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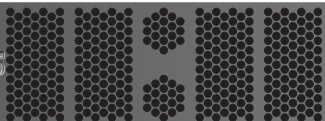
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# CONGRATULATIONS



Thank you for choosing **TUBE DRIVER**. Tube Drivers musicality and absolute sonic transparency allow accurate reproduction of recorded music enabling you to hear as well as feel the music the way the artist intended. These handcrafted amplifiers feature full differential “front ends” based upon a true instrumentation amplifier topology. Tube Drivers utilize only the highest quality Svetlana tubes in our unique configurations. All of the internal amplifier stages have been designed to have ultra-wide bandwidth together with a high degree of linearity. The tubes used in these amplifiers provide both voltage gain and current gain where they are connected in Cascode and Cathode Follower configurations. D.C. servos are used to control any D.C. offset. These servos are critically positioned in the circuit so that not only is D.C. offset eliminated but also any subtle differences between tubes are internally compensated. These tube stages are then connected to a high current BiPolar output stage that uses the same audiophile quality Sanken output devices featured in the PrecisionPower 2500F1. The output stages receive their power from a highly regulated D.C. power supply which enhances their performance significantly. Very little negative feedback is used. Low feedback designs have greatly improved sound quality having an extremely warm and open sound with enhanced musicality consistent with only the highest quality home tube amplifiers.

## Service

Do not attempt to service **TUBE DRIVER** products yourself. Performing exploratory surgery on your audio equipment yourself will void the warranty. Many parts of your **TUBE DRIVER** gear are custom built to our specifications. Our factory parts are not made available to anyone else nor are they for sale. Our goal is to make sure that your **TUBE DRIVER** product will always sound as good as the day it was purchased. Contact your authorized **TUBE DRIVER** dealer about obtaining any warranty service through **TUBE DRIVER**. (See Warranty inside back cover)

## FOR YOUR RECORDS

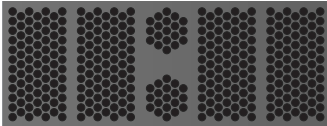
M o d e l \_\_\_\_\_

Serial Number \_\_\_\_\_

Purchase Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Caution!

The extended use of a high powered audio system may result in hearing loss or damage. While **TUBE DRIVER** systems are capable of “*Concert Level*” volumes with incredible accuracy, they are also designed for you to enjoy at more reasonable levels all of the sonic subtleties created by musicians. Please observe all local sound ordinances.



# FEATURES AND SPECIFICATIONS

## Features

Fully regulated adaptive MosFET power supply  
Balanced Mini-Din Input  
High Voltage Input Capability with Input Attenuation Switch  
Gold Plated RCA Input connectors  
Three Year Warranty when installed by an Authorized **TD** dealer  
Completely Designed and Handcrafted in the USA

## Specifications

|                            |                           |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Power Bandwidth:           | 5 Hz -50 KHz              |
| Total Harmonic Distortion: | 0.2% or less (A-weighted) |
| Input Topology:            | Balanced Differential     |
| Input Sensitivity:         | 500mV - 12 volts RMS      |
| Input Impedance:           | 10K Ohms                  |
| Output Impedance:          | 2 - 16 Ohms               |

## Continuous Output Power

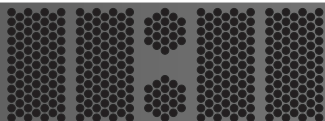
### **MA1250**

250 WRMS x 1 @ 4 Ohms  
500 WRMS x 1 @ 2 Ohms

## Dimensions

### **MA1250**

Length = 17"  
Height = 3.2"  
Width = 9.25"



## Tools/Parts Needed for Installation (not supplied)

Small flat blade screwdriver  
Phillips screwdriver (#2 or medium sized)  
Wire cutters  
Wire strippers  
4 – #6 round head screws, and 1 – #8 sheet metal screw  
(or nut, bolt, and star washer)  
2 – Ring connectors (large enough to accommodate your method of grounding)  
In-line fuse or circuit breaker — see fuse requirements below  
Power and groundwire — see Power Wire Calculator on the next page  
Speaker wire — 16 gauge or larger  
Grommets (sized to work with the power wire you plan to use in your installation)  
Tube of silicone sealant

## Fuse Requirements

**Recommended Fuse Rating for MA1250 is 100 Amps**

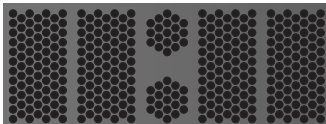
**You will need to install an in-line fuse or circuit breaker in the power wire within 18” of the battery. This fuse or circuit breaker protects your vehicle from fire in case the power wire shorts to the vehicle body.** If you are only using one amplifier, use the recommended fuse rating. If you are using more than one amplifier, add up the fuse ratings for all amplifiers, and use this sum for your main fuse or circuit breaker. Use a power distribution block or fuse near your amplifiers with the appropriate fuse for each individual power wire.

The information below is a basic formula you can use to determine approximate current draw. A 50% amplifier efficiency rating is used as an average. This formula is only a guideline. Using wire of a larger gauge can only improve the current transfer of your system. **Do not use smaller gauge wire.**

**Total 4-Ohm rated RMS output x 2 = Total Input Wattage**  
**Total Input Wattage/Supply Voltage = Current Draw (in Amps)**

**Example:** Your **MA1250** has 1 channel at 250 watts RMS into 4-Ohms (250 x 2 =500). You would use the formula below:

**250W x 2 = 500W/12.5V = 40 Amps Total Current Draw**



## Power Wire Calculator

### Recommended MINIMUM Gauge

| Total Current Draw | Length of Wire to Run (in Feet) |       |        |         |       |       |       |       |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|-------|--------|---------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| (in Amps)          | < 3                             | 4 - 7 | 7 - 10 | 10 - 13 | 13-16 | 16-19 | 19-22 | 22-28 |
| 0 - 20             | 14                              | 12    | 12     | 10      | 10    | 8     | 8     | 8     |
| 20 - 35            | 12                              | 10    | 8      | 8       | 6     | 6     | 8     | 4     |
| 35 - 50            | 10                              | 8     | 8      | 6       | 6     | 4     | 4     | 4     |
| 50 - 65            | 8                               | 8     | 6      | 4       | 4     | 4     | 4     | 2     |
| 65 - 85            | 6                               | 6     | 4      | 4       | 2     | 2     | 2     | 0     |
| 85 - 105           | 6                               | 6     | 4      | 2       | 2     | 2     | 2     | 0     |
| 105 - 125          | 4                               | 4     | 4      | 2       | 2     | 0     | 0     | 0     |
| 125 - 150          | 2                               | 2     | 2      | 2       | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     |

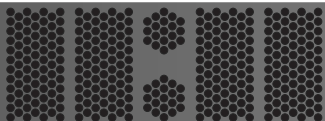
## Warning!

### Amplifiers Generate Heat!

You can mount the **MA1250** in any position, even upside-down. However, **you must maintain proper airflow**. Do not install your **MA1250** under carpets or enclose it behind airtight panels. In trunk-mounted applications, be sure to provide venting for air circulation. **Let the amplifier breathe**. Without adequate air circulation, your Tube Driver will turn itself down to protect itself.

## Mounting

You need to mount your **MA1250** securely in your vehicle to prevent damage. You may mount the system right-side up, on its side, or upside-down, provided there is adequate ventilation.



## Warning!

To prevent a short to ground, disconnect the negative (-) terminal of the system's battery before you begin. If the power cable shorts to ground, current will continue to flow until the short is opened, the main fuse blows, the battery explodes, or the wire melts.

**Reconnect the terminal only after you make all connections.**

## Grounding

Your **MA1250** is designed to operate from a car's positive 12 volt, negative ground electrical system. The ground wire should be the same gauge as the power wire indicated in the chart.

The main power cable should run from the amplifier location, through or under the vehicle, to the battery. You must use a grommet wherever the cable passes through a steel panel to prevent an eventual short to ground.

The ground connection is the most important part of any installation. If the connections are poor and/or the resistance is high, the resulting drops in voltage will rob you of amplifier power and may allow noise to enter your system. Your new Tube Driver features a fully regulated power supply. It will make full power even if the voltage changes. It will draw more current at lower voltages to make that power. Lower voltage and high cable resistance means more total current draw. Using a digital multimeter (DMM), try to get cable resistance as low as possible. If resistance is too high, use a larger gauge wire. Try to ground your system to a single point in the vehicle. In larger systems, use distribution blocks and run both power and ground cables directly to the system battery.

## Remote Turn-on

**IMPORTANT! Your new MA1250 is equipped with our unique tube warm-up circuit. When your system is turned on, The LED labeled "WARM UP" will illuminate and full power is applied to the tube heaters for approx. 35 seconds. The internal fan will then turn on and two seconds later the amp outputs will be switched on. The system will then play as normal.**

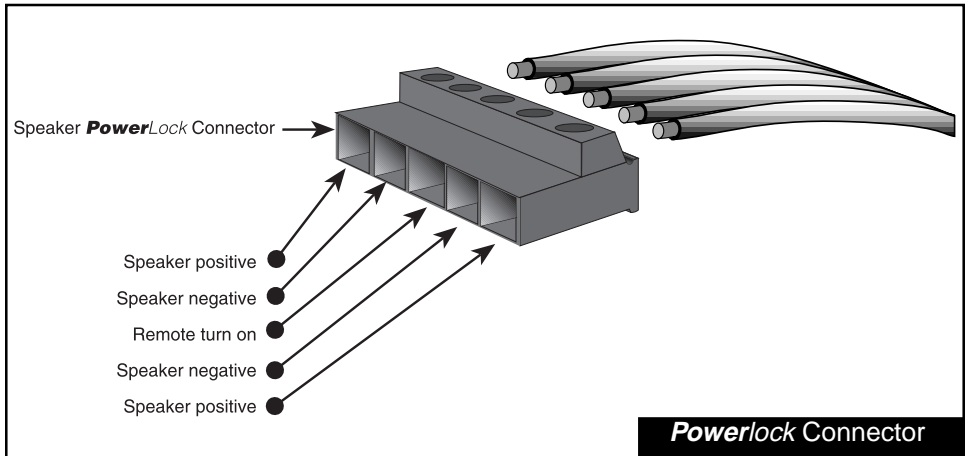
You must connect a wire to the remote (REM) terminal (located in the speaker terminal plug) of your amplifier to power on your **MA1250**. The source unit normally provides a remote amp turn-on or power antenna lead that provides this +12 volts when you turn on the unit.

- Run a wire from the chosen turn-on lead to the REM connection of your **MA1250** (See Endpanel Layout: Page 10)
- Tighten the connection

## Speaker Connections

Follow these simple instructions and refer to the diagram below to make your speaker connections:

- Using at least 16 gauge wire, run wire from the speakers to the amplifier(s) using the same precautions that you followed for running the power, ground, and remote wires
- Cut off excess wire
- Use wire strippers to strip 1/4 inch of insulation at the end of the wires
- Attach the speaker wires to the amplifier's **POWERLOCK** connector and plug it in



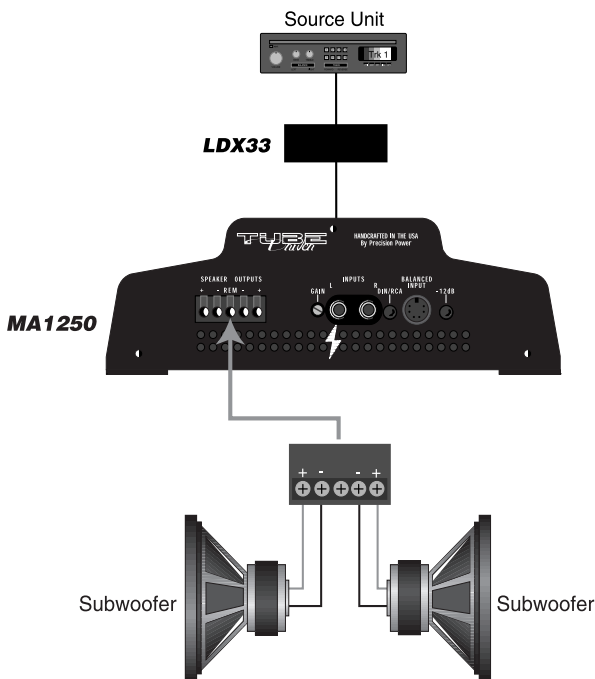
## Bridging

All multi-channel **TUBE DRIVERS** are capable of being bridged into a 4-Ohm mono output without switches or bridging modules.

Your new **MA1250** is a mono (single channel) amplifier. It cannot be bridged. The two pairs of speaker terminals are in parallel, so connecting two 4 ohm woofers (one on each pair of terminals) would result in a 2 ohm load to the amplifier.

**Note: A total impedance of less than 2-ohms may trigger the protection circuitry causing reduced output and may eventually damage your amplifier.**

## Connections



(Two four ohm subwoofers connected in parallel = two ohm load on the amplifier.)

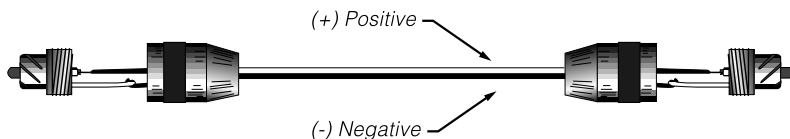
## Input Jacks

The **MA1250** includes both RCA and Mini-Din (balanced) inputs. The supplied RCA connections allow you to use the **MA1250** with other brands of audio gear. *Our Differential RCA inputs provide a dramatic improvement in noise reduction over standard RCA input types. Our fully balanced Mini-DIN connection system features high signal voltage capability and the highest possible sound quality. A single cable for 2 channels also simplifies installation.* Cables from the source unit, non-powered equalizer, or crossover go here. Both left and right inputs should be used for maximum amplifier output.

## Balanced Inputs

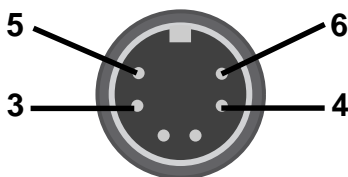
### Standard Coaxial RCA Cables

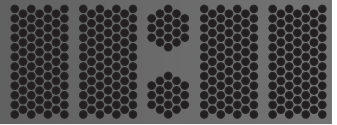
Standard coaxial RCA cables utilize two connections: a center wire (signal positive) attached to the center pin of the RCA connector along with a braided outer conductor (signal negative) connected to the outer ring of the RCA connector. This design almost always allows radiated noise to enter the system, since the signal is not well protected.



### Balanced Mini-DIN Cable

Balanced Mini-Din connections use six pins and one grounding ring. Pins 1 and 2 are open connections, normally they would carry your remote turn on voltage. Pins 3/4 and 5/6 are a pair of twisted conductors for the music signal. The twisting of the inner wires rejects or eliminates radiated noise by more than 30 dB. The inner pair of wires are then protected by an outer shield connected to Pin 1. This means the music signals can be kept as far away as possible from the power and chassis ground paths of other circuitry, allowing the transmission of pure music between points while protecting it from noise generating equipment and wiring present in the vehicle. The diagram below shows the pin configuration for the Mini-Din connections.





## Input Gain Control

There is an Input Gain Control located on the end panel under the RCA input jacks. **This is not a volume control!** This control matches the output signal voltage of the source unit to the amplifier inputs.

By turning the control clockwise (to the right), the inputs of the amplifier become more sensitive and will allow a weak signal of approximately 1/2 volt to drive the amplifier to full power. At the same time, while an amplifier with its level control at maximum is able to drive a weak signal, it also picks up and amplifies any noises lurking in the background, such as a brake light *pop*, alternator *whine*, or ignition *tick*.

Increasing the signal voltage to the amplifier by using a high output source unit (or a TUBE DRIVER LD-3) makes the music much louder. By turning the level control counterclockwise (to the left), the amp inputs will be less sensitive. The amp will reproduce music at full power while making any noise floor insignificant. Your **MA1250** accepts signal levels of up to 12 volts RMS.

## Setting Input Gain

1. Set the Input Gain Control to just above the lowest setting.
2. Turn the master volume on the source unit or pre-amp to almost full volume.
3. With music playing, slowly increase each Input Gain Control until you hear distortion. Turn down the Gain Control until the distortion stops.

## Power Side

### 1. POWER

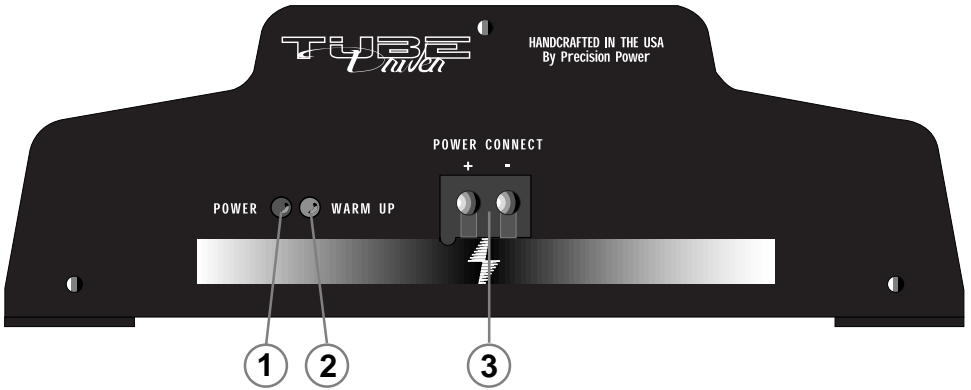
A red light indicates that the amplifier is turned on (After warm-up sequence).

### 2. WARM UP

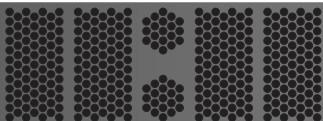
A red light indicated that the tubes are warming up. (Refer to Pg. 4; Remote Turn-on)

### 3. POWER / GROUND

After you have securely connected your power and ground wires, plug in the connector here.



# END PANEL LAYOUT



## Input/Control Side

### 1. SPEAKER OUTPUTS / REMOTE (Turn-on)

After connecting remote and speaker wires plug in the connector here.

### 2. GAIN

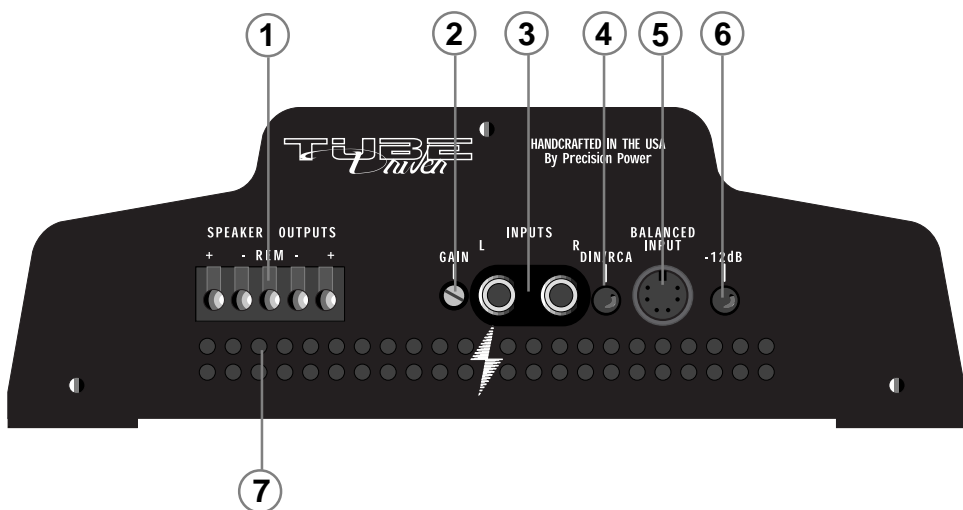
Use this control to match the output level of the head unit to the outputs of the amplifier.

### 3. INPUTS

Plug in the RCA outputs from your head unit here.

### 4. BALANCED / RCA

This switch is used to select between the unbalanced RCA inputs or the balanced MINI-DIN inputs.



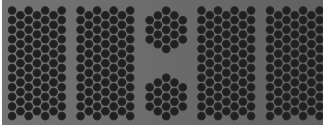
### 5. BALANCED INPUT

Plug in the mini-din output here from the LDX-33 crossover, LD-3 line driver or other balanced source here.

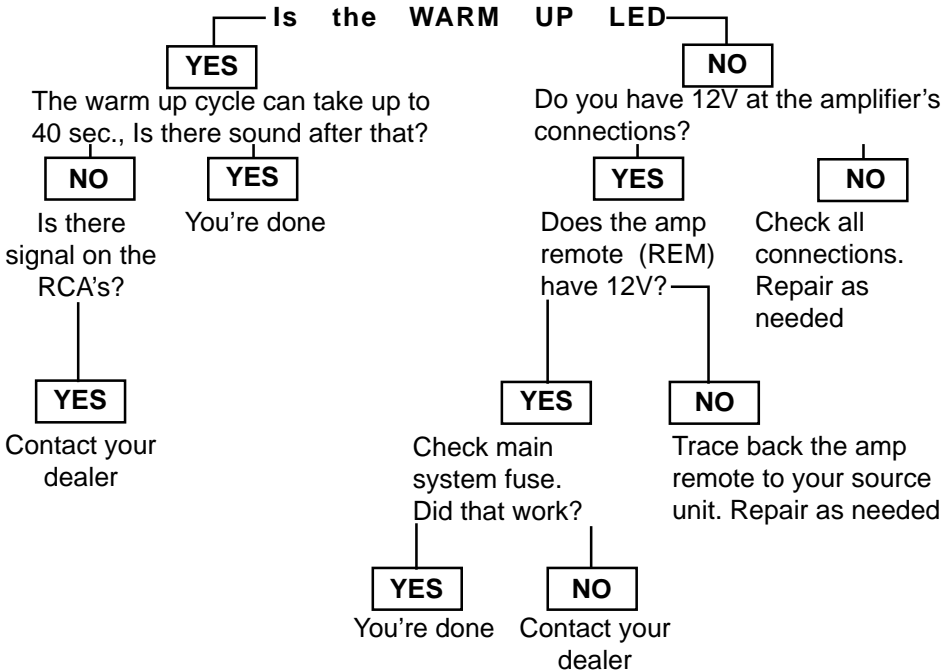
### 6. -12dB

For use with high level inputs (4V up to 12V). Push this switch in to attenuate the input by 12dB

### 7. COOLING VENTS

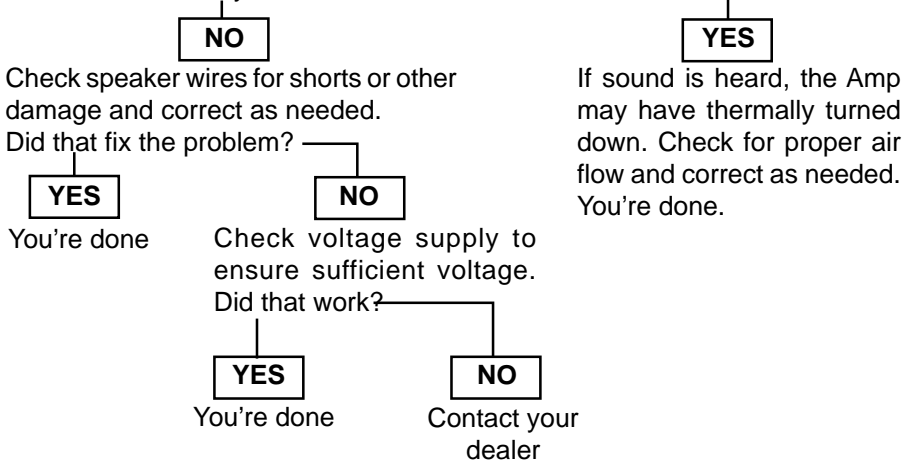


## No Sound



## Amplifier Turning Down at Normal Volume

Turn the system off, wait approx. 5 min., then turn the system back on. Listen for awhile. Did it work?



## No Sound in One Channel

Check the pre-amp (RCA/Mini-Din) cables for open connections and make corrections. Did you find open connections?

**NO**

Reverse the left and right inputs.

**YES**

You're done

**SOUND IS NOW IN...**

### Opposite Channel

Problem is further up the signal path. Reconnect RCA's to amp as normal. Reverse RCA inputs at crossover.

### Same Channel

Problem is in the speaker or speaker wire of the silent channel. Check speaker leads for pinched, shorted, or open connections.

**SOUND IS NOW IN...**

### Opposite Channel

Reverse RCA outputs of head unit

### Same Channel

Problem is in the crossover. Contact your dealer.

**SOUND IS NOW IN...**

### Opposite Channel

Problem is in the head unit

### Same Channel

Problem is in the RCA cables.

## Amplifier Turning Down at High Volume

Check speaker cables for shorts. Check for excessively low speaker impedance. Fixed?

**NO**

Check voltage supply to ensure sufficient voltage is being delivered. Is amp getting enough air to cool off? Did that solve the problem?

**YES**

You're done

**NO**

If using passive crossovers, are the connections correct?

**YES**

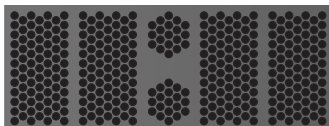
You're done

**NO**

Voltage at amp may be dropping below minimum limits.

**YES**

Power output of amp may exceed power handling of parts. Upgrade as needed.



## Noises While the Engine is On

### Alternator whine:

This noise changes in frequency with engine RPM. Check for:

- **Excessive input level**
- **High resistance in cabling or corroded and/or loose connections**
- **Polarity of the input cables**

If the problem persists, check the *whines and pops checklist* below.

### Ticks/buzz:

This noise should go faster and slower with engine RPM, but not really change in frequency. This is due to the ignition or the fuel pump.

- **Try moving the input cables to avoid contact with the fuel pump or wiring**

If the problem persists, check the *whines and pops checklist* below.

### Accessory pop:

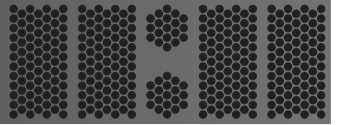
This popping noise occurs as the result of turn signals, brake lights, etc. You can try:

- **Moving the cables to avoid contact with the wires for the accessories**
- **Relocating various ground connections**

### Whines and pops:

If you have a combination of noises, or if one or more of the problems listed above persists despite efforts to stop the problem, the noise may be caused by one or more of the following problems:

- **Excessively high input level setting on the amplifier**
- **Poor or open shielding, extra long cables or corroded input cables**
- **Bad connections**
- **Bad (or high resistance) system ground**
- **Reversed polarity on audio signal cables**
- **Poor quality source unit**



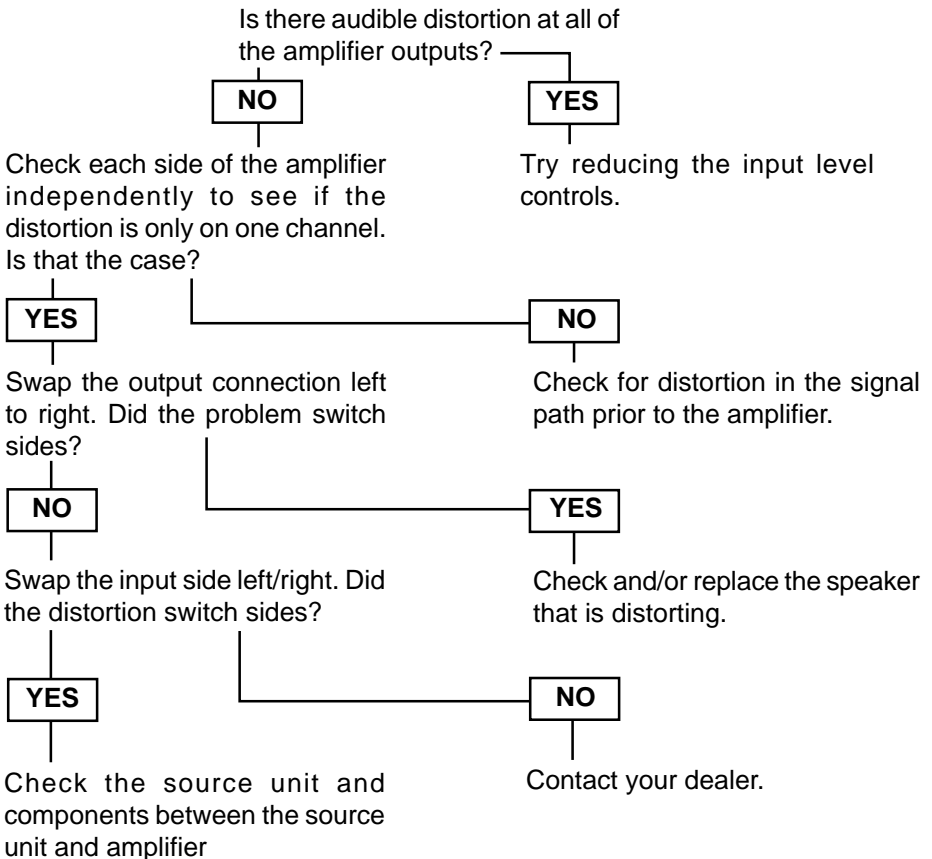
## Noises While the Engine is On or Off

### System hiss:

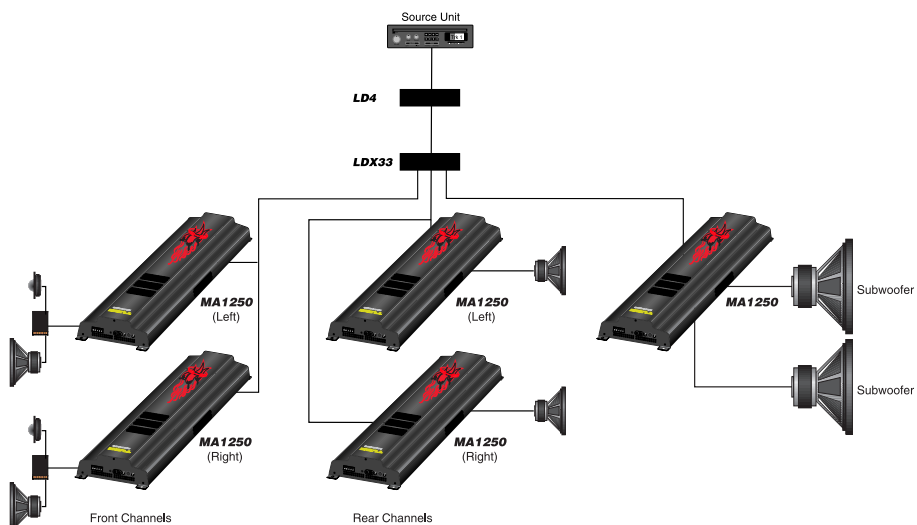
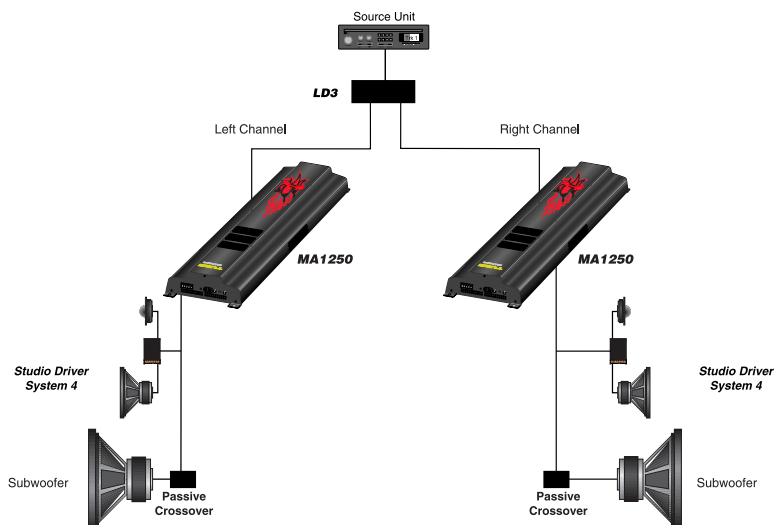
System hiss is a white noise that occurs even when the engine is off. It is usually due to excessively high gain settings. If the hiss is still audible when you disconnect the input cables from the amplifier, check the input level on the amplifier. If the hiss disappears when you remove the input cable, it may be a poor quality source unit, components between the amplifier and the source unit, or poor level settings.

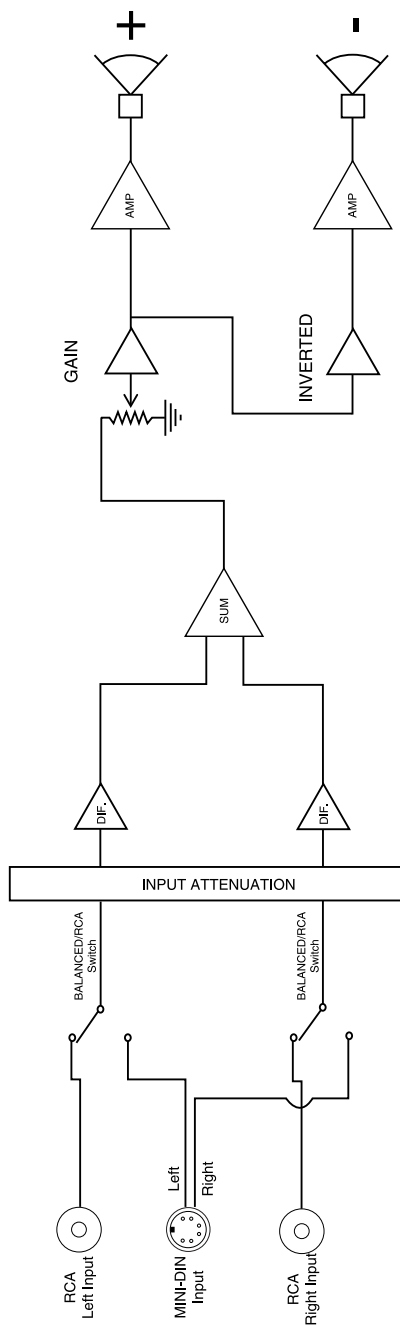
### Distortion:

Distortion is garbled sounding music. Use the following chart to help you find the source of distortion.



# SYSTEM DIAGRAM ONE/TWO





## Three-Year Limited U.S.A. Warranty

This warranty gives you specific legal rights, and you may also have other rights which vary from state to state. **TUBE DRIVER** warrants its products to be free from defects in materials and workmanship under normal use and service for a period of three (3) years from the date of original purchase when the unit is installed by an Authorized Dealer. Non-Authorized Dealer installed products carry a one (1) year parts and ninety (90) days labor limited warranty. The extent and conditions of Limited Warranty are as follows:

1. Authorized Dealer Installed Products: **TUBE DRIVER** will either repair or replace at no charge, to the original purchaser, any unit which upon examination discloses to be defective and under warranty, provided the defect occurs within three (3) years from the date of original purchase when the unit is installed by an Authorized Dealer and the product is returned immediately to **TUBE DRIVER**. This warranty is not transferable.

2. Non-Authorized Dealer Installed Products: **TUBE DRIVER** will either repair or replace at no charge, to the original purchaser, any unit which upon examination discloses to be defective and under warranty, provided the defect occurs within ninety (90) days from the date of purchase and the product is returned immediately to **TUBE DRIVER**. Warranty claims beyond ninety (90) days for Non-Authorized Dealer Installed Products will be for parts only and will extend for one (1) year from the date of purchase. This warranty is not transferable.

3. The date of purchase and proof of Authorized Dealer Installation of a **TUBE DRIVER** product must be established by an original sales receipt which must accompany the article being returned for warranty work.

4. This warranty shall NOT apply to any **TUBE DRIVER** product found to have the original factory serial number removed or defaced. All products received (by **TUBE DRIVER**) for in warranty or out of warranty repair, with their original serial numbers removed or defaced, will NOT be repaired and will be returned to sender, freight collect. Refer to original packaging for the serial number of your component speakers.

5. The provisions of this warranty shall not apply to any **TUBE DRIVER** product used for a purpose for which it is not designed, which has been repaired or altered in any way, or which has been connected, installed, or adjusted other than in accordance with the instructions furnished in **TUBE DRIVER'S** owner's manual. Nor shall this warranty apply to any part which has been subject to misuse, neglect, or accident.

6. **TUBE DRIVER** does not authorize any other persons to assume any other liability in connection with its products. THIS WARRANTY IS THE ONLY EXPRESS WARRANTY MADE BY TUBEDRIVER APPLICABLE TO ITS PRODUCTS. ANY IMPLIED WARRANTY OR MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE APPLICABLE TO TUBEDRIVER PRODUCTS IS LIMITED IN DURATION TO THE DURATION OF THIS LIMITED WARRANTY. TUBEDRIVER SHALL NOT BE LIABLE FOR THE INCIDENTAL, CONSEQUENTIAL, OR COMMERCIAL DAMAGES RESULTING FROM THE BREACH OF THIS WRITTEN WARRANTY. Some states or provinces do not allow the exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages or limitations on how long an implied warranty lasts; so the above limitations or exclusions may not apply to you.

7. Your product will be serviced on an in-warranty basis within the warranty period for the correction of warranted defects. If improper operation of your **TUBE DRIVER** product should occur, contact your Authorized Dealer for assistance with the return and factory repair of your **TUBEDRIVER** product. If an Authorized Dealer is not available, return the unit including your name, telephone number, return address, a copy of your sales receipt, and a description of the problem to:

**TUBE DRIVER, Inc.**  
**Service Department**  
**4829 S. 38th Street**  
**Phoenix, AZ 85040-2964**

TO RETURN TUBEDRIVER PRODUCTS OUT OF WARRANTY: Return the unit, postage prepaid, in the original protective carton. Please include a description of the problem and, if desired, a request for an estimate of repair costs. Unless a request for an estimate is included, the unit will be repaired as necessary. Please contact **TUBE DRIVER** Customer Service at 1-888-627-6937 for questions concerning out of warranty repair charges. Repaired unit will be returned with an itemized statement, C.O.D.