

FORTE

F 44

Remote Control

Line Level Preamplifier

WARRANTY NOTICE AND IDENTIFICATION RECORDS

Limited Ninety-Day United States Warranty

Forte` components which are purchased from an Authorized Forte Dealer in the United States and delivered for United States use at 120 Volts are covered by a Limited Ninety Day Warranty to the original end-user consumer. This Limited Warranty becomes effective automatically upon purchase of the unit.

The specific terms of this Limited Ninety Day Warranty are fully described in the warranty information section of this manual and on the Extended Limited Warranty Registration Card which is included with all Forte components sold for use in the United States.

If this Forte` component was purchased in the United States for use in the United States and an Extended Limited Warranty Registration Card was not included with it there is no assurance of its being a new, factory calibrated unit. Should this be the case please contact Forte Audio at 805 / 383-2788.

Identification Records

For future reference in the identification of your Forte` component please enter the serial number and other pertinent information regarding its purchase below:

model

serial number

date purchased

dealer

address



IMPORTANT!

**to avoid fire and electrical hazards
observe the following cautions**

**DO NOT OPEN THE AMPLIFIER THERE ARE
NO USER SERVICEABLE COMPONENTS INSIDE
REFER SERVICING TO QUALIFIED
PERSONNEL ONLY.**

**TO PREVENT FIRE OR SHOCK HAZARD DO
NOT EXPOSE THE AMPLIFIER TO RAIN
OR MOISTURE.**

**NEVER INSERT ANYTHING THROUGH AN
OPENING AND INTO THE AMPLIFIER.
DO NOT ALLOW LIQUIDS TO ENTER
THE AMPLIFIER.**

**NEVER BYPASS A FUSE OR REPLACE
A FUSE WITH ONE OF INCORRECT
ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS.**



*this symbol is intended to
alert you of the presence of
uninsulated dangerous
voltage within the unit's
enclosure that may be of
sufficient magnitude to
constitute a risk of electric
shock to persons.*



*this symbol is intended to
alert you to the presence of
important operating and
maintenance instructions in
the literature accompanying
the unit*

BEFORE YOU START

You have purchased one of the finest home audio products available. The Forte F 44 Remote Control Line Level Preamplifier sets a new standard among preamplifiers in terms of both musicality and technical specifications.

Getting the best from high-performance audio products requires some care. This is certainly true of audio products in the Forte line. For the finest sound, follow the suggestions in this manual.

There are two major sections. The first section, *INSTALLATION AND OPERATION*, explains the controls and the few simple steps needed to connect the F 44 preamplifier to the rest of your system. You may wish to have your authorized Forte dealer assist you.

The second section, *THEORY OF OPERATION*, is more technical as many listeners have an interest in ultimate performance and want to know as much about this product as possible. Although it is not necessary to read this second section for installation, these suggestions may help you obtain even better sound quality.

Finally, this manual provides a complete discussion of the product *WARRANTY INFORMATION*, including Forte's service policy and the Customer Service telephone number. We are always ready to assist you with problems at any time.

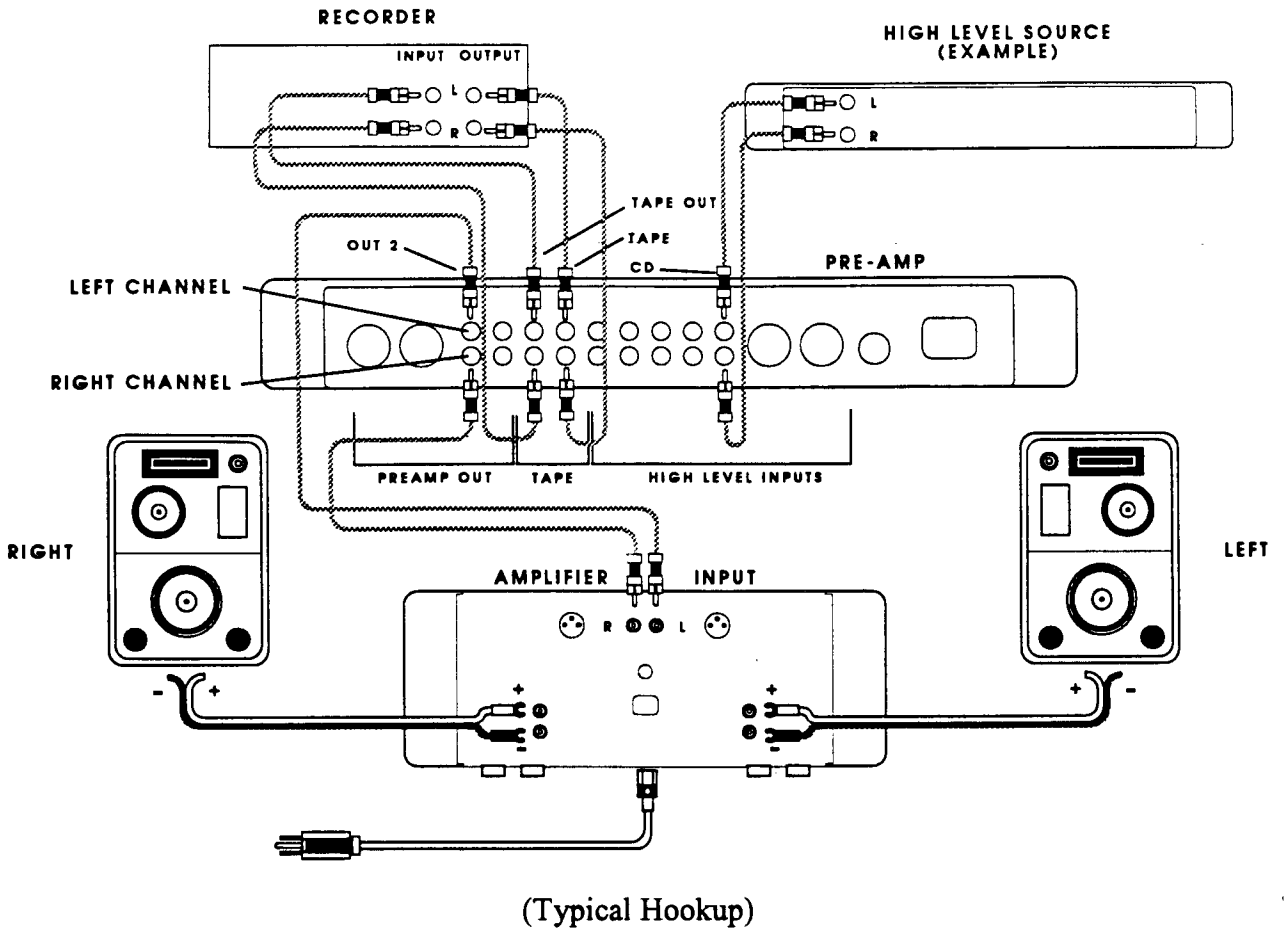
The staff at Forte would like to extend their appreciation for your selection of the Forte 44 Remote Control Line Level Preamplifier.

INSTALLATION

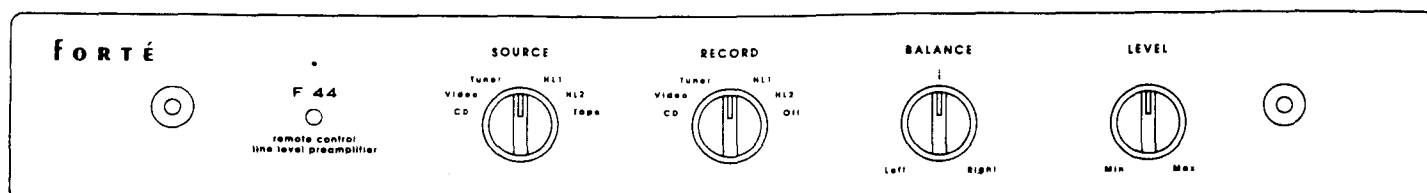
The following instructions will allow rapid installation and operation of your Forte 44 preamplifier:

1. For optimum performance, the F 44 requires at least six hours of initial warm-up. Although you may complete installation without warm-up, you will not get the best sonic performance until the warm-up time is over.
2. Turn all equipment OFF. Set the LEVEL (or volume) control to MINIMUM (turn fully counter-clockwise). These precautions will prevent a sudden blast of sound that could damage your speakers when you turn the power ON.
3. Connect all input program sources. Use the diagram below as a guide.
4. DO NOT OPERATE THE FORTE F 44 PREAMPLIFIER AT ANY OTHER VOLTAGE THAN THAT GIVEN ON THE PRODUCT. Doing so will damage the preamplifier and void your warranty.
5. Insert the AC power cord, included in the shipping carton, into the connector on the rear panel. Plug the power cord into an AC power source. Note that the LED on the front will light. Now the preamplifier is ON. There is no on/off switch, allowing the F 44 to remain ready for maximum performance.
6. Set the preamplifier's volume control at minimum. Turn on the source equipment. Generally, the power amplifier is turned on last. Select a program source and advance the preamplifier's volume control to the desired level.

Forte F 44 Owner's Manual



CONTROLS AND FEATURES



(Front Panel)

SOURCE

This control selects the program source that will be heard through your loudspeakers.

RECORD

The RECORD control selects only the program source that will appear at the preamplifier's rear panel TAPE OUT terminals. When used with the SOURCE selector, this control allows you to record a program source while listening to the same or another program source.

BALANCE

This control balances the sound between the left (rotate counter clockwise) and the right (rotate clockwise) loudspeakers.

LEVEL

The LEVEL control increases or decreases the loudness.

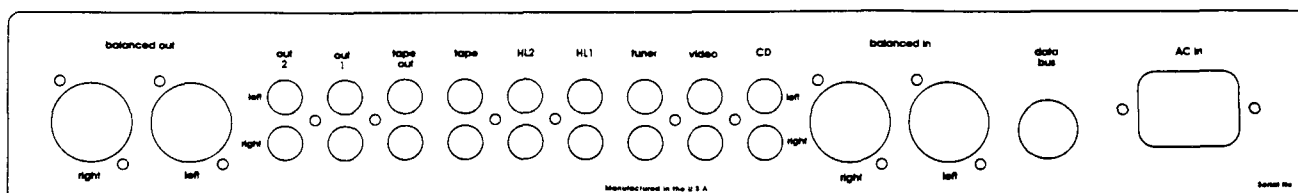
REMOTE CONTROL

The hand held remote control duplicates the most frequently used features of the F 44--the SELECTOR and LEVEL. Detailed instructions for the remote control are in SECTION II.

You must install three triple A batteries (included) before the remote functions will operate. Simply remove the remote's back cover and press the batteries into place, orienting as to Plus (+) or Minus (-) as indicated on the circuit board inside.

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When battery installation is completed properly, the red light (LED) on the F-44's front panel will flash in response to pressing a button on the hand held remote.



(Rear Panel)

BALANCED OUT, OUT 1, OUT 2

The output signal appears at all three pairs of outputs--BALANCED OUT, OUT 1, and OUT 2. These outputs are always active and may be used simultaneously.

TAPE OUT

The program source chosen with the RECORD switch is present at the TAPE OUT pair of outputs.

INPUTS

There are six pairs of inputs on the Forte 44--TAPE, HL1 (High Level 1), HL2 (High Level 2), TUNER, VIDEO, and CD.

NOTE: The input for CD may be either balanced or unbalanced. The F 44 comes set at the factory to use the unbalanced pair of inputs. See the section called JUMPER SETTINGS if you wish to change to the balanced input pair.

DATA BUS

Commands from your hand held remote are also output onto the BUS--a feature that will allow you to control other equipment with your F 44 in the future.

AC IN

After checking the voltage ratings, connect the power cord supplied with your unit at AC IN.

IF YOU HAVE PROBLEMS

If you have problems, a quick look at the following suggestions may get your F 44 preamplifier operating normally. If these suggestion do not help, contact your authorized Forte Dealer or Forte Customer Service at (916) 348-0600.

Problem--NO OUTPUT

Be sure the SOURCE switch is rotated to the desired position and that both the source and amplifier are properly connected.

The preamplifier may be muted. Press the MUTE button on the remote.

Problem--HUM OR OTHER BACKGROUND NOISE

If hum occurs, re-position your interconnects away from AC cables and power supplies. Make sure your F 44 is not too close to your amplifier or equipment with motors. In stubborn cases, a three prong to two prong converter, sometimes called a cheater plug, may help. In other cases, a cable isolator will handle ground loops.

Be sure you have not connected your amplifier to the TAPE OUT connector pair.

Problem--ONLY ONE CHANNEL WORKS

Check for faulty interconnect cables or a broken amplifier channel.

Problem--THE BALANCED INPUTS DO NOT WORK

The F 44 comes set to use the unbalanced pair of input connectors. See the JUMPER SETTINGS section to change to the balanced pair.

Problem--DO I HAVE TO CONNECT THE DATA BUS?

The DATA BUS will allow the F 44 to control other equipment via the remote control. This feature is intended for future expansion.

Problem--TURNTABLE DOES NOT WORK

Because the F 44 is a high level only preamplifier, a turntable cannot be directly plugged into the unit; turntables must first be equalized by an outside processor available from you Forte dealer.

DETAILED INSTALLATION AND OPERATING INFORMATION

CHOOSING A LOCATION

1. Keep the F 44 away from motors or power transformers.
2. Do not place the F 44 near sensitive pickups such as phono cartridges.
3. Keep the unit away from your TV set, VCR, and their cables.
4. Choose a place with good air flow and away from any type of heating element.
5. Make sure you can easily get to the back panel to connect the cables.
6. Make the cables short; do not bundle the cables.
7. Avoid using florescent lights nearby.
8. Avoid using SCR dimmers.
9. Where possible, avoid ground paths through cable shields.

MAGNETIC FIELDS

Several types of audio equipment generate magnetic fields that partially penetrate shields and cause unwanted signals in other components. They also induce currents in the shields that can cause indirect signals from ground currents. Power supply transformers and the motors used in turntables and tape decks are typical magnetic field sources. Magnetic fields do, however, decrease as the square of the distance from the magnetic source. The field 10 inches away is only one hundredth of that at 1 inch away.

The high gain and relatively low signal levels associated with preamplification make these units susceptible to interference. The F 44 should not be placed adjacent to the power sections of other equipment. A space of at least a foot should be allowed between the preamplifier and the power supply elements of other equipment.

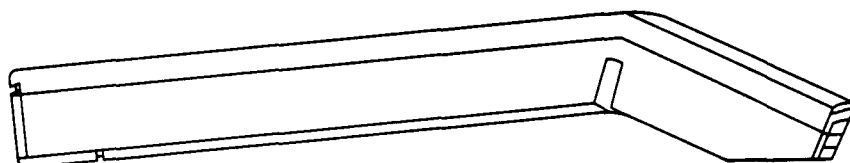
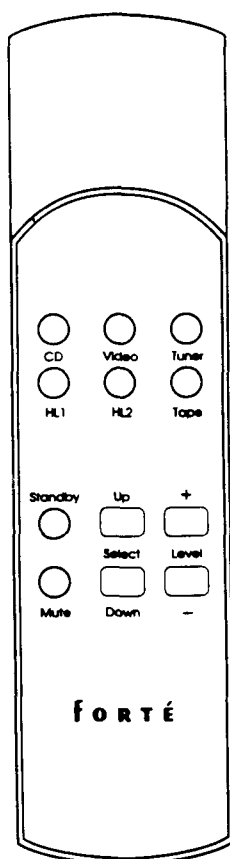
PRECAUTIONS

The following precautions will help avoid electrical hazards or possible damage.

1. The voltage setting must match the voltage available at the AC wall outlet. Check the back panel near the power cord to see if the F 44 is set to the correct voltage.
2. Do not remove the top from the F 44 while the unit is in use. Do not use the F 44 under wet or moist conditions or allow liquid into the unit.
3. Do not bypass the power supply fuse or replace it with one of different rating.
4. Never plug or unplug any cables while the power--or another component--is on. Otherwise, you can damage speakers and other parts of your system.

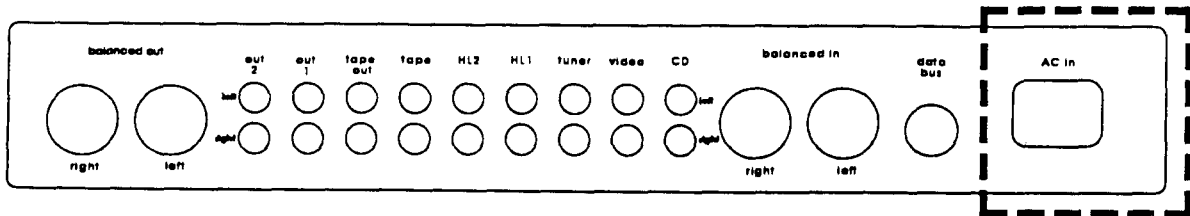
REMOTE CONTROL

Your Forte F 44 comes with a hand held remote control developed by an internationally recognized design firm and custom manufactured exclusively for Forte. Note that the two rows of three buttons each located toward the top correspond to the six SOURCE selector inputs. Alternatively, you may press the remote's UP or DOWN select button to scan through the inputs. To adjust the volume, press the + or - LEVEL button. The MUTE button turns off the signal from the preamplifier; you can restore the signal by pressing MUTE again. The STANDBY button is intended for future expansion, when the F 44 will control other devices.



(Remote Control)

REAR PANEL CONNECTIONS



(Rear Panel AC Connection)

POWER CONNECTION

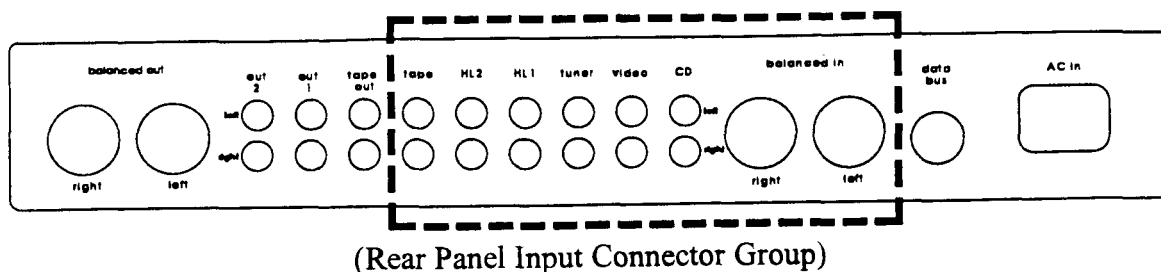
Be sure the power amplifier is turned OFF before making any power or signal connections.

The power supply is set to operate from AC power used in the country the F 44 was sold, unless supplied on special order. The power rating is set at the factory and should match the label on the rear panel beside the AC plug.

Check this label to verify that it is set for the power supplied in your location. Substantially impaired performance or severe damage may occur to both the preamplifier and the power supply if operation is attempted from an AC power source for which the supply has not been properly set. If you intend to take your F 44 out of the country where it was originally purchased, please contact Forte Customer Service for information regarding the conversion procedure for your preamplifier's power supply.

As soon as the preamplifier is connected to an AC power main's source, the F 44 is ON. The F 44 is designed to remain ON continuously, and should remain connected to a power source. Power consumption is extremely small and the life expectancy of the components is not adversely affected. Actually, their temperature will remain constant, reducing stress and assuring peak operation at all times. However, if you plan to be away from home for extended periods, unplug your system's components from the AC power source.

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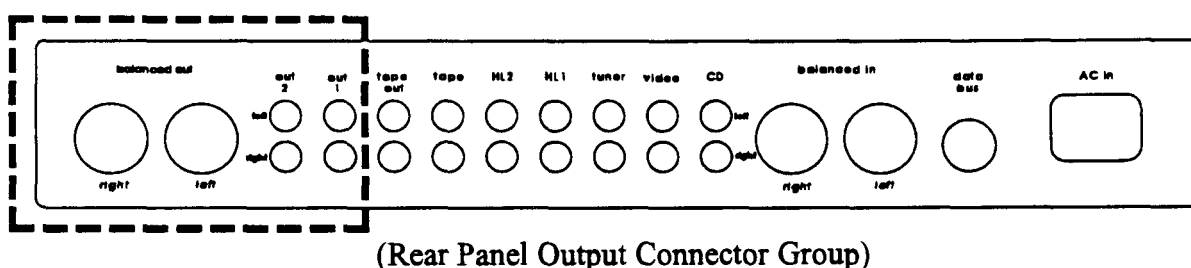
INPUT SIGNAL CONNECTIONS

Audio signal connections to the F 44 are made through the highest quality gold plated RCA type connectors.

All inputs to the F 44 accept high level (approximately 1 volt) signals from associated equipment. This high level signal level is characteristic of AM/FM tuners, compact disc players, and cassette recorders.

The titles identifying each set of connectors correspond to the positions of the SOURCE and RECORD controls on the front panel.

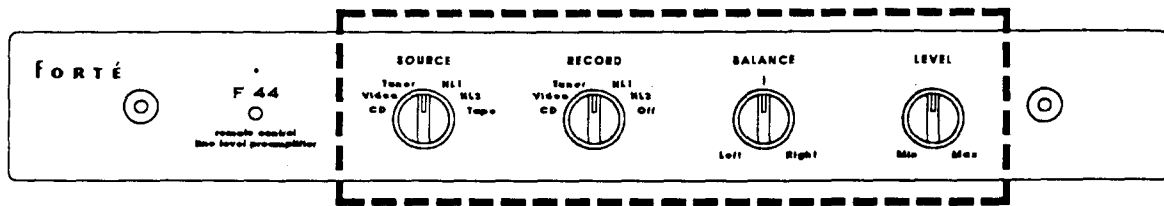
NOTE: In the TAPE CONNECTIONS group, the TAPE connector pair should receive the recorder's playback signal--the signal you want to hear. The TAPE OUT connector pair should receive the input signal--the signal you want to record.



OUTPUT CONNECTIONS

The PREAMPLIFIER OUTPUT pairs are in parallel and carry identical left or right channel signals. Connect these output pairs to the left and right channel inputs of the amplifier(s). Either the balanced or unbalanced pairs--or both--may be used. The output impedance of the F 44 will interface correctly with all known high-end amplifier models.

FRONT PANEL CONTROLS AND INDICATORS



(Front Panel Input)

SOURCE

This control selects the program source that will appear at the preamplifier outputs and will be heard through your loudspeakers. The titles correspond to the rear panel signal connectors.

In the TAPE position, the signals input to the rear panel TAPE terminals and will be played back and heard through the loudspeakers. This feature allows you to play taped material or monitor a recording in progress. The SOURCE selector has no effect on signals appearing at the TAPE OUT terminals.

RECORD

The RECORD control selects only the program source that will appear at the preamplifier's rear panel TAPE OUT terminals; it does not affect material operating at the preamplifier's OUT 1, OUT 2, or BALANCED OUT terminals. Used in conjunction with the SOURCE selector, this control allows you to record a program source while listening to the same or another program source.

IMPORTANT: If the RECORD control is moved while recording is in progress, the recording will be interrupted.

When this control is moved to the OFF position, no recording can be made. The recorder and the load impedance of the recorder inputs are removed from the circuit. Use this position to avoid any interaction with the recorder when not recording.

BALANCE

This control balances the sound panorama between the left and right loudspeakers. Rotated fully counterclockwise, only the left loudspeaker is heard; rotated fully clockwise, only the right loudspeaker. In mid position, indicated by a | mark on the face plate, both channel levels are equal and the stereo panorama is centered. However, variations in source material or listening room characteristics may require a slight adjustment to achieve an equivalent sonic effect.

The BALANCE control has no effect on signals appearing at the TAPE OUT terminals.

LEVEL

The LEVEL potentiometer controls the music's loudness; it increases or decreases the signal level appearing at the preamplifier's OUT 1, OUT 2, and BALANCED OUT terminals.

The LEVEL control has no affect on signals appearing at the TAPE OUT terminals.

JUMPER SETTINGS

Although the F 44 comes preset with the CD input set for the unbalanced pair of input terminals, the unit can be changed to the balanced pair; your Forte dealer will be glad to assist you.

You can make these changes yourself with the following guide:

1. Disconnect the F 44 from all power sources and associated equipment.
2. Carefully remove the screws and take off the top cover.
3. Reposition the two jumper blocks to the pins marked BAL.
4. Replace the cover and reconnect your equipment.
5. Reconnect the power.

The SOURCE marked CD is now set to use the balanced input pair.

TECHNICAL DISCUSSION

The Forte 44 preamplifier is an audio control center designed to process line level signals typical of CD players, DAT recorders, AM/FM tuners, and the audio sections of video tuners.

With a design approach that places simplicity of gain path foremost, the combination of new and classic circuit topologies allows the F 44 to achieve excellent linear response and sonic accuracy. A matched J-FET pair in differential cascoded configuration provides the input. The input is then fed to a cascoded voltage gain stage which in turn drives a current amp. DC coupled, the F 44 does not have capacitors or a servo.

Fully cascoded, DC coupled and biased in "Class A" operation, the F 44 uses a state-of-the-art, completely discrete gain stage with FET inputs. The power supply employs 12,000 mf of parallel distributed power supply capacitors of a special audio grade from Wima and Elna, manufacturers of world class, ultra low noise components. In addition, the F 44 features a separate active regulated power supply for each channel. A separate active regulated power supply is used for the balanced section of the preamplifier as well. The F 44 also employs a custom dual potted transformer with separate windings for analog and control circuitry.

The F 44's military-grade glass-epoxy circuit boards support computer-aided topologies characterized by minimal path interaction and a highly effective grounding design. These optimized circuit configurations achieve cross talk figures usually associated only with exotic dual-mono componentry.

Each critical component is quality selected before being hand assembled onto the circuit board. Each board or sub-assembly is quality checked before insertion into a chassis. Once completed, every unit is evaluated by a quality control technician before it undergoes three days of power-cycled "burn-in." After the "burn-in" period, the F 44 is checked again by automated test equipment.

CARE AND CLEANING INSTRUCTIONS

Even though the F 44's completely gold plated rotating switch contacts and signal connectors will not oxidize, and the switch bodies are sealed to prevent entry by dust or other pollutants, airborne contaminants still make occasional cleaning necessary. We recommend you use a cotton swab saturated with 99% isopropyl alcohol--not Rubbing alcohol which may contain undesirable additives, such as lanolin or perfumes.

Abrasive cleaners, polishes, or "dusting" sprays will damage the preamplifier's surfaces. The aluminum alloy of the face plate is an intrinsically soft metal and will not withstand careless tool use during installation.

At the factory, metal surfaces are cleaned with window cleaner and a lint free wiping tissue. White vinegar or a dilute ammonia solution may also be used. However, because the formulas for household cleaners vary or change without notice, Forte cannot assume responsibility for the results obtained with any particular product.

WARRANTY INFORMATION

Every effort has been made to insure that your Forte component represents the highest level of performance, reliability, and finish. Upon delivery to you (date of purchase), it is automatically covered by the following warranty:

LIMITED NINETY-DAY WARRANTY

Any Forte component that fails due to a manufacturing defect will be serviced by Forte without charge for parts, labor, or surface transport for a period of ninety (90) days from the date of purchase or not more than five (5) months from date of manufacture.

This limited ninety-day warranty applies to the original retail purchase only by the original consumer from an authorized Forte dealer in the United States or Canada.

The following situations are excluded from coverage:

1. Any Forte component that fails under performance testing by any facility or personnel not authorized by Forte.
2. Any Forte component not operated in accordance with the operating manual.
3. Any Forte component which has, in the sole opinion of Forte, been subject to accident, abuse, tampering, unauthorized modification, neglect, or has had its serial number removed or defaced.
4. It applies only to Forte components purchased for United States used at 120 volts.

NOTE: In your state, you may have other rights and some of the exclusions may not be applicable.

Freight charges will be billed to the consumer for a component returned under this ninety-day limited warranty and found to be operating in accordance with its applicable specifications.

EXTENDED LIMITED WARRANTY

An extended limited warranty is available for Forte components at no charge. To obtain extended limited three (3) year warranty coverage, you must fully complete the Extended Limited Warranty Registration Card and return it to Forte Audio within 15 days of purchase.

WARRANTY SERVICE PROCEDURE

If your Forte component should require service under warranty, take the unit--with proof of purchase date, the carton, and packing material--to any authorized Forte Dealer who will handle the details required for factory repair.

Direct shipment to the factory will not be accepted without a factory issued return authorization number that must clearly appear on the address label.

To obtain warranty information, including a return authorization number if required, call Forte Audio Customer Service at 805 / 383-2788.

EXPORT WARRANTY

Forte products sold outside the United States or Canada will be covered by warranty terms extended by the importing distributor which may differ from those outlined above. Warranty service, if required, is the responsibility of the importing distributor.

If a Forte product is removed from the country where the original consumer purchase was made, Forte distributors and/or dealers in any subsequent country are not obligated by the terms of this warranty. Any repairs made under the terms of this warranty will be at the discretion of the distributor or dealer.

RESERVATIONS

Because Forte is constantly researching new technologies, we reserve the option to incorporate design refinements without notice or obligation. Thus, a particular Forte product may slightly differ from its illustration or electrical description.

Threshold Corporation
310 Cortez Circle
Camarillo CA 93012 Fax 805 / 383-2794
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TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Forte F 44
Remote Control Line Level Preamplifier

Description:

Dual channel, non-inverting FET audio preamplifier providing control facilities for six line level inputs with record/monitor facilities for an associated recorder. Two parallel sets of preamplifier outputs are provided. Front panel controls consist of: SOURCE, RECORD, BALANCE, and LEVEL.

Input impedance:	12,000 Ohms unbalanced 4,400 Ohms balanced
Output impedance:	100 Ohms unbalanced 200 Ohms balanced
Bandwidth response:	DC to -1 dB @ 200,000 Hz.
Distortion:	0.005% DC - 20,000 Hz @ 3 volts out, 10k Ohm load
Noise:	<-100 dB referenced to 0.5 volt input
Crosstalk:	-95 dB @ 1 kHz, -85 dB @ 20 kHz LEVEL control full clockwise, 25k Ohm source
Power:	120 Volts AC/60 Hz @ .05 Amps
Dimensions:	17"W x 2.5"H x 9.5"D
Weight:	5 lbs.

Printed in the USA

FORTE AUDIO

Threshold Corporation

310 Cortez Circle
Camarillo
CA 93012

Manufacturers of Threshold, Forte, PS Audio and Audiostatic