



Takumi-series
K-15

Robert Kōda



In the Robert Koda tradition of technical elegance, dynamic simplicity within the circuit operation and meticulous assembly comes our new and flagship pre-amplifier, Takumi K-15.

The K-15 presents a new level of State of the Art and renders music as a fresh encounter of a most indulgent and satisfying kind.

Specifically designed to partner with a wide range of source components and power amplifiers, its purpose to extract the maximum performance from each component so that the system as a whole will deliver uncharted musical pleasure.

While this brochure highlights some of the methods we used to create the K-15, there can be no substitute for a personal encounter with this magnificent instrument.

The ITC Circuit.

Our invention and a unique arrangement of semi-conductors called ITC was pioneered in the multiple award winning K-10. Now ITC is taken beyond the next level with K-15 – Dramatically improved and refined in both design and execution it achieves better subjective and measured results.

The ITC circuit provides an excellent interface between source component and power amplifier. It delivers massive power gain with remarkably low distortion while remaining highly immune from the negative influences of power supply sound.

The circuit is elegant, simple, unflappable and totally effective over a dynamic range in excess of a hundred and forty decibels – It is the ideal pre-amplifier engine and uniquely Robert Koda.



A performance driven volume control.

Critical in its central role to final sonic outcome, K-15 uses a volume control system of unexpected extravagance and depth of quality.

A massive custom built eight channel switch is used to form the basis for this balanced mode volume control. While some 256 nude resistors of the finest audio grade, fabricated specifically for this purpose are included, only two per channel phase are used at any one time with this L-Pad configuration.

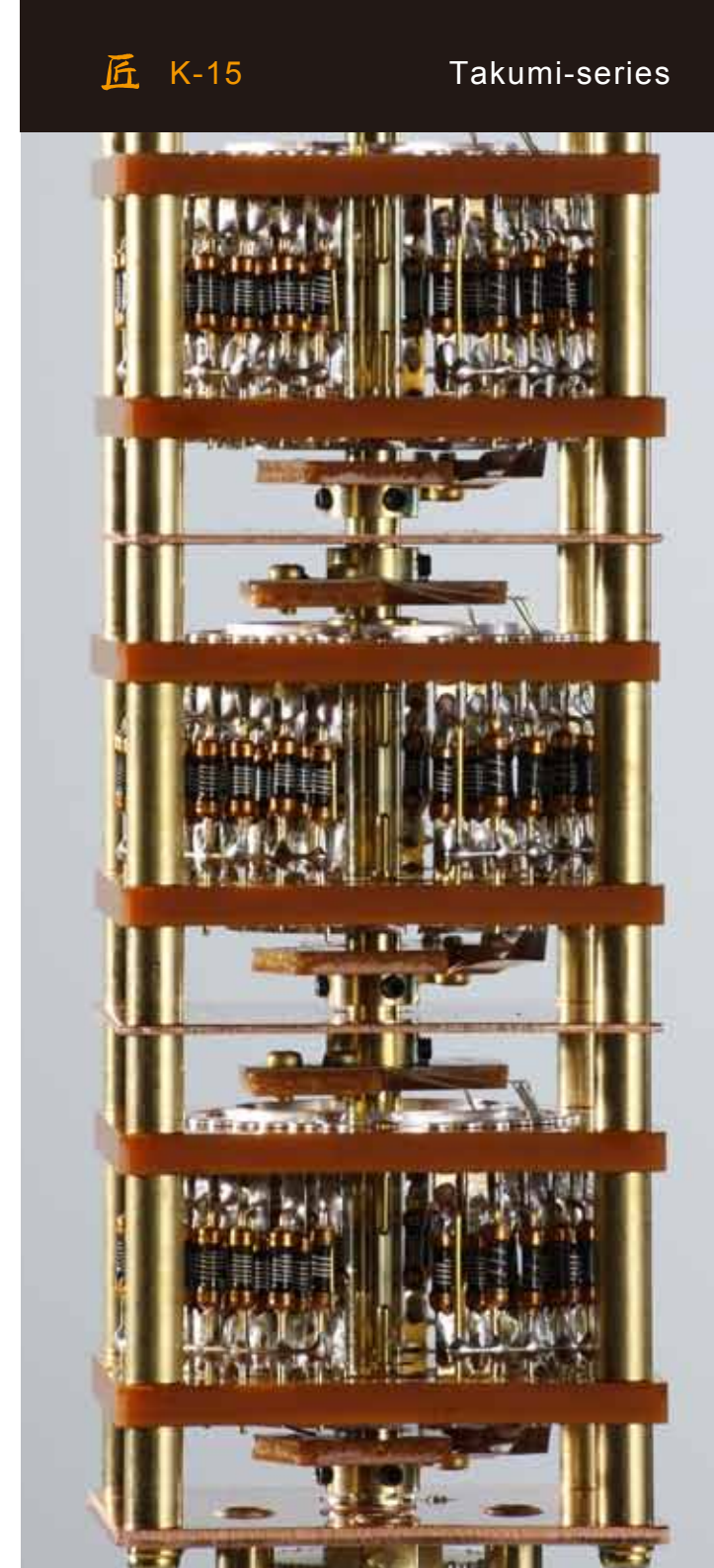
The switch itself maintains perfect contact pressure while the contacts are solid silver and of a generous proportion. All aspects of construction are of the highest order. The final result is quite evident in the listening experience.

Pure mechanical input selection.

In order to eliminate the use of circuit boards, relays and solid state switches in this location, we have chosen to take the costly and time consuming path of hand wiring and mechanical switching for all inputs. Naturally for effective improvements the materials and construction need to be carefully considered and implemented.

Delicate signals are carried with bundles of our four nines pure silver wire while a solder of 99.99% purity copper and lead free alloy is adopted.

The selector switch is one specifically made for the delicate task of handling such sub micro current signals without corruption while the RCA jacks are milled from high purity copper and Rhodium-plated to ensure best signal transmission.



A Permalloy vault for the power magnetics.

The power supply is retained within the K-15 main chassis and avoids the need for extra wiring looms. The optimal; a fully annealed Permalloy magnetic shielding solution is instead chosen.

Balanced and unbalanced output – Of equal performance.

The natural way of the ITCs workings enables the K-15 to produce both balanced and unbalanced output options without compromise. All technical and sonic attributes are identical, allowing for the best possible choice of connection to the associated power amplifier.

True balanced and single ended inputs.

To extract the highest performance from the source components the K-15 provides a very stable and non reactive termination for both balanced and single ended sources. Each input signal type is treated as native with no conversions required before application to the main amplification block within K-15.



A Laminated copper chassis

The robust main chassis forms a full, solid copper envelope that provides excellent electromagnetic screening for immunity against external influences.

By employing a sandwich construction, cladding the copper chassis with graded aluminium finishing, both the aesthetic and electro-acoustic qualities too are further improved and a highly stable, ideal environment for the enclosed electronics is realised.

For true completeness, the most sensitive elements within the ITC circuit are further protected in individual Mu metal capsules for total immunity against external influence.

Final Trimmings

Gold plated inserts and a ruby lens finish the simple yet luxurious exterior.

Packed in a sturdy flight case, built and tested with a spirit to perfection, the Takumi K-15 is our vision of the ultimate pre-amplifier.



Specifications

- Voltage gain** _____ Plus 8dB at maximum volume.
- Signal to noise ratio** _____ 114dB A weighted at 1V RMS output.
147dB A weighted at full output – Estimated due to measuring equipment limitations.
- Frequency response** _____ Plus / Minus 0.05dB 20Hz to 20KHz
- Maximum output** _____ 30V RMS Single ended, 60V RMS balanced.
- Input impedance** _____ 50K Ohm Single ended. 50K ohm per phase balanced.
- Output impedance** _____ 60 ohms Single ended, 30 ohms per phase balanced.
- Total harmonic Distortion** _____ Less than 0.0003% at 2V RMS out, 1KHz, balanced input.
Estimated due to measuring equipment limitations.
- Inputs** _____ Five pairs true balanced, pin 2 is Hot. Five pairs RCA.
- Output** _____ Two pairs RCA, Two pairs true balanced, Pin 2 wired Hot.
- Other terminals** _____ Ground binding post. Rhodium over copper.
- Controls - Front** _____ Input 1 thru 5. Full manual and mechanical.
Volume 34 position. Off, -60dB thru Plus 8dB. Full manual and mechanical.
- Controls Rear** _____ Balanced / SE full manual and mechanical to set output mode only.
- Operating voltage** _____ May be set manually for either 115 or 230V design centres.
Voltage setting may be made without removing chassis parts.
Operating range is 95V thru 256V depending on setting.
- Power consumption** _____ 30W (on), 0W (off). There is no standby mode.
- Physical** _____ Weight packed 35Kg, Unpacked, 29kg.
- Packing** _____ Supplied in custom flight case.

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