

**ADCOM
PREAMP
GFP-555**

WARNING

The following information is for your own safety and well being.
(required by Underwriters Laboratories, Inc. UL 1270, Sec. 65)

READ INSTRUCTIONS

All safety and operating instructions should be read before this unit is operated.

RETAIN INSTRUCTIONS

Retain this notice and the owners manual for future reference.

HEED WARNINGS

All warnings and cautions on the unit and in the owners manual should be adhered to.

FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS

All operating and use instructions should be followed.

WATER OR MOISTURE

This unit should not be exposed to water or moisture. For example, near a bathtub, in a wet basement or near a swimming pool.

VENTILATION

This unit should be situated so that its location or position does not interfere with its proper ventilation. Be sure that at least $\frac{1}{2}$ " of space is provided above or below all ventilation holes.

HEAT

This unit should be placed away from other heat producing products and adequate ventilation should be provided.

AC ONLY

This unit should be connected to an AC outlet only. With the precautions described in the owners manual.

GROUNDING

Precautions should be taken for proper grounding as described in the owners manual.

AC CORD PROTECTION

The AC cord should be routed so that it is not likely to be walked on or pinched by items placed upon or against it. Please pay extra attention to cords at the plug, convenience outlet and the point where they exit from the unit.

CLEANING

The unit can be cleaned using a soft cloth dampened with a solution of liquid detergent and water. Under no circumstances should a lye solution or an abrasive cleaner such as scouring powder be used on any part of the unit.

NON USE PERIOD

The power cord should be unplugged from the AC outlet when the unit will not be used for an extended period of time.

OBJECT OR LIQUID ENTRY

Care should be taken so that objects do not fall and liquids are not spilled into the unit through ventilation holes.

DAMAGE REQUIRING SERVICE

The unit should be serviced by a qualified service agency when:

- A) The power supply cord or the plug has been damaged; or
- B) Objects have fallen, or liquid has been spilled into the unit; or
- C) The unit has been exposed to rain; or
- D) The unit does not appear to operate normally or exhibits a marked change in performance; or
- E) The unit has been dropped, or the enclosure damaged.

SERVICING

You should not attempt to service the unit beyond that described in the owners manual. All other servicing should be referred to a qualified service agency.

ADCOM GFP-555 OWNERS MANUAL

WELCOME

We ask that you thoroughly read this owners manual before turning your ADCOM preamplifier on.

Your ADCOM GFP-555 incorporates some of the most advanced thinking in preamplifier design. The superior performance of the GFP-555 is the result of a thorough re-evaluation of all concepts affecting performance in a preamplifier. Some of the outstanding features of this product are:

- A single master board, copper plated on both sides, provides excellent shielding and grounding to ensure quiet operation by minimizing the pick-up of external noise and hum.
- Direct, on-chassis selector switching that avoids long signal paths and assures high reliability of electrical contacts.
- A provision for the selection of cartridge gain matching and capacitance loading to optimize the performance from your phono cartridge.
- Separate "Recording" and "Listening" controls that allow you to listen to one input while taping from a different input. For example, you can record from your CD Player and at the same time listen to the Tuner.
- A signal processor loop that allows you to incorporate an equalizer or other signal processing equipment into your system without having to sacrifice a tape loop.
- A choice of Direct coupled and Capacitance coupled Main outputs to optimize the signal quality into virtually any amplifier.
- A sophisticated Contour circuit that provides loudness compensation for low and moderate listening levels.

Other useful features and benefits are described in the following pages. We sincerely hope that you will appreciate and enjoy the attention that we have given to these details. This manual has been written to anticipate the kinds of questions that you may have while enjoying the full benefits of your ADCOM GFP-555 preamplifier. Please read it thoroughly to fully understand all of the features offered and how they can be used in your audio system.

SECTION 1

WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU OPEN THE BOX

Before each GFP-555 left the factory, it was carefully inspected for physical imperfections as a routine part of ADCOM's systematic quality control. This, along with full electrical and mechanical testing, should insure a product flawless in both appearance and performance. After you have unpacked the preamplifier, inspect it for physical damage. Save the shipping carton and all packing materials, as they are essential to reduce to a minimum the possibility of transportation damage, should the product ever need to be shipped again. In the unlikely event that damage has occurred, notify your dealer immediately and request the name of the carrier so that a written claim to cover shipping damage can be initiated.

SECTION 2

WHERE TO PUT IT (AND WHERE NOT TO)

Adequate ventilation will assure trouble free operation of your preamplifier. The unit may be mounted either as a free standing unit or in a standard 19" rack using the accessory rack mount adaptors, model # RM-3 (available through your ADCOM dealer). The preamplifier should not be totally enclosed with other heat producing components.

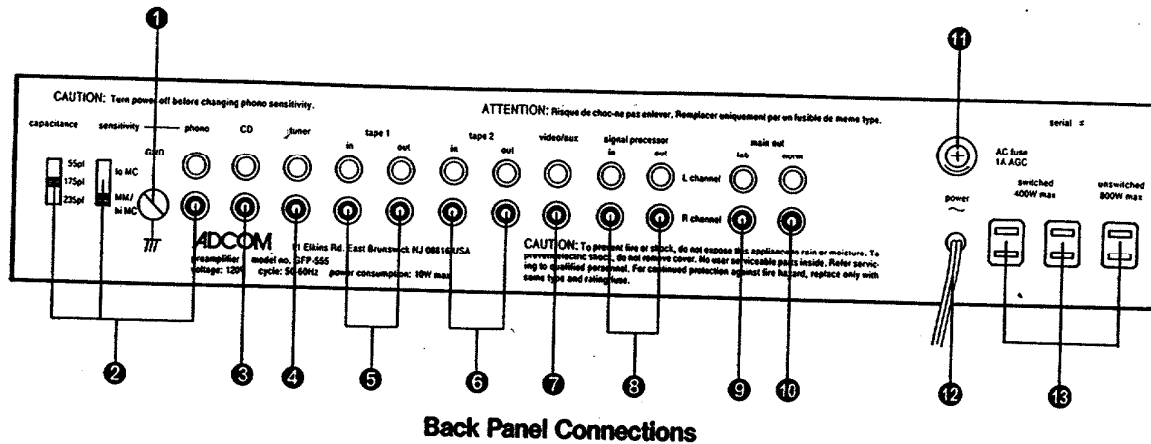
SECTION 3

WHERE (AND HOW) ALL THE WIRES GO

Please refer to the drawing on page 3 for a diagram of the rear panel connections on the GFP-555.

The ultimate performance of the GFP-555 depends on the quality and set-up of both the preamplifier and its associated equipment. All rear panel input and output signal connections should be made with high quality co-axial audio cables (RCA phono type). Left and right channel inputs and outputs are clearly labeled.

Whenever rear panel connections are being made, the GFP-555 and all associated components should be switched OFF.



GROUND TERMINAL <GND>

Most turntables use a separate ground wire to help eliminate hum. If your turntable is equipped with this wire, connect it to the terminal labeled "GND" on the rear panel of the preamplifier.

PHONO INPUT

This input is designed to receive the output from the cartridge of your turntable. The phono input jacks accept the standard RCA-type phono plugs, one for each channel. There are two switches to the left of the phono input jacks labeled "Sensitivity" and "Capacitance". The function of these switches is described below.

The Sensitivity switch to the left of the phono input jacks should be set as follows: All high output moving coil, moving magnet, induced magnet, moving flux, and moving iron (variable reluctance) cartridges whose output is 2.2 millivolts or higher, should use the "MM/hi MC" setting. ADCOM high output moving coil cartridges are ideally suited to the phono input with the Sensitivity switch set to the "MM/hi MC" setting. Cartridges that normally require a pre-preamplifier or transformer (frequently called a "head amp") should be used with the Sensitivity switch set to the "lo MC" setting. This setting gives the additional gain required by low output cartridges. A pre-preamplifier or transformer is not necessary and should not be used with the Sensitivity switch set at the "lo MC" position. The "lo MC" setting is not a conventional "head amp" circuit, however it provides the additional gain required by almost all low output moving coil cartridges. If you don't know which type of cartridge you have, please consult the specification sheet that is included with your cartridge or contact your dealer or the cartridge manufacturer.

The Sensitivity switch is locked into position with a small locking plate to prevent accidental switching while the preamplifier is in operation. To change the switch setting you must first remove the screw holding the locking plate.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE SENSITIVITY SWITCH SHOULD NOT BE MOVED WHEN YOUR PREAMPLIFIER AND POWER AMPLIFIER ARE ON.

The phono input also has a Capacitance selector switch to the left of the sensitivity switch. This selector enables you to optimize the performance of those cartridges which are capacitance sensitive. Please refer to your cartridge owners manual or specification sheet for the manufacturer's suggested level of capacitance to be used. If you are using a moving coil cartridge (either high or low output) in this input, the capacitance selector will have no effect on the quality of sound reproduced.

When determining the level of capacitance to be used, the tonearm wiring and signal cables must be added to the level of capacitance selected for a total capacitance level. For example: If the recommended level of capacitance for your cartridge is 275pF and the tonearm wires and cable have 100pF of capacitance, then set the phono Capacitance selector switch to the 175pF setting.

CD INPUT ③

This set of input jacks is for a Compact Disc (CD) Player. This input may also be used for any high level signal such as a tape player, tuner, or the audio signal from a videodisc player or video cassette recorder (VCR). This input is supplied with a pair of shorting plugs installed in order to optimize the signal-to-noise ratio in the event that this input is not used. If you are using a CD player, remove the shorting plugs and insert them all the way into any other unused input. **DO NOT INSERT THE SHORTING PLUGS INTO EITHER PAIR OF OUTPUT JACKS.**

TUNER INPUT ④

This set of inputs is provided for your tuner. Any other high level source may be used here such as a tape player or the audio signal from a VCR.

TAPE INPUTS AND OUTPUTS Tape 1 ⑤ and Tape 2 ⑥

Two full tape circuits are provided on the GFP-555. To connect a tape deck to the TAPE 1 circuit, use the following procedure: The left and right channel outputs of the tape deck are connected by audio cables to the jacks labeled TAPE 1 In on the GFP-555. The inputs of the tape deck are connected to the jacks labeled TAPE 1 Out on the GFP-555. If you are using a second tape deck, follow the same procedure for the jacks labeled TAPE 2 on the GFP-555.

VIDEO/AUX INPUT ⑦

This set of inputs will accommodate any high level signal source such as a Videodisc player or VCR.

INPUTS ③ THROUGH ⑦ ARE NOT INTENDED FOR USE WITH A TURNTABLE.

SIGNAL PROCESSOR INPUT AND OUTPUT ⑧

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE GFP-555 WILL NOT FUNCTION PROPERLY UNLESS A SIGNAL PROCESSOR OR THE SUPPLIED JUMPERS ARE CONNECTED BETWEEN THE INPUTS AND OUTPUTS OF THIS CIRCUIT TO COMPLETE THE LOOP.

This additional set of inputs and outputs can be used with any signal processor such as a time delay, equalizer or other audio accessory that would normally be used in one of the tape loops. To use this feature, remove the jumpers from the Signal Processor jacks on the rear panel of the GFP-555. Using standard phono cables connect your equalizer (or other signal processor) to the Signal Processor jacks in the following manner: Inputs to the signal processor are connected to the jacks marked OUT on the GFP-555. Outputs from the signal processor are connected to the jacks marked IN on the GFP-555. Once connected, the processor is **ALWAYS** in the preamplifier circuit. If you remove the jumpers, save them in case you want to disconnect the signal processor and return to normal operation.

MAIN OUTPUTS Lab ⑨ or Normal ⑩

The GFP-555 was designed with an output voltage ideally matched for operation with the ADCOM GFA-555, GFA-545, and GFA-535 basic power amplifiers. However, it is eminently suited to drive any other stereo power amplifier or a pair of monophonic power amplifiers. If two monophonic amplifiers are used for stereo, it is strongly suggested that they be a matched pair. Either of the MAIN OUTPUTS, LAB or NORM, should be connected directly to the inputs of your amplifier. The MAIN OUTPUTS are clearly marked for the connections to the Left and Right channels of the power amplifier being used.

The MAIN OUTPUTS, labeled LAB and NORM, make it possible to use the GFP-555 with many different types of power amplifiers. The difference between the two outputs is as follows: The LAB output is Direct coupled and the NORM output is Capacitance coupled. The direct coupled LAB output is used with power amps such as the ADCOM models that are able to handle signals of extremely wide bandwidth. Simply stated, the purest sound can be derived from the LAB output since there are no capacitors at the output to filter out musical information. However, some amplifiers may have protection circuits which are unable to handle such an unadulterated signal. For this reason we have provided the NORM outputs.

FUSE ⑪

The AC Line Fuse for the GFP-555 is a 1 amp AGC fuse. This fuse does **NOT** protect the AC

Accessory outlets ⑬. This fuse should only be replaced with a fuse of the same type and rating. Replacement with a fuse of higher value will not protect the preamplifier and will void the warranty. (See Section 5)

AC POWER CONNECTION ⑫

The AC line cord should be plugged into any electrical outlet providing 105 to 125 volts AC, 50 or 60 Hz.

AC ACCESSORY OUTLETS ⑬

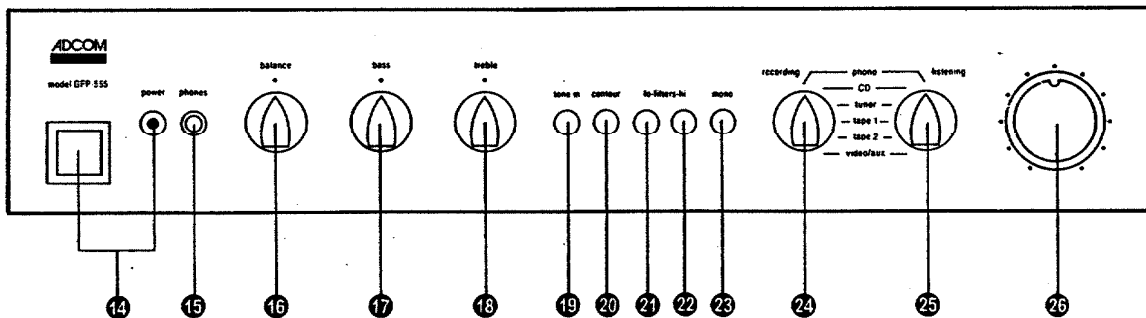
The AC line cords of other stereo components may be plugged into the accessory outlets. The Switched outlets allow you to turn on and off the component plugged into this position with the GFP-555 power switch. The Unswitched outlet is always supplying power to the component plugged into it. The component plugged into this position should be turned on and off with its own power switch. It is suggested that any device which operates mechanically, such as a tape deck or turntable, should be plugged into the Unswitched outlet.

The total power requirements for the accessories plugged into the Switched outlets should not exceed 400 Watts for the two outlets combined. The total power requirements for the device plugged into the Unswitched outlet should not exceed 800 Watts maximum. The current requirements for most electronic products are listed on the rear panel near the AC line cord. Be sure to check these requirements before plugging any device into the accessory outlets. As a rule, power amplifiers should be plugged directly into an AC wall outlet and not into the accessory outlets. NOTE: THE GFA-555 AMPLIFIER SHOULD NOT BE PLUGGED INTO THE AC ACCESSORY OUTLETS because its high current demands may exceed the capacity of the accessory outlets.

SECTION 4

WHAT THE CONTROLS DO (AND WHY)

Please refer to the drawing below for a diagram of the front panel controls on the GFP-555.



Front Panel Controls

POWER ⑭

This high capacity power switch controls the power to the GFP-555 and the Switched accessory outlets on the rear panel. When the power switch is turned ON, the red LED to the right of the power switch will be illuminated.

PHONES ⑮

The headphone jack is a standard 1/4" three conductor type designed for use with conventional stereo headphones. This jack has its own amplifier to power the headphones being used. When you listen to the headphones you may find it advisable to turn off your amplifier so that your speakers are not being played at the same time.

BALANCE ⑯

The BALANCE control adjusts for unequal volume levels between channels. Moving the control to the left will diminish the volume in the Right channel, while moving the control to the right will diminish the volume in the Left channel.

To obtain optimum balance between channels, it is recommended that you adjust your tuner off station to pick up the interstation noise present there (muting defeated). Play the noise through the

system and adjust the BALANCE control until the noise appears to come from the center position between the speakers as heard from your listening area.

TONE CONTROL SYSTEM

The tone controls of the GFP-555 have been carefully designed to provide subtle low and high frequency equalization without affecting the critical midrange frequencies. Careful circuit damping provides the special "shelving" response needed for good tone modification and smooth transition between modified and non-modified segments of the audio band. Do not expect to hear the drastic, non-musical boost and attenuation of Bass and Treble usually found in less sophisticated tone control circuits.

TONE IN 19

This switch, when in the OUT position, enables you to bypass the entire tone circuit. It is useful for A-B comparisons of modified and non-modified signal or so you can have a straight-line preamp without tone controls affecting the sound. This switch must be in the IN position to use the BASS and TREBLE controls.

BASS 17

This is the control for low frequency equalization of both the left and right channels. This control will only operate with the TONE IN button in the IN position. [See TONE IN 19 section]

TREBLE 18

This is the control for high frequency equalization of both the left and right channels. This control will only operate with the TONE IN button in the IN position. [See TONE IN 19 section]

CONTOUR 20

ADCOM's Contour circuit in the GFP-555 differs markedly from conventional loudness compensation circuits. Recent studies show that conventional circuits overcompensate for natural low and high frequency roll-off at low signal levels. The studies of Robinson and Dadson of Harvard University have provided guidelines for a newer and more accurate curve for loudness compensation. In our judgment, a subtle boost of low frequencies (in the 50—100 Hz range) and no boost at high frequencies, provides the ideal musical balance for listening at low to moderate levels. The effects of the Contour circuit gradually diminish as the volume level is increased. Depressing the Contour switch engages this function.

FILTERS

HI FILTER 21

This switch is used to engage the specially designed high frequency filter of the GFP-555. This circuit is not simply an ultrasonic filter as is found on most preamplifiers, but rather a carefully designed high frequency contour circuit intended to both reduce unwanted ultrasonic frequencies as well as correct for the sometimes excessive high frequency energy found on some poorly equalized recorded material. Because of the gentle roll-off effect, this filter can be used for a wide variety of program material.

LO FILTER 22

This switch is used to engage the unique LO Filter on the GFP-555. This filter has been designed to remove unwanted low frequency information that can be caused by record warps or older turntables that may be prone to low frequency rumble. This filter is also useful for the elimination of some forms of acoustic feedback. Since the effect of this filter on frequencies in the listening range is very slight, this switch may be left engaged at all times.

MONO 23

Depressing this button combines the left and right signals and then feeds this signal to both outputs. This switch should be used when playing a monaural recording, adjusting balance, or checking speaker phasing.

SELECTORS Recording 24 and Listening 25

The Recording Selector controls which Input signal will be fed to the Tape Output jacks on the rear panel. The Listening Selector determines what is played through the speakers. The Recording Selector works independently of the Listening Selector so that you can record from one signal source and listen to a different signal source through your speaker system.

For Example: If you want to listen to your phono and at the same time record an FM broadcast through the Tuner Input, set the Recording Selector to Tuner and the Listening Selector to Phono. The Listening

Selector only determines what is heard through the speakers, it will not affect the signal chosen for recording with the Recording Selector.

The Recording Selector also allows you to copy (dub) from one tape deck to another. To copy from Tape 1 to Tape 2, select the Tape 1 setting on the Recording Selector. To copy from Tape 2 to Tape 1, select the Tape 2 setting on the Recording Selector. Remember, the Recording Selector does not determine what you hear through the speakers. To listen to either Tape 1 or Tape 2 you must make the appropriate selection using the Listening Selector. It should be noted that unlike conventional preamps, actual signal switching is done on the circuit board near the rear panel inputs. This arrangement will keep hum, noise and distortion to a minimum by eliminating the wire necessary for front panel switches. The front panel selector is only making a mechanical change and has no wires going through the control.

VOLUME 26

This high quality control is used to raise and lower the loudness of the music playing through the speakers or headphones.

SECTION 5

THE CARE AND FEEDING OF YOUR GFP-555

Great care has been taken by ADCOM to assure that your preamplifier is as flawless in appearance as it is electronically. The front panel is heavy gauge, high-grade anodized aluminum, bead-blasted for durability and beauty. If the front panel should become fingerprinted or smeared, it can be cleaned with a damp, soft cloth.

FUSE 11

The preamplifier is protected by a line fuse on the rear panel. If the power is switched ON and the small red LED on the front panel does not illuminate after a few seconds, shut off the preamplifier, unplug the AC line cord from the power outlet, and check the AC line fuse. If the fuse has opened, replace it ONLY with a fuse of equal value after carefully checking to determine the cause of the failure. This product also contains internal fuses which are designed to open under certain overload conditions. Should the preamplifier cease to function and the external line fuse is OK, it is likely that an internal fuse has opened. You may have this checked by your authorized ADCOM dealer, and thereby avoid the inconvenience of unnecessary return to the factory.

REPLACEMENT WITH AN INCORRECT FUSE OR ONE OF A HIGHER RATING WILL NOT PROTECT THE PREAMPLIFIER AND WILL VOID THE WARRANTY.

SECTION 6

IF YOU HAVE A PROBLEM OR QUESTION

ADCOM has a technical service department to answer all questions pertinent to the installation and operation of your unit. Please feel free to write or call us in the event of difficulty, and we shall endeavor to offer prompt advice. If your problem can not be resolved through our combined efforts, we may wish to refer you to an authorized repair agency, or we may prefer to authorize return of the unit to the factory. To aid us in directing you to a convenient service station, it would be helpful if you indicate which major city is accessible to your home. Please address inquiries to:

**ADCOM TECHNICAL SERVICE DEPT.
11 ELKINS ROAD
EAST BRUNSWICK, NJ 08816
(201) 390-1130**

When calling or writing about your preamplifier, be sure to include the model and serial number of your unit, as well as the date of purchase and the dealer from whom the unit was purchased. In the event that the unit must be returned to us for service, you will be instructed as to the proper procedure when you call or write for return authorization.

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD YOUR UNIT BE SHIPPED TO THE FACTORY WITHOUT PRIOR AUTHORIZATION, OR WITHOUT THE ORIGINAL CARTON AND FILLERS.

If the original shipping carton has been lost or discarded, or if the carton is not in good condition, a duplicate carton may be obtained from our service department for a nominal charge.

Always ship PREPAID via UPS or other recognized surface carrier. DO NOT SHIP VIA PARCEL POST, since the packing will not withstand rough mail handling. We are forced to refuse most Parcel Post shipments since they arrive in such poor condition. FREIGHT COLLECT SHIPMENTS CANNOT BE ACCEPTED.

SECTION 7

ADCOM PROTECTION PLAN (U.S.A. ONLY)

ADCOM offers the enclosed LIMITED WARRANTY. Please read the details on the warranty card carefully to fully understand the extent of the protection offered by the warranty, its limits, and what responsibilities are required of you in order to obtain its benefits.

GFP-555

...the ADCOM GFP-555 preamplifier. It's a 100% solid state design with a built-in phono preamplifier and a 250,000 ohm input impedance. It's also available for use...

Final word

What all this adds up to with respect to music is very simple. There is less phase shift between channels, dead quiet background (essential for CDs), total transparency and clarity of detail. The music truly comes alive, with no sense of "electronic presence" in the reproductive chain.

Of course, we hope that this information reaches you at a time when you're interested in a new preamplifier, or should be—whether your first or an upgrade—and that what interests you above all is a demonstrably superior combination of sonic performance, flexibility and value.

SPECIFICATIONS.

Total harmonic distortion: 0.005%

IM distortion: 0.005%

Signal-to-noise ratio:

Phono (re 0.5 V output): >85 dB

Tuner, CD, tape (re 2 V output): >100 dB

Tone controls:

Bass (40 Hz) ± 9.5 dB

Treble (15 kHz) ± 9.5 dB

Contour (switchable): +6 dB at 50 Hz

Frequency response: 1 Hz – 100 kHz ± 0.1 dB

High filter (switchable): –2.5 dB at 20 kHz (6 dB/octave)

Low filter (switchable): –5 dB at 20 Hz (6 dB/octave)

Input sensitivity for 0.5V output:

Phono High MC/MM: 0.4 mV

Phono Low MC: 0.13 mV

High: 40 mV

Maximum output level: 10 volts

Input impedance:

High MC/MM: 47 kohms

Low MC: 100 ohms

Output impedance: 470 ohms

Phono overload at 1 kHz High MC/MM: 140 mV

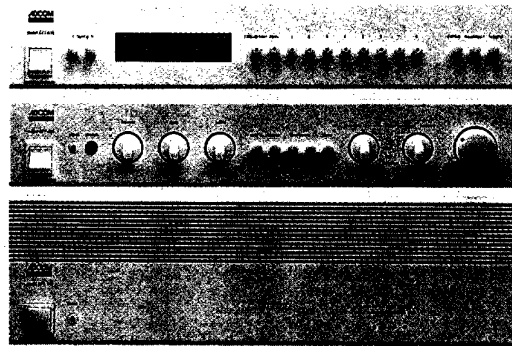
Phono input capacitance: Adjustable; 100 pF, 175 pF, 275 pF

Line voltage: 120V/60 Hz (Available in 230V/50 Hz on special order)

Dimensions: 17" $\times$ 3 1/4" $\times$ 12 3/4" D (432mm $\times$ 83mm $\times$ 324mm D)

Weight: 14 lbs. (6.4 kg)

Optional accessory: Model RM-3, rack mount adapters.



Adcom products are available with white or silver front panels on special order. Shown: GFP-555 preamplifier, GFT-555 AM/FM-stereo tuner and GFA-545 power amplifier with white front panels.

ADCOM®

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