

# AUDIOKULTURA ISKRA1



*(highly accurate)*  
MM/MC PHONO STAGE

## OWNER'S MANUAL

### **VERY IMPORTANT:**

**Turn on ISKRA1 FIRST,**  
before any other components like power amps,  
or else you may get some very loud pops through your system.

**Turn ISKRA1 off AFTER**  
turning off power amps, for the same reason.  
***Mute your amplifier before you change the gain***

## INTRO

Dear user / music lover,

thank you for buying Iskra1 preamplifier.

I assure you that the device you are holding in your hands was produced by hand, and the guy who made it drank some coffee at that time, listened to some good records (using the ISKRA phono stage, ) and was in no hurry.

There was no need to hurry.

I hope that thanks to this device you will discover your vinyl again!  
Before you get it, read the instructions carefully - only the correct configuration will provide you with perfect and balanced sound, which is one of the advantages of this phono stage.

Should any part of this document or the operation of the Iskra1 not be clear for you, please contact us! We will help you in configuration.

## PRECAUTIONS:

- the device should stand on a flat surface,
- do not put anything on the device,
- do not place any liquids in the vicinity of the device, spillage may cause a short circuit and damage the device,
- try to use the shortest cables, both input and output, the highest possible quality

## WHAT YOU WILL FIND IN THE BOX?

ISKRA1 phono stage,  
external, automatic power supply 110V-240V (*US, GB & EU, other plugs on request*)  
earth-wire,  
user's manual

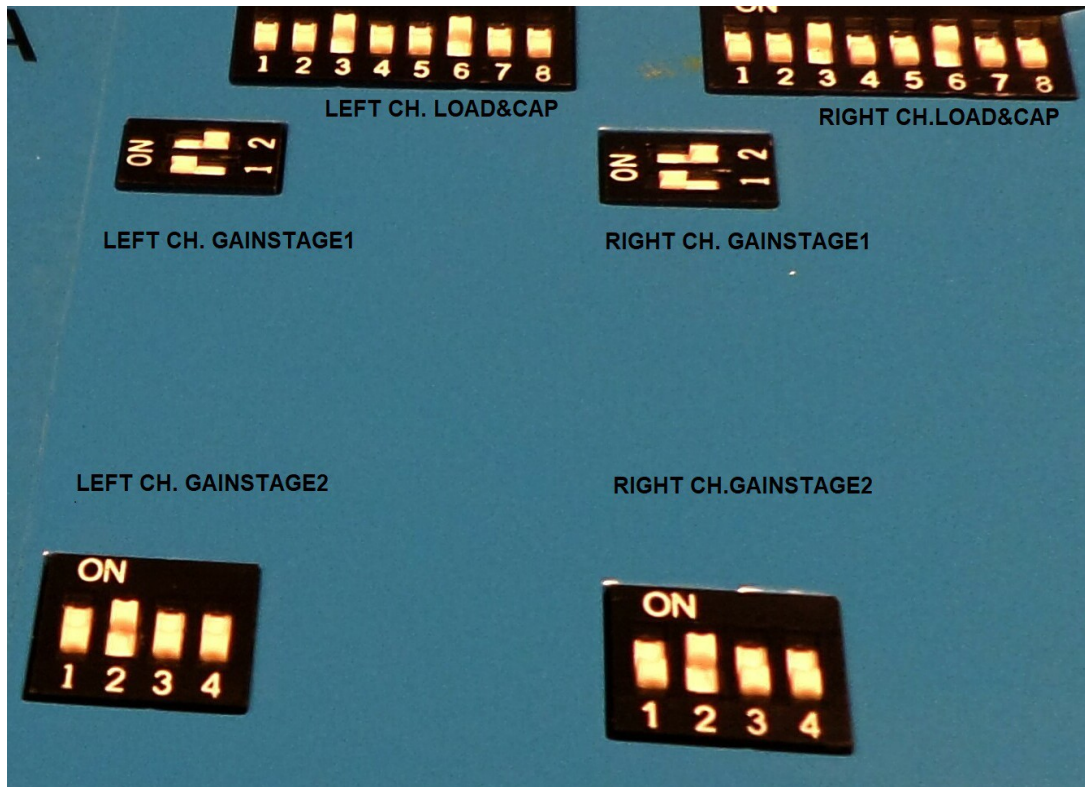
## CONFIGURATION, PART1

### *DIPSWITCH 8. LOADING & CAPACITORS*

First of all, you need to know what are the parameters of the cartridge you are using. You can check it on the producer's website, you can ask the dealer who sold you the cartridge, you can ask us. Two parameters are important here: capacity (recommended load capacitance), given in pF and the load of the cartridge (recommended load resistance), given in Ohm or kOhm. You should also know the capacity of the cable that connects the turntable to the Iskra1. At this point, let's assume that is 60pF.

Let's assume now that you have a Moving magnet (MM) type cartridge and that is an Ortofon 2M Black. The parameters for this cartridge are: 47kOhm load and 150pF to 300pF.

Turn around Iskra1: you will see two eight-position switches, two four-position switches and two two-position switches. One for each channel.



In the picture above we have the following settings: 47kOhm 100pF GainStage1:30dB GainStage2: 20dB

Let's get back to our settings. We have to set 47kohm load and at 150pF to 300pF.

Let's concentrate on the eight-position switch. The first four section are used to set the load and give successively:

1. 100 Ohm
2. 1kOhm
3. 47kOhm
4. 75kOhm

They are turned off in the bottom position. Only one of them can be turned on.

To get the value 47kOhm set sw.3 in the top position (ON)

Another four switches (marked from 5 to 8) are used to set the capacity.

Here are their values:

5. 47pF
6. 100pF
7. 100pF
8. 220pF

Capacitances can be added up: by setting sw5(47pF) and sw6(100pF) in the upper position we get the value 147pF.

**In the Iskra1 it is possible to completely disconnect the input capacity: all four switches (sw5,sw6,sw7,sw8) set in the lower position (OFF). Then the only capacity will be the capacity of the cable connecting the cartridge to the Iskra1.**

*Iskra1 manual, site no.3/9 Feel free to contact us if you have any questions (info@audiokultura.com)*

We're going back to setting the Ortofone Black. As you remember, manufacturer recommends values between 150pF and 300pF. Our cable is 60pF so we need to set up In Iskra1: from 90pF (150pF-60pF=90pF) to 240pF (300pF-60pF=240pF)

The nearest value is 100pF. Set sw.6 to ON. (sw5, sw7, sw8 OFF)

Other possible settings for Ortofon Black(a cable with a capacity of 60pF):

47pF + 100pF (sw.5 ON, sw6 ON, sw7.OFF, sw8 OFF)  
100pF + 100pF (sw.5 OFF, sw6 ON, sw7.ON, sw8 OFF)  
100pF + 220pF (sw.5 OFF, sw6 ON, sw7.OFF, sw8 ON)  
47pF + 100pF + 100pF (sw.5 ON, sw6 ON, sw7.ON, sw8 OFF)

A table of possible capacitance settings (not included the cable):

value	47pF	100pF	100pF	220pF
	sw5.	sw.6	sw.7	sw.8
OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF
47pF	ON	OFF	OFF	OFF
100pF	OFF	ON	OFF	OFF
147pF	ON	ON	OFF	OFF
200pF	OFF	ON	ON	OFF
220pF	OFF	OFF	OFF	ON
247pF	ON	ON	ON	OFF
267pF	ON	OFF	OFF	ON
320pF	ON	OFF	ON	ON
367pF	ON	OFF	ON	ON
420pF	OFF	ON	ON	ON
467pF	ON	ON	ON	ON

## CONFIGURATION, PART 2

### HOW TO SET UP GAIN STAGE?

Audiokultura Iskra1 is a phono stage with a passive RIAA filter placed between two ultrafast, laser-trimmed amplifiers. Each amplifier has an independantly adjustable gain. The first amplifier before the RIAA filter, named GainStage1, has two gain levels: 30dB and 40dB

**For MM and MC High Out cartridges GAINSTAGE1 must be 1-ON 2-OFF**  
**For MC Low Out cartridges GAINSTAGE1 must be 1-OFF 2-ON**

The second amplifier, located behind the RIAA filter, called GainStage2, has the ability to work with four levels of gain: 15dB, 20dB, 25dB and 30dB

...CONTINUED: CONFIGURATION, PART 2. HOW TO SET UP GAIN STAGE?

GainStage2 should be set up in that manner so the music being played is not distorted or corrupted. By default, a 20dB or 25dB setting is recommended for MM/MC High Output type cartridges.

For very loud cartridge (such as Ortofon Concorde Club, Scratch, Digital, Q.Bert) that generates above 8mV/1kHz it should be 15dB

For MC Low Output type cartridges, the default setting is 25dB or 30dB.

A good way to set GainStage2 it to choose the loudest vinyl you have, select the loudest song and play it starting from 15dB.

Is the sound ok? Increase to 20dB. Is the sound ok? Increase to 25dB...  
And so on.

## **CONNECTING**

*(finally! The above was boring)*

Step1: Turn off the amplifier and the turntable,

Step2: Connect the turntable ground to ISKRA1 ground, or directly to your preamplifier, integrated amplifier or headphone amplifier,

Step3: Connect ISKRA1 RCA inputs to your turntable using quality cables  
Remember: the best cable is a short cable!

Step4: Connect ISKRA1 RCA outputs to your preamplifier, integrated amplifier or headphone amplifier – **REMEMBER, IT MUST BE A LINE LEVEL INPUT**

Step5: Connect the supplied wallwart to the ISKRA1 with the attached cord.

At this stage, a few words about the power supply.

The standard power supply which you will find in the box with Iskra1 is an switching power supply with a voltage of 12V and a current of 2A.

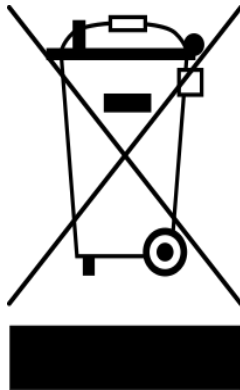
If you feel that it is weak/bad/not cool and not suitable for your audio-system, you can use an external 12V battery or other external power supply  
*(it can be AKPS – a power supply dedicated to Iskra2 phono stage, see details on our website)*

**Just remember about the polarity of the power plug.**

**Plus (+) is "in the middle" or "on the pin".**



Application for Council Directives 72/23/EEC  
Conformity declared for EN60065, EN50082-1

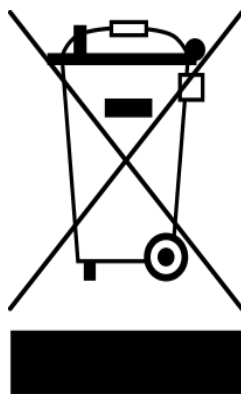


#### DISPOSAL

The crossed out wheeled bin label that appears on the back panel of the product indicates that the product must not be disposed of as normal household waste. To prevent possible harm to the environment please separate the product from other waste to ensure that it can be recycled in an environmentally safe manner. Please contact local government office or retailer for available collection facilities.

#### FACHGERECHTE ENTSORGUNG:

Das auf der Geräterückseite angebrachte Label deutet darauf hin, dass das Produkt nicht mit konventionellem Hauskehricht entsorgt werden darf. Um Schäden und Verschmutzungen an Umwelt und Mensch zu vermeiden, muss das Produkt fachgerecht entsorgt und von anderem Abfall getrennt werden. Wenden Sie sich bei Fragen hierzu an Ihren Fachhändler oder an eine öffentliche Informationsstelle.



#### DISPOSITION

La poubelle sur roulettes barrées X, qui apparaît en logo sur le panneau arrière du produit, indique que celui-ci ne doit pas être traité comme un déchet domestique commun. Afin de protéger l'environnement, ce produit électronique devra être géré séparément et donc recyclé selon les nouvelles normes Européennes Rohs concernant les déchets d'appareils électroniques. Prière de contacter les services concernés gouvernementaux ou votre point de vente pour l'élimination et l'enlèvement de déchets électroniques équipés de composants électroniques.

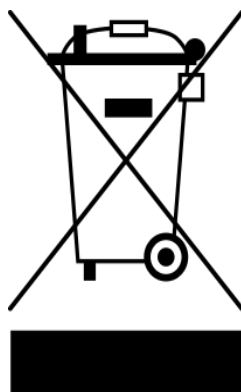
#### DISPOSAL

La etiqueta cruzada hacia fuera del compartimiento que aparece en el panel trasero del producto indica que el producto no se debe reciclar como basura normal de la casa. Para prevenir daños posible al ambiente separe por favor el producto de otras basura para asegurarse de que puede ser reciclada de una manera ambientalmente segura. Entre en contacto por favor a su oficina gubernamental local o a su minorista para las instalaciones disponibles de la colección.

#### RIFIUTI

L'etichetta del cassonetto barrato riportato sul retro dell'apparecchio indica che il prodotto non deve essere smaltito tramite la procedura normale di smaltimento dei rifiuti domestici. Per evitare eventuali danni all'ambiente, separare questo prodotto da altri rifiuti domestici in modo che possa venire riciclato in base alle procedure di rispetto ambientale. Per maggiori dettagli sulle aree di raccolta disponibili, contattate l'ufficio govenativo locale od il rivenditore del prodotto.





### AFVAL

Het label op de achterzijde van dit apparaat, een afvalbak op wielen met een kruis doorgehaald, geeft aan dat dit apparaat niet samen met gewoon huishoudafval mag worden weggegooid. Om mogelijke schade aan onze leefomgeving te voorkomen dient dit apparaat, gescheiden van gewoon huishoudelijk afval, te worden afgevoerd zodat het op een milieuvriendelijke manier kan worden gerecycled. Neem voor beschikbare inzamelplaatsen contact op met uw gemeentelijke reinigingsdienst of met uw elektronica leverancier.

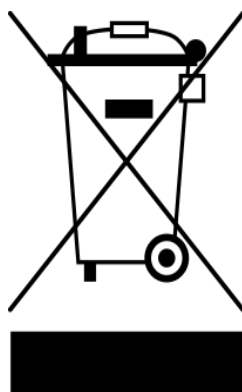
### HÄVITTÄMINEN

Yliüksattua jäteastiaa kuvaava tarra tuotteen takalevyssä kertoo, että tuotetta ei saa käsitellä normaalina talousjätteenä. Ympäristön suojelemiseksi on tuote pidettävä erillään muusta jätteestä ja se on kierrätettävä ekologisesti kestävällä tavalla. Ota yhteyttä laitteen myyjään tai Pirkanmaan Ympäristökeskukseen lähimmän kierrätyskeskuksen löytämiseksi.

### AFSKAFNING

Logoet med en skraldespand med kryds over på bagsiden af apparatet indikerer at dette produkt ikke må kasseres som normal husholdningsaffald. For at forebygge mulig skade på miljøet, bedes De separere dette produkt fra andet affald, og sikre at det bliver genbrugt på en miljørigtig måde. Kontakt venligst de lokale myndigheder eller din forhandler for oplysning om nærmeste tilgængelige opsamlingssted for elektronikaffald.





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