



Owner's Manual

DPA-1 and DPA-1M Amplifiers

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

WARNING: Do not expose this device 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 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.

DPA-1 Limited Warranty

Audio Alchemy warrants the DPA-1 against manufacturing defects and defects in materials for two years from the date of purchase. The warranty must be exercised through an authorized Audio Alchemy dealer, subject to the conditions listed below:

- 1) The warranty covers only new products purchased from an authorized Audio Alchemy 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.
- 4) All service must be performed by Audio Alchemy or an authorized Audio Alchemy 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 or computer printout of the original purchase receipt. If the original container has been lost or discarded, contact Audio Alchemy for a replacement.
- 6) This warranty covers only defects in Audio Alchemy products. It does not cover incidental or consequential damages, or damage to other products resulting from defects in Audio Alchemy products.
- 7) If the product must be shipped back to Audio Alchemy for warranty service, the customer will pay shipping costs. Audio Alchemy will pay return shipping.
- 8) Before shipping the product to Audio Alchemy for service, the customer must obtain a Return Authorization (RA) number from Audio Alchemy. The RA number must be marked clearly on the package.
- 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 Audio Alchemy.
- 10) Residents of other countries: Your authorized dealer bears the direct responsibility for warranty coverage of your amplifier. Please contact your dealer with requests for service under warranty.

For questions on warranty and service matters, contact Audio Alchemy at info@audioalchemy.com. You may also call 805.323.6005, but for faster service we recommend you e-mail.

Legal Notifications

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Important Guidelines for Installation and Use

- **Do not connect the outputs of the amplifier to the speaker-level inputs of a powered subwoofer.** It could damage the amplifier because the grounds of these inputs are usually tied together, and the amplifier's output terminals are not.
- Do not connect the AC power cord until all audio connections have been made.
- Place the DPA-1 where it will not be exposed to moisture or direct sunlight.
- Install the DPA-1 where it can get some ventilation. The amplifier doesn't produce a great deal of heat, but using it in a sealed enclosure with no airflow could have long-term negative effects on the unit's circuitry.
- Use a soft microfiber cloth to clean dust and fingerprints off of the DPA-1's surface. Stubborn fingerprints or dirt may be removed by spraying a small amount of water or window cleaner onto the cloth, then using the moistened cloth to clean the DPA-1. Do not spray any cleaner or other moisture directly onto the DPA-1.
- You will get the best and most reliable performance from the DPA-1 by using high-quality audio cables.

Maintenance

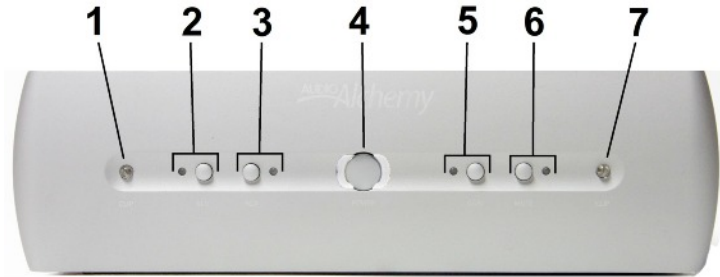
The DPA-1 requires no user maintenance, although it's a good idea to occasionally wipe any accumulated dust off of it. To do this, use a soft microfiber cloth and wipe gently to remove any dust. Stubborn fingerprints or dirt may be removed by spraying a small amount of water or window cleaner onto the cloth, then using the moistened cloth to clean the DPA-1. Do not spray any cleaner or other moisture directly onto the DPA-1.

If the DPA-1 does not seem to be working properly, please contact your dealer. Do not attempt to open the chassis;—there are no user-serviceable parts inside.

Connections and Controls

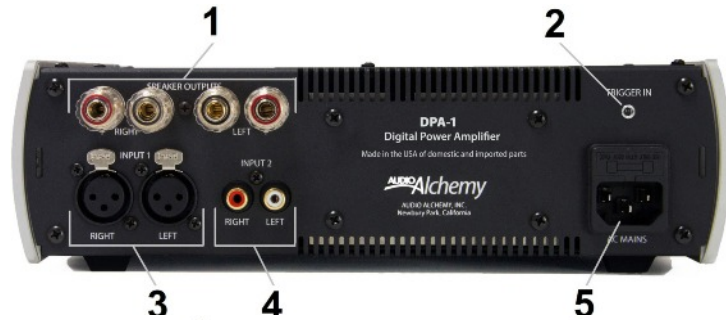
Front Panel

1. Left clipping LED
2. XLR input button and LED
3. RCA input button and LED
4. Power button and LED
5. Gain button and LED
6. Mute button and LED
7. Right clipping LED



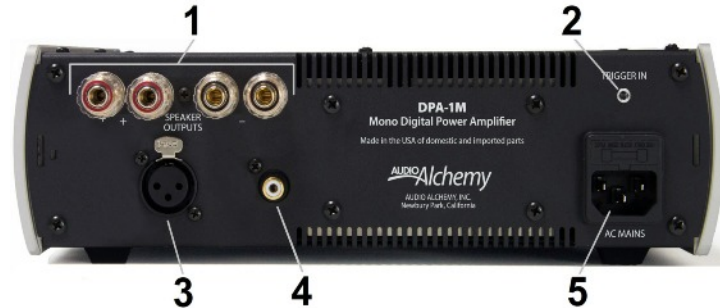
Rear Panel (DPA-1)

1. Speaker outputs
2. 12-volt trigger input
3. XLR input(s)
4. RCA input(s)
5. IEC AC cord input



Rear Panel (DPA-1M)

1. Speaker outputs
2. 12-volt trigger input
3. XLR input(s)
4. RCA input(s)
5. IEC AC cord input



Connecting the DPA-1 to Your Audio System

First, make sure your system is powered down before making any connections. This is especially important with the preamplifier. Never make speaker connections while the DPA-1 or DPA-1Ms are switched on or connected to AC power.

Interconnect Cables

Start by connecting the preamp to the DPA-1. In every case, grasp the cables by the plugs/connectors, not by the cable itself, otherwise you could damage the cable or the jack panel of the DPA-1 or your preamp. If your preamp offers XLR output, we strongly recommend you use XLR cables to connect the preamp to the DPA-1. This will minimize noise and interference while providing a more secure connection. For XLR connections, align the pins inside the plug and push it in until it clicks. To remove, press the tab on the top of the plug then pull the plug out. For RCA connections, simply grasp the plug and insert it into the appropriate jack on the DPA-1.

Speaker Cables

Do not connect the outputs of the amplifier to the speaker-level inputs of a powered subwoofer. It could damage the amplifier because the grounds of these inputs are usually tied together, and the amplifier's output terminals are not.

We recommend using high-quality speaker cables tipped with spade lugs or banana plugs. Bare wire can be used, but be careful. Stray strands from the wire can touch strands from another wire and cause a short circuit, which could damage the amp or cause the wire strands to burn. Connect the positive terminal (+ or red) of the amplifier to the positive terminal on the speaker, and the negative terminal (- or black) to the negative terminal on the speaker. If using spade lugs or bare wires, tighten the amp's binding posts firmly by hand. Do not use pliers or a wrench to tighten the binding posts.

The DPA-1M provides two sets of speaker terminals for the same channel. You can use either set of terminals, and you can also use both if you choose to biwire your speakers.

AC Cord

A high-quality AC cord is supplied with the DPA-1 and DPA-1M, but you may use an aftermarket power cord if you wish. Make sure the cord is an IEC three-conductor type with the same type of connectors found on the original cord.

12-volt DC Trigger Input

Using this jack, you can set up the DPA-1 or DPA-1M to power up automatically when your preamp's power is on. Many preamps (including the Audio Alchemy DDP-1) have a 12-volt trigger output compatible with this jack. In most cases, you can use a 3.5mm to 3.5mm stereo or mono cable (available at electronics stores and websites) to make this connection.

Operation

The DPA-1 works like most other power amplifiers, but it does offer a couple of unusual features than can enhance its operation and convenience, and optimize the amplifier for the best performance in your system.

Powering Up the Amplifier

Once all connections are made, switch your preamp on and allow it to warm up for 30 seconds. Now press the Power button on the front of the amplifier. The amp will enter a 15-second warm-up mode, in which the output will be muted and the front power LED will flash at random. When the LED glows steadily, the DPA-1 is ready to use.

Selecting an Input

Press the XLR button to select XLR balanced input or the RCA button to select RCA unbalanced input. The LED next to the currently selected input button will glow.

Adjusting Gain

To increase the amplifier's gain by +6 dB, press the Gain button. The LED next to the button will light up. This feature may be useful if your preamp's gain is low, or if you're driving the amplifier directly from a computer.

Mute

Press to mute the amplifier's output. The LED next to the button will glow when mute is on. Press again to restore the sound.

Clip Indicators

The LEDs at the far sides of the front panel warn that the amplifier is running close to clipping (i.e., exceeding its maximum rated output). The LEDs illuminate at -3 dB below maximum output. The DPA-1 has separate clip LEDs for left and right channels. On the DPA-1M, the LEDs operate in tandem. It's normal for these LEDs to light occasionally, but if they're lighting often during the course of a tune, we recommend turning the volume down or switching to more efficient speakers.

Troubleshooting

Power Won't Turn On

If pushing the Power button on the front panel or remote doesn't turn the DPA-1's power on, check these things in order:

1. Make sure the AC cord is also plugged into the wall (or power strip or line conditioner) and into the back of the amplifier, and that the cord is not damaged and that the power strip or line conditioner is turned on.
2. Check your home's electrical box. If the circuit breaker has been tripped, flip it back on.
3. If these steps do not fix the problem, please contact your dealer.

Power Is On But There's No Sound

If the front power LED is illuminated but the system produces no sound, check the following things in order:

1. Make sure the desired input (XLR or RCA) is selected on the amplifier's front panel.
2. Make sure the amplifier is not in mute mode. If the LED next to the Mute button is glowing, press the Mute button.
3. Make sure your preamp's volume is turned up.
4. Check to see if the proper input is selected on the preamp.
5. Check the source components (computer, CD player, turntable) to make sure they are powered up and running. Make sure the computer is playing a file, or the turntable's tonearm is lowered, etc.
6. Check the cables going from the amp(s) to the speakers. If one or both cables is disconnected or damaged, switch the amp off, reconnect or replace the cable, then turn the amp back on.
7. Check the connections between your components to make sure all cables are properly connected. If you suspect any cables are damaged, swap them out with another set of cables. If the sound comes back, replace the damaged cables.
8. If these steps do not fix the problem, please contact your dealer.

Sound Comes From Only One Channel

If only one channel is working, check the following things in order:

1. Check the connections between the amplifier and the preamp, the amp and the speakers, and the preamp and the source component. If any cables are disconnected, reconnect them. If they appear damaged, replace them.
2. If you are using two DPA-1Ms, make sure both amplifiers are turned on.
3. Try swapping the left and right cables between the amp(s) and the preamp, then between the amp(s) and the speakers. If you're using an analog source, try swapping the left and right cables leading from it to the preamp. If any of these actions restores the sound in the dead channel and cuts the sound in the other channel, the cable must be replaced.
4. Swap the connections for the left and right speakers, without changing the speaker cable connection at the amplifier(s). If the sound in the dead channel is not restored, that speaker is likely malfunctioning.
5. Check to see if your source devices, preamp and speakers are working correctly. If possible, swap them out with similar devices. If swapping the component restores the sound in the dead channel, the original component is probably defective.
6. If none of these steps restores the sound, consult your dealer.

Sound Is Weak, Distorted or Unnatural

If the sound is on in both channels but seems weak, distorted or unnatural, check the following things in order:

1. If the LED next to the Gain button on the front of the amp is not lit, press the button. This will increase volume by +6 dB.
2. If you are using an analog source device (CD player, tape deck, TV, etc.) that has a variable-level audio output, make sure the level on the source device is turned all the way up.
3. Try a different set of interconnects between the amp(s) and the preamp, and between any analog source devices and the preamp. If a different set of interconnects fixes the problem, replace the original set.
4. If possible, try a different set of speakers. If the new speakers sound fine, the original speakers may need service.
5. If these steps do not improve the sound, please contact your dealer.

For more information about the DPA-1 and other Audio Alchemy products, please visit www.audioalchemy.com.

