UNISON RESEARCH

UNICO PRE v2

The Beginning of a New Era

Bringing sound to life

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Unico PRE is the new top-of-the-range preamplifier in the Unico series, featuring a completely renewed design that is both elegant and modern. The project follows the new stylistic language of the Unico product family, officially introduced for the first time with Unico PRE and Unico DM.

Design

The front panel, machined from a solid 15-mm-thick aluminium block, conveys solidity and outstanding build precision. The Midnight Black and Velvet Gold finishes enhance every design detail, while the carefully refined surface is pleasing both to the touch and to the eye.

The 2-mm-thick aluminium top cover wraps around the entire amplifier, contributing to a sense of robustness and visual continuity.

Wooden inserts recall the historic Unico logo, underlining the brand's heritage. Inside, the Unison Research logo takes centre stage by becoming the On/Off power button: a distinctive detail that seamlessly combines functionality and identity.

In Unico PRE, volume control is handled by a high-quality integrated circuit using precision resistors. This solution ensures perfect channel balance and extremely accurate volume adjustment, preserving signal integrity under all operating conditions.

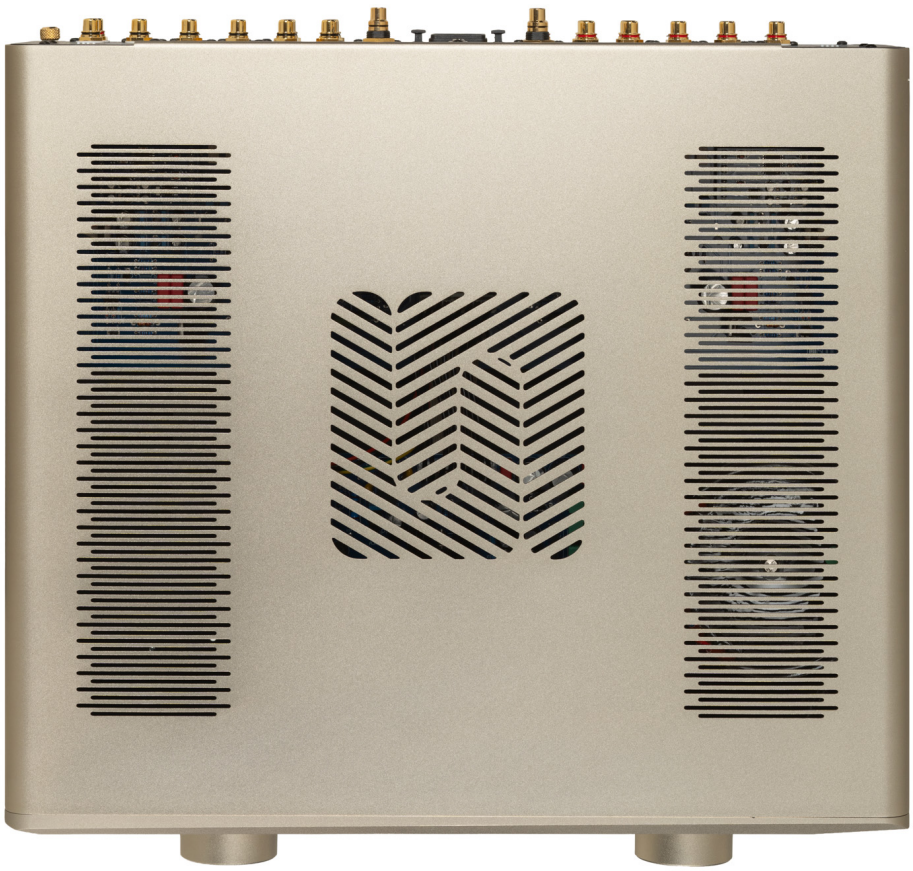
Circuit Design

Unison Research® has completely redesigned the amplifier architecture, remaining faithful to the philosophy of zero global feedback and to a dual-mono topology, long regarded as synonymous with naturalness and musicality.

The new three-stage structure has been developed to deliver a more balanced, dynamic and engaging sound.
The first stage, based on a pair of ECC83 / 12AX7 Gold Lion valves, defines the amplifier's sonic character, providing outstanding signal purity, extremely low distortion and exceptionally quiet operation.

The subsequent solid-state stages work in perfect synergy with the valve section, ensuring a fluid, precise and consistently musical reproduction, even under demanding listening conditions.

Connectivity



Unico PRE has been designed to offer maximum versatility. It features RCA, XLR, digital inputs and a phono input, allowing easy integration into any audio system, from the most traditional to the most advanced.

In addition to the XLR output, there are two RCA outputs dedicated to bi-amping, an unfiltered subwoofer output, and Line In / Line Out connections, ideal for integrating external audio processors or recording systems. The equipment is completed by a 3.5-mm jack trigger output, enabling the synchronised power-on of power amplifiers or other connected devices, simplifying everyday system operation.

DAC Section

The integrated DAC, based on the Sabre ES9018K2M converter, is the result of a long and meticulous development process. The balanced output architecture has been designed to integrate perfectly with the valve circuitry of the preamplifier, ensuring high-quality digital conversion and tonal coherence.

The digital section offers extensive connectivity, including one USB input, two S/PDIF inputs, and two optical Toslink inputs, making it easy to connect all major digital sources.

Phono Stage

The integrated phono stage features passive RIAA equalisation and high-precision components, preserving the quality and naturalness of the analogue signal.

Selectable load and gain settings allow the use of both MM and MC cartridges, enabling optimal matching with different cartridge types and ensuring the best possible sonic performance. All adjustments are easily accessible from the rear panel, providing maximum configuration flexibility.

Technical Specifications

Type:	Fully balanced hybrid preamplifier
Valves:	2 × ECC83 / 12AX7 Gold Lion
Operating mode:	Class A
Output stage:	Solid state
Remote control:	Infrared
Analogue inputs:	3 × Line RCA 3 × Line XLR 1 × Phono MM / MC 1 × Line In
Digital inputs:	1 × USB 2 × Toslink 2 × S/PDIF
Maximum input voltage:	2.58 Vrms (RCA) – 5 Vrms (XLR)
Input impedance:	20 kΩ (RCA) – 57 kΩ (XLR)

Outputs:	2 × RCA 1 × XLR Dual subwoofer output Line Out 1 × 12V Remote Power On
Gain:	20 dB (RCA) – 15 dB (XLR)
Max output voltage:	8V (RCA) – 16V (XLR) (1% THD @ 1 kHz)
Output impedance:	770 Ω (RCA) – 1500 Ω (XLR)
Global feedback:	0 dB
Power consumption:	50VA
Main fuse:	1.6 AT (100–120V) 800 mAT (220–240V)
DAC:	Converter Sabre ES9018K2M
USB:	USB-B input PCM up to 384 kHz Native DSD up to 256 DoP up to 128
Toslink:	2 × inputs up to 192 kHz
S/PDIF:	2 × inputs up to 192 kHz
Dimensions (W×D×H):	45 × 43 × 14 cm 17.5 × 17 × 5.5 inches
Net weight:	11 kg

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