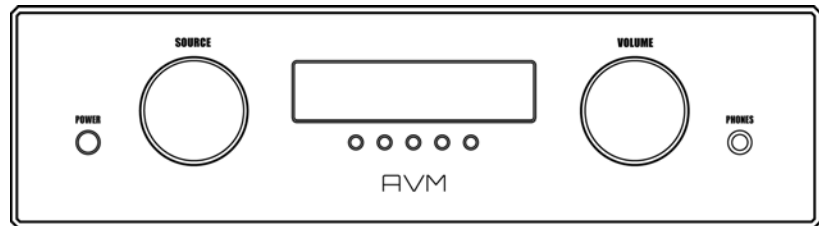


# OVATION A 6.3 / 8.3

## Operating Instructions



**Declaration of conformity (for EC only)**

We herewith confirm, that the unit to which this manual belongs, fulfills the EC rules necessary to obtain the sign



the necessary measurements were taken with positive results.

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## **1 Getting started**

- 1.1 What's in the box? ... 1
- 1.2 Packaging instructions ... 1
- 1.3 Control and operating elements ... 1
- 1.4 Installation and cooling ... 4
- 1.5 Connection to mains ... 5
- 1.6 Connecting signal sources ... 5
- 1.7 Connecting loudspeakers ... 6
- 1.8 Trigger Outputs ... 6
- 1.9 Connecting headphones ... 7
- 1.10 External IR remote control input ... 7

## **2 Basic operation**

- 2.1 First operation / self test ... 9
- 2.2 Switching on / stand by ... 9
- 2.3 Selecting a signal source ... 10
- 2.4 Volume ... 10
- 2.5 Input sensitivity (Level Setting) ... 11
- 2.6 Digital inputs ... 12
- 2.7 USB B input ... 13
- 2.8 Bluetooth ... 14

## **3 Advanced Settings**

- 3.1 Global Settings ... 18
- 3.2 Analog Line Settings (XLR/RCA) ... 21
- 3.3 AUTO-ON Function ... 21
- 3.4 Personal Setup ... 21
- 3.5 Set auto standby ... 24
- 3.6 Reset (factory default settings) ... 24
- 3.7 RC 3 remote control ... 25

## **4 Appendix**

- 4.1 Cleaning ... 27
- 4.2 Conditions of warranty (EC only) ... 27

## Table of Contents

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# 1. Getting started

## 1.1 What's in the box?

- OVATION A 6.3 / A 8.3 integrated amplifier
- Power cord (in some countries)
- RC 3 remote control

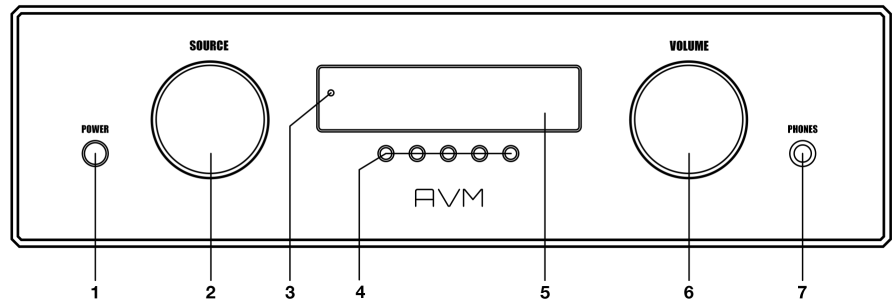
## 1.2 Packaging instructions

The A 6.3 / 8.3 comes in a rugged and sturdy OVATION flight case. Please note that the bottom of the flight case is not symmetrical. If you need to put the unit into the flight case again, please ensure that the unit and the flight case is correctly positioned.

## 1.3 Control and operating elements

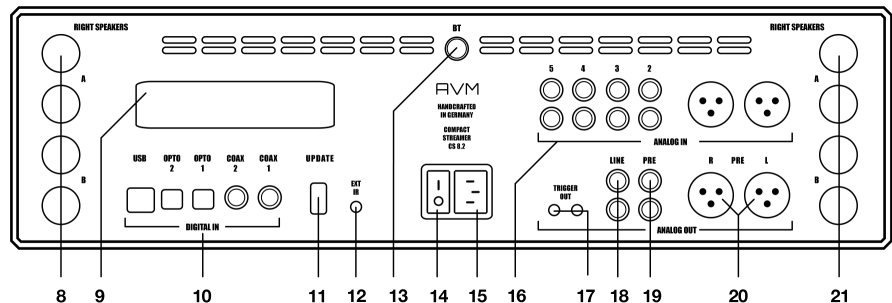
The numbers in the drawings below mark the control elements. They refer to the numbers in the text, where the operation of the unit is described.

**Fig. 1. Front**



1. Power button (on/off)
2. Source selector
3. Control LED
4. Menu keys ( a,b,c,d,e)
5. Display
6. Volume control
7. Headphone output

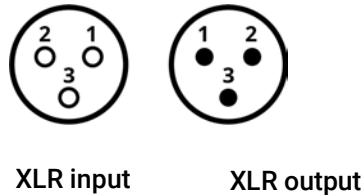
**Fig. 2. Real panel**



8. Speaker terminals RIGHT
9. Module bay
10. Digital inputs (USB B, OPT, COAX)
11. Configuration port (Firmware)
12. Connector for external IR sensor
13. Bluetooth antenna connector
14. Mains switch
15. Mains connector
16. Analog inputs (RCA/CINCH, XLR)
17. Trigger outputs
18. LINE OUT (Recording Output RCA/CINCH)
19. PRE OUT (Preamp Output RCA/CINCH)
20. PRE OUT (Preamp Output XLR)
21. Speaker terminals LEFT

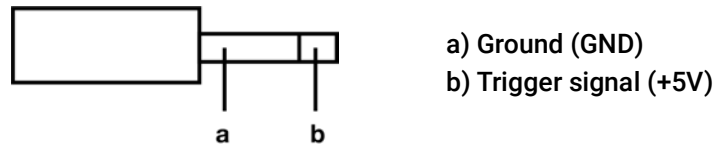
### 1.3.1 Pin assignments

**Abb. 3. Assignment of XLR connectors**

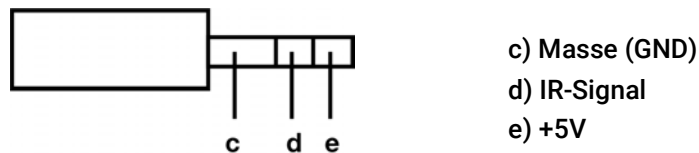


- XLR input                      XLR output
- 1) Ground (GND)
  - 2) Non-inverting In/Output POS (+)
  - 3) Inverting In/Output NEG (-)

**Abb. 4. Pin assignment of 3,5 mm jack output for external trigger signals (17)**



**Fig. 5. Pin assignment of 3,5 mm jack input for external infrared receiver (12)**



## 1.4 Installation and cooling

The unit can become hot depending on demanded output power or environmental temperature. Therefore, it is important, that the cooling air can flow unhindered into the air inlet in the bottom and flow out through the holes in the rear panel. Direct exposure to sunlight is not recommended because this will heat up the unit.



### 1.5 Connection to mains

Connect the unit to the mains outlet (15) by using the power cord which is (in some countries) delivered together with the unit. Make sure that mains voltage is according to the value printed on the rear panel of the amp (near mains connector).

#### CAUTION

**Keep the unit switched off until all audio connections are made.**

### 1.6 Connecting signal sources

You can connect up to five analog and five digital line sources to your A 6.3 / 8.3. Connect the outputs of your signal sources to the respective inputs of the A 6.3 / 8.3 on the rear side of the unit (10, 16).

**ANALOG SOURCES (16):** The upper row of the analog RCA/ Cinch or XLR connectors is for left channels (white), the lower row is for right channels.

**DIGITALQUELLEN (10):** The COAX inputs may be connected via 75 ohm cables, the optical inputs via optical fibers to respective source devices.

**The USB Port (10)** is intended for a connection to your PC or MAC. Please note this may require a suitable driver to be installed on your computer. You can download respective audio drivers from the AVM website via **[avm.audio/downloads](http://avm.audio/downloads)**

### 1.7 Connecting loudspeakers

The loudspeaker outputs A und B (8, 21) can be individually activated and deactivated via the menu (see **"Set speakers out A/B" on page 20**).

Use only good quality cables of sufficient cross section to connect your speakers. In case of doubt, please refer to your specialist dealer. Furthermore, make sure the polarity is correct when connecting your speakers. The red marked output jacks must be connected to the red marked speaker terminals. Right and left channel must have the same polarity of the speakers.

#### PLEASE NOTE

**If you are using banana plugs, tighten the outer parts of the jacks before inserting them (clockwise) to avoid disturbing rattling noises during operation. If you use bare cable ends or cable lugs, turn the outer parts of the sockets to the left as far as possible, insert the stripped cable ends or cable lugs from below into the openings provided in the speaker terminals and then tighten the outer parts of the sockets by turning them clockwise.**

### 1.8 Trigger Outputs

If an optionally connected power amplifier with a trigger input is used in conjunction with your A 6.3 / 8.3, you may connect the switching signal (**TRIGGER OUT**) to one of the two trigger outputs (17). This allows additional power amplifiers or subwoofers to be comfortably switched on remotely. The pinning

of the trigger outputs is described in section **1.3.1 Pin assignments**.

### 1.8.1 AIR Trigger (AVM Intelligent Remote)

If you are using a current AVM model of the MA or SA series as a separate power amplifier, there is no need for an additional trigger cable: Your separate AVM power amplifier can be comfortably switched on and off by the A 6.3 / A 8.3 via a connected audio cable (**PRE XLR** and **PRE CINCH**) without any sound interference.

## 1.9 Connecting headphones

Plug a 6.35 mm headphone connector to the headphone jack (7). The loudspeaker (8, 21) and preamp outputs (19,20) will mute automatically while a headphone is plugged in.

### 1.10 External IR remote control input

If your A 6.3 / A 8.3 is in a position that is not directly visible from the listening position, the RC 3 infrared remote control may not work properly. In this case, you can connect an external IR receiver to the **EXT IR** socket (12), ensuring unrestricted remote operability of your A 6.3 / A 8.3. Please refer to your dealer for suitable IR receiver components.



## 2. Basic operation

### 2.1 First operation / self test

When switching on for the first time, a so-called self-test will be performed if the device had previously been completely disconnected from the power supply or switched off via the mains switch (14). The device checks the configuration and functionality of the built-in components and then goes into stand-by mode (if no **AUTO-ON** function is enabled). This process may take a few seconds to complete.

### 2.2 Switching on / stand by

Using the power button (1) you can switch between on (operate) and stand by. When switched on, the display (5) lights up and the LED (3) is off. This LED only lights up if the mains plug is connected with the incorrect polarity and remains dark if the polarity is correct.

#### 2.2.1 Tube warmup (A 8.3)

Due to the warm-up phase of the integrated tube stage, the switch-on process of the A 6.3 / 8.3 takes about 30 seconds longer. Please wait until the entire reading on the display **wai-**

**ting for tube warmup** changes completely from lower to upper case and then goes out. The device is now ready for use.

### CAUTION

**In standby mode, the device is not completely disconnected from the mains. To disconnect completely, press the power switch (14) on the back of the unit or unplug the power cord from the mains connector (15).**

## 2.3 Selecting a signal source

A desired input signal can be selected with the source selector (2) on the front panel. You can choose from five analog and five digital inputs, as well as a Bluetooth input. The current source is shown on the display (5).

## 2.4 Volume

To adjust the volume, turn the volume control (6). A resulting volume change depends on the speed of rotation. Slow turning causes a level change in steps of 0.5 dB, fast turning changes the volume in larger steps. The current setting is shown on the display (5) numerically (0 to 99.5).

### PLEASE NOTE

**If a digital source is selected without a compatible signal incoming, the functionality of the volume control (6) and the**

**remote control is deactivated for safety reasons (e.g. accidentally turning up the volume to maximum etc.).**

## 2.5 Input sensitivity (Level Setting)

The level of different signal sources often varies by several dBs resulting in unpleasant increases/decreases in volume when switching between inputs. This may be avoided by adjusting the input sensitivity of respecting sources.

Use the source selector (2) to choose an analog or digital input or **BLUETOOTH** and set the volume (6) to a convenient level. If you now notice an unpleasant increase or decrease in volume after switching to another local input by turning the source selector (2), press the menu button **MENU** under the display for more than two seconds. Now you can switch between different sources with the source selector (2) and adjust the levels of your analog and digital sources including **BLUETOOTH** by turning the volume knob (6). The sensitivity of each input can be adjusted between -9.5 dB and + 10.0 dB. Pressing the menu button **EXIT LVL** under the display will save your settings and bring the unit back to normal operating mode.

### 2.5.1 Level adjustment of digital inputs

To adjust the input sensitivity of a digital input, a digital signal must be connected to the respective input. If you select a digital input that has no valid signal, **NO DIG SIGNAL** or **NO USB PLUGGED** is shown on the display (5) and the **MENU** button under the display leading to the sensitivity setting menu (see section above) is deactivated.

### **i** NOTE

Infrared remote controls such as the RC 3 remote control are disabled while the input sensitivity menu is active.

## 2.6 Digital inputs

The digital inputs allow additional customizations beyond the normal settings. These are described below.

### 2.6.1 Samplerate and filter settings

By pressing the **<CONV>** key once or several times or, with **USB <FILTER>** (4), you can choose between available sample rates and filter settings for the selected source. The currently set filter setting (**SMOOTH** / **STEEP**) and sample rate are displayed at the top left of the display (44.1, 48, 88.2, 96, 176.4, 192, 352, 384 kHz). **NAT** stands for **native** and means the applied sample rate of the signal is directly processed and converted. **CNV** stands for **conversion** and means the sample rate is upsampled or downsampled.

### **i** PLEASE NOTE

Please note that only the settings **NATIVE STEEP** and **NATIVE SMOOTH** are available if **USB** is selected.

The digital filter settings **SMOOTH** and **STEEP** can be set according to your personal preference. Technically speaking, the setting **STEEP** indicates a steep filter characteristic at the



upper end of the frequency band, leading both to a flat amplitude frequency response and a rather strong phase rotation. **SMOOTH** however leads to a less steep filter characteristic by showing a slightly earlier attenuation of the amplitude frequency response with almost no phase rotation.

The selected filter setting only applies to the current input and remains stored even after the device has been switched off. It can be changed at any time by pressing the <**CONV**> / **FILTER** buttons (4) again.



### PLEASE NOTE

**Please note you need to select the HI RES mode in order to play back DSD64 or DSD128 files.**

## 2.7 USB B input

If a digital signal from a computer (PC or Mac) is connected to the **USB B** digital input (10), you can choose between two different modes (**LO RES** or **HI RES**) by pressing the **RES** menu buttons (4).

The currently selected resolution is shown to the left of the **VOLUME** on the display (5).

**LO RES** can be used to play back a digital input signal with a sample rate of up to 96kHz without the need for an additional audio driver on your Windows PC or Mac.

**HI RES** can be used to play back a digital input signal with a sample rate of up to 384kHz/24Bit (PCM) without the need to install an audio driver on your Mac. If you are using a Win-

dows PC you will need to install an additional driver which is available for download on the respective product page at **[www.avm.audio/downloads](http://www.avm.audio/downloads)**.

## 2.8 Bluetooth

### 2.8.1 Activation

The Bluetooth input may be selected and activated with the source selector (2) on the front panel or via the RC 3 remote control.

### 2.8.2 Pairing a Bluetooth device

When the Bluetooth input is selected, **ON AIR** is shown in the lower left part of the display (5). This indicates that the A 6.3 / 8.3 is ready to be paired with a Bluetooth device such as a tablet, or smartphone etc. For details on pairing your Bluetooth device, refer to the respecting user guide.

The Bluetooth input of your A 6.3 / 8.3 is shown on your Bluetooth device as "**AVM-x-xxxxx**", with the serial number of your A 6.3/8.3 being displayed instead of the letters "x".

As soon as the A 6.3 / 8.3 is paired with your device, **CONNECTED** is shown in the lower left part of the display (5). Now you may stream music from your Bluetooth device directly to the A 6.3 / 8.3.

### 2.8.3 Automatic Pairing

As soon as another input is selected, the Bluetooth function is deactivated to protect other sound sources from possible interference by the Bluetooth antenna. As soon as the Bluetooth input is selected again, the A 6.3 / 8.3 automatically connects to the last paired device, provided it is within range.

### 2.8.4 Pairing of other devices

Your A 6.3 / 8.3 can only be paired with one device at a time. To switch to another device, an existing connection must first be disconnected. The display (5) then shows **ON AIR** again instead of **CONNECTED** and the A 6.3/8.3 is ready to connect to another Bluetooth device.

### 2.8.5 Range

Bluetooth is a short distance connection. Its range depends on the room your A 6.3 / 8.3 is being used. It is generally in the range of about 8-10 meters, in large rooms even more.



## 3. Advanced Settings

In addition to its basic functionality, the A 6.3/8.3 offers a wealth of custom specific settings in its advanced settings menu. These functions are accessible via a menu that can be operated via the menu buttons below the display. During normal operation, the middle menu button is labeled **MENU**. Pressing this menu button takes you to the 'Advanced Settings' menu. The key label of the same menu key now changes to **EXIT**. By pressing the button again, you exit the 'Advanced Settings' menu and return to the normal operating state. In the 'Advanced Settings' menu, the individual menu items may be selected with the <**ITEM**> keys. The selected point is always shown in the display. Use the <**VALUE**> keys to change the value of the selected menu item.

Please note that when the 'Advanced Settings' menu is activated it is not possible to switch a source via the source selector switch (2), to change the volume via the volume control (6) or to switch off the device. To do this, first exit the 'Advanced Settings' menu using the menu key marked **EXIT**. Please also note that any active level adjustment must first be completed before access to the menu is possible. In addition, the 'Advanced Settings' menu may not be activated if no compatible signal is present at a selected digital input.

### **i** PLEASE NOTE

The number of available parameters in the 'Advanced Settings' menu depends on the currently selected input. In addition to 'Global Settings for all inputs' (see section below), there may also be special options available such as the **AUTO ON** function for selected analog and digital inputs.

## 3.1 Global Settings

### 3.1.1 Set tone control

**Set tone control** activates or deactivates the integrated sound settings menu which enables you to individually adjust the bass or treble level of a certain sound source or lets you choose from a range of available loudness curves.

**Set tone control** can be bypassed (**BYPASS**) or activated (**ACTIVE**). In case the set tone control option is activated, **TONE ON** is shown on the display (5), otherwise **LINEAR**. When switched to **ACTIVE** the sound settings menu is ready to operate but will only be enabled if one of the associated parameters such as **set bass**, **set treble** or **set loudness** is being altered. In case all three parameters are in a neutral position (**BASS** = 0, **TREBLE** = 0, **COUNTOUR** = OFF) the **set tone control** option remains ready for operation without processing the signal. You can choose if you want to change bass and treble settings simultaneously for all inputs (**GLOBAL**) or exclusively for the currently selected input (**INDIVIDUAL**). If you wish to set individual settings, a prior parameterization of the respective sound sources is required first (see "**Personal Setup**" on page 21). The loudness option depends on speakers and pro-

perties of the listening room and is therefore always set to **GLOBAL**.

### NOTE

**In case tone control is set to BYPASS the menu will skip the set bass, set treble and set loudness settings.**

#### 3.1.2 Set bass

Set the bass level between  $-7$  dB and  $+7$  dB. A global bass setting (see section above) is indicated on the display with **GLOBAL**, otherwise **INDIVIDUAL**.

#### 3.1.3 Set treble

Set treble level between  $-7$  dB and  $+7$  dB. A global treble setting (see section above) is indicated on the display with **GLOBAL**, otherwise **INDIVIDUAL**.

#### 3.1.4 Set loudness

If you listen to music at low levels, you often recognize that bass and treble reproduction are weak. This is because the human ear is not sensitive to bass and treble at low sound levels. To compensate this, you can use the parametric loudness function which will increase bass and treble levels as soon as the volume is decreased. When the volume is increased the frequency response will be more and more flat and remain linear at high volume levels. In order to obtain best results, we recommend you proceed in the following way: Set

the amplifier to a moderate volume level. Go to the **set loudness** menu and use the **< VALUE >** menu buttons at **CONTOUR** to choose from one of the available 9 loudness curves ("OFF", 1-9) which provides the best sound impression and exit the menu with the button **EXIT**.

### NOTE

The loudness function selects automatically the correct loudness curve depending on the actual volume setting. That is why a different curve than the previously selected one may be shown in the loudness menu as soon as you alter the volume. This is not a malfunction.

### 3.1.5 Set balance

Set the balance between right and left channel for an optimal stereo image (+/- 9,5 dB).

### 3.1.6 Set speakers out A/B

This feature enables or disables the speaker outputs. Use the two right-hand buttons under the display. The loudspeaker output labeled above is activated or deactivated each time a respective button is pressed. The selected setting is shown on the display. The setting is saved permanently after leaving the menu and can be changed at any time by calling up the menu again.



### 3.2 Analog Line Settings (XLR/RCA)

#### 3.2.1 Set input attenuation

**Set input attenuation** allows for an attenuation of 6 dB of the selected analog line input which corresponds to an electrical halving of the incoming level. For example, activating this function might be useful when CD players with particularly high output levels are used which otherwise cause unwanted distortion. Take particular care when using CD players of Japanese or American manufacturers which are known for producing exceptionally high output levels which cannot be compensated by a simple adjustment of the input sensitivity (see **"Input sensitivity (Level Setting)" on page 11**). In this case, a dedicated relay is switched as soon as **set input attenuation** is activated (**ATT ACTIVE**) to allow the use of respective components

### 3.3 AUTO-ON Function

An activated **AUTON ON** function allows you to automatically switch on the amplifier when there is a signal incoming at one of the following inputs:

**ANALOG IN 2 (CINCH/RCA)**

**DIGITAL IN COAX 1**

**DIGITAL IN OPTO 1**

### 3.4 Personal Setup

The personal setup offers a range of settings to individualize your device according to your personal needs. To access the

**Personal Setup** menu, switch the A 6.3 / A 8.3 to standby mode by pressing the Power button (1). Now hold down the right menu button (4) and switch the device on again with the Power button (1). As soon as the display (5) shows **\*\*\* personal setup \*\*\***, the right menu key (4) can be released.

### 3.4.1 Set display brightness

Sets display brightness 25% to 100%.

#### PLEASE NOTE

**The setting 100% can lead to "burn in" effects on the display if the unit is operated in this setting for a very long time. In order to avoid such "burn in effects" please switch the unit to stand by, if not in use.**

### 3.4.2 Bass & treble control

Choose if you want to change bass and treble settings (see **"Global Settings" on page 18**) globally for all inputs (**GLOBAL**) or only for the actual input (**INDIVIDUAL**).

### 3.4.3 Skip unused inputs

Deactivate unused inputs (**SKIP**). The unit will then skip these inputs when the source selector (2) is turned or if you select a sound source via the RC 3 remote control.

### 3.4.4 Define input names

You can individually set the names (max. 8 characters) of the different sources shown on the display (5). Please proceed as follows to define input names:

With the menu buttons (4) you can now select an individual input in order to alter its name. The display now shows on the left-hand side the current name, on the right-hand side the new name. The character to change is marked by an underscore. The menu buttons < **POS** > select the position of the character to change. The marked character can be set using the volume control (6). When you are done, simply press the menu button **BACK** and the new input names are stored.

### 3.4.5 Gain fix / variable

If a surround system is connected to the device, specific settings such as channel balance, tone settings and bass management are controlled by a separate decoder. These settings may not be altered by other components in order to maintain the balance of all channels. For this use case, your A 6.3 / 8.3 offers a **gain fix** function by both passing through the signal with a fixed gain setting and bypassing all sound control settings (see "**Set tone control**" on page 18). The gain fix function is available for both the analog XLR and RCA inputs (16) and the digital inputs (10).

### 3.4.6 Trigger via AF-cable

When using AVM power amps for bi-amping purposes, you may conveniently switch them on and off with the A 6.3 / A 8.3 without the need for an additional trigger cable. When this

function is enabled, an inaudible trigger signal will be transmitted through the **PRE OUT** preamp outputs (19/20).

### PLEASE NOTE

**Please note this function is only available for current AVM power amp models. Since some slightly audible chirping sounds might be audible during the shutdown process, we recommend you activate this function only if your A 6.3 / A 8.3 is operated with compatible AVM power amplifiers.**

### 3.4.7 Set auto standby

The **set auto standby** function allows you to automatically switch off the amplifier to standby mode if no signal is fed into any input after a period of 20 minutes.

## 3.5 Reset (factory default settings)

The **RESET** menu cancels certain or all hardware settings and makes the unit return to its factory default settings. Optionally, all settings or only the input names (**NAMES**) may be reset.

To enter the **reset** menu, switch the A 6.3 / A 8.3 to standby mode by pressing the Power button (1). Now hold down the middle menu button (4) and switch the device on again with the Power button (1). As soon as **Reset** appears on the display, the middle menu button (4) may be released. Select whether you solely want to reset the input names (**NAMES**) or the device should be completely reset to its factory default

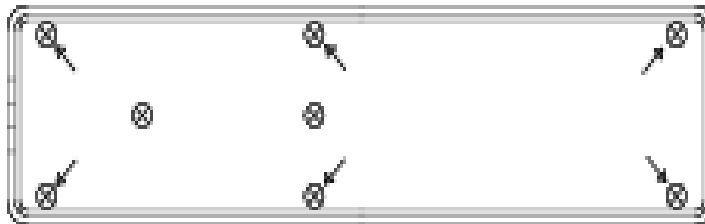
settings (**ALL**). By pressing the middle button (4) you may leave the reset menu (**CANCEL**) without changing any setting.

### 3.6 RC 3 remote control

The RC 3 remote control comes as a standard with the A 6.3. / 8.3. All basic functions may be controlled: **ON** and **OFF**, volume control (<**VOLUME**>), source selection (<**INPUT**>).

If the range of the RC 3 decreases significantly, please replace the batteries. Remove all screws marked with arrows on the bottom side of the RC 3 remote control. Unscrew the 6 marked screws (**CAUTION: Do not unscrew the 2 unmarked screws in the middle**). Take the bottom plate with the mounted pcb out. Remove the worn batteries and replace them with two new batteries (type CR2032, 3V Lithium cells).

**Abb. 4. Bottom of RC 3 remote control**





## 4. Appendix

### 4.1 Cleaning

Use a soft cloth and normal glass cleansing fluid.



**Make sure no fluid comes into the unit. Do not use scouring cleaners. They may damage the surface.**

### 4.2 Conditions of warranty (EC only)

If despite expectations a defect occurs that cannot be repaired by yourself or your dealer, we undertake the repair of your unit free of charge for up to three years from date of purchase. The warranty covers the costs of material and working time, transport costs are to be borne by the owner.

Provisions for this warranty are:

1. The unit must have been purchased from an authorised dealer. Equipment from other sources will not be repaired, not even at charge.

2. The warranty registration card, together with a copy of the bill of sale, must be received by us within four weeks of the date of purchase.
3. The defect must not have been caused by improper handling or misuse.
4. Return the unit to us only in its original packing. If this is not possible, we are entitled to refuse acceptance. We will not assume responsibility for transport damage under any circumstances.
5. A short description of the defect is to be included with the returned unit.
6. In cases of doubt we reserve the right to request a copy of the bill of sale.

### **i** PLEASE NOTE

We also reserve the right to levy a handling charge for items returned without good or valid reason, or if the unit proves to be not defective.

If you are returning the unit from a country other than Germany you should ensure that correct export documents are obtained. We cannot accept any charges for costs arising from improper or incomplete export documentation.

If you have purchased your unit from a dealer outside Germany, please refer to him or the relevant importing firm to process the warranty

June 24, 2019.