

MOMENTUM PREAMPLIFIER

OWNER'S MANUAL





*“ I stake my reputation on its performance—
and on your satisfaction with it.”*

A note from Dan D'Agostino

FOUNDER, CEO, AND CHIEF DESIGNER OF DAN D'AGOSTINO MASTER AUDIO SYSTEMS

Thank you very much for purchasing the Momentum preamplifier. The Momentum is the first preamplifier I've designed and built under my own name. As with the Momentum amplifiers, the Momentum preamplifier embodies everything I've learned in decades of designing high-end audio products. It incorporates a unique blend of the very best and most advanced parts with the same labor-intensive, through-hole construction we used in the very early days of my career. This is the only way to make a preamp that meets my standards and that will last for decades to come.

Your Momentum was built by hand under my close personal supervision at our own factory in the United States of America, and individually tested to ensure every circuit in it works perfectly. I doubt you can find a high-end audio product that has more hand-craftsmanship, more attention to every tiny detail ... and more of its creator's soul ... than this one.

I hope you find that your Momentum gives you the best sound quality you've ever experienced in your home. And I hope your eyes enjoy its singular, elegant design and impeccable craftsmanship as much as your ear enjoys hearing it.

The Momentum is only the third product of the hundreds I've created that carries my signature. That means I stake my reputation on its performance—and on your satisfaction with it. The Momentum preamplifier will reveal new musical horizons for you, as it has for me. I hope you love it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel D'Agostino". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "D".

LEGAL NOTIFICATIONS

Dan D'Agostino Master Audio Systems is a registered trademark of D'Agostino LLC. The information in this owner's manual is subject to change without notice. Current Version 1.0 of this manual was produced by the Dan D'Agostino LLC engineering, sales and marketing departments.

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PACKAGE CONTENTS

If any of the following items are missing, please contact your dealer:

- ✓ 1 Momentum preamplifier encased in protective static-cling vinyl
- ✓ 1 remote control
- ✓ 1 IR module and cable
- ✓ 1 AC power cord
- ✓ 1 power-supply cable
- ✓ 1 owner's manual
- ✓ 1 pair of white lifting gloves
- ✓ 1 microfiber cleaning cloth



CAUTION: NO USER SERVICEABLE PARTS INSIDE. Do not open the amplifier's chassis or remove any of its screws. Contact D'Agostino LLC or your dealer if you have service needs.

WARNING: Do not expose this preamplifier to moisture or excessive humidity, and do not use it outdoors. Fire hazard may result.



The lightning flash with arrowhead, within an equilateral triangle, is intended to alert the user to the presence of uninsulated "dangerous voltage" within the product's enclosure that may be of sufficient magnitude to constitute a risk of electrical shock to persons.



The exclamation point within an equilateral triangle is intended to alert the user to the presence of important operating maintenance (servicing) instructions in the literature accompanying the appliance.

UNPACKING AND INSTALLATION

Unpacking the Momentum preamplifier from the Pelican case

While the preamplifier is still in its case, please move it to a location near the place where it will be installed. Remove all jewelry including watches, rings and belts from your person to avoid damage to the exterior of the preamplifier during the removal and installation. We recommend that two people lift the Momentum preamplifier. Because it is machined from a solid block of aluminum, it is much heavier than it looks.

The finish of the Momentum preamplifier is extremely delicate. We suggest wearing the supplied white gloves when handling the preamp to avoid abrasion, fingerprints caused by oils from the skin, etc. Additionally, the machining process used to create the metal parts for the Momentum preamplifier is precise, but not perfect; you may see slight flaws and scratches in the finish, but these are unavoidable and in fact part of the intended look of the amplifier. Please refer to OPERATION: *Maintenance* for instructions on cleaning.

Installation requirements

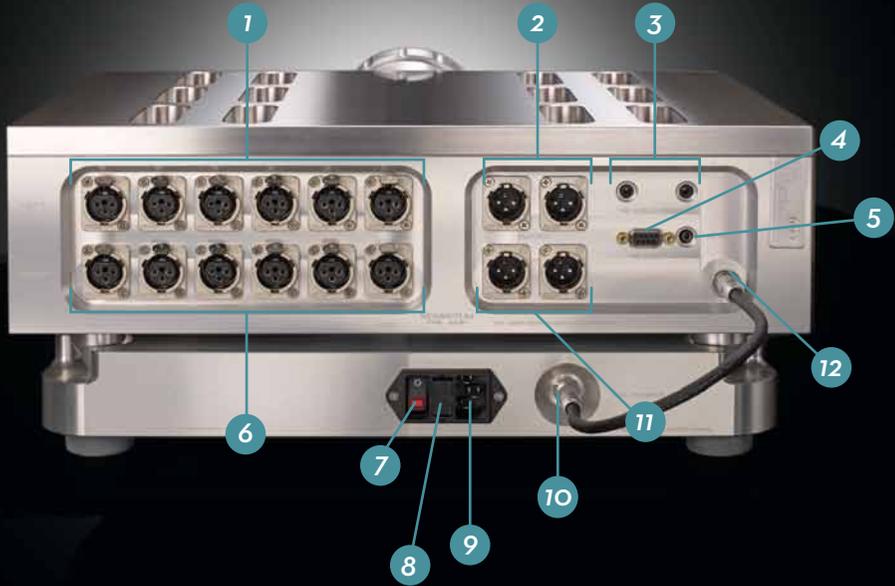
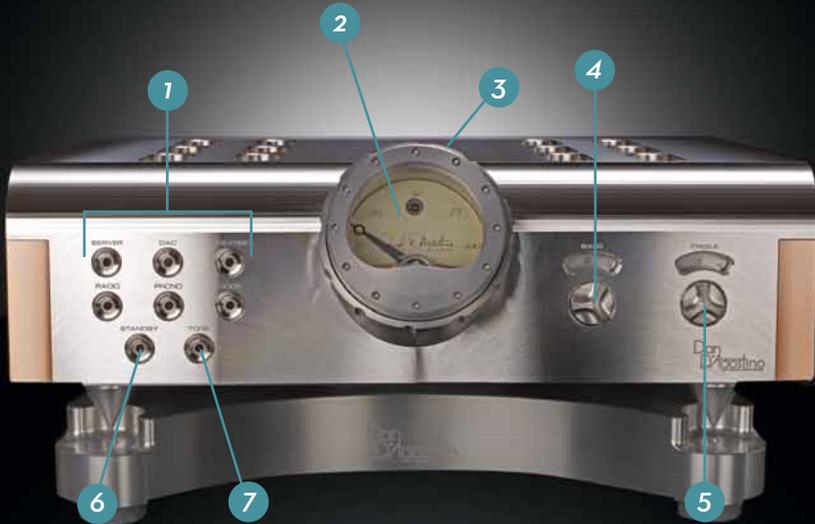
The Momentum's dense metal chassis weighs approximately 75 lbs (34 kg), so make sure the surface that will support the Momentum preamplifier can safely hold its weight.

Adequate ventilation must be provided for the preamp. There should be at least 3 inches of clearance on each side of the preamp and 3 inches of clearance at the top, and the bottom vents must not be obstructed by thick carpet, dust, etc. We recommend that the preamp be installed in an open equipment rack or on an amplifier stand to ensure proper ventilation. The preamp may be installed in a closed cabinet or in an equipment closet, but the cabinet or closet must be designed with substantial ventilation at top and bottom; active ventilation (i.e., powered fans) is preferred. Do not place the preamp directly on a carpeted floor.

The Momentum preamplifier is designed with special cone feet on the bottom of the preamp chassis and match up with indentations on the top of the power supply.

The bottom of the power supply has soft feet designed to isolate the preamp assembly from vibration. (These feet will not stain or mar the surface underneath them.)

If you are installing the Momentum preamplifier in a cabinet or rack that will block the front of the unit, or if the front of the unit will not be in your line of sight when you are sitting in your normal listening chair, the included IR module can be used to assure the remote operates even when you cannot see the front panel of the preamp. Connect the IR module to the remote IR input jack on the preamp's rear panel, then place the IR module where it will be in your line of sight when you are sitting in your normal listening position. To activate the IR module, turn the power to the preamp's power supply off, then turn it back on. Be sure to point the small port (approx. .25 in / 6 mm diameter) on the IR module directly at your listening chair. Note that the IR sensor on the front of the preamp will no longer function. If you want to return to using the preamp's integral IR sensor, unplug the IR module, turn the power to the preamp's power supply off, then turn the power back on again. ■



FRONT PANEL

1. Source selector buttons
2. Volume setting indicator
3. Volume control knob
4. Bass control
5. Treble control
6. Standby/Power On button
7. Tone bypass button

REAR PANEL & POWER SUPPLY

1. Left-channel XLR input jacks
2. Left-channel XLR output jacks
3. 12-volt trigger outputs
4. RS-232 control connector
5. Remote IR input
6. Right-channel XLR input jacks
7. Main power switch
8. Fuse holder
9. IEC power cord connector
10. Power supply DC output
11. Right-channel XLR output jacks
12. Preamp DC input

REMOTE CONTROL

The remote control provided with the Momentum preamplifier offers the following functions:

1. Server input selector
2. Balance button
3. Radio input selector
4. DAC input selector
5. Phase button
6. Power on/off button
7. Tone controls bypass/on button
8. Phono input selector
9. Theater bypass button
10. Mute button
11. Dock input selector
12. Volume up button
13. Volume down button



MAKING CONNECTIONS TO THE MOMENTUM PREAMPLIFIER

Interconnect cables

We recommend the use of high-quality balanced XLR audio interconnect cables with the Momentum preamp. If you have a source device that does not offer XLR connections, please contact your D'Agostino Master Audio Systems dealer to acquire the proper XLR-to-RCA adapters. Do not use XLR-to-RCA adapters to connect the preamp to your amplifier—use only an amplifier with XLR balanced inputs.

First connect the source devices (phono preamp, CD player, etc.) to the appropriate inputs. Connect each XLR cable (or XLR-to-RCA adapter) to the appropriate XLR jack by pushing the plug into the jack. To release the plug, push on the small tab atop the jack and gently detach the plug. Never grasp interconnect cables by the cable itself—you could damage the cable. Be sure to connect left channel to left channel, right channel to right channel.

Note that the Momentum Preamplifier does not incorporate a phono stage; you will have to add an external phono stage in order to use the Momentum with a turntable. We recommend getting a phono stage of the best possible quality in order to get the best from the Momentum.

Now connect the Momentum's line outputs to your amplifier. Connect each XLR cable to the input by pushing the cable onto the jack. To release the XLR cable, push on the small tab on the top of the plug, then grasp the cable by the plug and gently pull it out.

Power supply connector cable

The Momentum preamp is supplied with a special power connector cable that connects the power supply to the preamp main chassis. The connectors are surrounded with a collar. To connect them, pull back on the collar, push the connector onto the jack on the power supply or the preamp, then release the collar. To disconnect them, slide the collar back to unlock the connector, then pull the connector loose.

Be sure to hook up the power supply connector cable before you connect the power supply to the AC outlet.

AC cord

The Momentum preamp power supply is supplied with a high-quality AC cord tipped with a 15-amp IEC connector at the preamp end and a three-conductor AC plug at the other end. You may use a different power cord with the Momentum if you wish, as long as it is tipped with a 15-amp IEC connector and a three-conductor AC plug.

After the speaker, interconnect cables, and power supply connector cable are connected, push the IEC connector on the power cord into the IEC jack on the Momentum preamp.

12-volt trigger outputs

These 3.5 mm jacks emit a 12-volt DC control signal when the preamp is on. You can connect them to any devices that take a 12-volt DC control input, such as an amplifier.

Remote control input

This is a standard IC5-type 3.5 mm input for a remote control signal. It can be used with home automation systems, or with the included IR module when the preamp is installed in a cabinet or other place where it is not in line of sight with the remote control.

RS-232 input

This DB9-type input allows the Momentum preamp to be controlled by home automation systems that use the RS-232 protocol. Consult your D'Agostino Master Audio Systems dealer for more information. Current code is available online at www.dandagostino.com ■

OPERATION

Initial power-up of the preamplifier

To power-up the Momentum preamplifier, you need to use two switches. One is located on the back of the power supply; this switch turns the AC power on so the power supply will be active. The other is the Standby button located on the front of the preamp.

First, flip the switch on the back of the power supply to the On position. Then press the Standby button on the front of the preamp. This will power up the preamp and illuminate the volume indicator.

After power is switched on, the Momentum requires approximately 30 minutes to reach optimal operating temperature. Although the preamp will sound excellent upon initial listening, the sound quality will improve as it warms up, much as the flavor of a fine red wine improves if it is allowed to breathe for a few minutes.

Basic operation

The Momentum preamp offers only a few basic functions: power on/off, volume, source selection, phase and mute. Operation is simple but a brief description follows.

Standby: The Standby button is located on the front panel of the preamp. When the preamp is in standby (Off) mode, the LED in the middle of the button will be lit in yellow. Push the button to turn the unit on. When power is on, the LED in the middle of the button will go off and the volume indicator will illuminate. Push the button once more to turn the unit off. The light for the volume indicator will go out and the LED in the middle of the Standby button will light up.

Volume: Turn the ring around the volume indicator clockwise to raise the volume and counterclockwise to lower it, or use the Volume +/- buttons on the remote. The needle indicator will move toward the right as you increase the volume and to the left as you decrease it. We recommend you turn the volume down when you initially power up the system, and raise it only when you are assured that all components in the system are operating properly.





BASS

-2

TREBLE

-3

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Source selection: Simply push the front-panel button or remote button that corresponds with the source you want to hear. The LED in the middle of the front-panel button for the currently active source will light up. The volume will always return to minimum level when you switch input sources.

Theater: By using the Theater Bypass input, you can interface the Momentum preamp with a multichannel home theater audio system. To use it, connect the left- and right-channel outputs of your surround-sound processor to the Momentum preamp's Theater Bypass input. This input bypasses the preamp's volume control; use your surround-sound processor's volume control instead. Push the Theater button on the front panel or remote when you want to listen to surround sound. Push any other source button to return the system to stereo mode.

Tone: To activate the tone controls, push the Tone button on the front panel or remote. The LED in the middle will light up in white, indicating that the tone controls are active.

Bass and Treble controls: When the LED in the middle of the front-panel Tone button is on, these controls will be active. Turn them clockwise to boost, counterclockwise to cut. The front panel indicates the level of boost or cut in decibels (dB). When adjusting these controls, we strongly recommend you turn the preamp's volume all the way down. This is because the preamp is DC-coupled, with no capacitors in the signal path. This design gives the best sound quality, but it can result in some noise when the treble and bass knobs are turned.

Phase (remote control only): The Phase control inverts the phase of the entire system. While the Momentum preamp does not invert phase, many source devices do, and many recordings are produced with inverted phase. Because you have no way of knowing what the proper phase is, you must set this control by ear. Push the Phase button on the remote control to invert the phase. The light on the preamp's front dial will turn from green to red when the phase is inverted. Try listening with the phase normal or inverted, and use whichever setting sounds better. If you can't hear a difference, don't worry about it. Depending on the recording, the effects of phase inversion are often subtle and sometimes even inaudible.

Mute (remote control only): The Mute control simply mutes the volume temporarily. Press it once to mute, and again to restore the volume. When the sound is muted, the light in the volume indicator will flash.

Balance (remote control only): The Balance control lets you shift the stereo balance to right or left. To activate it, press the Balance button on the remote. The volume indicator on the face of the preamp will swing to show the current balance setting. Use the volume +/- buttons on the remote to change the balance setting. If the needle points straight up, the balance is even between left and right. If the needle points to right or left, the balance is shifted to that side. To return the balance to the center, hold down the Balance button on the remote for 2 seconds. The remote backlight will flash and the needle will return to center.

Maintenance

The Momentum preamp requires no user maintenance other than to keep it clean and ensure that the vents remain unobstructed.

Like a piece of fine furniture, the Momentum preamp has a fine, highly polished finish that can be easily damaged. Do not rub or polish the finish, and do not allow objects to come in contact with it. To clean the preamp, spray a small amount of distilled water onto the supplied microfiber cloth and gently wipe the preamp's surface along the direction of the metal grain, with light pressure only. Never use a circular motion or heavy pressure, as this can permanently scratch the machined surfaces. Do not rub the surface with the cloth, and do not spray any liquid directly onto the preamp.

If dust or other contaminants or objects collect around the vents at the top and bottom of the preamp, remove small objects by hand and use a shop vacuum or hand vacuum to remove the dust. Use a brush attachment on the vacuum to avoid scratching the preamp's surface. ■

TROUBLESHOOTING

Preamp will not power up

If the front meter is not illuminated, follow the procedure outlined below. If one step succeeds in activating the power, stop there and ignore the other steps.

1. If the LED in the middle of the Standby button on the front of the preamp is lit, push the button to turn the preamp on.
2. If the LED in the middle of the Standby button is not lit, check to make sure the AC cord is plugged into the wall outlet.
3. Check at the back of the power supply to make sure the 15-amp IEC connector is pushed all the way into the jack on the back of the power supply.
4. Check to make sure the power supply connector cable is firmly connected to the power supply and the preamp.
5. Check to see if the fuse is blown. If so, the conductor inside the fuse will be severed and you may see burn marks on the fuse. The fuse holder is located at the back of the power supply. To remove and replace the fuse, the fuse can be accessed by carefully inserting a small screwdriver into the notches of the fuse holder and releasing the latching tabs. The fuse must be replaced with an identical type and rating. The fuse is 20 mm, 1 amp slow-blow. Consult your dealer or D'Agostino LLC.
6. Check your household electrical box to make sure the circuit breaker has not been tripped. If it has, flip the breaker back on.
7. If the breaker trips again, check the speaker cable connection on your amplifier and the speaker to make sure that the terminals are not shorted, and check the entire length of the cable to ensure there has been no damage to it.
8. If all of these steps fail to return power to the preamp, consult your dealer for service.

Front indicator is illuminated but you hear no sound

Follow these steps in order. If one step succeeds in restoring the sound, stop there and ignore the other steps.

1. Check your amplifier and source device to make sure they are both turned on.
2. Check the source device to make sure it is playing, i.e., if it's a record player, make sure it's spinning and the tonearm is lowered, or if it's a CD player, make sure it's in play mode and not in pause.
3. Make sure the preamp is not muted and that the desired source is selected.
4. Check the line-level connections between the source device and the preamp, and between the preamp and the amplifiers. Reconnect any cables that may have become disconnected.
5. Check the cables between the amplifiers and the speakers to make sure they are properly connected and that the cables have not become damaged.
6. If you have a spare pair of interconnect cables (even inexpensive ones will work temporarily), try using them instead of the interconnect cables between the source device and the preamp and between the preamp and the amplifier. If this restores sound, replace the defective cables.
7. If all of these steps fail to restore sound, consult your dealer for service.

Sound comes from only one channel

Follow these steps in order. If one step succeeds in restoring the sound, stop there and ignore the other steps.

1. Push the Balance button on the remote to see what the setting is. If the needle on the front dial is moved to one side, hold the Balance button on the remote down for 2 seconds. The remote's backlight will flash and the needle will return to the center.
2. Check the interconnect connections between the source device and the preamp, and between the amp and preamp to make sure all cables (and XLR-to-RCA adapters, if you're using them) are securely connected.
3. Check speaker cable connections for the malfunctioning channel. Reconnect any cables that may have become disconnected. Inspect the cable to make sure it has not been damaged. If it has been damaged, replace it.
4. If you are using monoblock amplifiers, such as the Momentum amplifier, make sure both amplifiers are turned on.
5. Swap the left-channel interconnect cable from the preamp to the amplifier with the right-channel interconnect cable. If the malfunctioning channel now works but the other channel does not, replace the defective interconnect cable with one of the exact same type. You may have to replace both right and left cables to make sure they match.

6. Swap the left-channel interconnect cable from the source device to the preamp with the right-channel interconnect cable. If the malfunctioning channel now works but the other channel does not, replace the defective interconnect cable with one of the exact same type. You may have to replace both left and right cables to make sure they match.
7. Try using a different source device. If the alternate source device delivers sound in both channels, it is likely the original source device is defective. Consult the manufacturer of that source device or your dealer for further information.
8. If possible, try using a different amplifier. If the alternate amplifier delivers sound in both channels, it is likely the original amplifier is defective. Consult the manufacturer of the amplifier or your dealer for further information.
9. If all of these steps fail to restore sound, consult your dealer for service.

Preamp functions but remote control does not

Follow these steps in order. If one step succeeds in restoring the operation of the remote, stop there and ignore the other steps.

1. Try pointing the remote directly at the preamp (or at the IR receiver if you're using an IR repeater system).
2. Check the IR emitter on the front of the remote to make sure it is not dirty. If it is, wipe off any dust and/or fingerprints with a soft cloth.
3. If you are using the IR module, make sure that the .25 in / 6 mm round port on the unit is facing you as you use the remote.
4. If you are using the IR module, make sure it is plugged in and activated. Unplug it from the remote control input on back and reinsert the plug, making sure it is firmly seated. Now turn the power to the preamp's power supply off, then turn it back on again. The IR module should now be activated.
5. If you are not using the IR module, make sure it is unplugged and deactivated. Check the back panel to make sure nothing is plugged into the remote control input. Now turn the power to the preamp's power supply off, then turn it back on again. The preamp's integral front-panel IR sensor should now be activated.
6. Change the batteries by removing the screws securing the back plate of the remote, replacing the batteries with fresh ones, then replace the back plate.
7. If all of these steps fail to restore operation of the remote, consult your dealer.

MOMENTUM PREAMPLIFIER LIMITED WARRANTY

D'Agostino LLC warrants the Momentum preamplifier against manufacturing defects and defects in materials for **five years from the date of purchase** from an authorized Dan D'Agostino Master Audio Systems dealer, subject to the conditions listed below:

1. The warranty covers only new products purchased from an authorized D'Agostino LLC dealer.
2. The warranty is non-transferable and is valid only for the original purchaser.
3. The warranty is valid only if the product has been used according to the instructions in the owner's manual. Damage due to accidents or owner abuse or neglect is not covered under this warranty.
4. All service must be performed by an authorized Dan D'Agostino Master Audio Systems dealer. Damage resulting from service by other parties is not covered under this warranty.
5. All products returned for service must be packaged in the original container and must include a photocopy of the original purchase receipt. If the original container has been lost or discarded, contact D'Agostino LLC for a replacement.
6. If the product must be shipped back to D'Agostino LLC for warranty service, the customer shall pay shipping costs. D'Agostino LLC will pay for return shipping.
7. Before shipping the product to D'Agostino LLC for service, the customer must first obtain a Return Authorization (RA) number by calling D'Agostino LLC. The RA number must be marked clearly on the side of the package.
8. This warranty covers only defects in products made by D'Agostino LLC. It does not cover incidental or consequential damages, or damages to other products resulting from defects in D'Agostino LLC products.
9. U.S. residents: Depending on which state you live in, you may have other rights not elaborated in this document. For further information, contact D'Agostino LLC.
10. Residents of other countries: Your authorized importer or dealer bears the direct responsibility for warranty coverage of your amplifier. Please contact your importer or dealer with requests for service under warranty. D'Agostino LLC will work with your importer or dealer to assure that the terms of the warranty are fulfilled.

For questions on warranty and service matters, contact D'Agostino LLC at:
+1.203.644.8743 or service@dandagostino.com ■

SPECIFICATIONS

<i>Frequency Response</i>	0.1 Hz to 1 MHz, -1 dB / 20Hz to 20 kHz, ± 0 dB
<i>Distortion (Full output)</i>	<0.006%, 20 Hz to 20 kHz
<i>Signal-to-Noise Ratio</i>	-105 dB, unweighted
<i>Gain</i>	+6 to +12 dB, adjustable
<i>Power Consumption at Standby</i>	<1 watt
<i>Inputs</i>	6 balanced XLR stereo
<i>Outputs</i>	2 balanced XLR stereo
<i>Weight</i>	75 lbs / 34 kg with power supply
<i>Dimensions (preamp)</i>	4.3 x 18 x 12 inches (hwd) / 10.8 x 45 x 30 cm (hwd)
<i>Dimensions (power supply/base)</i>	3 x 11 x 8 inches (hwd) / 7.5 x 27.5 x 20 cm (hwd)





For more information about Dan D'Agostino Master
Audio Systems, please visit: www.dandagostino.com

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