



FREYA

BALANCED REMOTE CONTROL PREAMP

IN NORSE MYTHOLOGY, FREYA IS A GODDESS ASSOCIATED WITH LOVE, SEX, BEAUTY, FERTILITY, GOLD, SEIR, WAR, AND DEATH.

LEAVING ASIDE THOSE LAST THREE, THAT SOUNDS PRETTY COOL.

SHE ALSO APPARENTLY HAD CATS. YEAH.

WE DON'T RECOMMEND YOU LET YOUR CATS SLEEP ON FREYA, BUT WE'RE NOT GONNA COMMENT FURTHER.

OWNER'S MANUAL



INTRODUCTION

Freya is a no-compromise, ultra-high-end balanced preamp cleverly disguised by a low price tag. You won't find any volume-control chips or other shortcuts in Freya—just uber-quality techniques like a relay-switched stepped attenuator and all-triode gain stage—you know, just like what's used in the most expensive audio gear.

IN THE BOX

- (1) Freya
- (1) Power cord
- (0) Stick-on feet (they're pressed in)
- (0) Wall-warts (they're not needed)



The following is required by the roughly 9,542 government agencies and regulations we have to comply with. If you have some common sense, they should seem pretty straightforward. In any case, read these instructions before proceeding farther, follow all instructions, and heed all warnings. Or else!

1. If you don't know how to install audio devices, get a qualified professional to help.
2. Never use this device near water, and clean only with a dry cloth.
3. Assure adequate ventilation, do not block any ventilation openings, or place near heat sources.
4. Use only the supplied power cord or suitable replacement. Route cords away from traffic areas and protect them from being pinched. Unplug the cord from the outlet if the apparatus is unused for a long period of time.
5. To prevent electric shock, do not use the plug with an extension cord, receptacle, or outlet unless blades can be fully inserted.
6. Refer all servicing to qualified service personnel. Service is required when the device has been damaged, including cord or plug damage, liquid has been spilled or objects have fallen into the device, the device has been exposed to rain or moisture, does not operate normally, or has been dropped.



WARNING: TO REDUCE THE RISK OF FIRE OR ELECTRIC SHOCK, DO NOT EXPOSE THIS DEVICE TO RAIN OR MOISTURE.

GETTING STARTED

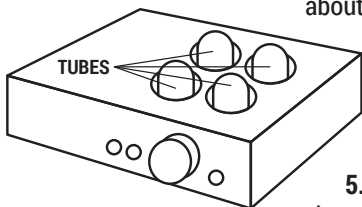
CAUTION! Dangerous voltages inside!

1. **Before plugging in the preamp, insert the tubes.** Carefully align the key in the tube base to the notch in the tube socket for each tube. It doesn't matter which tube goes where—all tubes in Freya are the same type.



2. **Ensure tubes are well-seated.** Push down firmly until the tube is seated on the tube socket. This may take a fair amount of force.

3. **Plug it in and turn it on.** The tubes will glow after a few seconds, and the microprocessor will connect the output after about 40 seconds.



4. **Connect your sources.** Connect up to 5 sources to Freya's balanced and single-ended inputs.

5. **Connect the output.** Connect the output of Freya to your amp or

amps using XLR or RCA cables.

6. **Ensure the volume is turned down if you're using Freya for the first time.** You don't want any big surprises!

7. **Power it up, turn it up, and enjoy your music!**

REPLACING TUBES

Freya accommodates any 6SN7, 6N8S, or 5692 tube type. 6SL7, 6N9S, and equivalent types also work, but will have higher distortion and higher output impedance.

The right tubes are for the differential voltage gain stage. The left tubes are for the cathode follower output stage. All tubes are of the same type on Freya.

To replace or swap tubes:

1. **Turn off and unplug the preamp.** Wait a while for the tube to cool. Seriously, these suckers are pretty hot.

2. **Carefully extract the tube** by gently rocking it back and forth and pulling upwards.

3. **Carefully insert the replacement tube.** Align the key to the notch and press down firmly until the tube is seated.

4. **Plug the preamp back in and turn it on.**

REMOTE CONTROL

Yes, this preamp comes with a remote control. Unlike earlier Freyas, this is now a fancy milled aluminum model. It's still inexpensive to replace in case you lose it or want another one, however.

1 Input. Press this button to select the input you want to listen to. If you skip the input, keep pressing—it cycles back around.

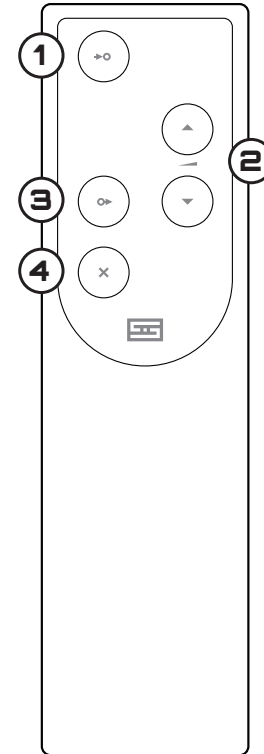
2 Volume Up/Down. Press the up arrow to turn volume up, press the down arrow to turn it down. Simple as that.

3 Output. Press to change between passive and tube hybrid buffer output.

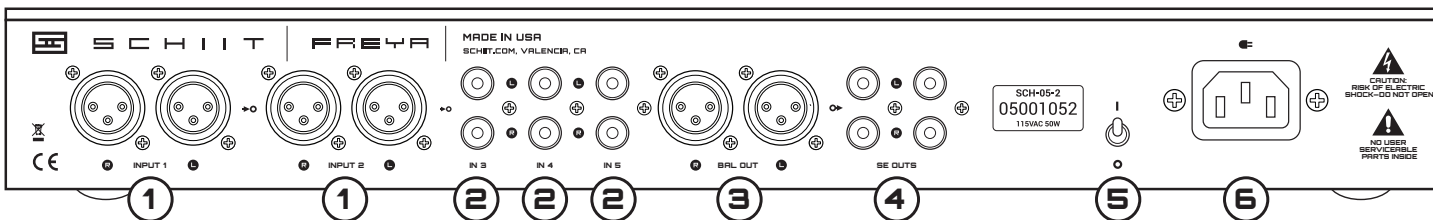
4 Mute. Press to mute the preamp. All input lights will turn off.

Changing the Battery

1. Flip the remote over to reveal a single hole on the back.
2. Push the remote open by inserting the end of an open paper clip into the hole in the back and pushing firmly. It's held together with magnets.
3. Replace the battery inside with one of the same type.
4. Reassemble the remote by first inserting the clear LED in the front, then dropping the panel down onto the matching magnets. Press down gently to pop the panel in place.



CONNECTIONS



1 Balanced Inputs

Freya offers two sets of balanced inputs. Connect to your balanced sources using XLR cables. You can select your source with the front panel controls.

2 Single-Ended Inputs

Freya offers three sets of balanced inputs. Connect your single-ended sources here using good RCA cables. Note: Freya does not convert single-ended to balanced, except when using the tube gain stage. Note2: Don't panic—all of Freya's outputs work fine with all of its inputs, you'll get output from all of them with any input type.

3 Balanced Output

Connect to external power amplifiers or powered speakers that accept XLR connections, using good XLR cables.

4 Single-Ended Output

Connect to external power amplifiers or powered speakers that accept RCA connections, using high-quality RCA cables, especially for longer runs.

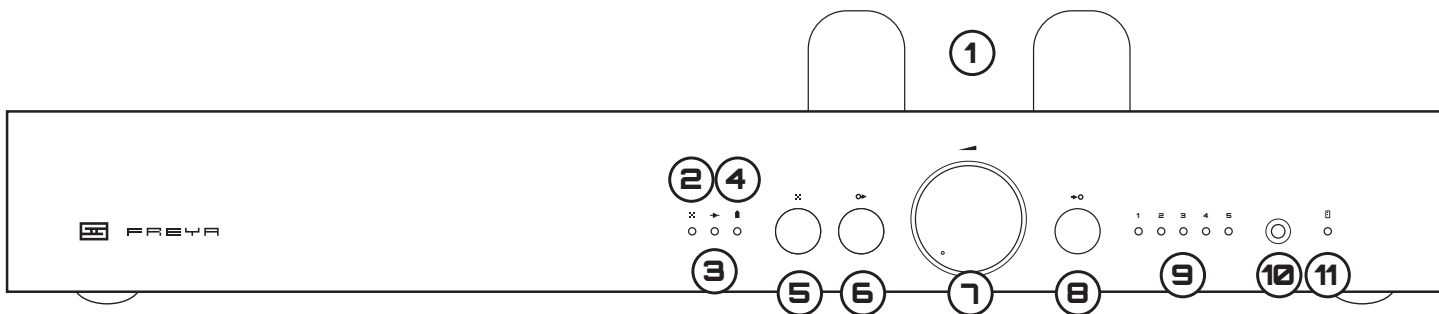
5 Power Switch

Up for on, down for off. No tricks here.

6 Power Inlet

Plug the end of the supplied IEC cord in here. You can also use fancy audiophile types, but they won't really do anything—what about the thousands of feet of crap copper cables in your walls, huh?

CONTROLS



1 Hot Tubes

When using the tube gain stage, Freya's tubes get hot. We don't recommend letting your pets sleep on them.

2 Mute LED

This light is on when Freya is muted.

3 Buffer LED

This light is on when using the JFET buffer.

4 Tube LED

This light is on when using the tube gain stage.

5 Mute Button

Press to toggle mute on and off.

6 Output Select

Press to select the output stage: passive, JFET buffer, or tube gain.

7 Volume Knob

Turn up to increase volume. Stop before your speakers explode.

8 Input Select

Press to select the input you want to listen to.

9 Input

These lights indicate which input you're listening to, from 1-5.

10 Remote Window. The IR remote beams invisible light through this hole to control the preamp remotely. Magic! Don't block it and expect it to work.

11 Remote Indicator. When you've used the remote control to adjust volume, this LED will light. You'll need to turn the volume down below the level set by the remote in order for the knob to control volume again.



FAQ

I hear hum, what do I do?

A small amount of hum in the tube gain output mode is to be expected, especially with high gain amplifiers. It should not be audible from the listening position in most typical systems. If you want the lowest noise floor, use the passive or JFET buffer modes.

No, I mean, I have a LOT of hum!

You may have a ground loop. Try a ground loop isolator or a device like the EbTech HumX.

I hear hiss in tube gain output mode, why?

A small amount of hiss in the tube gain output mode is normal, especially with high gain power amplifiers and high sensitivity speakers. It should not be audible from the listening position in most typical systems. If you want the lowest noise floor, use the passive or JFET buffer modes.

There's no sound for a while after I turn Freya on.

That's perfectly normal. Freya delays the output for 20 seconds after you first turn the preamp on and flashes the remote light to indicate it is muted.

What's with the clicking noises when I turn the volume?

That's the sound of the mechanical relays in the relay-switched stepped attenuator. Also normal.

The volume knob doesn't seem to work.

If you have adjusted volume with the remote, you have to turn down the volume below the remote level before the knob is enabled again. This helps ensure there are no volume surprises.

Can I use both outputs at the same time?

Most of the time, yes. If you have products that short the input when turned off, then that can cause distortion.

It doesn't turn on, what do I do?

Plug it in to a different AC socket. Ensure you are not currently in a blackout. Then email us if it still doesn't work.



5-YEAR WARRANTY

Schiit Audio warrants to the original purchaser that the product shall be free from defects in material and workmanship for five (5) years from the date of purchase. Exceptions: Tubes and remote controls. Tubes are covered by a 90-day limited warranty with the same terms, and remotes are covered by a 1-year limited warranty with the same terms. If a defect covered by this warranty occurs during this warranty period, Schiit Audio will repair the defective product, free of charge. Date of purchase will be based on customer-submitted receipts, otherwise date of manufacturing will be used to determine warranty period.

OBTAINING WARRANTY SERVICE

If you believe you need warranty service, contact us first. There may be a simple solution to your problem. Schiit Audio products sent back to us without a Return Authorization (RA) will be returned to the sender without repair. To contact us and obtain an RA, email support@schiiit.com. We will respond quickly to email inquiries.

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This warranty gives you specific legal rights. You may also have other rights which vary from state to state or province to province.



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



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