

# McIntosh®

C2800 VACUUM TUBE PREAMPLIFIER



SINCE 1949

Sound is not just the DNA of McIntosh,  
it is the heartbeat that resonates within every product we bring to life,  
connecting music lovers to the soul-stirring power of sound.

Join us on a journey to elevate your sound experience.





## A MASTERPIECE OF ENGINEERING

At the heart of the C2800 lies methodically designed vacuum tube circuitry, leveraging the latest designs to all but eliminate noise and distortion, the C2800 reduces them to minuscule levels.

Its four vacuum tubes, or valves, deliver a listening experience that transcends expectations.

The C2800 Vacuum Tube Preamplifier is a masterpiece of audio passion and engineering precision. Crafted for discerning audiophiles and music enthusiasts alike, performance has been woven into the very fabric of this audio treasure.

The C2800 has proudly earned the McIntosh name.



## INPUTS IN ABUNDANCE

With its 9 analog and 7 digital inputs (16 in total), the C2800 will become the nucleus of your home audio system. There are 3 balanced and 4 unbalanced analog inputs, plus 2 phono inputs that can be individually configured for either Moving Coil or Moving Magnet phono cartridges to connect your turntable(s).

Both phono inputs feature adjustable Gain in 6dB steps from 40dB to 64dB as well as RIAA equalization.

Our DA2 Digital Audio Module houses the 7 digital inputs and is powered by an audiophile-grade Quad Balanced, 8-channel, 32-bit Digital-to-Analog Converter (DAC). The DA2 offers a variety of inputs, including an audio-only HDMI Audio

Return Channel (ARC)<sup>1</sup> input that will give your TV sound new life when played through your home stereo system. Multi-channel audio formats from Dolby<sup>®</sup> and DTS<sup>®</sup> will be expertly converted to two-channel audio for an enthralling listening experience.



The DA2 has 6 other digital inputs: 2 coaxial, 2 optical, 1 USB, and 1 MCT. The coax and optical inputs decode digital music up to 24-bit/192kHz for high resolution audio playback, while the USB input supports DSD512 and DXD 384kHz.

To get the best sound quality from the high definition audio on your SACD collection, the MCT input offers a secure, custom DSD connection when paired with our MCT series of SACD/CD Transports.

The entire DA2 module is upgradeable and could be replaced by a future module should new digital technologies become available.



## INNOVATIVE OUTPUTS FOR PERSONALIZED LISTENING

Offering advanced connection flexibility, there are 3 stereo sets of variable balanced and unbalanced outputs to connect the C2800 to your power amp(s). All sets of outputs can be active simultaneously, and each can send the audio signal from the source component to 3 separate audio systems.

Bi-amping a single speaker system can be accomplished using the Main output and Output 1

and their built-in adjustable High Pass and Low Pass filters. In this configuration, the High Pass outputs could be connected to a vacuum tube amplifier, and the Low Pass outputs could be connected to a solid-state amplifier. Then the adjustable crossover would let you optimize the performance of your amplifier(s) to your speaker's specifications and to your listening preferences.

Output 1 offers trim level control, which allows two different amplifiers to be volume balanced when bi-amping.

Additionally, Output 2 can be configured as either mono or stereo to allow it to send audio signal to a stereo audio system in another room, to a single mono subwoofer, or to 2 separate stereo subwoofers.<sup>2</sup>



## RETURN OF THE PROCESSOR LOOP

The C2800 features the return of the Processor Loop, something not available on the last few generations of McIntosh preamplifiers.

The Processor Loop allows you to insert an external signal processor (such as our MQ112 Environmental Equalizer or MEN220 Room Correction System), dynamic range expanders, or other devices without having to place it between the

preamplifier and power amplifier(s). This is usually more convenient and can allow for better performance.

The Processor Loop is also the perfect place to connect an analog tape recorder, a high-end cassette deck, or a 3-head reel deck that allows you to record from a source component and hear the recording just seconds later as well as monitor.



McIntosh Connect app

## NETWORK CONNECTED FOR CONTROL AND UPDATES

The C2800 can be connected to your network, unlocking control options offered through our complimentary Connect app. Designed for both Android and Apple devices, the this app can be used to control key functions of the C2800 including Volume control as well as Input and Output selection.



Select McIntosh source components<sup>3</sup> that have a data cable connected to the C2800 will be partially controllable via the app's Source Control feature. With Source Control, users will be able to control many of the source unit's functions from the app, such as changing radio stations on a tuner, or playing a disc in a CD Player. Source Control will bring added convenience to setups that have a

secondary system connected to one of the C2800's outputs, such as an outdoor system where you will no longer be forced to go inside to control its basic functionality.

When connected to your network, the C2800 will also be able to receive periodic firmware updates. These firmware releases can add new features or provide important performance updates.





ELEVATE  
YOUR AUDITORY  
JOURNEY

All this cutting-edge audio technology resides within the iconic McIntosh design – a black glass front panel adorned with blue meters, rotary knobs, and an illuminated logo.

The polished stainless steel chassis adds a touch of elegance, making it a perfect companion for amplifiers, CD players, turntables, and more.

With the C2800, experience the warmth and richness that only vacuum tubes can offer, elevating your listening experience to new heights.

Contact your local dealer and embark on an audio adventure like never before.



## ADDITIONAL PERFORMANCE FEATURES

- Electronic bass and treble circuitry allows for volume level adjustments of low and high frequencies in precise 1dB steps. The C2800 remembers your tone control settings or bypass setting for each input.
- High Drive Headphone Amplifier with Headphone Crossfeed Director (HXD<sup>®</sup>) technology brings an added dimension to headphone listening.
- Home Theater PassThru for seamless integration into your home theater system.
- Roon Tested, not Roon Ready.
- Power Control lets you easily turn other connected McIntosh components on/off.
- Data Ports can send remote control commands to connected source components.
- Electromagnetic Input Switching for reliable, noiseless, and distortion-free switching.
- Level Trim Adjustment for matching analog input levels to prevent abrupt changes in volume levels.
- Precision balanced, attenuator system for accurate volume control with 0.1dB accuracy.
- Fully regulated power supplies and a special R-core power transformer for stable, noise-free operation.
- Eco-friendly Power Management System that will turn the unit off after 30 minutes of inactivity (can be disabled).

## FOOTNOTES

1. The HDMI ARC input will only play audio from a compatible TV. It will not pass video to or from a TV, or play audio from any non-TV source.

2. Only powered subwoofers will work with this preamplifier.

3. Source components compatible with Source Control: MCD201, MCD205, MCD301, MCD350, MCD500, MCD550, MCD600, MCD751, MCD1000,

MCD1100, MCD7009, MCD7010, MCD12000, MCT80, MCT450, MCT500, MR85, MR87, MR88, MR89, MR7084, MVP831, MVP841, MVP851, MVP861, MVP871, MVP881, MVP891, and MVP901.

The terms HDMI, HDMI High-Definition Multimedia Interface, and the HDMI Logo are trademarks or registered trademarks of HDMI Licensing Administrator, Inc.

Dolby is a registered trademark of Dolby Laboratories.

DTS, DTS-HD, the Symbol, & DTS or DTS-HD and the Symbol together are registered trademarks of DTS, Inc. © DTS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.



## C 2 8 0 0 S P E C S

NOTE:  
ALL MEASUREMENTS  
WITH EQ FILTERS AND  
OUTPUT FILTERS  
BYPASSED.

### Frequency Response

+0, -0.5dB from 20Hz to 20,000Hz

### Total Harmonic Distortion

0.08% from 20Hz to 20,000Hz

### Rated Output

2.5V Unbalanced  
5V Balanced (Main)  
450mV (Fixed Output)

### Maximum Voltage Output

8V RMS Unbalanced  
16V RMS Balanced

### Sensitivity (for rated output)

High Level  
450mV Unbalanced  
900mV Balanced  
Phono MM, 4.5mV  
Phono MC, 0.45mV

### Signal To Noise Ratio (A-Weighted)

High Level - 100dB  
(Below rated output)  
MM Phono - 82dB  
(Below 5mV input)  
MC Phono - 80dB  
(Below 0.5mV input)

### Input Impedance

High Level  
22K ohms Unbalanced  
44k ohms Balanced  
Phono 1, 2 (MM and MC): 25, 50,  
100, 200, 400, 1k or 47k ohms 50  
to 400pF in 50pF steps

### Maximum Input Signal

High Level  
5V Unbalanced  
10V Balanced  
Phono MM, 80mV  
Phono MC, 8mV

### Voltage Gain

High Level to Fixed Output: 0dB  
High Level to Main Output: 15dB  
Phono 1, 2 (MM and MC) Selectable  
40dB, 46dB, 52dB, 58dB, or 64dB

### Output Impedance

100 ohms Unbalanced  
200 ohms Balanced

### Headphone Load Impedance

100 ohms to 600 ohms

### Digital Input Sample Rates

Coaxial: PCM - 16Bit, 24Bit - 44.1kHz  
to 192kHz  
Optical: PCM - 16Bit, 24Bit - 44.1kHz  
to 192kHz  
USB: PCM - 16Bit, 24Bit, 32Bit -  
44.1kHz to 384kHz  
MCT: PCM, SACD, -16Bit, 24Bit -  
44.1kHz to 192kHz / DXD -  
DXD352.8kHz, DXD384kHz DSD -  
DSD64, DSD128, DSD256, DSD512  
HDMI: PCM 24bit, 44.1kHz - 192kHz  
DTS, Dolby Digital

### Tube Complement

4 Tubes: 3-12AX7A and 1-12AT7

### Power Control and Trigger Output

12VDC, 25mA

### Power Requirements

AC Voltages: 100, 110, 120, 220, 230,  
240 Volts, 50/60Hz at 75 watts.  
Standby Power, less than 0.5 watts

### Overall Dimensions

Width is 17 1/2 inches (44.4cm)  
Height is 7 5/8 inches (19.4cm)  
Depth is 16.5 inches (41.9cm)

### Weight

28 pounds (12.5 kg) net, 43.5 pounds  
(19.7 kg) in shipping carton

### Shipping Carton Dimensions

Width is 27 inches (68.6cm)  
Height is 12 inches (30.5cm)  
Depth is 25 inches (63.5cm)

# McIntosh®

MADE OF SOUND™



## About McIntosh

McIntosh Laboratory, Inc. is the premier American designer and manufacturer of high-fidelity audio equipment.

Founded in 1949, McIntosh products are handcrafted by experts passionate about creating an unmatched sonic experience. From its factory in Binghamton, New York to all corners of the world, the McIntosh blue meters have become a symbol of quality audio and continue to own the premiere position in home audio entertainment

for discerning listeners. Powering events like President Lyndon Johnson's inauguration speech, world-renowned concert systems like Woodstock, the Grateful Dead's Wall of Sound and Despacio, McIntosh has shaped some of the most important moments in music and culture. McIntosh gives music enthusiasts the power to create their ultimate sound experience.

## For the Consumer's Protection

In order to ensure the highest level of customer satisfaction, new McIntosh products may only be purchased from an Authorized McIntosh Dealer; and, with certain limited exceptions may only be purchased over-the-counter or delivered and installed by the Authorized McIntosh Dealer. McIntosh does not warrant, in any way, products that are purchased from anyone who is not an Authorized McIntosh Dealer, or that have had their serial numbers altered or defaced.

## Learn More

Visit [mcintoshlabs.com](http://mcintoshlabs.com)



DISCOVER C2800