# Digital pre-amplifier - PULSAR PD 1200 R



The **PD 1200 R** is a digital pre-amplifier to which four digital and four analogue source devices can be connected. The unit's ability to accept two digital recording devices as well as an analogue recorder provides a convenient means of copying any digital and analogue recorded material. As an option the **PD 1200 R** can be fitted with a digital or an analogue output module. The digital output module is used to connect the **PD 1200 R** directly to digital loudspeakers, while the analogue output module is required if you wish to connect a power amplifier to it. In this configuration the **PD 1200 R** is capable of linearising the entire Hi-Fi chain in the listening room. The **PD 1200 R** is largely of modular construction; with an eye to maximum flexibility and a future-proof upgrade path, the input and output modules and even the control software are easily replaceable, giving the user an easy means of keeping up with future standards as they develop.



Internal view of the PD 1200 R

## **Connection elements**



GND	The ground lead from an analogue disc player is connected here in order to avoid hum.
AUX 3 Analogeingang	General-purpose pre-amplifier input with an input sensitivity of 250 mV / 20 kX $\vartheta$ î . If an <u>MM</u> or <u>MC</u> phono module is fitted then <b>AUX 3</b> is the phono input.
2 Analogeingänge	Pre-amplifier input for connecting a high-level signal source e.g. video recorder and tuner.
TAPE 1 Analog	Pre-amplifier input and output for connection to a machine with analogue recording and playback facilities (e.g. cassette deck).
REC-Out Analog	Unregulated output for analogue connection to a digital recording machine (DAT, AUX/D).
TAPE 2 Digital	Digital input and output for connection to a DAT recorder.
	Input for connection to a digital signal source, e.g. digital

AUX 1 Digital	tuner.
AUX 2 Digital	Digital input and output for connection to a further digital machine with recording and playback facilities (e.g. DCC).
CD	Input for connection to the digital output of a CD mechanism.
2 Digitalausgänge	Digital output for connection to digital loudspeakers.
2 Digital ST-LWL	Optional optical digital output for optical cable
CTRL	Remote control output for digital loudspeakers which do not meet the <b>TA/DIF</b> norm.
RC IN (E2000)	Input socket for the E 2000 remote control receiver.
RC Out	The remote control signals are transferred to the source devices via the remote control leads <b>RZ 001</b> , which are plugged into the <b>RC-OUT</b> sockets.
Digital Link	Optional optical digital input for optical cable

#### Digital input moduls:

The digital input module features four separate inputs, each of which takes the form of a 75 Ohm co-axial input and an additional TOSLINK optical cable input. One of the digital inputs can be converted into an input for high-quality mono-mode ST optical cable by fitting the ST optical cable module available as an accessory. The digital input data is re-synchronised in the PD 1200 R by means of a high-precision guartz PLL circuit. This eliminates timing inaccuracies (e.g. jitter) which can damage sound quality. If the timing pulse provided by the source device deviates significantly from the nominal value, a digital sample rate converter (SRC) is automatically switched in. This technology ensures that even low-quality digital signals with all manner of timing deviations and fluctuations can be brought up to the highest level of precision required for studio equipment (Level 1, high accuracy = 50 ppm timing accuracy). In this respect the PD 1200 R achieves superb values: absolute timing deviation < 10 ppm, jitter of the internal PLL < 20 pico-seconds. These values represent the limits of what is currently possible, and the PD 1200 R raises the reproduction quality of digital sources - the one crucial factor - to a level which cannot be exceeded at present. For comparison purposes: the norms state that the standard tolerance for digital machines is only +/- 1000 ppm. The signal from the selected digital input is passed to the two digital recording outputs (DAT Record Out, AUX/D Record Out) for transfer to DAT, DCC, CDR or MD.

#### Analog input module:

Up to four analogue source devices can be connected to the analogue input module. Where necessary an analogue input (AUX / A) can be converted into an input for MM or MC pickup systems by fitting a plug-in phono pre-amplifier. The analogue sources are selected using high-quality gas-tight encapsulated gold-contact relays and then brought up to the optimum level for the professional studio A/D converter. The gain control is micro-processor based and is extremely accurate. Signal levels are also regulated using gold-contact relays instead of low-cost electronic adjustors.

The input signal level can be adjusted separately for each source to ensure that each source device is perfectly matched to the A/D converter. The inputs are calibrated automatically, and the calibration procedure can be repeated at any time by pressing a button. The "margin" adjustor on the front panel provides a means of varying the overload

reserve (headroom) of the A/D converter within the range 10 ... 0 dB. This allows the user to fine-tune the converter to his or her personal preferences: for minimum residual hiss (margin = 0 dB / right-hand stop), to maximum overload headroom to cope with brief signal peaks (margin = 10 dB / left-hand stop) or any value between these two extremes. The input level is constantly monitored, and overload conditions are reliably detected and indicated. An analogue recording output (Tape Out) is provided to allow the recording of digital sources with analogue recorders. To ensure that analogue recordings of the best possible quality are obtained, a separate high-quality 20-bit Sigma/Delta D/A converter (DAC7) is used to provide the essential D/A conversion.

#### Digital output module:

In the digital output module the audio data and the control data are processed together according to the <u>TA/DIF</u> norm (see glossary) and encoded with the help of a studio encoder. The data is re-synchronised with the high-purity master timing signal of the quartz PLL before it leaves the machine. The co-axial outputs are fed by a very fast counter-pulse control system using a ring core signal repeater; this technique ensures optimum cable matching and perfect square-wave output signals. In addition to the optical <u>TOSLINK</u> outputs provided as standard, one or two optional mono-mode ST optical cable outputs can be fitted at any time.

**Important note:** the outputs of the digital output module are designed to control digital loudspeakers corresponding to the TA/DIF norm (see glossary). This standard is largely compatible with the SP/DIF norm which is in widespread use. This means that virtually all digital audio units can be connected to the digital outputs without causing problems. However, the SCMS copy protect function - to prevent unauthorised digital copies - is not supported by the TA/DIF interface.

#### Analogue output module:

The analogue output module is responsible for the actual digital signal processing, and the subsequent conversion of the digital signal into analogue form. The signal processing is carried out by a high-performance DSP (digital signal processor), which incorporates the digital tone control system and switchable oversampling filters. When the listening room calibration process has been completed, it is the DSP which carries out the sophisticated room correction. The digital signals are converted into analogue form in the following D/A converters. The converters used in this unit are professional studio converters working with a resolution of 24 bits and a frequency of 192 kHz. One stereo converter is used for each channel, and this feature together with the refined circuit design guarantees minimal noise and best possible sound. The volume control takes the form of a series of high-quality gold-contact relays which are encapsulated in a gas-tight shell, designed to avoid the usual drawbacks of digital volume controls such as dynamic losses, increased harmonic distortion etc.

## Specifications Analogue input module

### conversion to Phono MM or MC input

## A / D – converter

Type / resolution	Sigma / Delta, 20-bit		
Sampling rate	44,1 kHz or 48 kHz		
Frequency response	2 Hz – 22 kHz		
Signal: noise ratio (A-weighted)	> 108 dB / > 110 dB		
Total harmonic distortion	< 0,002 %		
Record output (analogue)	1 Veff / 100 Ohms		
Record D/A converter	Sigma/Delta, 20-bit resolution		
Digital input module			
Number digital inputs	4, one digital input optionally convertible to optical input		
Dzsmfstf	SP/DIF, co-axial and optical		
Record output (digital)	SP/DIF, 2 x co-axial and optical		
Record output (analogue)	1 Veff / 100 Ohms		
Digital output module			
Co-axial	<u>TA/DIF</u> , 0,5 V / 75 Ohms		
Optical	TA/DIF, TOS-Link Peak output		
optical output	Optional		
Analogue output module			
D / A converter	Double differential Sigma/Delta 24 Bit / 192 kHz		
Oversampling	8-times with 2 selectable filters, can be updated		
Room correction processor	56-bit signal processor		
Frequency response	1 Hz – 22 kHz		
Signal: noise ratio (A-weighted)	> 111 dB		
Signal: noise ratio (unweighted)	> 106 dB		
Effective system dynamics	> 100 dB		
Total harmonic distortion	< 0,0015 %		
Channel separation	> 106 dB		
Volume control	Analogue, gold-contact relays		
Tone controls	Fully digital		
Mains supply 110 V or 220/240 V / 50 Hz	30 VA		
Dimensions	7,5 x 44 x 39 cm		
Weight	8 kg		
Colours	Black )9005), silver aluminium, chrome (Non-standard version)		
Remote control	Via R system		
We reserve the right to alter technical specifications			

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