

BRINKMANN

Marconi Mk II

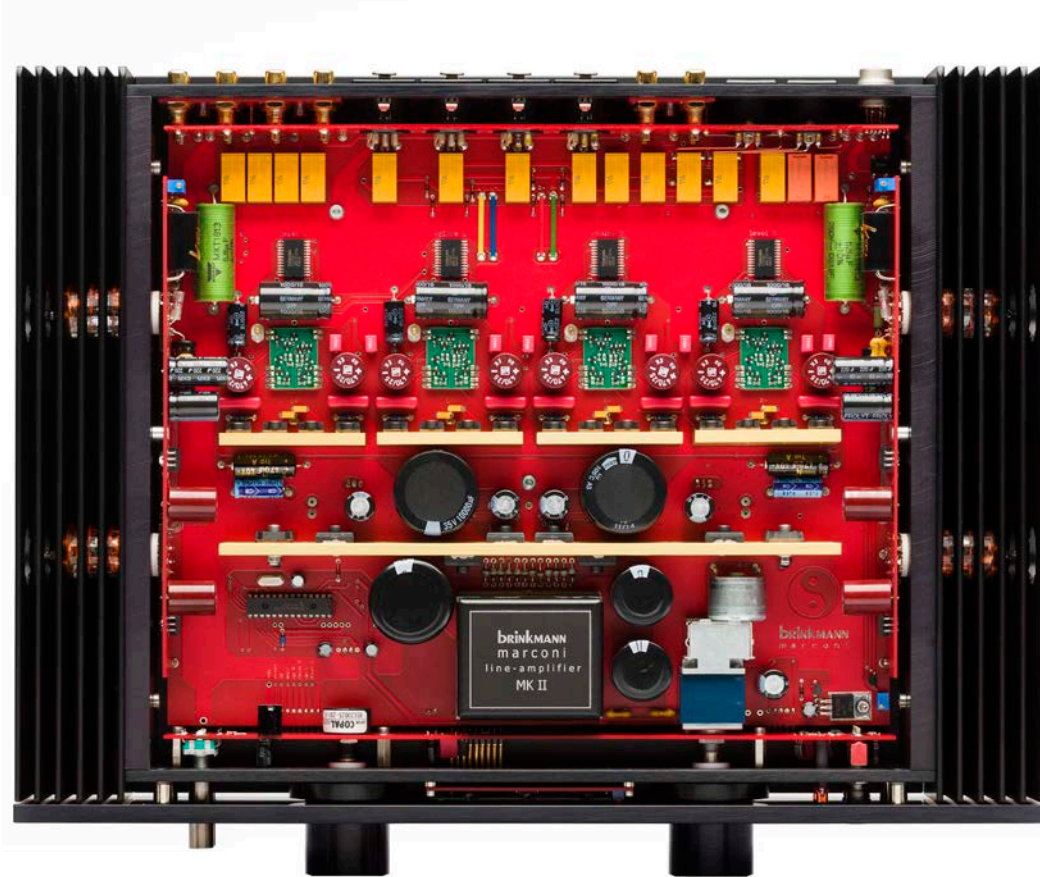
The New Classic



About Brinkmann

For Brinkmann, "High Fidelity" stands as the ultimate pinnacle of achievable sound reproduction. Simply put, there is nothing better than "High Fidelity": after all, a facsimile can never sound better than the original. While some will argue that perfect music playback is an illusion. Helmut Brinkmann however, leaves nothing to chance as he works on perfecting this illusion, thus making music playback as real as possible.





In an industry where products often change like fashion, Marconi has defied obsolescence, remaining relevant for more than 15 years and becoming a High-End classic. Now, Brinkmann proudly announces Marconi Mk II, destined to define a new standard of sonic excellence.

Although the line preamplifier is easily taken for granted, its three jobs - input selection, volume control and the ability to drive any cable and amplifier load - are essential to proper system performance. Fulfilling these functions without signal loss or influence upon musical integrity constitutes one of the greatest challenges in electronics design.

As expected, Brinkmann didn't accept any compromises when developing Marconi. Their volume control, for instance, is purely electronic and works on two levels. First, the sensitivity or "Trim" of each of the six inputs can be adjusted individually and saved, thus eliminating the disturbing jumps in volume when switching between sources. Second, the "Master" volume control consists of a motorized potentiometer that can be operated either remotely or from the front panel. This potentiometer digitally controls ICs which in turn adjust the playback volume passively with discrete resistors in precise steps of 0.5 dB.



Immunity from noise can only be achieved with balanced signal processing. For a stereo preamp, four complete amplifiers - two per channel - are required, as the signal is processed both In-phase and Inverted. Since non-musical artefacts (i.e., noise) influence the 'in' and 'out-of-phase' signals to precisely the same degree (known as "Common-Mode Noise") they can be eliminated at the input of the amplifier because the inverting and non-inverting signals cancel each other. This ability to cancel noise (known as "Common-Mode Rejection") justifies, in Brinkmann's opinion, the doubled parts count and complexity of the circuit.

Brinkmann uses a valve phase inverter stage because valves operate with virtually zero voltage delay, delivering an inverted signal that is a perfect mirror image of its non-inverted counterpart: essential for Common-Mode Rejection. The valves reside in two oversized, side-mounted heat sinks, ensuring ideal operating temperature and long tube life. The remote handset facilitates input selection, volume control (including mute) and phase inversion. A comprehensive front panel display provides Input, Volume and Phase status.

Since the development of the original Marconi, Brinkmann Audio's unique hybrid circuit, employing bipolar transistors and Telefunken NOS tubes, has evolved, reaching its full potential in their latest designs: the Edison Mk II Phono Preamplifier and Nyquist Mk II Streaming DAC. These advancements have now been implemented in the Marconi Mk II. This circuit, employed as the output in Edison and Nyquist, has been adapted for use as the input circuit in Marconi Mk II.

Marconi's traditional strengths are now augmented by lower noise, a more detailed and three-dimensional presentation, greater clarity, improved synergy with soft-sounding systems and increased tube life. The "Mk II" redesign required two completely new Printed Circuit Boards; more importantly, hundreds of hours of painstaking fine-tuning by Helmut Brinkmann have yielded an instrument that communicates music with greater realism, enabling - in the best Brinkmann tradition - closer connection between system and listener.

Marconi Mk II will ship Q4-2018. Upgrades of original Marconi to Mk II standard are not available.

[For further information on the Brinkmann Marconi Mk II, please contact Symmetry using the details at the bottom of the page.](#)





Brinkmann Marconi Mk II specifications

Features

Gain trim for each input, phase/invert switch, remote control.

Inputs

4 Single-ended, 2 Balanced.

Output voltage

Maximum ± 12 V Balanced.

Input impedance

20k Ohms, Balanced and Single-ended.

Output impedance

< 0.1 Ohms Balanced.

Dimensions (WxHxD)

420 x 95 x 310 mm (with granite base);
Power Supply 120 x 80 x 160 mm.

Weight

Marconi, 12 kg;
Granite Base, 12 kg;
Power Supply, 3.2 kg.