

Dan D'Agostino

MASTER AUDIO SYSTEMS



Classic Stereo

power amplifier

Legal notifications

Dan D'Agostino Master Audio Systems is a registered trademark of D'Agostino LLC. The information in this owner's manual is subject to change without notice. Current Version 1.0 of this manual was produced by the Dan D'Agostino LLC engineering, sales and marketing departments.

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CAUTION: NO USER SERVICEABLE PARTS INSIDE. Do not open the amplifier's chassis or remove any of its screws. Contact D'Agostino LLC or your dealer if you have service needs.

WARNING: Do not expose this amplifier to moisture or excessive humidity, and do not use it outdoors. Fire hazard may result.



The lightning flash with arrowhead, 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 electrical shock to persons.



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

Classic Stereo amplifier limited warranty

D'Agostino LLC warrants the Classic Stereo amplifier against manufacturing defects and defects in materials for five years from the date of purchase from an authorized Dan D'Agostino Master Audio Systems dealer, subject to the conditions listed below:

- 1) The warranty covers only new products purchased from an authorized D'Agostino LLC dealer.
- 2) The warranty is non-transferable and is valid only for the original purchaser.
- 3) The warranty is valid only if the product has been used according to the instructions in the owner's manual. Damage due to accidents or owner abuse or neglect is not covered under this warranty.
- 4) All service must be performed by an authorized Dan D'Agostino Master Audio Systems dealer. Damage resulting from service by other parties is not covered under this warranty.
- 5) All products returned for service must be packaged in the original container and must include a photocopy of the original purchase receipt. If the original container has been lost or discarded, contact D'Agostino LLC for a replacement.
- 6) If the product must be shipped back to D'Agostino LLC for warranty service, the customer shall pay shipping costs. D'Agostino LLC will pay for return shipping.
- 7) Before shipping the product to D'Agostino LLC for service, the customer must first obtain a Return Authorization (RA) number by calling D'Agostino LLC. The RA number must be marked clearly on the side of the package.
- 8) This warranty covers only defects in products made by D'Agostino LLC. It does not cover incidental or consequential damages, or damages to other products resulting from defects in D'Agostino LLC products.
- 9) U.S. residents: Depending on which state you live in, you may have other rights not elaborated in this document. For further information, contact D'Agostino LLC.
- 10) Residents of other countries: Your authorized importer or dealer bears the direct responsibility for warranty coverage of your amplifier. Please contact your importer or dealer with requests for service under warranty. D'Agostino LLC will work with your importer or dealer to assure that the terms of the warranty are fulfilled.

For questions on warranty and service matters, contact D'Agostino LLC at:
+1.480.575-3069 or +1.203-644-8743, or e-mail service@dagostinoinc.com.

A note from Dan D'Agostino

Founder, CEO, and Chief Designer of Dan D'Agostino Master Audio Systems

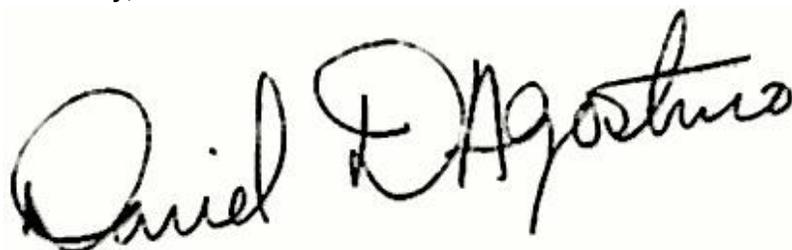
Thank you very much for purchasing my Classic Stereo amplifier. My signature on the front shows what this product means to me. I've lost count of the number of products I've designed since I started my career in the 1970s. But I can tell you exactly how many products bear my name: As I write this, the Classic Stereo is one of only seven.

The success I've achieved during my decades in the audio business gives me the luxury of building the Classic Stereo exactly the way I want. This isn't about building a big audio company. It's about building the best possible audio products with none of compromises that come with a big company. My desk is literally less than 50 feet from the production line. I personally supervise the production and make sure every product that leaves our Arizona factory deserves to have my signature on the front.

Even though the Classic Stereo is currently the most affordable amplifier we build, it's built to exactly the same standards as our top-of-the-line Momentum series amplifiers. The core circuit design is the same. Like the Momentum series amps, the Classic Stereo uses through-hole construction, which means that the leads on the transistors, resistors, capacitors and other components extend all the way through the circuit board and are soldered underneath. This is the way we used to do it before surface-mount construction was invented. Through-hole construction is much more expensive than surface-mount, but it results in better electrical connections, superior reliability and better sound quality.

I believe the Dan D'Agostino Master Audio Systems amplifiers are the best I've ever built, and that's one reason we built them to last for decades. I think they surpass anything else that's available now, and I expect it will be a long time before anything will equal them. My deepest hope is that you'll agree, and that your new Classic Stereo will bring you closer to the music you love than you ever thought possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel D'Agostino". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "D" and "A".

Package contents

If any of the following items are missing, please contact your dealer:

1 Classic Stereo amplifier encased in protective vinyl	1 owner's manual
2 XLR-to-RCA adapters	1 AC power cord

Unpacking the Classic Stereo amplifier

The Classic Stereo amplifier weighs more than 100 pounds, so it's too heavy for one person to lift safely. To unpack the amp, first move the box near to a location near where it will be installed. Remove anything from your person that might scratch the amplifier's finish, such as watches, rings and belts with metal buckles. Two people should lift the amplifier onto a soft surface, such as a towel or blanket. Lay the amp on its back, carefully remove the plastic wrap, then turn the amplifier upright and sit it on its feet. You can now place the amplifier on the stand or rack you'll be using.

Installation requirements

Because this amplifier weighs 108 pounds, please make sure the surface that will support the amplifier can safely hold its weight. Adequate ventilation must be provided for the amplifier. There should be at least 3 inches of clearance on each side and 3 inches of clearance at the top. The bottom vents must not be obstructed by thick carpet, dust, etc. We recommend that the amp be installed in an open equipment rack to assure proper ventilation. The amp may be installed in a closed cabinet or in an equipment closet, but the cabinet or closet must be designed with substantial ventilation at top and bottom; active ventilation (i.e., powered fans) is preferred. Do not place the amplifier directly on a carpeted floor (we recommend using a rack or an amplifier stand if the floor is carpeted), and make sure that dust is not allowed to accumulate around the amplifier.

Do not plug the Classic Stereo amplifier or any other Dan D'Agostino Master Audio Systems product into a power strip or power conditioner.

Rack-mounting the Classic Stereo amplifier

The rack-mounting holes in the Classic Stereo amplifier's front panel have screws installed at the factory. These make the amp look nicer when it's not rack-mounted. If you will be rack-mounting your Classic Stereo, be sure to remove these screws first.

If you need to return the amplifier for service

If you should need to send the Classic Stereo amplifier back to us for service, be sure to use the original box and materials for shipment.

Before you ship the amplifier, unplug it from the wall and let it cool down for 6 hours. To protect the finish during shipping, rewrap the amplifier in the vinyl covering it came in. Make sure the amp is completely cool and has not been plugged in for 6 hours before you do this. Wrapping the amplifier when it is warm will cause the vinyl to leech into the amplifier's surface and will permanently damage the finish.

Front panel



1. Standby/Power On button

Rear panel



1. XLR input jacks
2. RS-232 control input
3. 3.5mm IR control output
4. 3.5mm IR control input

5. Fuse cover
6. 20-amp IEC AC input
7. Speaker cable binding posts

Making connections to the amplifier

Speaker cables

Install the speaker cables first. We recommend the use of high-quality cables terminated with spade or ring lugs that will fit the amplifier's binding posts. These will provide the best conductivity and the most reliable connection. We advise against the use of pin connectors, banana plugs or bare-wire connections.

Note that the positive (+) binding post has a red ring and the negative (-) binding post has a black ring. Double check to confirm that you are connecting your speaker cable's conductors to the appropriate binding posts—red to positive, black to negative. If your cables are marked to show desired signal flow, orient the cable so that the installation conforms to the cable manufacturer's instructions.

To install speaker cables tipped with spade lugs or rings, use a binding post wrench to carefully loosen each speaker binding post. Turn counter-clockwise to loosen. If using spade lugs, insert each spade lug so that its two tines straddle the binding post, then tighten the binding post nut with the binding post wrench. If using rings, remove the binding post nut entirely, place the ring on the binding post, then replace the nut and tighten it securely.

A firm connection, tight enough that the spade lug or ring cannot move, is all that's needed. Too much torque could damage the binding posts. Do not use a conventional wrench to tighten the binding posts.

Interconnect cables

We recommend the use of high-quality balanced XLR audio interconnect cables between your preamp and the Classic Stereo amplifier. If you have a source device that does not offer XLR outputs, please contact your D'Agostino Master Audio Systems dealer to acquire the proper adapters.

Connect each XLR cable (or RCA-to-XLR adapter) to the appropriate XLR jack by pushing the plug into the jack. To release the plug, push on the small tab atop the jack and gently detach the plug. Never grasp interconnect cables by the cable itself—you could damage the cable. Be sure to connect left channel to left input, right channel to right input.

AC cord

The Classic Stereo amplifier is supplied with a high-quality AC cord tipped with a 20-amp IEC connector at the amp end and a three-conductor AC plug at the other end. You may use a different power cord with the amplifier if you wish, as long as it is tipped with a 20-amp IEC connector and a three-conductor AC plug.

After the speaker, interconnect cables, and power supply connector cable are connected, push the IEC connector on the power cord into the IEC jack on the amplifier. Do not plug the amplifier or any other Dan D'Agostino Master Audio Systems product into a power strip or power conditioner.

12-volt trigger input/output

These 3.5mm jacks allow the amplifier to be turned on or off automatically by a preamp or other device that has a 12-volt trigger output, and also allow the 12-volt trigger output signal to be relayed to other components (such as a second Classic Stereo amplifier).

To use the 12-volt trigger feature with the Classic Stereo amplifier, connect a cable tipped with 3.5mm plugs (stereo or mono) to the trigger output of the preamp and the trigger input of the amplifier. Plug in the amplifier and turn it on. You will notice the power does not come on. However, when you turn on the preamp, the power amp should also turn on. If it does not, check the owner's manual or the back panel of the preamp or other device to make sure it outputs a 12-volt trigger signal. Some preamps require that the 12-volt trigger output be activated through a control menu; if yours works this way, make sure the trigger output is activated.

If you want to power up another component (such as another Classic Stereo amplifier) when this amplifier powers up, connect a cable tipped with 3.5mm plugs (stereo or mono) from the trigger output of this amplifier to the trigger input of the other component.

RS-232 input

This DB9-type input allows the Classic Stereo amplifier to be controlled by home automation systems that use RS-232 protocol. Consult your Dan D'Agostino Master Audio Systems dealer for more information.

Operation

Initial power-up of the amplifier

To power-up the amplifier, simply push the power button located on the front of the amplifier. The LED inside the button will light up. If you are using the 12-volt trigger input, powering up the connected component will turn the power on for the amplifier.

After power is switched on, the Classic Stereo amplifier requires approximately 30 minutes to reach optimal operating temperature. Although the amp will sound excellent upon initial listening, the sound quality will improve as it warms up, much as the flavor of a fine red wine improves if it is allowed to breathe for a few minutes.

Maintenance

The Classic Stereo amplifier requires no user maintenance other than to keep the amplifier clean and ensure its vents remain unobstructed.

To clean the amplifier, spray a small amount of distilled water onto a microfiber cloth and gently wipe the amp's surface along the direction of the metal grain, with light pressure only. Never use heavy pressure, as this can permanently scratch the surface. Do not rub the surface with the cloth, and do not spray any liquid directly onto the integrated amp.

If dust or other contaminants or objects collect around the vents at the top and bottom of the integrated amp, remove small objects by hand and use a shop vacuum or hand vacuum to remove the dust. Use a brush attachment on the vacuum to avoid scratching the integrated amp's surface.

If you should need to transport or ship the amplifier, be sure to use the original packing materials. Allow the amp to cool down for at least one hour before you wrap or package it.

Troubleshooting

Amplifier will not power up

If the amp produces no sound and the LED inside the front standby/power button does not light up when you push the button, perform the following steps in order until normal operation is restored.

1. Check to make sure the AC cord is plugged into the wall outlet.
2. Check at the back of the amplifier to make sure the 20-amp IEC connector is pushed all the way into the jack on the back of the amplifier.
3. Unscrew the fuse connector at the back of the amplifier. Check to see if the fuse is blown. (The conductor inside the fuse will be severed and you may see burn marks on the fuse.) Be sure to replace the fuse with one of the proper value. Consult your dealer or D'Agostino LLC.
4. Check your household electrical box to make sure the circuit breaker has not been tripped. If it has, flip the breaker back on.
5. If the breaker trips again, check the speaker cable connections on the amplifier and the speakers to make sure that the terminals are not shorted, and check the entire length of the cables to ensure there has been no damage to them.
6. If all of these steps fail to return power to the amplifier, consult your dealer for service.

LED inside the standby/power button is illuminated but you hear no sound

Follow these steps in order. If one step succeeds in restoring the sound, stop there and ignore the other steps.

1. Check your preamp (or surround processor) and source device to make sure they are both turned on.
2. Check the source device to make sure it is playing, i.e., if it's a record player, make sure it's spinning and the tonearm is lowered, or if it's a CD player or computer, make sure it's in play mode and not in pause.
3. Make sure your preamp is not muted and that the desired source is selected.
4. Check the line-level connections between the source device and the preamp, and between the preamp or processor and the amplifier. Reconnect any cables that may have become disconnected.
5. Check the cables between the amplifier and the speakers to make sure they are properly connected and that the cables have not become damaged.
6. If you have a spare pair of interconnect cables (even cheap ones will work temporarily), try using them instead of the interconnect cables between the source device and the preamp and between the preamp and the amplifier. If this restores sound, replace the defective cables.
7. If all of these steps fail to restore sound, consult your dealer for service.

Sound does not come from one of the channels

Follow the steps below in order. If one of these steps succeeds in restoring the sound, stop there and ignore the other steps.

1. Check speaker cable connections for the malfunctioning channel. Reconnect any cables that may have become disconnected. Inspect the cables to make sure they have not been damaged. If a cable has been damaged, replace it.
2. Swap the interconnect cable from the preamp or surround processor to the amplifier's malfunctioning channel with the cable for a channel that is functioning properly. If the malfunctioning channel now works but the other channel does not, replace the defective interconnect cable with one of the exact same type.
3. If using an analog source device, swap the left-channel interconnect cable from the source device to the preamp with the right-channel interconnect cable. If the malfunctioning channel now works but the other channel does not, replace the defective interconnect cable with one of the exact same type.
4. Try using a different source device. If the alternate source device delivers sound in both channels, it is likely the original source device is defective. Consult the manufacturer of that source device or your dealer for further information.
5. If possible, try using a different preamp or surround processor. If the alternate preamp delivers sound in both channels, it is likely the original preamp is defective. Consult the manufacturer of the preamp or your dealer for further information.
6. If all of these steps fail to restore sound, consult your dealer for service.

Sound seems unclear or unfocused with stereo sources

Follow the below steps in order. If one of these steps fixes the problem, stop there and ignore the other steps.

1. Play a CD or digital file (not a record) of a vocalist and sit in your usual listening position, which should be equidistant from each speaker and typically 8 to 15 feet away from them. If the vocal image appears centered between the speakers, they are connected correctly and your system is probably operating properly.
2. If the vocal image is unfocused and the vocal seems to come from all the room, your speakers are probably wired out of phase. Make sure that the speaker cables on your amplifier are connected correctly. The cable connector marked + or colored red should be connected to the speaker binding post with the red ring. The cable connector marked - or colored black should be connected to the speaker binding post with the black ring.
3. If the sound is still unclear or unfocused, consult your dealer. Your system may have a setup problem outside the scope of this manual.

Specifications

Power output

8 Ω 300 watts per channel
4 Ω 500 watts per channel
2 Ω 1,000 watts per channel

Power output, bridged

8 Ω 1,200 watts per channel

Frequency response

0.1 Hz to 100 KHz, -1 dB
20Hz to 20 kHz, \pm 0 dB

Distortion

<0.1%, 1 kHz, 300 watts/8 Ω

Signal-to-noise ratio

-80 dB, unweighted

Inputs

2 balanced XLR stereo
3.5mm 12-volt trigger

Outputs

metal binding posts
3.5mm 12-volt trigger

Weight

108 lbs / 50.0 kg

Dimensions

11.5 x 19 x 20 inches (hwd)
29.2 x 48.3 x 50.8 cm (hwd)

For more information about Dan D'Agostino Master Audio Systems, please visit:

dandagostino.com

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