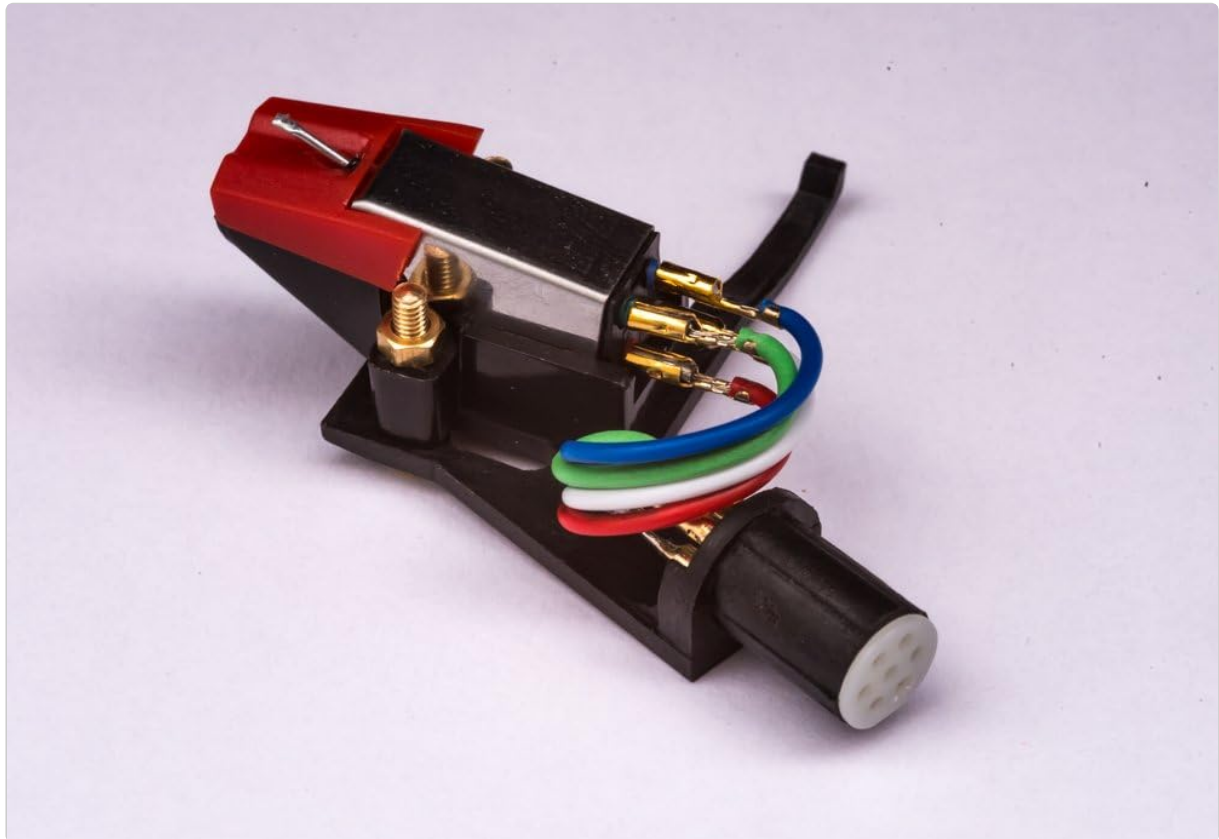


Image: Angled view of the fully assembled headshell, cartridge, and stylus, showing the connection point for the tonearm.

2.5 Turntable Adjustments

After installing the headshell and cartridge, it is essential to perform the following adjustments on your turntable for optimal performance and to prevent record or stylus wear:

- **Tracking Force (VTF):** Set the tracking force according to the cartridge manufacturer's recommendations. As specific VTF information is not provided with this cartridge, it is recommended to start with a common range for similar cartridges (e.g., 1.5 to 2.5 grams) and fine-tune by ear, or consult a professional. Refer to your turntable's manual for instructions on how to adjust tracking force.
- **Anti-Skate:** Adjust the anti-skate setting to match the tracking force. This prevents the tonearm from pulling towards the center or outside of the record.
- **Azimuth and Overhang:** For advanced users, adjusting azimuth (stylus perpendicularity to the record surface) and overhang (stylus position relative to the spindle) can further optimize sound quality. Consult your turntable's manual or an alignment protractor for these adjustments.

3. OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

Once the headshell and cartridge are correctly installed and the turntable adjustments are made, operate your turntable as usual. Always ensure the record is clean and free of dust before playing.

- Gently lower the tonearm onto the record using the cueing lever to prevent damage to the stylus or record.
- Avoid dropping the tonearm or allowing the stylus to scrape across the record surface.
- When finished playing, use the cueing lever to lift the tonearm and return it to its rest.

4. MAINTENANCE

Regular maintenance will prolong the life of your stylus and cartridge and ensure consistent sound quality.

- **Stylus Cleaning:** Use a dedicated stylus cleaning brush or fluid to gently remove dust and debris from the stylus tip. Always brush from back to front (from the pivot point towards the tip) to avoid damaging the cantilever. Clean the stylus regularly, ideally before each listening session.
- **Record Cleaning:** Keep your records clean. Dust and dirt on records can transfer to the stylus, degrading sound quality and accelerating wear.
- **Dust Cover:** Keep your turntable's dust cover closed when not in use to protect the stylus and other components from dust accumulation.
- **Handling:** Avoid touching the stylus with your fingers. The oils and dirt from your skin can damage the stylus and affect sound quality.
- **Stylus Replacement:** Stylus tips wear out over time. The lifespan varies depending on usage and care, but typically ranges from 500 to 1000 hours of play. A worn stylus can damage your records and degrade sound quality. Replace the stylus when you notice a significant drop in sound quality or distortion.

5. TROUBLESHOOTING

If you encounter issues, refer to the following common troubleshooting steps:

- **No Sound or Weak Sound:**
 - Check all wire connections between the cartridge and headshell, and between the headshell and tonearm. Ensure they are secure and correctly matched (color-coded).
 - Verify that the turntable is properly connected to your amplifier/receiver's phono input.
 - Ensure the amplifier/receiver is set to the correct input source.
- **Distorted Sound or Skipping:**
 - Re-check the tracking force. If it's too light, the stylus may skip; if too heavy, it can cause distortion and record wear. Adjust according to your turntable's manual or the recommended range.
 - Verify the anti-skate setting. Incorrect anti-skate can cause the stylus to favor one side of the groove, leading to distortion or skipping.
 - Inspect the stylus for dirt or damage. Clean it carefully or replace if worn.
 - Ensure records are clean and free of scratches or warps.
- **Humming or Buzzing Noise:**
 - Ensure the turntable's ground wire is securely connected to the ground terminal on your amplifier/receiver.
 - Check all audio cable connections for looseness or interference.
 - Move the turntable away from other electronic devices that might cause electromagnetic interference.
- **Headshell Not Securing Properly:**
 - Ensure the headshell connector is fully inserted into the tonearm before twisting the locking collar.
 - Check for any obstructions in the tonearm's headshell receptacle.

6. SPECIFICATIONS

Brand	AudioOrigin
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Included Components	Headshell, mount, cartridge, needle (stylus), gold-plated wires
Material	Metal
Compatible Devices	YAMAHA P 350, P 450, P 550, P 20, P 751, P 850, P 750
Special Feature	Made to order in England
Connectivity Technology	RCA
Signal Format	Phono

7. WARRANTY INFORMATION

Specific warranty details for this AudioOrigin product are not provided in this manual. For information regarding warranty coverage, terms, and conditions, please contact the seller or the manufacturer directly. It is recommended to retain your proof of purchase for any warranty claims.

8. SUPPORT

If you require further assistance or have questions not covered in this manual, please utilize the following resources:

- **Manufacturer Support:** Contact AudioOrigin for product-specific inquiries.
- **Seller Support:** For purchase-related questions or immediate assistance, contact the seller (River City Electronics).
- **Online Resources:** Refer to the product page on Amazon or the AudioOrigin website for additional information or FAQs.