



Since 1984

# Boulder

# 808

**Phono  
Preamplifier**

808



### A Complete Package

The newest addition to the 800 Series line comes in the form of a new Phono Preamplifier. Like the 508 and before it, the Boulder 808 Phono Preamplifier is a simple single chassis design that was constrained to fit in the same footprint as the 812 DAC/Preamp and the 861 Stereo Power Amplifier. The 808 rounds out the 800 Series by offering an analog solution for turntables that previously didn't exist in the 800 Series beforehand. When paired with the 812 DAC/Preamp and the 861 Stereo Power amplifier or when paired directly with the 866 Integrated amplifier; the 800 Series creates an experience that punches well above its weight class.

### 808's Power Supply

The 808's power supply is a compact design that keeps the unit ready for operation whenever the master AC switch on the rear panel is left on. Thanks to its efficiency, the 808 phono preamplifier can remain powered at all times, eliminating warm-up periods and ensuring it is always ready for listening.

The Boulder 808 can be operated at 100V, 120V, 200V, or 240V, and its high efficiency allows it to meet even the most demanding global power consumption regulations.

The power supply is carefully isolated from the sensitive audio circuitry by both physical separation and internal shielding within the chassis.

Additional filtering further ensures that the analog amplification stages remain completely isolated from any potential interference.

### Controls and Connections

The rear panel features a pair of balanced XLR inputs and one pair of balanced XLR outputs. It also includes the AC power inlet, a dedicated ground lug to help prevent ground loops, and space for a pair of "Personality Cards" that allow you to configure the loading specifically for your turntable cartridge.

The front panel offers expanded control with four toggle switches: Standby, Mute, Low-Cut, and a switchable Mono mode for those rare mono pressings.

### Analog Design

The 808 is capable of incredible resolution and massive dynamic swings as a result of its advanced audio design.

Specific resistive or capacitive loading as well as MM or MC cartridge selections can be adjusted with the use of Boulder's Personality Cards.

Cartridge loading is set from the factory at 100 ohms for moving coil (MC) cartridges and 47k ohms for moving magnet (MM). Loading is adjusted with a single resistor through a pair of rigid connections. There are no remote circuits, relays, or switches in the signal path to minimize anything that would come between the cartridge and the 808's initial gain stage.

Input and output connections are fully balanced via 3-pin XLR connectors and the output impedance is specified at 100 ohms for a non-reactive and neutral output.



Balanced circuitry eliminates noise and maximizes resolution where it's needed most: relative to the tiny analog signal. Because a phono cartridge is actually a balanced source, balanced operation is used throughout the 808 to maintain every last bit of clarity.

### Compact Architecture

All of the enthusiasm in the world means nothing if the will to take advantage of available technical breakthroughs isn't there. There were no nods to tradition: changes either resulted in an improvement or not.

All of the circuit boards within the 808 were engineered and manufactured at Boulder by Boulder's own technicians and engineers.

Whenever possible, the opportunity to include the latest thinking in small signal amplification was applied.

Reliability and optimized circuit layout have been improved via extensive use of surface mount design (SMD) technology wherever possible. In addition to improving multiple technical parameters, SMD also results in a marked improvement in audio clarity. SMD has given our engineering team the tools to design every board with an eye towards optimized placement of components and ground planes.

To you, this means retrieving much more information and detail hidden in the grooves of

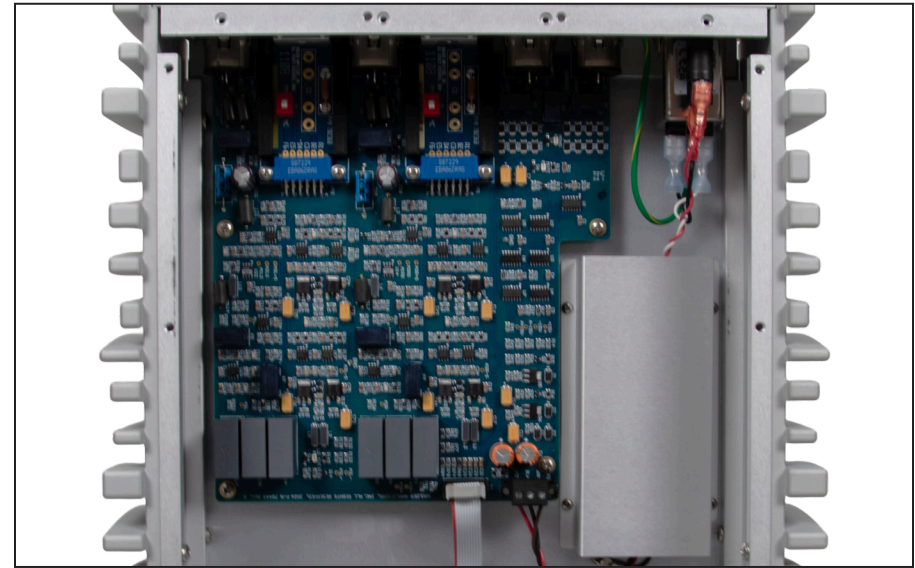
your favorite records than would otherwise be possible. It also means that you can feel secure in the knowledge that every aspect of design was taken into account, including longevity and long-term reliability.

### Mechanical Design

Every piece of metal in the 808's casework is carved from solid blocks of aluminum to create an enclosure that is exceptionally rigid, inert, and purpose-built for sonic purity. This goes far beyond aesthetics—mechanical control is essential to preserving the integrity of an analog signal.

In any audio component, vibration is unavoidable. Energy from internal elements like power supplies, as well as external influences such as airborne sound from loudspeakers, can travel through a chassis and interact with sensitive circuitry. Left unmanaged, these vibrations can introduce microscopic distortions—subtle enough to evade measurement in isolation, yet significant enough to blur detail, soften transients, and compromise spatial accuracy.

By machining the chassis from solid aluminum, the 808 achieves the mass and rigidity required to resist nearly eliminate structural flex. Carefully applied damping dissipates energy before it can reflect back into the system. The result is a mechanically silent environment—one that shields the delicate signal from interference.

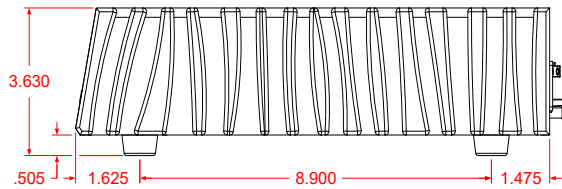
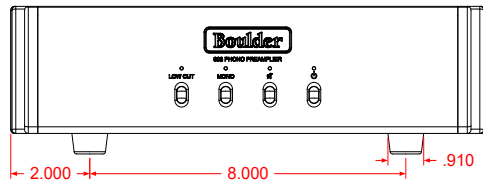
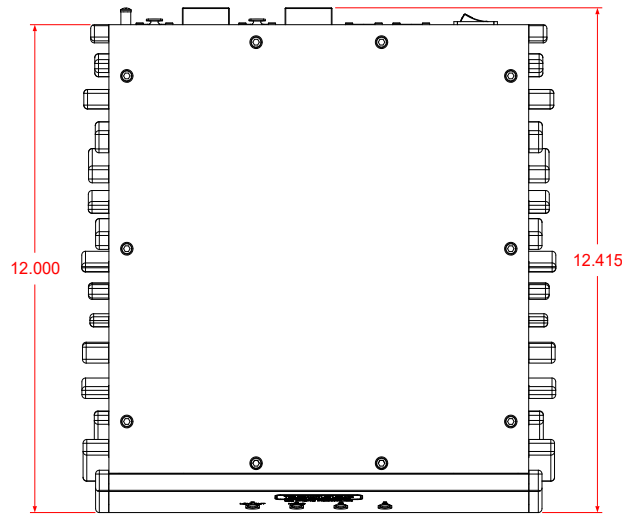


### The Proof is in the Listening

Despite its compact design, the 808 delivers a remarkably dynamic and expansive sound. The soundstage is wide and immersive, with precisely focused imaging that brings music into sharp relief. Recordings are presented with exceptional resolution and impact, while the speed and authority of the low frequencies add a powerful sense of realism.

Together, these qualities make the 808 a muscular yet transparent phono preamplifier that performs far beyond what its size might suggest. There is an extraordinary amount of information captured in the grooves of your record collection—we think it's time you heard all of it.





### Technical Specifications

Inputs	1 Pair - 3-pin balanced XLR
Outputs	1 Pair - 3-pin balanced XLR
Input Impedance, Maximum	MC: Maximum 1000Ω MM: Maximum 47kΩ Resistive & Capacitive loadings are adjustable
Output Impedance	100Ω Balanced
Maximum Output Level	16V rms
Distortion, THD	0.01%
1 kHz Gain, RIAA	MC: 70dB MM: 44dB
Noise (EIN), MC	123mV, 20Hz to 20 kHz
Frequency Response, 20 Hz to 20 kHz	RIAA:+0.25 dB
Crosstalk, L to R or R to L	-90 dB or better, 20 Hz to 20kHz
Power Requirements	90 - 240V, 50 - 60Hz
Power Consumption	15W Maximum
Weight	10.5lbs. 5.76kg

**All measurements taken at 120V, specifications are subject to change without notice or obligation**

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