Pro-Ject

AUDIO SYSTEMS

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE
Pro-Ject Pre Box S3

Dear music lover,

thank you for purchasing a Pro-Ject Audio Systems´ preamplifier.

In order to achieve maximum performance and reliability you should study these instructions for use carefully.

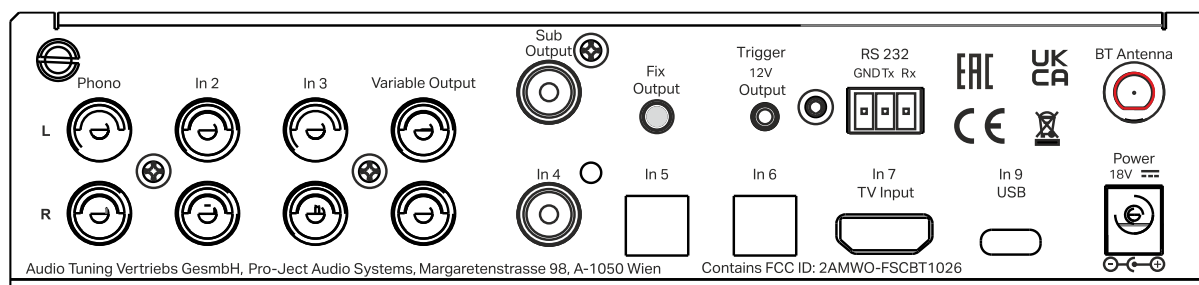⚠️ *Warning of a hazard for the user, the unit or possible misuse.*

👉 *Important notice.*

Safety instructions

AC outlet voltages vary from country to country. Before connecting to the mains, make sure that the voltage in your area meets the voltage requirements printed on the power supply.

⚠️ *The power supply is used to connect/disconnect the unit from the mains. Make sure that the power supply is easily accessible at all times. Never handle the device, the power supply while your hands are wet or damp. Avoid letting liquids enter the device or the power supply. Never place any item containing liquid, such as a flower vase on or near the device. Never spill any liquid on the device or the power supply. Never place any naked flame sources, such as lighted candles on or near the device. The product shall not be used in damp or wet locations, next to a bathtub, sink, swimming pool or any other similar conditions.*

Connectors

⚠️ *1. Make all connections except the connection to the headphone whilst the unit is disconnected from the mains.*

2. Never connect or disconnect power supply to or from the unit whilst the power supply is connected to the mains! Never use any other power supply than the one supplied with the unit with the exception of dedicated Power Boxes which can replace original power supplies.

3. Take care to connect the left and right channels of Phono, In 2, In 3, Variable Output correctly. The right channel is usually marked red, the left channel black or white.

Analogue output (Variable)

A power amplifier, active loudspeakers or an active subwoofer can be connected to the output sockets marked **Analog Output**.

Analogue output (Fix Output)

Fix Output connects an analogue record device or a headphone amplifier.

Phono input

Connect the tonearm signal lead to the **In 1 (Phono)** of the amplifier. The earthing wire may be connected to the screw terminal if you encounter hum problems when using the turntable. The phono input is suitable for MM and High-Output MC cartridges.

Line inputs

© Pro-Ject Audio Systems · Pre Box S3 · Revision 2025.11.04

Line level sources (CD player, radio or TV) can be connected to the inputs marked **In 2 or In 3**.

Digital inputs

Sources with a digital output such as TV satellite/cable receiver or a game console can be connected to the digital inputs. Coaxial to **In 4**, optical to **In 5** and **In 6**, TV ARC to **In 7** and USB-C to **In9.**

Mains power connection

Connect the low voltage plug from the power supply to the **Power** socket before connecting the power supply to the mains.

Trigger Output

A remote power-on signal can be relayed to further units (for example Amp Box S3) via the **Trigger Output** socket. The Pre Box S3 and the device connected to its Trigger Output are then switched on/off at the same time with just the power button of the Pre Box S3.

Sub Output

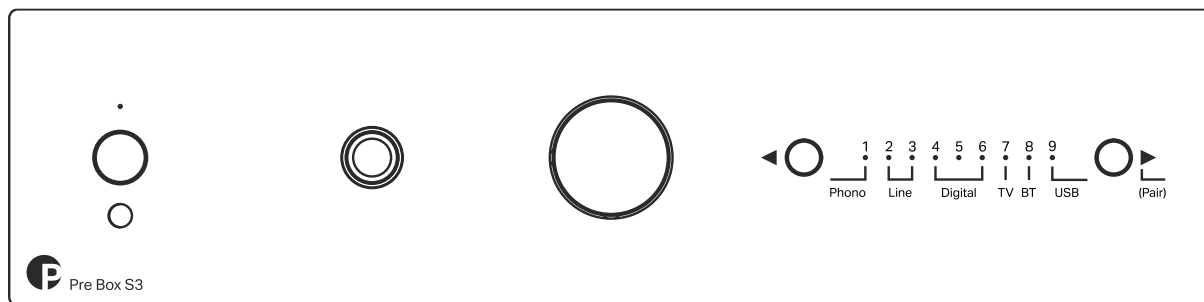An active subwoofer may be connected to the output socket marked **Sub Output**.

RS232

RS232 is a widely used control protocol used in custom integration to remotely control and integrate devices into a larger system. Home theatre, public address systems, lobby background music, hotels, ….
The RS232 documentation can be downloaded on the product website:
https://www.project-audio.com/en/product/pre-box-s3/#downloads

Front panel controls

To switch on from standby or to standby

The push button on the left side of the front panel turns the unit on or back into standby. The blue LED above the stand-by push button shows that the unit is switched on. Mute is active when LED is blinking.

Input selector

Pressing the buttons ◀ and ▶ selects the desired input. The LEDs show which input is currently active.

Volume

Adjust the volume to the desired level, using the large knob on the front panel.

Connecting a headphone

Connect the headphones to the ¼" (6,3mm ∅) jack socket on the front of the unit.

Connecting to a Computer or Streamer with asynchronous USB audio output

Connect the USB C-input **In 9 USB** of the Pre Box S3 (unit must be switched on) to a free USB-socket on your computer or streamer and turn it on/make sure it is powered on. Select input **9**.

* For Windows® operating systems an USB Class 2 driver (supplied on CD) can be installed.
The latest driver can also be downloaded from the product website:
https://www.project-audio.com/en/product/pre-box-s3/#downloads

Driver installation on modern Windows 10 and 11 operating systems is not mandatory, as Pre Box S3 will also work with the default USB Class 2.0 audio drivers, that are included in every Windows 10 and 11 installation.

* Mac OS® operating systems do not need an additional driver or setup.

Linux operating systems include an USB Audio Class 2 driver from Linux Kernel 2.6.35 and higher.

Please note: Connection should be made to an USB-socket of your computer directly. Connecting to USB-hubs or switches can cause problems.

BT connection

Make sure the antenna is attached to its connector **In 8 (BT)** on the back panel prior using BT.

Only use the supplied antenna! The BT antenna needs to be connected before the Pre Box S3 is turned on. If the antenna is not connected or connected after the Pre Box S3 is turned on, Input 8 BT will be skipped when trying to select it.

BT is active only when input 8 is selected. If you want to connect your device the first time activate the pairing mode by pressing and hold the button ▶**(pair)** until LED 8 starts blinking. The Pre Box S3 is now visible & ready to pair for 60 seconds.

Pairing with Android devices
Open **Settings** and turn on BT. Start a **Scan** for BT devices. Searched devices will show up. Tap on **"Pre Box S3"** and confirm presented pairing code on your Android device. When the connection was successful, the LED of Input 8 lights up continuously. Now you can play music from your Android device over BT to Pre Box S3.

BT pairing with Apple devices
Tap on **Settings** and turn on BT. Your device will automatically start searching for available devices. Tap on **"Pre Box S3"** and confirm the connection. When the connection was successful, the LED of Input 8 lights up continuously.
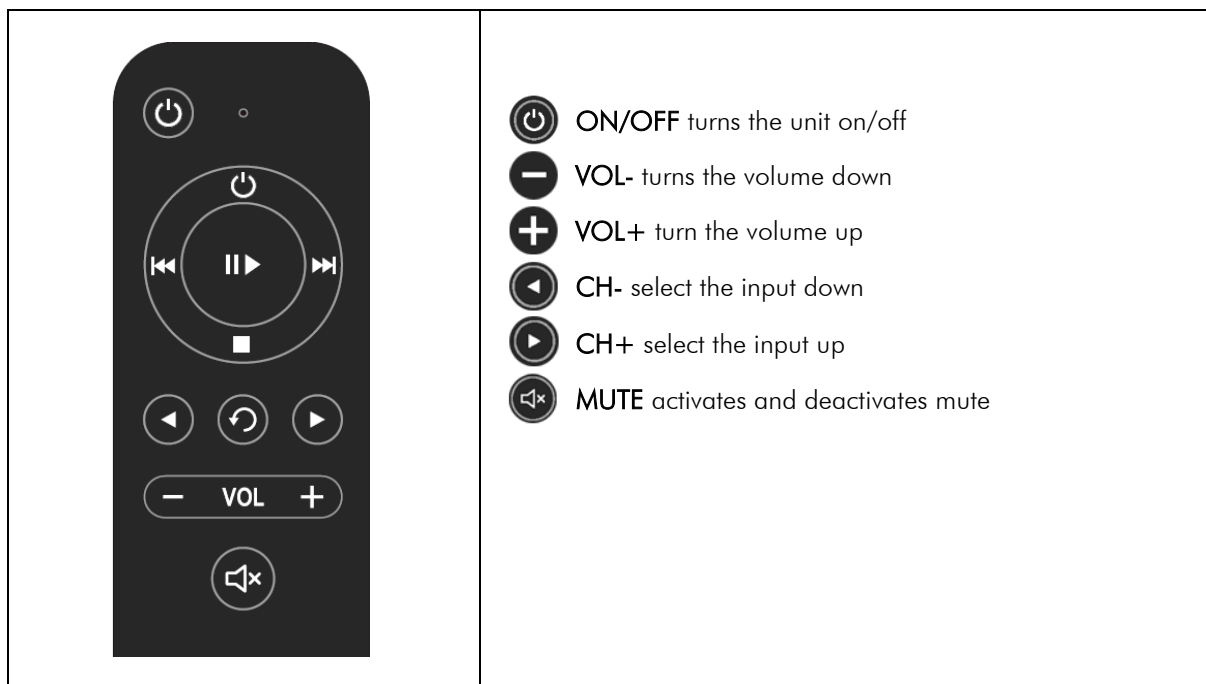
BT pairing with Windows smartphones
Open **Settings** and turn on BT. A scan for available devices starts automatically. Searched devices will show up. Tap on **"Pre Box S3"** and confirm presented pairing code on your Windows device. When the connection was successful, the LED of Input 8 lights up continuously. Now you can play music from your Windows device over BT to Pre Box S3.

Pre Box S3 can store up to 8 BT devices. If the memory is full, new connections will automatically replace the oldest connection. A new connection is only possible if the LED of BT input is blinking slowly (it indicates that no device is connected). You can reset & clear the BT module by holding the ◀ button and then turn the unit on. The LED 8 will quickly flash & the device will then turn on after the reset is completed.

Remote control

⏻	**ON/OFF** turns the unit on/off
⊖	**VOL-** turns the volume down
⊕	**VOL+** turn the volume up
◄	**CH-** select the input down
►	**CH+** select the input up
🔇	**MUTE** activates and deactivates mute

Replacing batteries

Proceed as follows:

- Unlock and slide open the battery case cover
- Replace the battery.
  Make sure the battery is the right way round!
- Close the battery case cover

Battery type: 2x AAA 1,5V

☞ *Do not dispose the batteries as ordinary domestic refuse. Please dispose your exhausted batteries at the appropriate collection sites - usually located at supermarkets and drugstores.*

Technical specifications Pro-Ject Pre Box S3

Noise floor:	- 108dBV (-111dBV - 'A' weighted)
Gain:	4,5dB
THD:	< 0,007% at 1KHz / 0dBFS
Frequency response (20Hz-20kHz):	<- 0,4dB
Channel separation:	<- 72dB at 10kHz
Signal to noise ratio:	110dB (120 dB - 'A' weighted)
Headphone amplifier output:	2x 70mW at 32ohm (1%THD)
<u>Analog inputs:</u>	
Line level inputs:	2 pair RCA
Line input sensitivity:	270 mV
Line input impedance:	50kohms
Phono input:	1 pair RCA
Phono input sensitivity:	suitable for MM, MI or high output MC cartridges
Phono input impedance:	47kohms
Phono input gain:	45dB
<u>Digital Inputs:</u>	
USB input:	USB Audio Class 2 (requires USB 2.0 or higher on computer)
PCM sample rates:	up to 192kHz / 24 bit

S/PDIF coaxial RCA input:	1x up to 192kHz / 24 bit
S/PDIF Optical TOSlink® input:	2x up to 192kHz / 24 bit
TV INPUT:	1 x HDMI connector
BT version:	5.0
BT music receiver codec:	aptX, aptX HD, A2DP profile
BT maximum TX power:	+4dBm
Digital to Analogue converter:	Cirrus Logic CS4344 24bit/192kHz Multi-bit Delta Sigma type
Fix line level output:	3,5 mm stereo jack
Variable line level output:	1 pair RCA
Subwoofer Out:	RCA
Headphone output:	6,3mm jack (16 – 600ohms)
Trigger Output:	12V DC; 2-pole co-axial ⌀ 2,5mm jack
RS-232	Pluggable 3-PIN Terminal Block
Outboard power supply:	18V/500mA DC, suitable for your country's mains supply
Power consumption in standby:	<0.5W
Replacement battery remote control:	2 x AAA
Dimensions W x H x D (D with sockets):	206 x 55 x 153 (176) mm
Weight:	1020 g without power supply

Should you encounter a problem which you are not able to alleviate or identify, please contact your dealer for further advice. Only if the problem cannot be resolved there, the unit should be sent to the responsible distributor in your country.

Warranty

The manufacturer accepts no responsibility for damage caused by not adhering to these instructions for use. Modification or changes to any part of the product by unauthorized persons release the manufacturer from any liability over and above the lawful rights of the customer.

Copyright, trademarks

Pro-Ject Audio Systems is a registered Trademark of H. Lichtenegger.

This guide was produced by: Pro-Ject Audio Systems Copyright © 2025. All rights reserved.

The information was correct at the time of going to press. The manufacturer reserves the right to make changes to the technical specification without prior notice as deemed necessary to uphold the ongoing process of technical development.

BT®, aptX and aptX HD are trademarks owned by the BT SIG Inc., Microsoft®, Windows®, are either registered trademarks or trademarks of Microsoft Corporation, Apple is registered trademark of Apple Inc., Android™ is a trademark of Google Inc.

Waste from Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE): This directive mandates the collection and recycling of electronics and component materials in order to reduce the amount going to landfills. Outside North America, when the user decides to discard this product, it must be sent to a separate collection facility for recycling. Please contact your point of purchase for more details.

Federal Communication Commission (FCC) Interference Statement FCC Part 15: This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class B digital device, pursuant to Part 15 of the FCC Rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference in a residential installation. This equipment generates, uses and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with the instructions, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. However, there is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation. If this equipment does cause harmful interference to radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning the equipment off and on, the user is encouraged to try to correct the interference by one or more of the following measures:

- Reorient or relocate the receiving antenna

- Increase the separation between the equipment and receiver

- Connect the equipment into an outlet on a circuit different from that to which the receiver is connected

- Consult the dealer or an experienced radio/TV technician for help.

This device complies with part 15 of the FCC Rules. Operation is subject to the following two conditions: (1) This device may not cause harmful interference, and (2) this device must accept any interference received, including interference that may cause undesired operation. FCC Radiation Exposure Statement: This equipment complies with FCC radiation exposure limits set forth for an uncontrolled environment.

To maintain compliance with FCC´s RF exposure guidelines, this equipment should be installed and operated with minimum distance 20cm between the radiator and your body. Use on the supplied antenna.

Contains FCC ID: 2AMWO-FSCBT1026

Declaration of Conformity
We, **Canor spol. s r.o**.
Družstevná 13925/39
08006 Prešov
Slovakia
(manufacturer)

and

Pro-Ject Audio Systems a division of Audio Tuning GmbH

Margaretenstrasse 98

1050 Vienna,

Austria
(distributor)
declare under our responsibility that the product is in conformity with the provisions of Directives:
2014/35/EU including amendments
2014/30/EU including amendments
2014/53/EU including amendments

The following harmonised standards were applied:
Health: EN62479:2010
Safety: EN60950-1:2006+A11:2009+A1:2010+A12:2011+A2:2013, EN62368-1:2014/A11:2017, EN61558-1:2005/A1:2009, EN61558-2-16:2009/A1:2013
EMC: EN301489-1 V2.2.0: 2017-03, EN301489-17 V3.2.0:2017-03, EN55032:2015, EN55035:2017, EN61000-3-2:2014, EN61000-3-3:2013
Radio Spectrum: EN300328 V2.1.1 (2016-11)

Pro-Ject Audio Systems a division of Audio Tuning GmbH

1050 Vienna, Austria, Margaretenstrasse 98

info@project-audio.com