

Manuals+

[Q & A](#) | [Deep Search](#) | [Upload](#)

manuals.plus /

- > [iFi](#) /
- > [iFi ZEN Phono Preamp Instruction Manual](#)

iFi 311003

iFi ZEN Phono Preamp Instruction Manual

1. INTRODUCTION

The iFi ZEN Phono is a high-performance phono preamplifier designed to enhance the audio quality from your turntable and record player. It provides precise RIAA equalization and offers versatile gain settings for both Moving Magnet (MM) and Moving Coil (MC) cartridges, ensuring optimal sound reproduction for your vinyl collection. This manual provides detailed instructions for setup, operation, and maintenance of your ZEN Phono unit.



Figure 1: iFi ZEN Phono Preamp, a compact audio device with a sleek design.

2. SETUP AND CONNECTIONS

Follow these steps to correctly set up your iFi ZEN Phono preamp and connect it to your audio system.

2.1 Rear Panel Connections Overview

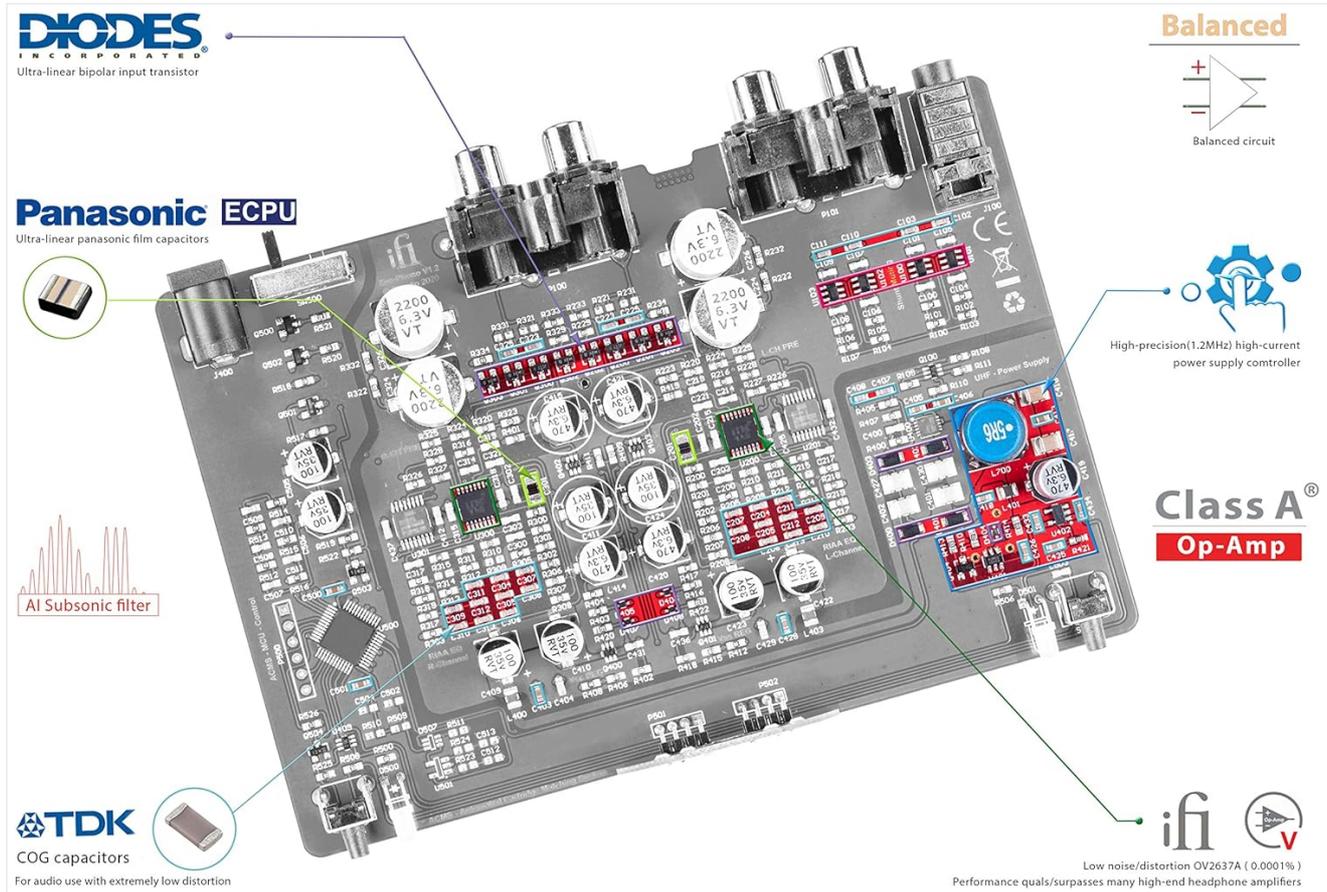


Figure 2: Detailed connection guide for the iFi ZEN Phono, showing input, output, grounding, and power ports.

2.2 Connection Steps

1. **Power Input (DC 5V):** Connect the provided 5V DC power adapter to the 'DC 5V' port on the rear panel. Ensure the power adapter is connected to a suitable power outlet.
2. **RCA Input:** Connect your turntable's RCA output cables to the 'Input' RCA jacks (red for right, white for left) on the ZEN Phono.
3. **Grounding Terminal:** If your turntable has a separate ground wire, connect it to the 'Grounding Terminal' screw on the ZEN Phono to minimize hum and noise.
4. **RCA Output:** Connect the 'Outputs' RCA jacks (red for right, white for left) of the ZEN Phono to an available line-level input on your amplifier or receiver.
5. **Balanced Output (4.4mm):** For systems with balanced inputs, connect a 4.4mm balanced cable from the 'Balanced Output' port on the ZEN Phono to your amplifier's balanced input. This provides a cleaner signal path.

3. OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

Understand the controls on your ZEN Phono for optimal performance.

3.1 Front Panel Controls

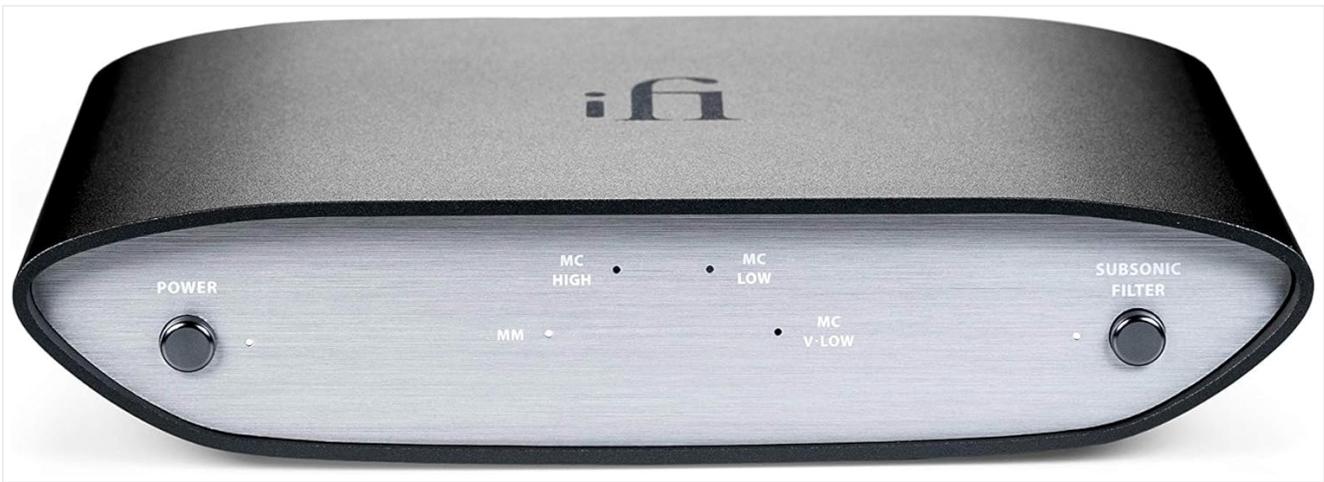


Figure 3: Front panel of the iFi ZEN Phono, showing power, gain selection, and subsonic filter buttons.

- **Power Button:** Press the 'Power' button to turn the unit on or off. The LED indicators will illuminate when the unit is active.
- **Gain Selection (MM/MC):** The ZEN Phono offers four gain settings to match various cartridge types:
 - **MM (Moving Magnet):** For standard MM cartridges.
 - **MC High (Moving Coil High Output):** For high-output MC cartridges.
 - **MC Low (Moving Coil Low Output):** For low-output MC cartridges.
 - **MC V-Low (Moving Coil Very Low Output):** For very low-output MC cartridges.

Use the button to cycle through these options until the LED corresponding to your cartridge type is lit. Refer to your cartridge's specifications for the recommended gain setting.

- **Subsonic Filter Button:** This button activates or deactivates the AI Sub-Sonic Filter. This filter helps remove unwanted low-frequency rumble caused by warped records or turntable motor noise without affecting the audible bass frequencies. Press the button to toggle the filter on or off.

4. KEY FEATURES

The iFi ZEN Phono incorporates advanced technology to deliver superior audio performance:

- **Amplification Range:** 36dB to 72dB, accommodating a wide range of MM and MC cartridges.
- **Ultra-quiet Noise Floor:** -151dBV, ensuring a clean and silent background for your music.
- **AI Sub-Sonic Filtering:** Intelligently removes sub-sonic rumble without compromising bass quality or introducing phase issues.
- **Balanced Signal Output:** Provides a balanced 4.4mm output for reduced noise and improved signal integrity.
- **High-Frequency Power Supply:** Utilizes a high-frequency power supply for stable and clean power delivery.
- **Custom OV Series Operational Amplifier:** Features iFi's custom-designed operational amplifiers for exceptional audio performance.
- **TDK C0G Capacitors:** High-quality capacitors for precise signal handling.
- **Texas Instruments Low-Noise ICs:** Incorporates low-noise integrated circuits for a pristine audio path.
- **Broad Bandwidth, Low Distortion, High Output Drive:** Engineered for accurate and dynamic sound reproduction.

4.1 Internal Components and Technology



ZEN Phono

CONNECTIONS - STARTER GUIDE



*Do not use a power supply higher than 5V

Figure 4: Internal view of the iFi ZEN Phono circuit board, highlighting key components like Panasonic ECPU capacitors, TDK C0G capacitors, and a Class A Op-Amp.

4.2 Product Overview Video

Your browser does not support the video tag.

Video 1: An official overview of the iFi ZEN Phono, showcasing its features and design. This video is provided by iFi audio.

5. TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Specification	Value
Product Dimensions	6.3 x 4.4 x 1.4 inches
Item Weight	1.81 pounds
Item Model Number	311003
Manufacturer	Abbingdon Ltd
ASIN	B08H2GPD7F
Date First Available	August 31, 2020

6. MAINTENANCE AND CARE

To ensure the longevity and optimal performance of your iFi ZEN Phono, follow these maintenance guidelines:

- **Cleaning:** Use a soft, dry cloth to clean the exterior of the unit. Avoid using liquid cleaners, aerosols, or solvents, as these may damage the finish or internal components.
- **Placement:** Place the unit on a stable, flat surface away from direct sunlight, heat sources, and excessive moisture. Ensure adequate ventilation around the unit.
- **Handling:** Handle the unit with care. Avoid dropping it or subjecting it to strong impacts.
- **Power:** Always use the provided 5V DC power adapter. Using an incorrect power supply can damage the unit.

and void the warranty.

7. TROUBLESHOOTING

If you encounter issues with your iFi ZEN Phono, refer to the following common troubleshooting steps:

- **No Sound:**

- Ensure the ZEN Phono is powered on and the power LED is illuminated.
- Check all RCA and balanced cable connections between the turntable, ZEN Phono, and amplifier. Ensure they are securely plugged in.
- Verify that the correct input is selected on your amplifier/receiver.
- Confirm that the correct gain setting (MM/MC) is selected on the ZEN Phono for your cartridge type.

- **Hum or Buzzing Noise:**

- Ensure the turntable's ground wire is securely connected to the ZEN Phono's 'Grounding Terminal'.
- Check for any loose cable connections.
- Move the ZEN Phono and associated cables away from other electronic devices (e.g., power supplies, Wi-Fi routers) that might be causing interference.
- Try activating the 'Subsonic Filter' to see if it reduces the noise.

- **Distorted Audio:**

- Verify that the correct gain setting is selected. Too high a gain for your cartridge can cause distortion.
- Check your turntable's cartridge alignment and tracking force.
- Ensure your records are clean and free from dust or debris.

If these steps do not resolve the issue, please contact iFi support for further assistance.

8. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

The iFi ZEN Phono is covered by a manufacturer's warranty. For specific warranty terms and conditions, please refer to the warranty card included with your product or visit the official iFi website. For technical support, product inquiries, or service requests, please contact iFi Audio customer support through their official channels. Keep your proof of purchase for warranty claims.

For more information and support, visit: ifi-audio.com