

Here it should be stressed that speaker switches (and comparators) which employ a common earth or negative wiring regime must not be used until the changes detailed in WIRING FOR COMMON EARTH SYSTEMS are made to the ME 550.

Input wiring is an important consideration for quality of sound as well as correct operation of the ME 550. Firstly the earth connection of each RCA connector is of paramount importance and a secure fitting earth for each RCA plug to the earth of the input socket on the ME 550 as well as the preamplifier output sockets is essential.

The quality of wire for the interconnection is more important as the quality and resolution of the other components in the system increase. The design of ME preamplifiers have the ability to diminish the differences between esoteric cables by improving the performance of cheaper cables, and a more detailed discussion can be found in the ME preamplifier hand book. If using the ME 550 with a preamplifier other than an ME, a significant loss in performance is possible due to the input impedance of the ME 550 being lower than expected.

1,000 ohms rather than 50,000 ohms. ME

preamplifiers have an out put impedance of 2 ohms (open loop), cheap components may be 470 ohms or more which would be unsuitable.

To enable remote power control of the ME 550 a wire of any size (thin insulated wire is desirable) should be connected between the yellow terminals of the ME 550 and ME preamplifier. Several ME power amplifiers may be controlled by one preamplifier.

If the remote wire is connected the operation of the power switch on the ME 550 is ignored as the preamplifier power switch has priority.

WIRING FOR COMMON EARTH SYSTEMS

If desired the ME 550 can be re-configured for use on common earth devices such as speaker switches and comparators.

The amplifier must be disconnected from the power outlet, as dangerous voltages are contained within the chassis even when switched off, remove top cover screws, locate red input connector on right channel (3 pin plug) and carefully unplug, rotate connector 180 degrees and refit to amplifier board.

Confirm that green dot on connector is now

facing side of chassis. Replace top cover.

Please note that under this wiring regime the white terminal becomes earth or negative and the blue terminal becomes positive, and further bridging is not possible until amplifier is returned to normal wiring status. This can be confirmed by noting that the green dot on both input connectors are facing inwards.

MONO OR BRIDGED OPERATION

Bridged operation is simply effected by selecting 'bridge' via the toggle on the rear panel and connecting only one input (either left or right - it makes no difference which) on the ME 550 and then connecting the loudspeakers to the red terminal '+' and the blue terminal '-'. The black and white terminals are not connected at all.

It is assumed, naturally, that two ME 550's are to be used and that the speakers in use are capable of the high power output (220 watts continuous at 8 ohms) and 90 volt peak voltages.

It should also be noted that the output is floating (or balanced) and so the blue terminal is not earth and cannot be connected to comparators or speaker switching devices that either utilise a common ground system or connects to another amplifier or similar circuitry. This is normal for all bridged amplifiers.

OPERATION AND INDICATOR LIGHTS

When power is first applied to the ME 550 a test sequence is initiated which tests the fans and controller. The orange 'standby' and the green 'operate temp' indicators will light indicating that power is available and full fan speed. After test period of 3 - 5 minutes the fan will stop and the 'operate temp' led will extinguish. The ME 550 is now ready for normal use.

When the ME preamplifier power switch is actuated the orange 'standby' will extinguish and then in approx 10 seconds the green 'on' led will light, indicating the amplifier is powered and operational.

Depending on ambient temperature, volume