

Owner's Manual

MOON Series

W5.3


Stereo Power Amplifier



M O O N

MOON W5.3 Stereo Power Amplifier

Important Safety Instructions

1. Read these instructions.
2. Keep these instructions.
3. Heed all warnings.
4. Follow all instructions.
5. Do not use this apparatus near water.
6. Clean only with a dry cloth.
7. Do not block ventilation openings. Install in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
8. Do not install near any heat sources such as radiators, heat registers, stoves or another apparatus that produces heat.
9. Do not defeat the safety purpose of the polarized or grounding type plug. A polarized plug has two blades with one wider than the other. A grounding-type plug has two blades and a third grounding prong. The wide blade or the third prong is provided for safety. If the provided plug does not fit into the outlet, consult an electrician for replacement of the obsolete outlet.
10. Protect the power cord from being walked on or pinched, particularly at plugs, convenience receptacles, and the point where they exit from the apparatus.
11. Only use attachments and accessories specified by the manufacturer.
12.  Use only with the cart, stand, tripod, bracket, or table specified by the manufacturer or sold with the apparatus. When a cart is used, use caution when moving the cart/apparatus combination to avoid injury from tip over.
13. Unplug this apparatus during lightning storms or when unused for long periods of time.
14. Refer all servicing to qualified service personnel. Servicing is required when the apparatus has been damaged in any way, such as when the power cord or plug has been damaged; liquid has been spilled or objects have fallen into the apparatus; or the apparatus has been exposed to rain or moisture, does not operate normally, or has been dropped.
15. No naked flame sources, such as candles, should be placed on the apparatus.

WARNING: TO REDUCE THE RISK OF FIRE OR ELECTRIC SHOCK,
DO NOT EXPOSE THIS APPLIANCE TO RAIN OR MOISTURE.



MOON W5.3 Stereo Power Amplifier

Important Safety Instructions (cont'd)



The lightning flash with the arrowhead symbol, within an equilateral triangle, is intended to alert the user to the presence of uninsulated "dangerous voltage" within the product's enclosure that may be of sufficient magnitude to constitute a risk of electric shock to persons.



The exclamation point within an equilateral triangle is intended to alert the user to the presence of important operating and maintenance (servicing) instructions in the literature accompanying the appliance.



Marking by the "CE" symbol (shown left) indicates compliance of this device with the EMC (Electromagnetic Compatibility) and LVD (Low Voltage Directive) standards of the European Community

Please read all instructions and precautions carefully and completely before operating your Simaudio MOON W5.3 Stereo Power Amplifier.

1. **ALWAYS** disconnect your entire system from the AC mains before connecting or disconnecting any cables, or when cleaning any component.
2. The MOON W5.3 must be terminated with a three-conductor AC mains power cord which includes a protective earthing connection. To prevent shock hazard, all three connections must **ALWAYS** be used. Connect the MOON W5.3 only to an AC source of the proper voltage; Both the shipping box and rear panel serial number label will indicate the correct voltage. Use of any other voltage will likely damage the unit and void the warranty
3. AC extension cords are **NOT** recommended for use with this product.
4. **NEVER** use flammable or combustible chemicals for cleaning audio components.
5. **NEVER** operate the MOON W5.3 with any covers removed. There are no user-serviceable parts inside. An open unit, especially if it is still connected to an AC source, presents a potentially lethal shock hazard. Refer all questions to authorized service personnel only.
6. **NEVER** wet the inside of the MOON W5.3 with any liquid. If a liquid substance does enter your MOON W5.3, immediately disconnect it from the AC mains and take it to your MOON dealer for a complete check-up.
7. **NEVER** expose the MOON W5.3 to dripping or splashing of liquids and no objects filled with liquids, such as vases, shall be placed on top.
8. **NEVER** block air flow through ventilation slots or heatsinks.
9. **NEVER** bypass any fuse.
10. **NEVER** replace any fuse with a value or type other than those specified
11. **NEVER** attempt to repair the MOON W5.3. If a problem occurs contact your MOON dealer.
12. **NEVER** expose the MOON W5.3 to extremely high or low temperatures.
13. **NEVER** operate the MOON W5.3 in an explosive atmosphere.
14. **ALWAYS** keep electrical equipment out of reach of children.
15. **ALWAYS** unplug sensitive electronic equipment during lightning storms.

Table of Contents

Congratulations	5
Unpacking.....	5
Introduction	6
Installation & Placement	6
Rear Panel Layout	7
Connecting the W5.3	8
Balanced Operation	8
Bridged-Mono Operation	9
Operating the W5.3.....	10
Custom Installation	11
Specifications	12

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MOON W5.3 Stereo Power Amplifier

Congratulations!

Thank you for selecting the **MOON W5.3** Stereo power amplifier as a part of your hi-fi reproduction system. This power amplifier has been designed to offer state-of-the-art high-end performance in an elegant package, while retaining all the sonic hallmarks on which Simaudio has made its reputation. We have spared no effort to ensure that it is among the finest two-channel amplifiers available. We have been building high-performance audio equipment for over 25 years, and the know-how gained through our cumulative experience is an important reason why **MOON** amplifiers are so musically satisfying.

Your new amplifier is a true Stereo design, whereby each channel operates completely independent of the other. The chassis, power cord and power switch are the only parts of this amplifier that both channels share. The performance of your **W5.3** will continue to improve during the first 300 hours of listening. This is the result of a "break-in" period required for the numerous high quality electronic parts used throughout this amplifier.

Before setting up your new **MOON W5.3**, we encourage you to please read this manual thoroughly to properly acquaint yourself with its features. We hope you enjoy listening to the **MOON W5.3** Stereo power amplifier as much as the pride we have taken in creating this fine audio product. We understand the power and emotion of music and build our products with the goal of faithfully capturing these elusive qualities.

The information contained in this manual is subject to change without notice. The most current version of this manual is available on our official website at <http://www.simaudio.com/manuals.htm>

Unpacking

The **MOON W5.3** Stereo Power Amplifier is a large and heavy component that should be removed from its box with care. We strongly advise that you seek another person to help lift the amplifier out of its box, and place it in its final location.

The following accessories should be included inside the box with your amplifier:

- ✓ *AC power cable*
- ✓ *This owner's manual*
- ✓ *Warranty and product registration information (USA and Canada only)*

As soon as the amplifier is safely removed from its box and placed down, perform a thorough physical inspection and report any damage to your dealer immediately. We suggest that you keep all of the original packaging, storing it in a safe, dry place in the event that you're required to transport the amplifier. The customized packaging is specially designed to protect the **MOON W5.3** amplifier from potential damage that may occur during shipping.

Please write the serial number of your new Simaudio **MOON W5.3** in the space provided below for future reference.

Serial No.: _____

MOON W5.3 Stereo Power Amplifier

Introduction

Your **MOON W5.3** Stereo Power Amplifier incorporates many significant design features to achieve its “world-class” level of performance. This is an abbreviated list of the more important features:

Proprietary “**Advanced Renaissance**” Technology which eliminates feedback. The results are: Real-time amplification is achieved since interactions from the speaker back to the amplifier are virtually eliminated; More accurate musical reproduction with respect to tonality; Virtually non-existent transient intermodulation distortion (which is far more degrading to sonic performance than harmonic distortion); The elimination of common phase errors resulting from feedback.

A custom **proprietary toroidal transformer design** with lower magnetic, electrical and thermal loss, yielding an improved power transfer and lower regulation factor, resulting in increased current speed and better dynamics.

Fully **balanced differential** circuitry up to the output stage.

Output stable to any known speaker impedance.

Class A output to 5 watts for greater efficiency.

An **oversized** power supply.

An **exceptionally short signal path** for a faster transient response.

Precision matched, fully decoupled **Bipolar output devices** yielding superb linearity across the entire audio spectrum.

A **high damping factor** which yields superior musical dynamics, improved signal speed and refined timbre accuracy.

Extremely **rigid chassis construction** to minimize the effects of external vibrations.

Accurate matching of the very finest high quality electronic components.

Pure copper circuit board tracings with extremely low impedance characteristics.

Designed to be **powered up at all times** for optimal performance.

Installation & Placement

The **MOON W5.3** Stereo power amplifier is both powerful and heavy. It requires reasonable ventilation to maintain an optimum and consistent operating temperature, especially since it will radiate heat when driven hard. Consequently, it should be placed in a location with empty space around it for proper heat dissipation. You should never place another component on top of this amplifier. As well, the amplifier should be placed on a solid level surface. You should avoid placing it near a heat source or inside a closed cabinet that is not well ventilated as this could compromise the amplifier's performance and reliability. The **W5.3** uses a large toroidal transformers in its power supply; even though it is well shielded, you should not place this amplifier too close to source components sensitive to EMI, such as turntables, phono preamplifiers and CD Players.

Rear Panel Layout

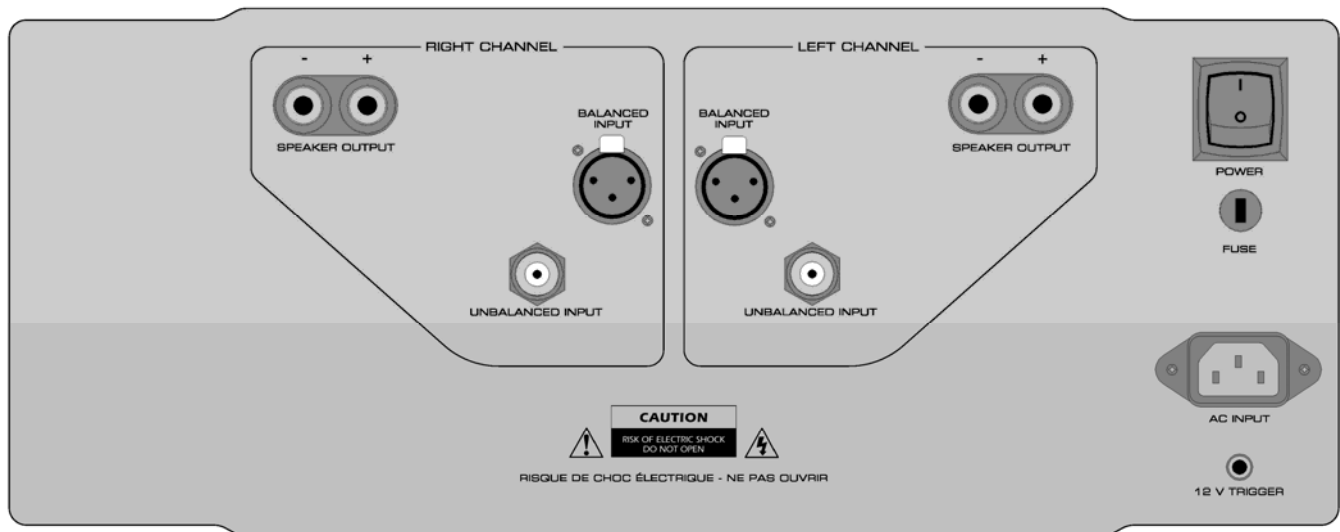


Figure 1: Rear panel of Moon W5.3 Stereo Amplifier

The rear panel will look similar to Figure 1 (above). Each channel has one balanced (differential) input on an XLR connector and one unbalanced (single-ended) input on a RCA connector. There is no switch to toggle from balanced mode to single-ended mode. You may operate the amplifier in either mode, but only one mode at one time for each channel. In the event that you're using the balanced XLR inputs, **you must first remove the factory installed "dummy" XLR jumpers** (see figure 2 below) from the back panel XLR connectors and store them in a safe place. These jumpers are required **ONLY** when using the single-ended RCA inputs. In the event that you decide to switch to single-ended input mode, you must reinstall the XLR jumpers (between pins 1 and 3) exactly as show below:

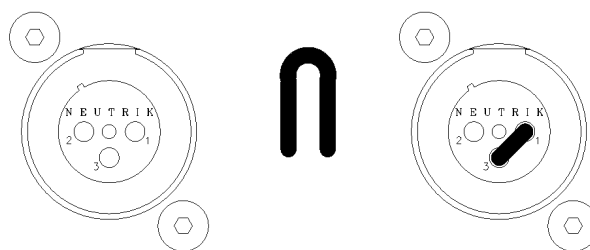


Figure 2: XLR connector without and with jumper accessory

Two pairs of heavy duty gold-plated speaker binding posts are also located on opposite sides of the rear panel; one pair ("-" and "+") for each for the left and right speaker.

On the far right side, you will find (from top to bottom); The power "main switch"; The "AC Fuse" socket cover; the "AC in" IEC receptacle for the power cord and the 12 Volt trigger input.

Connecting the W5.3

Prior to making any connections or removing the XLR jumpers, the power amplifier must be turned off and the AC cable disconnected for at least 1 minute.

1. Connect the input cables running from your preamplifier's outputs, whether balanced or single-ended, to the amplifier's XLR or RCA inputs respectively. We highly recommend that you use the balanced XLR inputs (provided that your preamplifier has balanced outputs) to take full advantage of **MOON W5.3** Stereo power amplifier's capabilities. Please refer to the next section "Balanced Operation" on for further information.

Do not connect cables to both the XLR and RCA inputs at the same time. Damage to both the **W5.3** and the connected equipment can result that is not covered by warranty.

Don't hesitate to use high quality interconnect cables. Poor quality interconnect cables can degrade the overall sonic performance of your system. It is recommended, though not mandatory, to use balanced interconnects between your preamplifier and the **W5.3** when using long cable runs (i.e. more than 3 meters in length).

2. Connect your speakers, with the cables of your choice, to the **W5.3**'s speaker binding posts. Take care to respect the polarity ("+" , "-") of the output. Once again, don't hesitate to use high quality speaker cables. Poor quality speaker cables can degrade the overall sonic performance of your system. Both pairs of speaker connectors on each channel are connected together. Consequently, it doesn't matter which pair you use.
3. Connect the supplied AC power cable to the IEC receptacle, located on the amplifier's rear panel. Ensure that the AC wall outlet you use has a functioning ground. For the best sonic performance, it is preferable that you plug your **W5.3** directly into a dedicated AC outlet and avoid using an extension cord. If you have the time and willingness, consider installing a superior quality AC wall outlet such as a hospital grade Hubbell.
4. In order to obtain the maximum performance from your audio system, we strongly recommend that the detachable power cord not come into physical contact with either the interconnect cables or the speaker cables running to and from your **W5.3**. In the event that this can't be avoided, you should ensure that any cables coming into contact with each other are crossed at ninety degree angles to minimize the contact area.

Balanced Operation

When using an unbalanced interconnect, the audio signal runs through both the center wire and the shield/ground wire. Any noise picked up by this interconnect (ie. nearby magnetic fields such as an AC power cord) will be reproduced by the amplifier and heard through the loudspeakers. Conversely, a balanced interconnect has three separate conductors; one for the ground and two for the actual signal. These two signals are identical except that one is 180 degrees out of phase with the other. For example, when one conductor is carrying a signal of +5 Volts, the other will be carrying a signal of -5 Volts. When these two inverted signals on a balanced line are input into a differential power amplifier such as the **MOON W5.3**, any noise picked up by the interconnect will be eliminated since a differential circuit amplifies only the difference between these two signals: Noise on a balanced interconnect will be equal on both conductors and therefore not be processed.

Bridged-Mono Operation

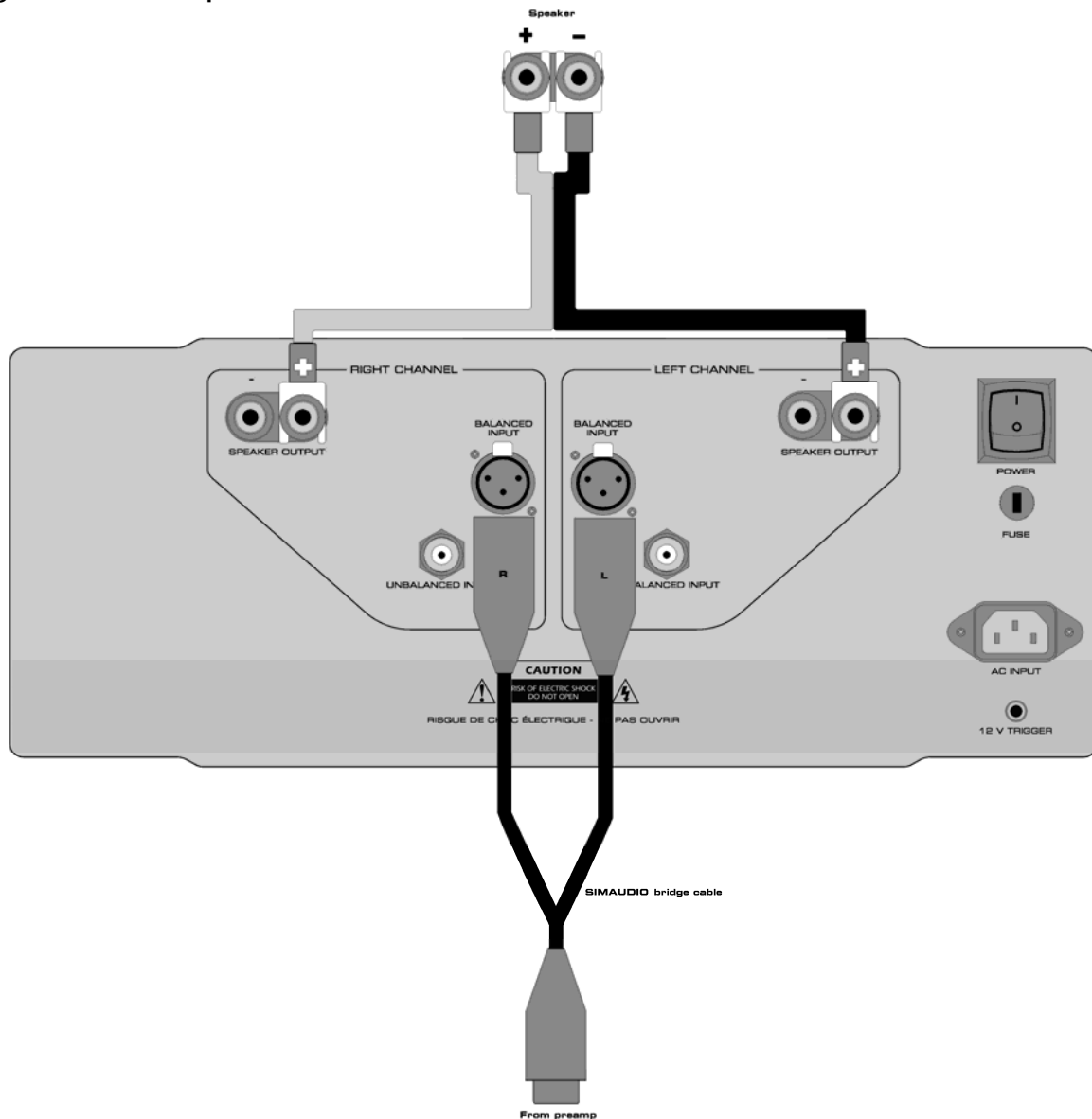


Figure 3: Bridged-Mono operation of the MOON W5.3 Stereo Amplifier

In the event that you wish to operate the **MOON W5.3** Stereo Power Amplifier as a monoblock amplifier, it can be converted to bridged mode without any complex modifications. Only a Simaudio XLR-BRIDGE Y-cable is required. This custom cable will allow one input signal to be sent to both channels of the amplifier's inputs, as pictured above in Figure 3. One lead from the "Y" adapter must plug into right channel input and the other lead must plug into left channel input. As well, you must use the positive terminal of each output binding post (exactly as in figure 3) for the loudspeaker connection. If you are unsure about how to accomplish a bridged-mono mode of operation, don't hesitate to contact your **Simaudio MOON** dealer.

The MOON **W5.3** produces 600 watts of output power at 8 ohms for a single channel when operating in bridged-mono mode.

MOON W5.3 Stereo Power Amplifier

Operating the W5.3

We recommend that you leave your **MOON W5.3** Stereo power amplifier powered up at all times to maintain optimal performance. In the event that you plan to be away from your home for a few days, powering off the amplifier may not be a bad idea. Once fully “broken-in”, please keep in mind that your **W5.3** will require several hours of playing time before it reaches its peak performance after you’ve powered it up again.

Turning on your MOON W5.3 for the first time

Prior to turning the amplifier on for the first time, make sure that every cable is properly connected to avoid any problems. Then turn on your preamplifier connected to the **W5.3**. Finally, power up your **W5.3** in the following manner:

- 1) On the rear panel, flick the main rocker switch labeled “POWER” to the ‘1’ (on) position. The blue LED on the front panel will blink for up to 10 seconds while it achieves standby mode. When it stops blinking and is not illuminated, your **W5.3** is in standby mode.
- 2) Next, momentarily press the push button labeled “Standby” located on the front panel. Your **W5.3** will make a very faint click sound, confirming that everything is in order. The blue LED on the front panel will illuminate, indicating that the **W5.3** is now powered up and ready for use.

On and Off Sequence

To avoid having any annoying noises (ie. “thumps” and “pops”) emanate from your speakers when powering your **W5.3** on or off, you should always power up your preamplifier prior to powering up your **W5.3**. As well, always power down your **W5.3** prior to powering down your preamplifier.

Troubleshooting

Your **MOON W5.3** Stereo Power Amplifier is equipped with a self-diagnostic system that will automatically shut itself down when it detects DC (direct current) from any input. If your **W5.3** power amplifier turns itself off or will not power up, there may very well be DC present in one (or more) of the amplifier’s inputs coming from one (or more) of your preamplifier/processor’s outputs. You must determine if there is any DC present. The best way to accomplish this is by first powering down the **W5.3** via the main power rocker switch, then disconnecting the input to the **W5.3** leaving only the speaker connected. Attempt to power up your **W5.3** again: A successful power up will indicate the presence of DC coming from your preamplifier or one of your signal sources (ie. CD Player).

If your **W5.3** still doesn’t power up, turn off the main power switch and check the AC fuse. If the fuse appears OK, put it back in its socket and then try to power up again the usual way. If the fuse is blown, replace it with a fuse of the same rating, and repeat the above process. At this point, you should be able to power up your **W5.3**. If not, immediately consult your dealer for assistance.

Custom Installation

12 Volt Remote Trigger

The "12 Volt Remote Trigger" can turn the **MOON W5.3** Stereo Power Amplifier on or off by a hard wired remote connected to its input. When correctly installed, the system allows the use of both the trigger and the push button to turn the **W5.3** on or off.

Please note that the main rocker power switch must be left on at all times to allow for the use of the 12 Volt trigger.

When the **W5.3** is powered off, it can be powered on by either the trigger or the push button. When the **W5.3** is powered on, it can be powered off by the trigger. It can also be powered off by the push button, but only if the trigger isn't in «on» mode.

Working with the 12 Volt Trigger

The 12 Volt Trigger input is on a 3.5 mm microphone jack (mono) located on the back panel of the **MOON W5.3**. With simple direct logic applied, 0V turns the unit off, and 12V turns the unit on. Input impedance is 1000 ohms and the current required will be approximately 12 mA.

Remember, the main rocker power switch must be left in the "on" position at all times to make use of the trigger possible.

Recommendations

If you are a professional custom installer, please take the time to carefully read this manual prior to starting any installations involving the **MOON W5.3** Stereo Power Amplifier. Pay particular attention to the "**Installation Tips**" section on page 7. If you intend to mount the **W5.3** in an in-wall cabinet or other closed environment, remember that you have to ventilate the amplifier properly to prevent overheating.

MOON W5.3 Stereo Power Amplifier

Specifications

Configuration	Stereo
Power Supply Transformer	1.0kVA
Power Supply Capacitance	115,000 μ F
Class Of Operation	A/AB
Design	Balanced Differential to output stage
Input Impedance	47,500 Ω
Input Sensitivity	1000mV
Output Device Type	Bipolars - 8 per channel
Output Power at 8 Ω	150 Watts per channel
Output Power at 4 Ω	300 Watts per channel
Output Power – Bridged Mono at 8 Ω	600 Watts
Frequency Response	10Hz - 125kHz +0/-3dB
Output Impedance	0.01 Ω
Damping Factor (static)	800
Gain	31dB
Signal-to-noise Ratio	> 100dB @ full power
Maximum Output Voltage	40 Volts
Slew Rate	42V/ μ s
Maximum Current – Peak	38 amperes
Maximum Current – Continuous	20 amperes
Crosstalk @ 1kHz	-100dB
Intermodulation Distortion	Unmeasureable
THD (20Hz - 20kHz @ 1 watt)	< 0.02 %
THD (20Hz - 20kHz @ 150 watts)	< 0.05 %
Power Consumption @ idle	45 Watts
AC Power Requirements	120V / 60Hz or 240V / 50Hz
Shipping Weight	50 lbs / 22 Kgs
Dimensions (W x H x D, inches)	17 x 7.5 x 17
Balanced Pin Assignment:	
Pin 1.....	Ground
Pin 2.....	Positive
Pin 3	Negative
12 Volt Trigger:	
Logic	Direct (0V off, 12V on)
Jack.....	3.5mm microphone jack
Input Impedance.....	1k Ω
Current Consumption.....	12mA



Fuse Replacement:

For the 120V version use a 6A fast blow (3AG size).
For the 230V version use a 3A fast blow (3AG size).