



Owner's Reference

Owner's Reference Stellar Strata MK2

Instructions for Use



Stellar™ Strata MK2

PS Audio® Inc. 800-PSAUDIO 4865 Sterling Drive Boulder, Colorado 80301

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Owner's Reference

Owner's Reference Stellar Strata MK2

Safety Instructions



Read these instructions
Heed all warnings
Follow all instructions



WARNING. TO REDUCE THE RISK OF FIRE OR ELECTRICAL SHOCK, DO NOT EXPOSE THIS APPARATUS TO RAIN OR MOISTURE.

Clean only with a dry cloth. For the Piano Finish Top refer to the instructions on page 8 of the Quick Start Guide.

Do not place flammable material on top of or beneath the component.

All PS Audio components require adequate ventilation at all times during operation. Rack mounting is acceptable where appropriate.

Do not remove or bypass the ground pin on the end of the AC cord. If the provided plug does not fit into your outlet, consult an electrician for replacement of the obsolete outlet.

Protect the power cord from being walked on or pinched particularly at plugs, convenience receptacles, and the point where they exit from the apparatus. Unplug this apparatus during lightning storms or when unused for long periods of time.

When making connections to this or any other component, make sure all components are off. Turn off all systems' power before connecting the PS Audio component to any other component. Make sure all cable terminations are of the highest quality.

THERE ARE NO USER-SERVICEABLE PARTS INSIDE ANY PS AUDIO PRODUCT. REFER ALL SERVICING TO QUALIFIED SERVICE PERSONNEL

Please contact your authorized dealer, distributor, or PS Audio if you have any questions not addressed in this reference manual.

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Rev. A



The exclamation point within a triangle is intended to tell the user that important operating and servicing instructions are in the papers with the appliance.



The lightning flash with arrow-head within a triangle is intended to tell the user that parts inside the product are a risk of electric shock to persons.





Introduction

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Welcome

Welcome to the PS Audio family with your new Stellar Strata MK2 Integrated Amplifier. You've not just acquired an advanced piece of audio technology; you've opened the door to an extraordinary sonic adventure. Paired with quality speakers, Strata will enable you to immerse yourself in the pure, captivating sound that only high-end audio equipment can.

Enjoy!

Contact Information

PS Audio, Inc.
4865 Sterling Drive
Boulder, CO 80301
1 (800) PSAUDIO
service@psaudio.com
www.psaudio.com



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Unpacking

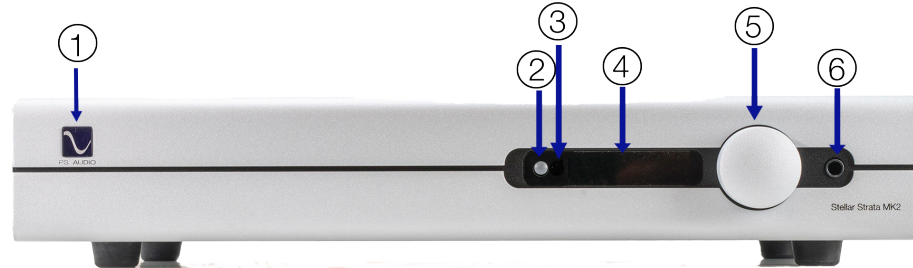


Figure 1: Front Panel Controls

Item	Description
1	Ready/Operational mode switch
2	Menu button
3	Remote infrared receiver
4	Display
5	Volume control knob
6	Headphone Output

The following items are included with the Stellar Strata MK2:

- Power Cord
- Stellar Strata Remote
- Quick Start Guide

Carefully unpack the unit and place it in the chosen location. Care should be taken to keep it away from power amplifiers or large, potentially hum-inducing products.

Referring to Figure 1 and the table, the remote infrared receiver (3) is located to the right of the menu button. A direct line of sight with the receiver helps when using the remote.



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Connections

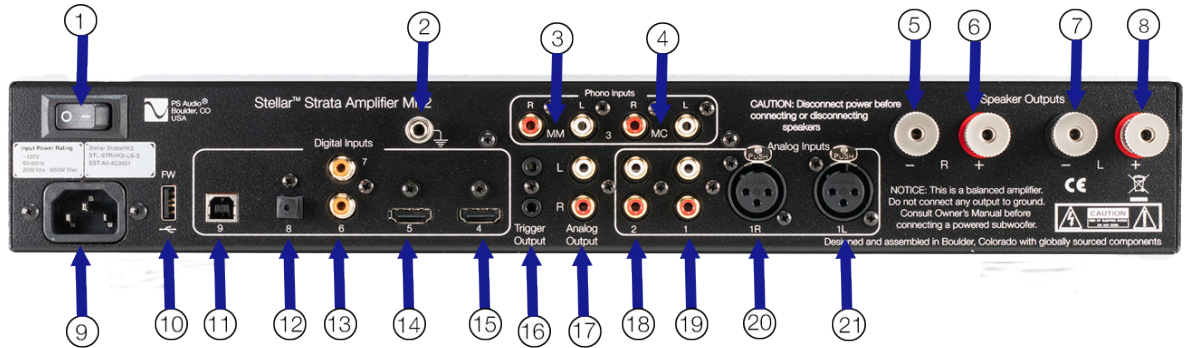


Figure 2: Rear Panel Ports

Item	Description
1	Main power switch
2	Ground
3	MM - for use with moving magnet phono cartridge (right and left)
4	MC - for use with moving coil phono cartridge (right and left)
5	Right negative speaker output
6	Right positive speaker output
7	Left negative speaker output
8	Left positive speaker output
9	Line cord receptacle
10	Firmware update thumb drive connector
11	USB audio input #9
12	Optical input #8
13	Coax inputs #6 and #7
14	I ² S input #5
15	I ² S input #4
16	Trigger output
17	Analog output (right and left)
18	Single ended analog input #2 (home theater bypass)
19	Single ended analog input #1
20	Right balanced analog input
21	Left balanced analog input



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Connections (Continued)

Referring to Figure 2, connect the desired components to your Stellar Strata MK2 as follows:

Connect inputs to your analog sources using the appropriate connections. There are two balanced XLR inputs (20-21) and four single-ended RCA connectors (18-19).

Use analog input #2 (18) for home theater bypass as this input can be configured as a "Fixed Volume" input. In this mode, the volume setting is fixed to a user-defined level and is unaffected by the main volume control. See the menu section of this manual for details on how to configure analog input #2 for Fixed Volume mode.

Connect your digital audio source to the digital input using the appropriate cable (11-15). USB is the preferred method for direct-to-computer. If using Windows, go to Support/Downloads on our website to get the driver. (MACs running OSX have the driver built in.) Digital Input #5 and #4 (14-15) are I²S inputs.

I²S is the standard connection method that almost all the IC chips inside a digital audio product use and has separate wires for the data and the clocks. By connecting your equipment using this connection you can be assured that the audio information is delivered with the absolute minimum amount of processing. It can be connected to a PS Audio PWT, DMP, or many other third party pieces of equipment. The I²S input uses standard HDMI cables for the connection. Please note that although HDMI cables are used, the connector is not compatible with HDMI and you cannot connect this input to the HDMI output on a disc player or other device. The I²S input can accept up to 384KHz 24 bit PCM or native DSD128 source material.

If using an additional amplifier or powered subwoofer, use the RCA analog output (17) to connect them. You can also connect the power amps or powered subwoofer to trigger ports (16) if desired. Each of the two trigger jacks outputs a +12V signal to connected equipment when the Stellar Strata MK2 front panel standby button is activated. The +12V signal will stop when the Strata is in standby mode. These trigger outputs are typically used to switch on/off compatible power amplifiers when the Stellar Strata MK2 is active.

Connect your phono to MM (3) for use with moving magnet phono cartridge or MC (4) for use with moving coil phono cartridge.

Connect your speakers to the appropriate left and right channel of your speaker outputs (5-8).

Note: This is a balanced amplifier. Do not connect any output to ground.

Connect the AC cable into the receptacle (9) in back and plug the unit into your Power Plant or into the wall. While the supplied cord is of good quality, it is recommended that you replace it with a high-end power cord for optimum performance. It is also recommended that you connect your new Stellar Strata MK2 to one of PS Audio's award-winning AC power products such as the P12, P15, or P20 Power Plants.

Power Up

Once everything is connected, it is time to power up the Stellar Strata MK2. Move the rear panel main power switch (1), to the ON position. We recommend the master power switch be left in the On position and AC power continue to be supplied even when the Strata is not in use. Use



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the front panel standby/operate mode switch (1) instead of the main power switch. This keeps power on to critical circuitry thereby avoiding the stabilizing warm up period and additional wear on components due to power cycling.

Product Registration

To register your new Stellar Strata MK2, look on the back panel and note the serial number. Using any web browser, go to www.psaudio.com, click Support and select Product Registration from the menu. When you have completed the registration process, go to the Registrations page. The link to this page (👤) is located at the top right hand corner of the website after you are logged in. Click the link then select Product Registrations in the left hand column.

If you do not have web access, you may register via mail or phone. Notification of software upgrades to this product are available only to registered owners via the website and email.



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Main Display

When powered on, "PS Audio" appears followed by the main display as shown in Figure 3.

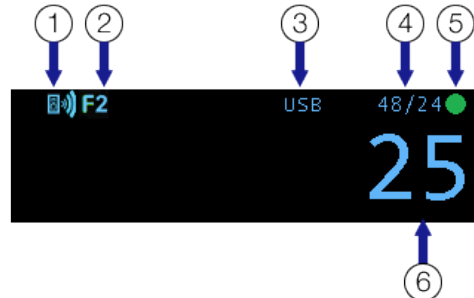


Figure 3: Main Display

Item	Description
1	Balance indicator. When visible, waves indicate to which side of zero center the balance is offset.
2	Currently selected filter
3	Currently selected input
4	Current sample rate
5	Connection status (green=signal active; red=no signal)
6	Volume

Input

The input selection can be changed by pressing the menu button. Repeated presses scroll through the nine options:

1. Analog1
2. Analog2 (home theater bypass)
3. Phono
4. I2S 1
5. I2S 2
6. Coax 1
7. Coax 2
8. Optical
9. USB

The selected input is active the instant the indicator changes. Pressing and holding the menu button or adjusting the volume restores the main display. If no further action occurs after 15 seconds, the main display returns.

Menu System

To enter the menu system, press and hold the menu button until the display changes. Repeated pressing scrolls through the menu items while turning the volume knob adjusts the setting. Most changes take effect immediately.

For detailed operating instructions, see the Operating Guide on the following pages.



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Front Panel

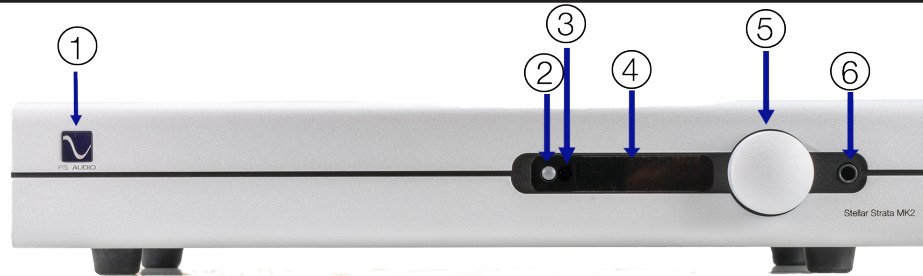


Figure 4: Front Panel Controls

Item	Description
1	Ready/Operational mode button
2	Menu button
3	Remote infrared receiver
4	Display
5	Volume control
6	Headphone output

Mode Button

The Ready/Operational mode button (1) controls whether the Stellar Strata MK2 is in Operational mode (illuminated) or Ready (dark) mode. The Ready mode is designed to keep power on to critical internal circuitry, including power supply capacitors, thermally sensitive semiconductors and integrated circuits.

Press the button to select ready or operational mode. In Ready mode, the display and outputs are turned off, but all critical internal circuitry remains active.

If you wish to conserve energy consumed by Stellar Strata MK2, it will be necessary to use the rear panel power switch. Using this rear panel switch will remove power from critical components. In order to gain maximum performance levels, you will need to turn the power on at least 1 hour before use.

Restart

Should the Strata need to be rebooted, use the rear panel power switch to power cycle the unit. It's best to wait 30 seconds before powering back on.

Volume

The volume level is shown on the display panel (4). Turn the volume control knob (5) right or left to adjust the volume level. The displayed level ranges from 0 to 100.

Note: There is a separate volume for main volume and headphones. The first time headphones are plugged in, they will use the main volume. Once headphone volume is adjusted, it will be



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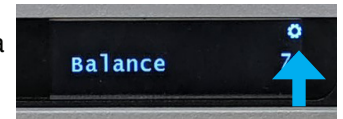
retained when the headphones are removed and re-inserted. Volume level is not saved across reboots.

Input Selection

To select an input, execute a quick press of the menu button (2) to the left of the display. Continue pressing until you land on the input you want (RCA 1 or 2, XLR 1 or 2). Alternatively, you can use the remote.

Navigating the Menus

The Stellar Strata MK2 features a menu display system that is accessible using the menu button (2). To access the menu, execute a long press of the menu button. A gear icon (see arrow) will appear in the upper right corner showing that you are in the Settings menu.



Once in the menus, a long press of the menu button (holding for more than two seconds) will also exit the menus and return the unit to the Home screen. The menu screen will also time out after 15 seconds of inactivity. Note that changes to settings are typically saved in real time as the changes are made.

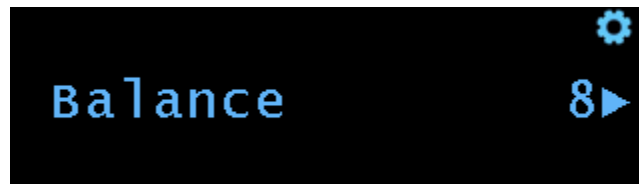
Main Menu

To scroll through menu items, execute a quick press of the menu button once in the menus. To change an item's values, use the volume knob. For most items, staying on the new value changes it.

The main menu has the below features.

- Balance
- Filter
- Phase
- Pre-Emphasis
- Versions (informational only)
- Audio (sub-menu)
- System (sub-menu)

Balance



The Balance feature allows you to adjust the center location of the stereo image. Turn the knob to the left to reduce the gain of the right channel, thus making the image come more from the left channel. Turn the knob right to reduce the gain of the left channel, thus making the image come more from the right channel. The balance steps are each 1/4dB and the range is 48 steps each way for a maximum shift of 12dB.

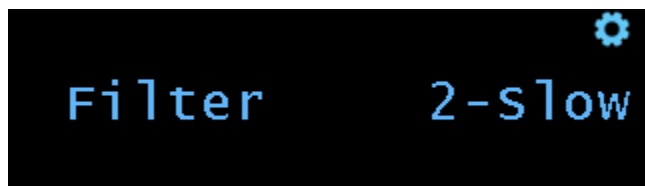
If the balance setting is offset to either side of zero center, the balance indicator (blue arrow) appears with a wave graphic indicating which side of center the balance is offset.



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Filter



The Stellar Strata MK2 has 3 filter options that can tailor the sound of digital sources to the listener's preference. The unit comes with our recommended default filter (F1) selected but we encourage you to experiment with filters during listening sessions. Use the volume knob to scroll through the three options. Leave the screen on the one you want.

- Filter 1 - Fast
- Filter 2 - Slow
- Filter 3 - Min

Filter 1 is "Fast Roll-off Linear Phase". This filter has very good high frequency response. It has slightly less ringing than Filter 2 but it does exhibit pre-ringing. While this filter may actually measure the best in a laboratory, we found it to be the most analytical sounding. This is the default filter for the Strata.

When this filter is activated, an F1 will appear in the icon bar on the top of the Home screen.

Filter 2 is "Slow Roll-off Linear Phase". This filter is the least sharp and has the least amount of ringing. There is a slight loss in high frequencies that might be noticeable on CDs and other 44.1KHz sample rate material. It should not be detectable at all with higher sample rate sources.

When this filter is activated, an F2 will appear in the icon bar on the top of the Home screen.

Filter 3 is "Fast Roll-off Minimum Phase". This filter has more extended high frequency response than Filter 2 but more ringing as well. There is no pre-ringing (an undesirable artifact of some digital filters) so this is still a very musical sounding filter. Some people may prefer this filter for 44.1KHz source material.

When this filter is activated, an F3 will appear in the icon bar on the top of the Home screen.

Phase



The phase feature allows you to invert the signal from the digital inputs. (It does not affect the analog sources). Turning the knob will change the absolute polarity of the signal from "Norm" (Normal) to "Inv" (Inverted). This can be useful when listening to certain source material which may have inverted absolute polarity.



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Note: Some listeners are more sensitive to absolute polarity than others.

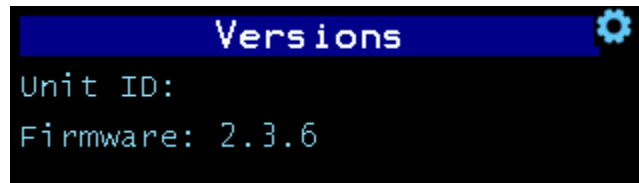
Pre-Emphasis



Some Compact Discs were recorded with pre-emphasis in order to improve the performance at high frequencies. If you are playing a track that was recorded with pre-emphasis, you can engage the de-emphasis filter using the pre-emphasis option.

Use the volume knob to set to On, Off or Auto. On engages the de-emphasis filter and Off disables it. Auto automatically detects tracks with pre-emphasis and then engages de-emphasis (this only works on Coax and Optical inputs). The default is Auto.

Versions



The Versions menu display shows the versions of the Stellar Strata MK2's operating firmware. It is informational only. If you need to contact our customer service team for help with your unit, please have this information ready.

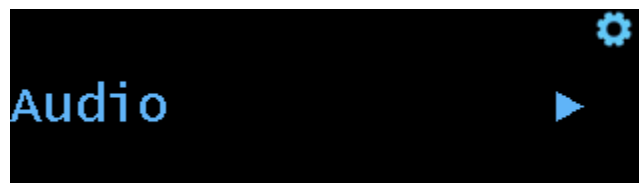
Sub-Menus

There are 2 sub-menus that can be accessed from the main menu. They are:

- Audio
- System

Click the menu button twice to enter a sub-menu. Do a quick press of the menu button to click through sub-menu items. If you need to go back one level to the previous menu, do two quick presses of the menu button.

Audio Sub-Menu



The Audio sub-menu allows you to change the below:

- Analog 2 Fixed Volume
- Max Volume



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- Headphone Trim
- Phono Mode
- Input Names (sub-menu)
- Input Trim (sub-menu)

Analog 2 Fixed Volume

The Fixed Volume feature allows you to configure Analog Input #2 to always have the same fixed volume setting. This is useful if you are using the Stellar Strata MK2 to power the front channels in a surround sound system. In this configuration, the output of your surround receiver would be connected to Analog Input #2.

Set the Fixed Input volume setting to match your other speakers. When Analog Input #2 is selected the volume control on the Strata will be locked and you will control the volume using your surround receiver. If this value is anything except OFF, then you may also use the HT button on the remote to activate Analog Input #2.

Follow these steps to set Analog 2 Fixed Volume:

1. Turn the knob to select “100” or the desired maximum volume level.
2. Stay on the value to select it.
3. Double-click the menu button to return to the main settings menu.

Max Volume

In some situations, especially with high-sensitivity speakers, the Strata's volume control might have too much range and allow your system to play at potentially dangerous levels. The Maximum Volume feature can be used to limit the maximum volume control setting to a safer level for both main volume and headphone volume.

To access the Max Volume for headphone, plug the headphones in and adjust the number. To access the Max Volume for main volume, remove the headphones.

Follow these steps to set the volume level:

1. Turn the knob to select “100” or the desired maximum volume level.
2. Stay on the value to select it.
3. Double-click the menu button to return to the main settings menu.

Headphone Trim

This feature allows you to adjust the relative volume when using headphones. If your headphones are very sensitive, you may wish to adjust this setting so the headphones are not too loud when you plug them in. Similarly, if your headphones play too softly compared to the volume through the speakers, you can use the Headphone Trim to increase the gain. The Headphone Trim can be adjusted from a low of -10dB up to a high of 10dB.



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Follow these steps to set the headphone trim:

1. Turn the knob to select a value from -10dB to 10dB.
2. Stay on the value to select it.
3. Double-click the menu button to return to the main settings menu.

Phono Mode

Phono mode lets you select either MM (Moving Magnet cartridge) or MC (Moving Coil cartridge).

Use the volume knob to select MM or MC depending on which type of cartridge your phono uses.

Note: When Phono mode is set to MC and the input is changed to Phono (input 3), the unit will mute for 2 seconds. This is to prevent pops during the input change.

Input Names (sub-menu)

The Input Names sub-menu setting allows renaming the nine input connections from a preset list of common names to aid in identifying the connected source. Follow these steps to assign the names BLU-RAY, CD, DVD, PHONO, SACD or STREAMER:

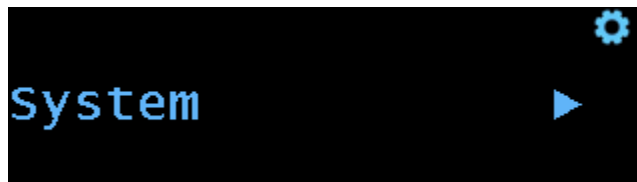
1. Double-click the menu button to enter the name list.
2. Turn the knob to locate the desired input. Press the menu button to select.
3. Turn the knob to select the desired name. Press the menu button to select.
4. Turn the knob to select OK or Cancel. Press the menu button to confirm or cancel.
5. Double-click the menu button to return to the main settings menu.

Input Trim (sub-menu)

The Input Trim sub-menu setting allows trimming the volume level of each input to provide a consistent level between input sources. It is best to start by observing the level of your most used or favorite source and then trimming the other source levels to match. Follow these steps to adjust input levels:

1. Double-click the menu button to enter the input list.
2. Turn the knob to locate the desired input. Press the menu button to select.
3. Turn the knob left or right to set the level. Changes take effect immediately.
4. Double-click the menu button to return to the main settings menu.

System Sub-Menu





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The System sub-menu allows setting various control parameters. The sub-menu is entered by double-clicking the menu button which presents the following settings:

- Backlight
- Display Mode
- Trigger Timeout
- IR Enable
- Firmware Update (sub-menu)
- Factory Reset (sub-menu)

Backlight

The Backlight sub-menu setting allows adjusting the brightness of both the Standby mode switch (1) and the Display (4) to compliment the room lighting. Options range from 1–10 with 10 being brightest. Follow these steps to set the brightness:

1. Turn the knob to select the desired brightness level.
2. Press the button to select.
3. Double-click the menu button to return to the main settings menu.

Display Mode

This menu provides three options for the main display: auto, sample rate and minimal. The auto function varies depending on whether or not fixed volume is on. (As a reminder, if you indicated you were using a preamp during set up, fixed volume is automatically turned on.)

- Auto: In most cases, this will show the volume on the main display. If Analog 2 is selected and has been set to fixed volume, the main display shows the input - Analog 2. Both will display small icons when certain menu options are selected.



Auto: Shows volume when fixed volume is off.



Auto: Shows input when fixed volume is on.

- Sample Rate: This option shows the current sample rate on the main display. Small icons will be displayed when certain menu options are selected. If the input selected is not connected - indicated by the red dot in the corner of the screen - the screen will show the current input instead.



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Sample Rate: Shows sample rate if input's good. Sample Rate: Shows input if connection's bad.

Note: It's common for the FPGA to take a second or two to detect the sample rate when it changes. What may look like delayed reporting is normal. It is a result of detecting and reporting the correct sample rate.

- Minimal: Provided the connection is good, this option shows the sample rate without any icons. If the input is not good, it will show the input with icons.



Minimal: Shows only sample rate when input's good. Minimal: Shows input if connection's bad.

Trigger Timeout

The Trigger Timeout sub-menu setting permits adding a delay to the trigger output signal to adjust the time between placing the Stellar Strata MK2 in Operational mode and when a power amplifier connected to the trigger output is signaled to power up. The delay can be set to one of "Off", "0s", "5s", "10s", "20s", "30s", "45s" or "1m". Follow these steps to set the delay:

1. Turn the knob to select "Off" or the desired delay time.
2. Press the button to select.
3. Double-click the menu button to return to the main settings menu.

IR Enable

If you are using the Stellar remote with your Strata MK2, the IR Enable sub-menu setting can be used to prevent the remote control from interfering with other remote-controlled components in your system. Turn the knob to select one of the following:

- Off: disables the remote control function eliminating all interference.
- IR1: The default setting. Use this if no interference is experienced.
- IR2: Selects alternate code set. Use this if the Stellar remote affects other components.

When you change this setting, you also need to change it on the remote. To do so, press and hold the Light Bulb button (bottom of the remote) and the circular Off button (top center of the remote) at the same time. If the remote backlight flashes white once, you are now on IR1. If it flashes white twice, you are now on IR2.



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Note: This does not work with the Stellar Strata MK2 remote that came with your unit.

Firmware Update (sub-menu)

This feature allows you to select from multiple firmware loads on a flash drive. A flash drive (also known as a thumb drive [US], memory stick [UK], and pen drive/pendrive elsewhere) is a data storage device that includes flash memory with an integrated USB interface. It provides a faster and easier method of upgrading and downgrading new firmware for A/B style testing.

Preparing the flash drive

- You can have as many files on the flash drive as you want, but only the first five valid files for the device are displayed.
- The files must be named strata2_v#.##.bin. For example, strata2_v2.4.1.bin.
- You can have other bin files for other products on this thumb drive (for example, stellar_dac_v2.1.2.bin). Only files that start with "strata2_" will be loaded by the Stellar Strata MK2.

WARNING: In the past, you would update a unit by copying an "image.bin" file to the flash drive. This method still works to automatically update a unit after a reboot (you do not need to go through the menus to use the image.bin file). The image.bin file takes precedence over the strata2_bin_XXX.bin files. It is recommended to NOT have an image.bin file on the flash drive if you are using the strata2_XXX.bin files and the System | FW Update method to update files.

Upgrading/ Downgrading

- Plug the flash drive into the unit in USB-A slot on the back panel marked FW.
- Enter the menus and go to System | FW Update.
- The files will display on the screen in alphabetical order.
- Scroll up or down to highlight the file you want to load.
- Press the menu button to select the file.
- A progress screen will display. The update process will initialize and then a progress indicator in percentage complete will display.
- Once complete, the progress screen will indicate the unit is resetting.
- The unit will reset. The Logo LED will blink rapidly as the unit is being programmed.

Notes

- If you select the same version that is already loaded, the upgrade will be skipped and the Logo LED will not blink. The unit will still reset.
- If there is an error, the error will be displayed.
 - If you have problems with loading firmware, you can contact PS Audio customer support with the error you see.
 - Press the menu button to exit from the error screen
- You can exit the FW Update screen using a long press of the menu button.

Factory Reset (sub-menu)

The Factory Reset sub-menu setting returns all menu items to their original factory settings.



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Note: Any custom settings performed since the last Factory Reset, or first use, will be lost.

1. Double-click the menu button to start the reset process.
2. Turn the knob to select "Reset".
3. Press the menu button to begin.

After a few seconds, the Strata MK2 automatically restarts at the main menu with restored factory settings.



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Remote





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Product Specifications

General:	
Color Options	Black Silver
Voltage Options	Japan 100V (+/-10%) North America 120V (+/-10%) Europe/Asia 230V (+/-10%)
Mains Power Input	IEC C14
Fuses	T250V-250mAH (1/4A Slow Blow)
Accessories Included	Remote Control Line Cord: - US, JP and EX (NEMA 5-15P) - Schuko (CEE7/7) (230V version) - UK (BS1363) (230V version) - Australia (230V version)
Analog Audio Inputs	RCA: 2 stereo pairs XLR: 1 stereo pair
Phono Inputs	MM RCA: 1 stereo pair MC RCA: 1 stereo pair
Digital Audio Inputs	I2S: 2 inputs - PCM 44.1KHz to 384KHz, DSD64, DSD128, DSD256 Coax: 2 inputs - PCM 44.1KHz - 192KHz Optical: 1 input - PCM 44.1kHz - 192KHz USB: 1 input - PCM 44.1kHz - 384KHz - DSD64, DSD128 (native) - DSD64, DSD128 (DoP)
Audio Outputs	RCA (Unbalanced): 1 stereo pair Headphones: 1 ¼" stereo Speakers: 2 binding post pairs
Other	Trigger Out: 2 3.5mm, 5-15 DVC USB A: 1 (for firmware update)
Mechanical:	
Unit Dimensions	17" w x 2.8" h (not including feet) x 13.5" d (with connectors and knobs, chassis only is 12") [43.2cm x 7.1cm x 34.3cm]



Reference

Owner's Reference Stellar Strata MK2

Weight	21 lbs [9.5 kg]	
Shipping Dimensions	22" w x 8" h x 17" d [55.9cm x 20.3cm x .4.3cm]	
Shipping Weight	25 lbs [11.4 kg]	
Environmental:		
Location	Indoor use only	
Storage Temperature	-30 to 70C	
Operating Temperature	0 to 45C	
Features:		
Input Selection	9 total: 2 analog, 6 digital, 1 Phono	
Volume Control	0-100 (80 dB total range)	
Balance Control	12dB each direction in 1/4dB steps	
Fixed Volume Mode	Analog2: adjustable in setup to any level	
Phase Control	Digital sources only	
Filter Control	3 selectable digital filters (PCM digital sources only)	
Input Trim	Gain adjustable per input +/-10dB	
Headphone Trim	Gain adjustable +/-10dB relative to speaker level	
Performance:		
Analog Inputs:		
Input Separation	>85dB	
Input Impedance	47KΩ (unbalanced); 100KΩ (balanced)	
Maximum Input Level	>16 VRMS	
Phono Input:		
Cartridge/Type	MM	MC
Gain	40dB	57dB
Loading	100pF/47kΩ	470pF/100Ω
THD+N	.001% @ 5mV input	.003% @1mV input
Analog Output		
Output Impedance	Line Out 100Ω	



Reference

Owner's Reference Stellar Strata MK2

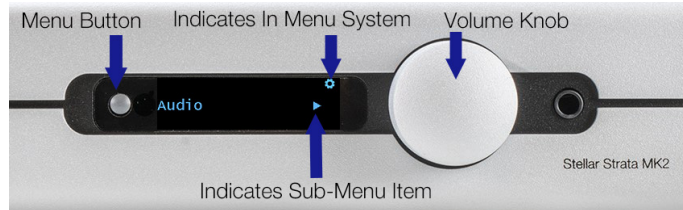
Gain	Volume=100 6dB +/- 0.5dB
Main (Speaker) Output	
Gain (relative to line output)	30.5dB
Output Power	8Ω, 1KHz, 1% 100W minimum 4Ω, 1KHz, 1% 150W typical
Frequency Response	+/-1dB 20Hz – 20KHz -3dB 7Hz – 40KHz
THD+N	1KHz, 10W/4Ω 0.02%
IMD	18/19KHz -65dB
Speaker Impedance	4Ω minimum
Output Impedance	50Hz 150 mΩ typical
Damping Factor	50Hz, 4Ω 29
Sensitivity	@76 1.77 VRMS @100 450 VRMS
Channel Separation	1KHz >90dB
Headphone Output	
Gain (relative to line output)	16.5dB
Output Power	300Ω, 1KHz, 1% 300mW 16Ω, 1KHz, 1% 3.25W
Frequency Response	+/-1dB 7Hz – 40KHz
THD	1KHz, 1 VRMS 300Ω <0.02% 16Ω <0.02%
S/N Ratio	1KHz >110dB (max output)
Output Noise	<-90dBV
Headphone Impedance	8Ω minimum
Output Impedance	<4 Ω
Power	
Input Voltage	US 108—132VAC (120VAC nominal) EX/GR/UK/AU 207—253VAC (230VAC nominal) JP 90—110VAC (100VAC nominal)
Power Consumption	Idle 20W Typical 50W Maximum 600W



Reference

Owner's Reference Stellar Strata MK2

Menu Charts



Navigating the Menus:

- To enter the menus, do a long press of the menu button. A gear icon will appear in the right corner of the screen to show you are in the menus. Do another long press to leave the menus.

Note: Menus time out after 15 seconds of inactivity.

- Scroll through menu and sub menu items using one press of the menu button. Use the volume knob to change values for specific items.
- Unless otherwise specified, scrolling to your choice and leaving it on the screen updates your settings.
- Menu items with sub-menus are indicated by a right arrow. Press the menu button twice to enter them.
- Two quick presses of the menu button take you back one menu level. For example, if you are in the Audio sub-menu and press the menu button twice, you will return to the top level menu.

Note: You do not enter the menus to change the input. Instead, do a quick press of the menu button. Continue pressing until you land on the input you want (RCA 1 or 2, XLR 1 or 2). Alternatively, you can use the remote.

Top Level Menu

Top Level Menu	
Press the menu button once to scroll through menu and sub-menu items. Use the volume knob to change menu item values.	
Balance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Turn knob left to reduce the gain of the right channel, thus making the image come more from the left channel. Turn the knob right to reduce the gain of the left channel, thus making the image come more from the right channel.
Filter	Turn volume knob to select one of the below filter: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Filter 1 - Fast Filter 2 - Slow Filter 3 - Min
Phase	Turn volume knob to select "Norm" (Normal) or "Inv" (Inverted).
Pre-Emphasis	Turn volume knob to select: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On Off Auto
Versions (Informational Only)	Turn knob to scroll through the operating firmware versions.



Reference

Owner's Reference Stellar Strata MK2

Main Menu Continued

Audio (Sub-Menu)	<p>Hit menu button twice to access the below settings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anaalag 2 Fixed Vol • Max Volume • Headphone Trim • Phono Mode • Input names (sub-menu) • Input Trim (sub-menu) <p>See Audio Sub-Menu for more detail.</p>
System (Sub-Menu)	<p>Hit menu button twice to access the below settings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Backlight • Display Mode • Trigger Timeout • IR Enable • FW Update (sub-menu) • Factory Reset (sub-menu) <p>See System Sub-Menu for more detail.</p>

Audio Sub-Menu

Audio Sub-Menu	
<p>From the main menu, find Audio then press the menu button twice to enter the Audio sub-menu. Hit the menu button once to scroll through the sub-menu options.</p>	
Analog 2 Fixed Vol	Use the volume knob to select a fixed volume (1-100) for Analog 2. To disable this feature, scroll to 0 or off.
Max Volume	Use the volume knob to select a max volume (1-100). If undesired, select 100 to disable.
Headphone Trim	Turn the volume knob right to add dBs and left to lower dBs.
Phono Mode	Use the volume knob to select MC (Moving Coil) or MM (Moving Magnet) depending on what kind of cartridge your phono uses.
Input Names (Sub-Menu)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hit the menu button twice to enter Input Names. • Use volume knob to scroll through inputs and highlight the input you want to change. • Once the name is highlighted, hit the menu button once. • Use the volume knob to scroll through the naming options. • Once the name you want is highlighted, hit the menu button once to select it. • A pop up will appear and ask "Rename....?" Hit the menu button to select OK or use the volume knob to highlight Cancel first if you change your mind.
Input Trim (sub-menu)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hit the menu button twice to enter Input Trim. • Use volume knob to scroll through inputs and highlight the input you want to trim. • Once the input is highlighted, hit the menu button once. • Turn the volume knob right to add dBs and left to lower dBs. • Once you land on the desired dB, hit the menu button once to return to the Input Trim home screen and repeat for each input you want to trim.



Reference

Owner's Reference Stellar Strata MK2

System Sub-Menu

System Sub-Menu	
From the main menu, find System then press the menu button twice to enter the System sub-menu. Hit the menu button once to scroll through the sub-menu options.	
Backlight	Use the volume knob to select a brightness setting for the display and logo button. Options are 1-10, where 10 is the brightest.
Display Mode	Use volume knob to select your preference for the main display: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Auto• Sample Rate• Minimal
Trigger Timeout (delay output to other devices for short period after Stellar Strata MK2 is activated)	Use the volume knob to select Off, 0s, 5s, 10s, 20s, 30s, 45s or 1 minute for trigger timeout. Select off to disable.
IR Enable	If using the Stellar remote, use the volume knob to select Off (no remote works), IR1 (default) or IR2 (if remote is interfering with other devices). <i>Note:</i> For the remote that comes with the unit, leave on IR1.
Firmware Update (sub-menu)	This is a multi-step process. Please see the Firmware Update section of this manual for instructions.
Factory Reset (sub-menu)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hit the menu button twice to select factory reset.• A pop up will appear and ask "Factory Reset System?" To continue with the reset, use the volume knob to highlight Reset and press the menu button. If you changed your mind, leave Exit highlighted and hit the menu button.• After hitting the menu button, there will be a about a 5 second delay and then your Stellar Strata MK2 will automatically switch off and then back on.



Warranty

Owner's Reference Stellar Strata MK2

Registering

Product registration

By registering your product, you are validating the start date of your limited warranty. This limited warranty is in effect for 3 years from the date the unit was first purchased from PS Audio or its dealers and agents. If you do not register your product within 30 days of service, a copy of your purchase receipt from an authorized PS Audio dealer may be used as proof of purchase to establish the warranty start date. If no proof of purchase from an authorized PS audio dealer or registration is provided, the production date of the product will be used to determine the warranty start date. You can register your product online, by phone, by mail, or by email.

Coverage

What this warranty covers

This warranty covers defects in material and workmanship for products purchased from PS Audio or its authorized dealers and agents. In the event your product fails, your sole remedy under this limited warranty shall be to return the product to PS Audio or an authorized PS Audio repair center. At the option of PS Audio, the product will be repaired without charge for parts or labor, replaced, or the purchase price refunded through the original point of purchase.

Shipping

Shipping

You are responsible to pay for the safe and proper shipment of the warranted product to PS Audio or its authorized repair center. Under this limited warranty, PS Audio or its authorized repair center will pay the cost of returning the repaired or replacement product to you.

Not Covered

What this warranty does not cover

This warranty does not cover damage due to:

- Accidents, carelessness, improper transportation, misuse, neglect, or abuse
- Failure to follow the operating instructions that are provided by PS Audio in the Owner's Reference Manual (available for download at www.psaudio.com)
- Use in any manner inconsistent with PS Audio's operating instructions (available for download at www.psaudio.com)
- Lack of routine maintenance
- Connection to an improper voltage supply
- Alterations or modifications to the unit
- Improper or unauthorized repair, including repairs not authorized by PS Audio or a PS Audio authorized repair center



Warranty

Owner's Reference Stellar Strata MK2

- Fire, lightning, flood, “Acts of God,” or other contingencies beyond the control of PS Audio
- Products purchased through an unauthorized source (if you have questions as to whether or not a dealer is authorized, please contact customer support at www.psaudio.com)
- Products with a factory-applied serial number that has in any way been altered, defaced, or removed

Limitations

Limitations under this warranty

In no event will PS Audio’s liability to you exceed the original purchase price of your unit. This warranty does not cover the cost of custom installation, customer instruction, setup adjustments, or signal reception problems. Consequential and incidental damages are not covered under this warranty. However, some states do not allow the exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages, so this limitation or exclusion may not apply to you. In the event that your warranted product cannot be repaired, PS Audio will either replace or refund the cost of the unit. We reserve the right to replace any out-of-stock, discontinued, or limited edition products with a comparable product. Discontinued products may not be available for warranty.

Warranty Transfer

Warranty transfer

This warranty is for the benefit of the original purchaser of the product. The warranty may be transferred to a subsequent purchaser during the 3 year warranty period. To do this, you must contact PS Audio directly to set up a transfer of warranty registration.



If you require service in North America

Warranty Service within North America

Please contact PS Audio customer support for service assistance, help with locating an authorized PS Audio repair center, help with the operation of a product, or for more information.

Obtain an RMA number

Obtaining an RMA#

In order to receive warranty service, you must first obtain a Return Merchandise Authorization Number (RMA#) prior to returning any item. Please contact PS Audio or an authorized PS Audio repair center to receive an RMA#. The RMA# must be on all returned items. If it is not clearly marked, PS Audio will return the package back to you, freight collect.

Use original packing

Packaging and Shipping

Original packaging should be used for the safe transit of your PS Audio unit to the repair center. If you do not have the original packaging, PS Audio can sell and ship replacement packaging to you. You are responsible for the cost of shipping the product to a PS Audio authorized repair center. You should insure the product for its full retail cost, in the event it gets lost or damaged in transit. PS Audio is not responsible for damage incurred during the transit of products sent to us. Shipping your product in non-PS Audio packaging may void this warranty. PS Audio reserves the right to charge you for new factory packaging to return your product after a repair.

State law

State Law

This warranty gives you specific legal rights. You may also have other rights, which vary from state to state.

If you are outside the US

International Warranty Service

PS Audio has authorized distribution in many countries of the world. In each country, the authorized importing distributor has accepted the responsibility for warranty of the products sold by that distributor. Warranty service should be obtained where the product was purchased.

Changes to Our Products

PS Audio reserves the right to modify the design of any product without obligation to purchasers of previously manufactured products, and to change the prices or specifications of any products without notice or obligation to any person.



Notes

Owner's Reference Stellar Strata MK2



Notes

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Quick Start Guide

Owner's Reference Stellar Strata MK2



At PS Audio, we're family.

Not just a family that runs in bloodlines, but in frequencies.

Because while we may not all share the same genes here, we are all related by a passion, nay, obsession with listening to the music we love at the highest, most breathtaking quality possible.

And in our minds, that makes us kin.

In fact, we believe that every nutty, hertz counting audiophile out there is part of our tribe.

That's how we've built our company over the last 50 years - with the kind of care and respect that you give to your family.