Conservative claims and specifications are traditional at McIntosh. "Rated with honesty and conservatism ..."¹ "impressive performance figures ..."² "Highest quality of components and construction ..."³ are the words used by independent experts when writing of McIntosh. To assure you of highest performance every advertised claim is individually analyzed and verified by engineers using the most sophisticated and sensitive test instrument. Every unit is individually tested using internationally recognized test procedures. In assure you of greatest reliability every component part is carefully tested and evaluated by engineers before it is designed in a McIntosh.

Careful, diligent research, meaningful design considerations and meticulous manufacturing produces the highest quality equipment.

1. High Fidelity
2. 3. Audio

The McIntosh C 26 is the finest expression of

PERFORMANCE - RELIABILITY * FLEXIBILITY * BEAUTY
PERFORMANCE, UNLIMITED PERFORMANCE IS A DESIGN REQUIREMENT AT McINTOSH

Low distortion is a requirement for high performance in a preamplifier. A typical waveform analysis of the C 26 at 2.5 volts output is a 99.95% perfect reproduction of the input wave, 20 Hz through 20,000 Hz!

Performance is important to your listening expectations. With a McIntosh you are assured of highest performance because McIntosh guarantees performance. Your C 26 must be capable of meeting its advertised specifications or your purchase price will be refunded. McIntosh promises performance and delivers performance.

RELIABILITY IS A DESIGN REQUIREMENT AT McINTOSH

Endless hours are invested by our engineers carefully and thoroughly testing and retesting individual component parts. These hours are required to provide you with the highest degree of reliability that modern design and manufacturing can produce. Only because of this exhaustive program can McIntosh guarantee you complete freedom from service costs for the first THREE YEARS that you own your C 26.

LONG LIFE IS A DESIGN REQUIREMENT AT McINTOSH

Exhaustive testing and evaluation of each component part makes your C 26 the best value. As an example— the front panel is constructed of materials that are nearly indestructible! The combination of anodized aluminum and glass are impervious to attacks by acids and oils. The subtle beauty of the C 26 will remain unblemished year, after year, after year. This attention to detail increases the value of a McIntosh at trade in time.
FLEXIBILITY IS A DESIGN REQUIREMENT
AT McIntosh

Careful attention to customer needs, attention
to changes in customer use, and constant exper-
imentation in new methods makes the McIntosh
C 26 preamplifier the most responsive to cus-
tomer needs.

Control of remote loudspeaker and main sys-
tem loudspeakers from the preamplifier is a
McIntosh innovation.

With the C 26 you can record on one or two
tape recorders, monitor either one or record
from one tape recorder to another!

A front panel headphone jack for low impedance
headphones allows the enjoyment of programs
in total privacy.

Stepped tone controls, separate in each channel
permits the accurate repeatability of settings for
any program source. The McIntosh developed
concentric switches give maximum flexibility
in each channel without unnecessary clutter and
complication.

Continuously variable loudness compensation
allows the exact amount of compensation to suit
your taste at any loudness level.

Add high frequency and low frequency filters,
a six-position input selector, seven-position mode
selector, center channel level control, phase
control and a balance control that does not affect
the total loudness in the listening room and you
have the useful flexibility McIntosh has de-
signed in the C 26.

Added to these values is the complete protection
from all service cost for three full years and
you know why the McIntosh C 26 is the best
value in a solid state preamplifier, anywhere. Only
McIntosh offers a free THREE YEAR SERV-
ICE CONTRACT with each piece of equipment!
You can’t pay us to service your C 26 for the first
three years you own it. Both parts and labor are
included in the contract.
OUR PROMISE TO YOU:

Your McIntosh C 26 must be capable of performance as advertised or you will get a refund of your purchase price. No other manufacturer gives you this promise.

ELECTRICAL SPECIFICATIONS

FREQUENCY RESPONSE: +0 -0.5 dB 20 Hz to 20,000 Hz
DISTORTION: Less than 0.1% at 2.5 volts output, 20 Hz to 20,000 Hz
INPUT SENSITIVITY AND IMPEDANCE PHONO 1 and PHONO 2—2 millivolts at 47,000 ohms for 2.5 volts output.
AUX, TAPE 1, TAPE 2, TUNER—25 volts at 250,000 ohms for 2.5 volts output.
HUM AND NOISE PHONO 1 and PHONO 2—74 dB below 10 millivolt input, equivalent to less than 2 microvolts at the input terminals.
AUX, TAPE 1, TAPE 2, TUNER—85 dB below rated output.
OUTPUT MAIN—2.5 volts with rated Input. Up to 10 volts can be developed without distortion.
TAPE—2.5 volts with rated input. PHONO input signal of 10 millivolts produces 1.2 volts output.
CENTER CHANNEL (L + R)—2.5 volts. A level control adjusts the CENTER CHANNEL output from -6 dB to +6 dB with respect to MAIN output.
OUTPUT IMPEDANCE: MAIN—2,000 ohms, designed to operate into 47,000 ohms or more.
TAPE OUTPUT—About 200 ohms, designed to operate into 47,000 ohms or more.
CENTER CHANNEL (L + R)—About 1,200 ohms, designed to operate into 47,000 ohms or more.

FACILITIES

BASS CONTROLS: 11 position concentric switches, separate controls for each channel, —20 dB to +16 dB at 20 Hz.
TREBLE CONTROLS: 11 position concentric switches, separate controls for each channel, ±20 dB at 20,000 Hz.
LOUDNESS: Flat response, or continuously variable loudness equalization as volume level is reduced.
BALANCE: When program material is out of balance, rotation of this control returns the program to natural balance.

VOLUME CONTROL: Precision "tracked" at all listening levels for true stereo balance. The AC ON/OFF switch is coupled with the volume control.
TAPE MONITOR SWITCH: Two switches, two position mechanically interlocked.
AC OUTLETS:
1 unswitched (Red), 4 switched
LF FILTER: Flat, or roll-off below 50 Hz, 6 dB per octave, down 12 dB at 20 Hz
HF FILTER: Flat, or roll-off above 5kHz, 6 dB per octave, down 12 dB at 20,000 Hz
SPEAKER SWITCH: MAIN—Switch the MAIN Loudspeaker ON or OFF without affecting the performance of REMOTE speakers.
REMOTE—Switch the REMOTE loudspeaker ON or OFF without affecting the performance of the MAIN speakers.
INPUT SELECTOR: 6 positions AUX (auxiliary or spare), TAPE 2, TAPE 1, TUNER, PHONO 1, and PHONO 2.
MODE SELECTOR: 7 positions: LEFT only to both speakers, RIGHT only to both speakers, STEREO REVERSE, STEREO, MONO, MONO to Left speaker only, MONO to Right speaker only.
HEADPHONES: For low impedance stereo headphones.

SECONDARY CONTROLS

CENTER CHANNEL LEVEL Top of chassis control to adjust the output level of the left plus right program material at the CENTER CHANNEL output on the back panel.
PHASE CONTROL: Electronically reverse phase in the left channel to correct "out of phase" program sources.
TRANSISTOR COMPLIMENT: 10 Silicon-planar transistors, 3 diodes
POWER REQUIREMENT: 117/125 volts, 50/60 Hz, 12 watts
MOUNTING: McIntosh developed professional PAN-LOC

MECHANICAL SPECIFICATIONS

SIZE: Front panel—16 inches wide by 5 7/16 inches high; Chassis—15 inches wide by 5 inches high by 13 inches deep, including PAN-LOC shelf and back panel connectors; Knob Clearance—1 ½ inches in front of mounting panel
WEIGHT: 18 pounds net, 28 pounds in shipping carton
FINISH: Front Panel—Anodized gold and black with special gold/teal panel nomenclature illumination
CHASSIS: Chrome and black