



Andros Allasso MC Step-Up Transformer

Owner's Manual

Please read carefully before
installing and operating this equipment

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**Made in the USA
Using US and Imported Parts**

Dear Music Lover,

I wanted to personally thank you for your purchase of my Andros Allasso Step Up Transformer.

I have loved music all my life – as a musician, record producer and audio engineer. That makes me fussy about sound. That's a good thing.

Each unit is built by hand with precision and pride to produce the most enjoyable listening experience for you.

I am proud to put my name on it and honored to share this with you.

Wishing you many happy years of listening!

Sincerely,

-- George Counnas, President of Zesto Audio

FYI:

Zesto is Greek for hot

Allasso is a Greek word to change one thing to another.

Andros is a Greek island and the home of my grandmother's family.

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What's in the box?

Andros Allasso Step Up Transformer
Ground wire for turntable
Laminated Gain/ Ratio, Loading reference card

Not Included: Interconnect cables



Warning and Caution

WARNING: The triangle with the lightning flash symbol displayed on the unit advises the user of dangerous uninsulated voltage inside the product's enclosure.

CAUTION: To reduce the risk of electric shock, do not remove the cover. There are no user-serviceable parts inside; it is recommended that only qualified personnel service this component.

1. **OWNER'S MANUAL:** Before powering up the equipment, read all safety and operating instructions and follow them as instructed. Retain the safety and operating instructions for future reference.
2. **ATTACHMENTS:** Use only those attachments recommended by the unit manufacturer, as others may cause hazards.
3. **ACCESSORIES:** Do not place the unit on an unstable cart, stand, tripod, bracket, or table. The unit may fall, causing injury to a person or damage to the unit. Mount the unit according to the manufacturer's instructions with the suggested mounting accessory.
4. **WALL OR CEILING MOUNTING:** Do not mount the unit on a wall or ceiling.
5. **WATER AND MOISTURE:** Do not use the unit near water (for example, near a swimming pool, bath tub, wash bowl, kitchen sink, or laundry tub) or in a damp environment (like a basement or outside in the rain).
6. **OBJECT AND LIQUID ENTRY:** Do not push objects of any kind into the unit through openings as they could touch dangerous voltage points and short-out parts, possibly resulting in a fire or electric shock. Do not spill liquid of any kind on the unit. If water or any metal object (such as a paper clip, coin, or staple) accidentally falls inside the unit, disconnect it from the AC power source immediately and contact Zesto Audio for further instructions.
7. **HEAT:** Position the unit away from heat sources such as radiators, heat registers, stoves, or other units (including amplifiers) that produce heat.
 - . **VENTILATION:** Slots and openings in the enclosure create ventilation to protect the component from overheating. All of these openings must remain unobstructed. Allow at least six inches of clearance above the unit, 0.5 inch below and an opening behind the unit for airflow. Do not place the unit on a bed, sofa, rug, built-in bookcase, or rack without adequate ventilation.
9. **GROUNDING OR POLARIZATION:** As a safety feature, the unit may be equipped with a polarized alternating current line plug in which one blade is wider than the other and has an additional grounding blade. This plug will fit into the power outlet only one way. If you cannot insert the plug fully into the outlet, try reversing the plug. If the plug still will not fit, contact a licensed electrician to update your outlet. Do not defeat the safety purpose of the polarized plug.
10. **POWER SOURCES:** Operate the unit only from the power source indicated on the marking label on the back of the unit. If you are unsure of the type of power supplied to your home, consult your unit dealer or local power company.
11. **POWER CORD PROTECTION:** Arrange power supply cords so that they do not suffer from foot traffic or pinching by items placed on or against them. Pay close attention to cords where plugs enter the AC outlet and where they exit from the unit.
12. **LIGHTNING:** For added protection during a lightning storm or when the component is idle for long periods of time, unplug the unit from the wall outlet. This will help protect the unit from lightning and power line surge damage.

13. **POWER LINES:** Do not locate an outside antenna system in the vicinity of overhead power lines or other electric light or power circuits. When installing an outside antenna system, take extreme care to avoid touching the power lines or circuits; contact with them could be fatal.
14. **OVERLOADING:** Do not overload wall outlets, extension cords, or integral convenience receptacles as this increases the risk of fire or electric shock.
15. **REPLACEMENT PARTS:** When replacement parts are required, be sure the service technician has used replacement parts specified by the manufacturer or those having the same characteristics as the original parts. Unauthorized substitutions may result in fire, electric shock or other hazards.
16. **SAFETY CHECK:** Upon completion of any service or repairs to the unit, ask the service technician to perform safety checks to ensure the unit is in proper operating condition.
17. **IMPORTANT SAFETY NOTE:**
- Before connecting a new product such as the Andros Allasso to your audio or home theater system, turn off all other equipment (preferably unplugging them from the AC power source). Many audio components feature automatic turn-on circuits that may activate during an installation, potentially causing damage to electronic components or speakers. This type of damage is not covered by product warranties, and Zesto Audio specifically disclaims responsibility for any such damage.
18. **RECORDING COPYRIGHT:** Recording of copyrighted material for other than personal use is illegal without permission of the copyright holder.
19. **FCC INFORMATION FOR USER:**
- **CAUTION:** Any changes or modifications not expressly approved by Zesto Audio could void the user's authority to operate the equipment.
 - These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference in a residential installation. This equipment generates and can radiate radio frequency energy, and if not installed and used in accordance with the instructions it 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 equipment.
 - Increase the separation between the equipment and receiver.
 - Connect the equipment into an outlet on a circuit different from where the receiver is connected.
 - Increase the separation between the equipment and receiver.
 - Connect the equipment into an outlet on a circuit different from where the receiver is connected.



Front Panel

- **MC Load:** Controls both the left and right input loading.
- **Gain/Ratio:** 4 position selector that controls the gain/ratio settings.
- **Mono/Stereo:** Mono sends the left input to both outputs.
- All adjustments can be made “on the fly” while your system is on so you can hear the changes.



Rear Panel

- **RCA Output:** The main output going to your phono stage.
- **Ground binding posts:** Identical grounds, not left or right use either. The main ground point for the unit, from the turntable and to your phono stage.
- **MC Input:** Either use the RCA (Left and Right) or the XLR3 Balanced MC Input (Left and Right).
- **Ground ON/OFF switches:** Unlike the binding posts these ground switches are Left and Right which connects or disconnects the ground to the MC input.

Specifications

- Frequency response: -3dB at 0.4Hz to 100 KHz
- Phase deviation: 1° typical at 20Hz
- Transformer noise: 1.2 dB @ 20 Ω, 1.8 dB @ 12 Ω
- Hum rejection: 125 dB @ 60 Hz
- Voltage gain: 12dB, 16dB, 18dB and 22dB
- Step up ratios: 1:4, 1:6, 1:8 and 1:12
- MC load: 40 positions in Mono, 40 positions in Stereo
- Recommended output load: 47KΩ @ 200pF (MM input)
- Inputs: Balanced and Single Ended MC
- Outputs: Single Ended
- Grounds: Independent ground-lift switches
- Grounds: Two ground binding posts
- Mono: The left input goes to both outputs
- Dimensions: 4"H X 6"W X 8"L (101.6mm X 152.4mm X 203.2mm)
- Weight: 5lb (2.27Kg)
- Shipping weight: 8.5lb (3.85Kg)
- Box dimensions: 7"H X 11"W X 13"L (177.9mm X 279.4mm X 330.2mm)

Gain/Ratio Chart

Gain	12db	16db	18db	22db
Ratio	1:4	1:6	1:8	1:12
Position	Ω	Ω	Ω	Ω
1	175	77	45	20
2	260	115	65	30
3	360	160	90	40
4	500	220	130	60
5	670	300	175	80
6	870	390	230	100
7	1100	490	300	130
8	1485	660	400	180
9	1900	840	530	240
10	2375	1055	690	300

Hookup, Settings and Adjustments

Before you start you will need:

- RCA output phono cables, left and right (preferably shielded), connects the Allasso to your phonostage. Unshielded phono cables can create “Hum”.
- Turntable phono cables, RCA or XLR, left and right, connects to the input of the Allasso.
- Manufacturer specs on recommended loading and output level of your Phono cartridge.

Burn-in

Like all high end audio equipment, the Allasso can take 50 hours to break in.

Output Hook up: Connect the Allasso to your phonostage.

Connect both the left and right color coded RCA shielded phono cables to the outputs of the Andros Allasso. Connect the other end to the MM input of your phonostage.

Important:

Do not plug into the MC inputs of your phonostage, only the MM.

Keep in mind the Andros Allasso is not a phonostage and does not have the RIAA playback correction. This unit must be connected to a phonostage.

Ground Wire (included with the Allasso)

Attach the Spade Lug to the ground binding posts on both the Allasso and your Phonostage.

Turntable Ground: (This wire is not included)

If you are using an RCA phono cable; connect the turntable ground wire to the Allasso binding post.

If you are using an XLR cable, you do not need a separate ground wire from your turntable. XLR pin one is the ground.

Input Hook up:

Attach to the left and right turntable phono cables, either RCA or XLR, to the inputs of the Allasso SUT.

Grounding

- The ground switches are designed to break ground loops and work independently.
- How to adjust ground switches: With your system on, with the volume up to your normal listening level and NO music playing, adjust each ground switch for the lowest noise.
- Start with both ground switches up. Then try any switch position that sounds good.
- The ground switches are designed to isolate the grounds between the turntable and the phonostage.
- They affect only the input and not the output.

Gain/Ratio

- This 4 position switch adjusts the gain and ratio of the transformer.
- If you have a low output cartridge start with the 1:8 or 1:12 setting. If you have a high output cartridge start with the 1:4 or 1:6 setting.
- Unlike most Step up transformers that have a fixed gain/ratio, when changing the gain/ratio settings of the Allasso, you are also changing the input impedance of the unit.
- Don't lose sight of the fact that it's about the best sound, not the math. The combination of Gain/Ratio and Loading switches should be adjusted for best sonic performance.

MC Load Adjustments

- 10 load positions in each of the 4 ratio/gain settings, giving you 40 options in Mono and 40 options in stereo.
- Load settings can be done while your system is on.
- Start with Load position 5 in the middle. Find the setting that sounds best in your system and feel free to experiment with any setting.
- The loading on the Andros Allasso is different because it loads on the secondary of the step-up transformer. This method transfers the entire signal from the cartridge to the primary side of the transformer without any interference from other components like resistors.
- You may find a need to adjust the loading as your Cartridge breaks in.
- You may also want to revisit the load settings after any adjustments to your turntable/tone arm.

When to use the Mono/Stereo switch

- All Stereo cartridges have 4 pins, 2 lefts and 2 rights, use the stereo setting.
- Most modern Mono cartridges have 4 pins, the left and right pins are tied together in the cartridge; use the Mono or Stereo setting, it makes no difference.
- If your Mono cartridge has 2 pins; use the Mono setting.
- **Mono 2 pin set up example:** hook up the 2 pins of the cartridge to the 2 left connectors of the tonearm. Then hook up the left connector of the phono cable to the left input of the Allasso. Switch the setting to Mono, this sends the input signal to both speakers.
- If you switch it to Mono and don't hear music, swap the right and left inputs at the Allasso.
- Note: The Mono setting on the Allasso only accepts a signal from the left input.

Andros Allasso Quick Set Up

1. Recommended you use shielded phono cables.
2. Connect phono cable from your turntable to the Allasso.
3. Connect your Allasso to your phonostage into the MM input.
4. Connect the ground wire from your turntable to the Allasso. If you are using XLR balanced cables to the Allasso, you do not need this ground wire.
5. Connect the ground wire from the Allasso to the ground of the phonostage.
6. Adjust ground switches: With your system on, with the volume up to your normal listening level and NO music playing, adjust each ground switch for the lowest noise.
7. Ratio/gain adjustments: Low output cartridges, start with the 1:8 ratio.
8. High output cartridges start with the 1:4 ratio.
9. Load adjustments: start at position 5.
10. Do adjustments while your system is on so you can hear the changes.
11. Take advantage of the flexibility of the Allasso and feel free to experiment with 40 options available until you find the setting that sounds best to you.
12. Store your laminated Gain/ Ratio, Loading card under the unit for a quick reference.
13. Best setting: "Trust your Ears!"

You are now free to roam the cartridge planet!

Warranty

All Zesto Audio equipment is covered by a 2 year limited warranty for parts and labor to cover defects in materials and workmanship from date of purchase.

To obtain this original owner warranty the completed warranty registration must be received by email at the factory within 15 days from date of purchase. The warranty is not transferable.

This warranty is void if the product has not been used in accordance with the instructions found in this owner's manual, or if it has been misused, abused, damaged by accident or neglect, or in transport once in possession of purchaser. The warranty is also void if the product has been tampered with or has been repaired or modified by anyone other than Zesto Audio or its specifically authorized representatives. This limited warranty only applies to Zesto Audio equipment and carries no responsibility for any other equipment attached to this unit.

To return the product it must be packed in its original packaging and returned to Zesto Audio or its authorized representative via insured freight at the owner's expense. Returned products must be accompanied by written description of the defect and a return authorization number that is available from Zesto Audio or the authorized representative. Upon receipt of the defective product Zesto Audio or the authorized representative agrees to repair the product without charge for parts and or labor if within the 2 year warranty period. The product will then be returned via prepaid insured freight with a carrier at the sole determination of Zesto Audio or the authorized representative.

Zesto Audio and its partners reserve the right to modify their products or change specifications at any time without obligation or liability to previous purchasers.

Warranty will cover ownership outside the USA, but shipping is the sole responsibility of the owner. See your local dealer for factory approved service in your area.

Factory service on non-warranty items will be billed at an hourly rate to be quoted before work is done.