



AGD Productions, Inc.





AGD Productions, Inc.



AGD Andante
Reference Preamplifier
DAC – Phono Stage – Analog
Hi-Def Streamer

by AGD Productions, Inc.



AGD Productions, Inc.

“Andante” Reference Preamplifier

by AGD Productions, Inc.

Operating Manual

Rev.01.

Document Date, March 28th, 2020

CAUTION

THE UNIT CONTAINS NO USER SERVICEABLE PARTS.

DO NOT REMOVE THE PANELS OR ANY SCREWS OR CONNECTORS.

DO NOT OPERATE THE UNIT WITHOUT THE GLASS TUBE FULLY INSERTED IN THE PROPER SOCKET.

DO NOT OPERATE THE UNIT IF WET OR NEAR WATER OR IN UNCONTROLLED OUTDOOR CONDITIONS.

BE CERTAIN TO INSTALL IT IN A SECURE LOCATION FROM WHICH IT CANNOT FALL OR TIP OVER.

TIME SPENT FAMILIARIZING YOURSELF WITH THIS MANUAL WILL BE WELL REWARDED.



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1- ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

This Owner's Manual covers unboxing of, familiarization with, and configuration of your new amplifier. This manual will enable you to expertly tailor the behavior and performance of your preamplifier to fit your preferences of your equipment and listening room.

This user manual is integral part of the AGD "ANDANTE" and must be available and consulted prior the installation of the equipment.

The "ANDANTE" is designed to operate indoor and must be utilized uniquely for the scope of audio signal amplification within the specifications and conditions defined in the manual.

It is strongly recommended that you follow this manual in the order in which it is written so that you understand the safety considerations before configuring the unit.



Dear Customer,

I have always been driven by my passion to merge perfection and beauty in the art of Audio reproduction.

After the launch of the "GaNTube™ technology, with the "Vivace" and "The Audion" Hi-End Monoblock amplifiers, the "ANDANTE" is our first Reference Analog-Digital preamplifier.

Crafted with the same care and dedication as all AGD products, the "ANDANTE" is a superior musical preamplifier that combines the best of the analog world and the top leading-edge digital technology available today.

It took a long time to merge harmonically the two worlds into a single unit, delivering all the musicality required for a world class audio system. We at AGD believe the goals we set when we started this challenging design have been finally achieved.

While The "Andante" is by design the perfect companion preamplifier for our "Vivace" and "The Audion" GaNTube Monoblocks, it will also deliver the most sublime and purest sound with any audio systems of any standard.

The AGD Audio Design team is confident the "Andante" will meet your expectations and as a team we will always stand in support of your needs and future requirements.

Sincerely

Alberto Guerra

CEO, AGD Productions, Inc.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alberto Guerra', with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.



3- IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION



READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS: All the safety and operating instructions of your AGD ANDANTE PREAMPLIFIER should be read before power is applied to the equipment.

RETAIN OWNER'S MANUAL: These safety and operating instructions should be retained for future reference.

READ WARNING: All warnings on the unit and in the operating instructions should be adhered to.

FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS: All operating and use instructions should be followed.

CLEANING: Unplug the unit from the wall outlet and leave for at least 10 min. - make sure the unit is not hot before you start cleaning. Use dry or damp soft cloth to clean the surfaces. Do not use corrosive/abrasive spray for cleaning.

VENTILATION: Do not block any ventilation openings. Do not install near any heat sources such as radiators, heat registers, stoves, or other apparatus (including other amplifiers). The unit should not be installed in a built-in location such as a bookcase or rack unless proper ventilation is provided.

GROUNDING: Do not defeat the safety purpose of the grounding-type plug. A grounding-type plug has two blades and a third grounding prong. The third prong is provided for your safety. If the provided plug does not fit into your outlet, consult an electrician for replacement of the obsolete outlet.

POWER CORD PROTECTION: Protect the power cord from being walked on or pinched particularly at plugs, convenience receptacles, and the point where they exit from the apparatus.

LIGHTNING: Unplug this apparatus during lightning storms or when unused for long periods of time.

SERVICING: Refer all servicing to qualified service personnel. Servicing is required when the apparatus has been damaged in any way, such as if the power-supply cord or plug is damaged, liquid has been spilled inside the appliance or it has been exposed to moisture, the appliance does not operate normally, or has been dropped.

DO NOT OPEN THE CABINET: There are no user serviceable components inside this product. Opening the cabinet may present a shock hazard and any modification to the product will void your warranty.

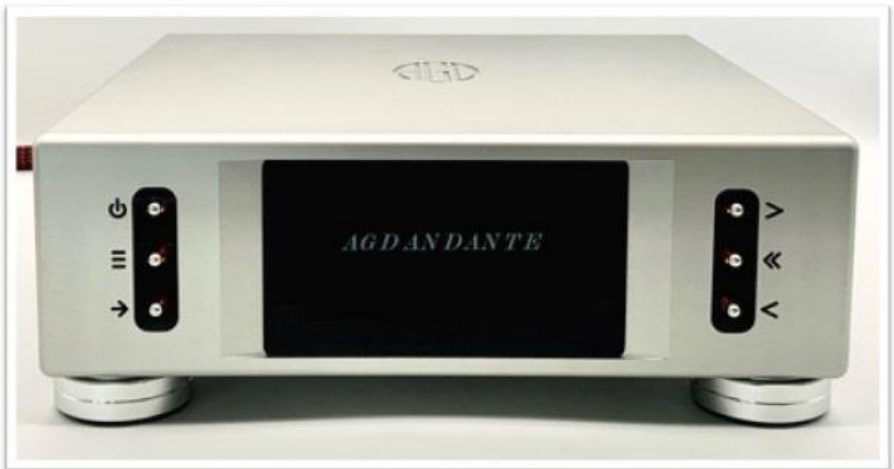


WARNING: To reduce the risk of fire or electric shock, do not expose this apparatus to rain or moisture.



4- INTRODUCTION

The AGD “ANDANTE” is a complete audiophile Analog and Digital Reference Preamplifier that delivers a unique set of features and components in a single beautifully crafted single billet aluminum cabinet. With his built-in fully balanced phono stage (MM & MC), the sophisticated R2R DAC with DSP functions, and full-fledged versatile Network Player with seamless Roon, Tidal and Qobuz services integration, the “ANDANTE” is by design the perfect companion preamplifier for our “Vivace” and “The Audion” GaNTube Monoblocks.





5- MAIN FEATURES

- Fully Balanced Phono preamplifier stage with MM & MC cartridges support (selection via Menu and Remote control) and with dedicated ultra-low noise linear power supply and ultra-low noise linear professional grade amplifiers stage.
- Analog boards fully shielded and separated from digital boards to deliver the lowest possible noise and prevent any undesired interference.
- High Dynamic low noise professional grade instrumentational amplifier stages for the output buffer stage (configurable as bi-amp X-Over upon request).
- Fully balanced design and full DC coupling (no capacitors in line with analog signals).
- Three Analog inputs with one input fully balanced (XLR connectors).
- 8bit fully balanced passive Ladder volume control.
- Network Player functionality (via Ethernet port). Full HD Streaming Capability (DLNA, UPNP. Airpaly, ROON).
- AptX Bluetooth.
- Digital inputs:
 - 1- AES
 - 1- Spdif
 - 1- Toslink
 - 1- USB
- R2R multibit DAC with Up-Sampler (sampling rate of all signals are increased to 32-bit / 384 kHz).
- Clock / Jitter control Digital block- synchronizes incoming data with an internal clock reference generator removing jitter
- Three analog outputs (for multi-amplification solutions).
 - 1 XLR balanced output (6.4VRMS max)
 - 2 Single-ended stereo output (low/high pass X-Over customizable)
 - Remote control.



6- UNPACKING

Unpacking

All AGD products shipping boxes have been specially designed to protect their contents and special care has been taken to prevent damage under normal shipping conditions.

When unpacking the product:

- Mishandling should be evident upon inspection of the flight case.
- Carefully remove the component from its packaging and examine it closely for signs of shipping damage.
- We strongly recommend saving all original packaging to protect the unit from damage, should you wish to store it or ship it later.



Please check the content of the shipping is complete and all the following items are included:

- 1- AGD Andante Unit
- 2- Power Cable
- 3- BT Antenna
- 4- Remote control
- 5- Gloves
- 6- Operating Manual



7- INSTALLATION

POWER REQUIREMENTS:

The AGD “ANDANTE” has universal voltage input configuration and can operate between 90~264VAC 50/60Hz single phase.

A detachable IEC power cable intended for use in the region where the unit is sold is included.



WARNING: The unit should be operated only at the rated voltage indicated on the power connector. If you are not sure what the main voltage supplied to your home is, consult with your unit dealer.

- Connect the power supply to the power source indicated on the rear panel.
- Avoid power conditioners that float the ground pin.
- ALWAYS connect power cord to component before plugging it into an AC outlet and make sure that unit's main switch is set to the “OFF” position before making the final connection.
- For best performance, try to position the power cord away from any input signal cables if possible.
- Pay close attention to power quality and be aware that different power cords can alter the sound.
- For initial power-up, operate the main switch located on the back-panel power entry module.
- BE CERTAIN TO INSTALL THE UNIT IN A SECURE LOCATION FROM WHICH IT CANNOT FALL OR TIP OVER.
- Do not operate on carpet or any other surface that might block air flow.
- Do not allow the chassis to touch any metal parts, such as the frame of an equipment rack. This might create a parallel ground path that could degrade the sound of your system.
- Connect the source's cables to their appropriate inputs.



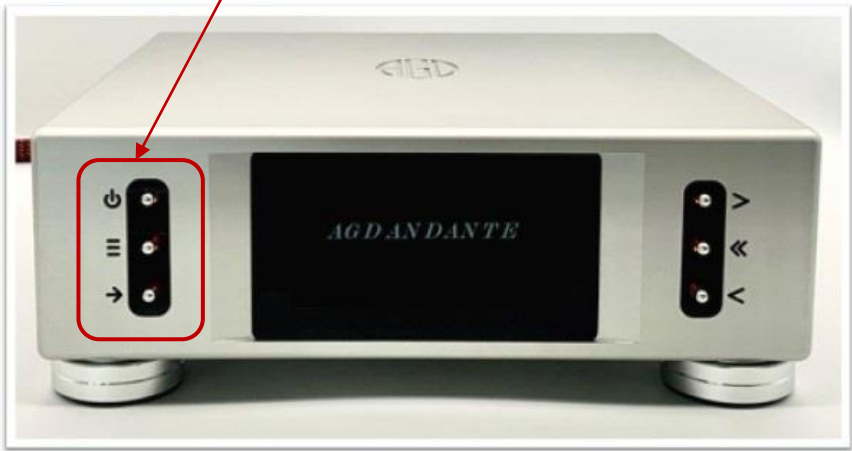
IMPORTANT: READ THE SECTIONS “BACK PANEL”



8- FRONT PANEL FUNCTIONS AND OPERATION

All keys of the AGD ANDANTE are touch-sensitive (no mechanical movement) hence attention to familiarize with their operation is required.

The functions of the left end side switch group are:



Stand-by - Switches the unit from stand-by to operational mode.



Function/Menu selection: sequential rotation of the following:

- Balance control
- Selection of the **Menu pages**
 - **Page 1:** Phase inverting / Remote control setup / Display brightness / Phono stage source type - MC or MM
 - **Page 2:** Digital filter - SD Slow / SD Sharp / Slow / Sharp / Bypass.



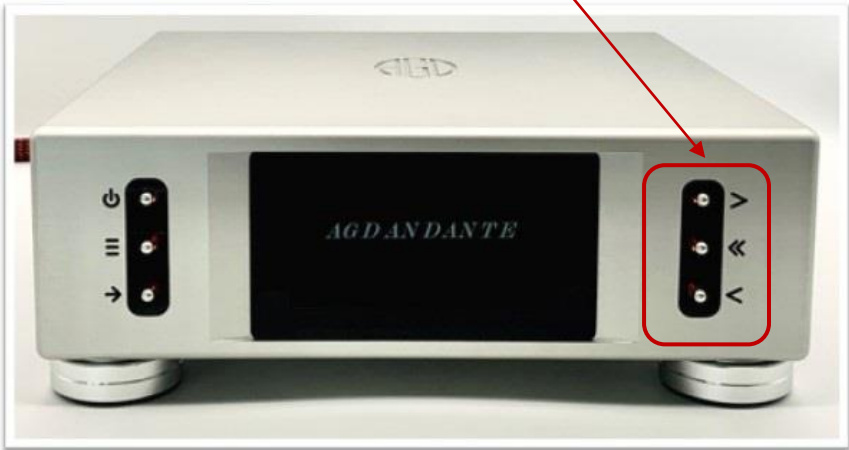
Input Selector

- Toggles between input sources as follow:
 - PHONO, RCA2, RCA3, XLR, USB, COAX, OPT, AES, LAN, BT
 - Switches back to the home screen if one of the menu pages is open.



8- FRONT PANEL FUNCTIONS AND OPERATION

The functions of the right end side switch group are:



Volume up

- Turn the volume control up by one step
- Menu navigation (up).



Enter

- Apply input selection
- Select highlighted menu item.



Volume Down

- Turn the volume control Down by one step
- Menu navigation (down)



9- BACK PANEL CONNECTORS

DIGITAL INPUTS



The AGD Andante has a complete front end of digital signal inputs.

- All the Digital input connectors are located on the upper area of the back panel.
- Please refer to the above picture to locate their positions and identify the functionality.

DIGITAL INPUTS:

- 1x Network (LAN)
- 1x COAX (RCA)
- 1x Toslink (Optical)
- 1x AES (XLR)
- 1x USB
- 1x Bluetooth Antenna

Note: The Bluetooth antenna is assembled before shipping and it should be re-checked and locked in position during installation.

Do not exercise excessive force. No tools are necessary to secure the correct position and orientation of the BT antenna.



9- BACK PANEL CONNECTORS

ANALOG INPUTS:



The AGD Andante has four different analog inputs.

- All the Analog input connectors are located on the bottom left area of the back panel.
- Please refer to the above picture to locate their positions and identify the functionality.

ANALOG INPUTS

- 1x Phono Input L-R – Input #1
- 2x RCA Single-Ended (Line level) Input # 2 & #3.
- 1x XLR balanced level input

Note: A ground screw connection is made available next to the Phono Input (Analog Input 1). Use this ground binding terminal to secure the connection of the ground wire from the Turntable.



9- BACK PANEL CONNECTORS

ANALOG OUTPUTS:



The AGD ANDANTE has three sets of analog output terminals.

- One pair of XLR (balanced output)
- 2 pairs of RCA (single ended outputs).

The Andante output interface is then capable of driving up to six different independent amplification channels.

The buffer output stage circuit is designed around a professional grade operational amplifier ICs with output characteristics capable to drive any system of amplification thanks to an output impedance of $\sim 50\Omega$ and maximum voltage swing of $6.4V_{RMS}$.

ANALOG OUTPUTS

- 1x XLR 1(Balanced Output) Output #1
- 1x RCA (Single ended output) Output #2
- 1x RCA (Single ended output) Output #3



10- AC POWER ENTRY MODULE

AC POWER ENTRY MODULE



AC Power Entry module functions:



Power ON-OFF Switch

IEC Power Cable Input

Fuse Holder

The AGD “ANDANTE” has universal voltage input configuration and can operate between 90~264VAC 50/60Hz single phase. A detachable IEC power cable intended for use in the region where the unit is sold is included.







WARNING: The unit should be operated only at the rated voltage indicated on the power connector. If you are not sure what the main voltage supplied to your home is, consult with your unit dealer.



11- OPERATION

OPERATION

- After all the connections of the input signals are verified and are correct, and the power cable is plugged-in, turn the power switch of the back panel ON. A red light will illuminate. The unit is powered-up.
- Please note that LED lights of the ANDANTE will illuminate the front panel area.
- At this point the unit enters automatically in STAND-By mode.
- To bring the unit in operation mode, touch the “Stand-by” switch. 
 - Please note it will take 2~3 seconds after turning the main power on before the front panel touch sensors are operational, including the stand-by switch.
- Use the “INPUT” selector switch  to toggle between input sources and set the one you will be using by touching the ENTER  button.
- The Menu button  gives access to the following functions:

Screen 1:

- Balance control Operation

Screen 2:




- Output Phase
- Remote control setup
- Display brightness
- Phono stage source select - MC or MM

Screen 3: DAC Digital filters Selection


- SD Slow
- SD Sharp
- Slow
- Sharp Bypass
- Dither
- De-emphasis.



- **BALANCE ADJUSTMENT:**

- To shift the Left/Right balance, press Menu  once, and use the navigation keys on the remote or on the front panel   to adjust the balance of the LEFT-RIGHT channels.

- **PHONO INPUT**

- To select the appropriate setting for the type of the cartridge mounted on the tonearm (MM - moving magnet or MC - moving coil), press the MENU function twice to enter into the second page of the menu and select the radio button MM or MC and press ENTER 


- **BLUETOOTH**

- The Bluetooth functionality requires the pairing of the source (Phone, PC, Tablet ect.) with the AGD ANDANTE Bluetooth receiver.
- Select, either via remote control or by manual selection from the front panel, the Bluetooth input on the AGD Andante.
- From the settings menu of the source (Phone, PC, Tablet), search from the list of the Bluetooth devices available the one named “AGD ANDANTE”, select it and initiate the pairing function.
- The Bluetooth range is about ~10mt (30 feet).
- Make sure the BT antenna is properly inserted and locked in position.

- **LAN (Streaming Function)**

- THE AGD ANDANTE streaming function is available via Ethernet port (LAN).
- Once the LAN input is selected, the AGD ANDANTE acts as DNLA, UPNP renderer or as ROON or AirPlay device (and it is recognized as such buy the relevant application software in use).
- The broadcasted name of the renderer/device is “AGD”.
- That is the device name that needs to be selected in the application settings of the streaming device (Phone, Tablet, PC) in order to send the streaming signal to the unit.
- In streaming mode all audio formats are available with resolution up to 192Khz-24bit.



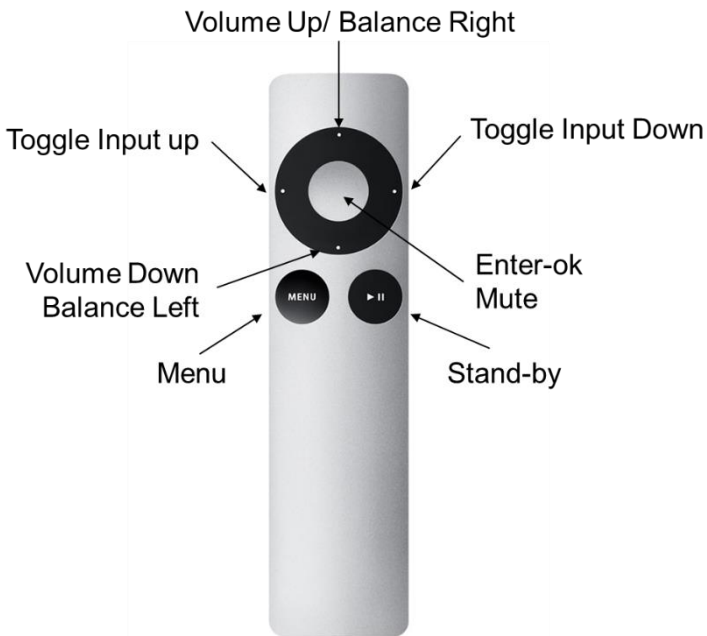
- When in streaming mode (LAN input), the control of the volume is also possible from the service in use (i.e Roon, BubbleUPNP, etc.).
- Music services as Quboz and Tidal, are fully compatible with the ANDANTE. Seamless integration available via 3rd party applications (Android, iOS, Windows, Linux).
- We recommend as music management platform, either ROON service, iTunes AirPlay or, for the open source application, BUBBLEUPNP (available in Adroid and Windows).
- **USB**
 - THE AGD ANDATE USB module is based on the latest XMOS chipset and can decode any format available and specifically:
 - Sampling frequencies: 44.1kHz, 48kHz, 88.2kHz, 96kHz, 176.4kHz, 192kHz, 352.8kHz, 384kHz, 705.6kHz and 768kHz 16-, 24- and 32-bit resolution DSD Audio over PCM frames. DSD64, DSD128 and DSD256
 - DSD Native DSD64, DSD128, DSD256 and DSD512 on Linux and Windows, using **Thesycon audio driver**.
 - No drivers needed for MAC OS version 10.6.4 and above.
 - ASIO/KS/WASAPI/Direct Sound drivers are needed for Windows XP to 10 (32 and 64 bit).
 - Licensed XMOS USB Audio 2.0 Stereo Driver downloadable from 3rd party link: www.JLSounds.com
- **DIGITAL FILTER SELECTION**
 - The ANDANTE has 5 different digital filter options (Slow, Sharp, SD Slow, SD Sharp, Bypass)
 - The Digital filter functions are available via menu options and can be accessed by entering the third page of the Menu function by pressing the Menu key  three times.
 - Each option provides a distinct defined listening experience based on the individual preference and the musical content.
 - By default, no filter selection is active at the first turn-on.
 - Every selection will require an adequate time for familiarization of the sound reproduced.





12- REMOTE CONTROL

REMOTE CONTROL FUNCTIONALITIES:

- All functions of the AGD ANDANTE are available via Remote control.
- The “ANDANTE” is compatible with a standard Apple Remote type, included with the unit,
- The Remote control delivered with the unit is already setup to work with the ANDANTE and does not require any additional setup.
- By factory settings, the remote keys assignment is as follow



- The user can reassign each button’s function through the device’s menu as follow:
 - Touch the Menu button  on the front panel twice
 - Select Remote Control Setup and press ENTER 
 - Follow the instructions on screen.
 - Once completed, the ANDANTE will restart and apply the new settings.
 - The Remote control is now re-programmed.



13- TROUBLESHOOTING

- The unit is designed to prevent damage to itself and associated components.
- Incorrect operation is sometimes mistaken for malfunction.
- If problems occur, see this section for troubleshooting information.
- If problems persist, contact your authorized AGD Productions' dealer.

NO POWER

- Examine the power cord to ensure that it is connected to both the AC mains connector and a working, un-switched, electrical outlet.
- Make sure the unit is powered on with the rear-panel power switch. Examine the electrical circuit breaker to ensure that power is being supplied to the electrical outlet to which the amplifier is connected.
- Make sure the light of the ON/OFF switch of the AC power entry module is on.

NO SIGNAL AT THE OUTPUTS

- Examine all audio cables to ensure a solid connection between the unit and all associated components.
- Examine the speaker cables to ensure a solid connection between the amplifier and the speakers.
- Make sure that the connected units (CD player, Turntable etc.) are powered-on.
- Make sure the volume is set to an audible level.
- Make sure every input cable is correctly inserted.
- In case the streaming, make sure the LAN is working and the render selected is AGD ANDANTE
- In case the Bluetooth is selected, make sure the BT source is paired with AGD ANDANTE.
- Make sure the preamp is not muted.
- Make sure all associated components are connected to working electrical outlets and powered on.



13- TROUBLESHOOTING

AUDIO HUM

- Disconnect components one at a time to isolate the problem.
- Once the problem is identified, make sure the problematic component is properly grounded and connected to the same electrical socket as the ANDANTE.

IF ALL ELSE FAILS...

- Contact your authorized AGD Productions, Inc. dealer and/or contact AGD Productions Customer Service at www.AGDproductions.com

**14- SPECIFICATIONS**

Parameter	Description
Phono Input	Moving Magnet and Moving Coil selectable via Menu MM Input Impedance: 47k Ω , S/N \leq -80db MC Input Impedance: 420 Ω , S/N \leq -70db RIAA Accuracy: <0.5dB Frequency Response: 20Hz-20kHz \pm 0.1db THD%: \leq 0.03%
Line Analog Inputs	2 Single ended (RCA2, RCA3), 1 XLR inputs (XLR) Frequency Response: 1Hz-100kHz \pm 0.2db (Passive front-end direct coupling)
Analog Outputs	1 XLR Output 2 RCA Outputs Output Impedance: <50ohm Frequency Response: 1Hz-100kHz \pm 0.2db THD+N (Balanced): \leq 0.005% THD+N (Single Ended): \leq 0.009% S/R \geq 110db Direct output coupling.
Digital Inputs	1 USB 1 x AES/EBU (XLR) 1 Coax 1 x TOSLINK (max sample rate 192 kHz) LAN (Ethernet Port)
File Formats	MP3, WMA, MPEG-4 AAC, WAV, FLAC, AIFF, ALAC, DSD
DNLA	1.5
USB	XMOS XU208 Process based Chipset Frequency: 44.1kHz, 48kHz, 88.2kHz, 96kHz, 176.4kHz, 192kHz, 352.8kHz, 384kHz, 705.6kHz, 768kHz Resolution: 16, 24 & 32-bit. DSD64 (2.8224MHz and 3.0720MHz), DSD128 (5.6448MHz and 6.1440MHz) and DSD256 (11.2896MHz and 12.2880MHz), DSD512 (22.5792MHz and 24.576MHz).



14- SPECIFICATIONS

Parameter	Description
Streaming Services	DNLA, UPnP, ROON, AirPlay (via LAN).
Bluetooth	AptX
Net Dimension	11"x 11"x 3.5" (280 x 280 x 90mm)
Remote	Infrared
Trigger Output	12V, 0.1A DC (Custom Request)
Flight Case Dimension	22"x 18"x 10" (560 x 457 x 254mm)
Net Weight	22lb/10kg
Gross Weight	29lb/13kg
Input voltage	Universal (110-240V, 50-60Hz)



15- EU Statement of Compliance

EU Statement of Compliance

Manufacturer : **AGD Productions, Inc**

2644 Via Valdes
Palos Verdes Estates
90274 CA (USA)

Product name: **AGD “ANDANTE”
Reference Analog-Digital Preamplifier**

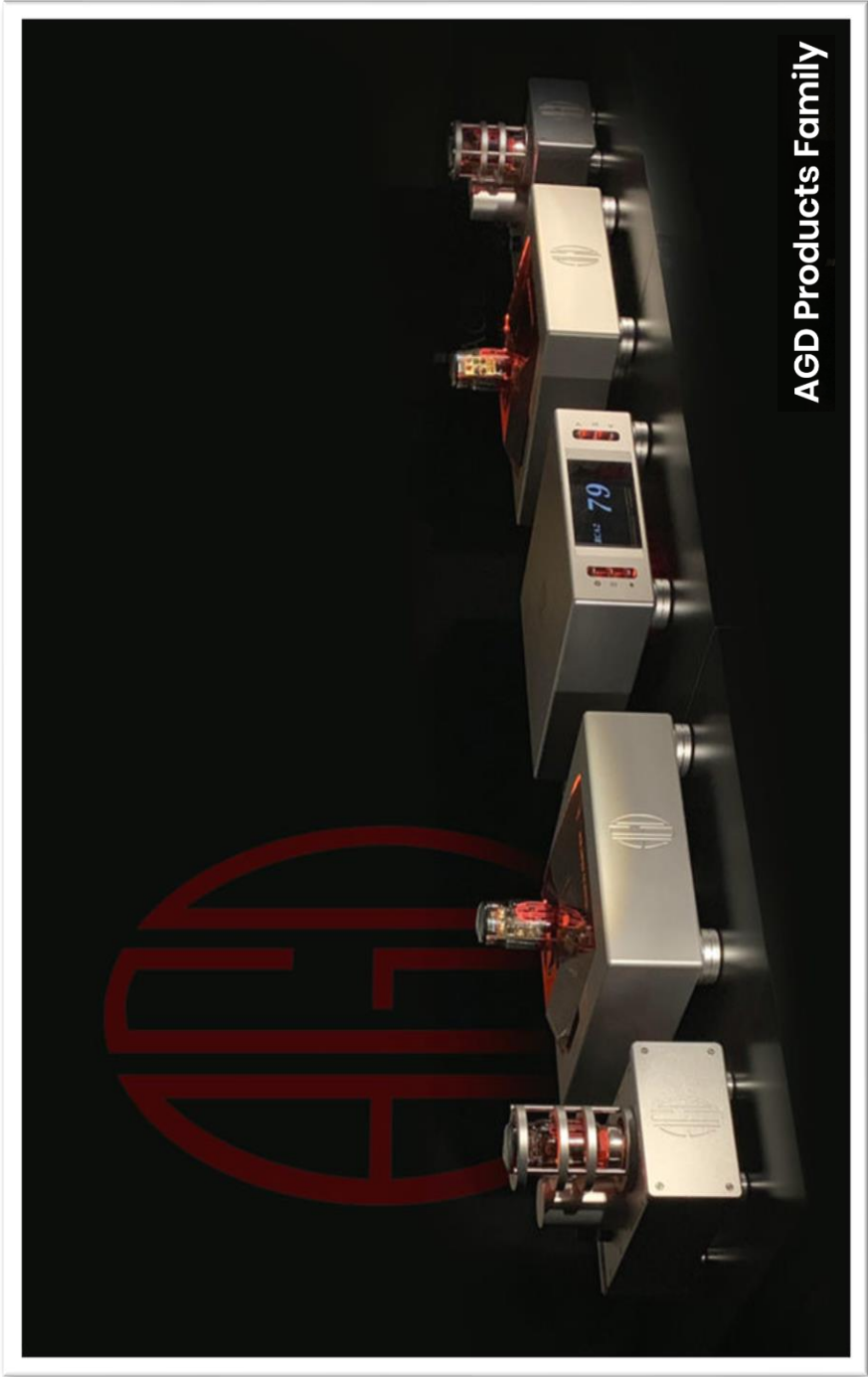
Standards : EN 55032 : 2015 Class-B
EN 61000-3-2 : 2014
EN 61000-3-3 : 2013
EN 55024: 2010
EN 60950-1: 2006 + /A11:2009/A1:2010 + /A2:2013
+ /A12:2011

The manufacturer declares that the product complies with specified above and meets the essential requirements of the Directive: 2014/30/UE (EMC), 2014/35/UE (LVD), 2011/65/UE (RoHS)



Palos Verdes Estates, March 28th, 2020

Alberto Guerra, President and CEO AGD Productions, Inc.



AGD Products Family

