



Head of the Curve®

OWNER'S MANUAL

1200/1V3

1200 W CLASS-D MONOBLOCK SUBWOOFER AMPLIFIER



**Thank you for purchasing a JL Audio amplifier
for your automotive sound system.**

Your amplifier has been designed and manufactured to exacting standards in order to ensure years of musical enjoyment in your vehicle. For maximum performance and extended warranty coverage, we highly recommend that you have your new amplifier installed by an authorized JL Audio dealer. Your authorized dealer has the training, expertise and installation equipment to ensure optimum performance from this product. Should you decide to install the amplifier yourself, please take the time to read this manual thoroughly so as to familiarize yourself with its installation requirements and setup procedures.

If you have any questions regarding the instructions in this manual or any aspect of your amplifier's operation, please contact your authorized JL Audio dealer for assistance. If you need further assistance, please call the JL Audio Technical Support Department at (954) 443-1100 during business hours.

PROTECT YOUR HEARING!

We value you as a long-term customer. For that reason, we urge you to practice restraint in the operation of this product so as not to damage your hearing and that of others in your vehicle. Studies have shown that continuous exposure to high sound pressure levels can lead to permanent (irreparable) hearing loss. This and all other high-power amplifiers are capable of producing such high sound pressure levels when connected to a speaker system. Please limit your continuous exposure to high volume levels.

While driving, operate your audio system in a manner that still allows you to hear necessary noises to operate your vehicle safely (horns, sirens, etc.).

SERIAL NUMBER

In the event that your amplifier requires service or is ever stolen, you will need to have a record of the product's serial number. Please take the time to enter that number in the space provided below. The serial number can be found on the bottom panel of the amplifier and on the amplifier packaging.

Serial Number:

INSTALLATION APPLICATIONS

This amplifier is designed for operation in vehicles with 12V, negative-ground electrical systems. Use of this product in vehicles with positive ground and/or voltages other than 12V may result in damage to the product and will void the warranty.

This product is not certified or approved for use in aircraft.

Do not attempt to "bridge" the outputs of this amplifier with the outputs of a second amplifier, including an identical one.

PLANNING YOUR INSTALLATION

It is important that you take the time to read this manual and that you plan out your installation carefully. The following are some considerations that you must take into account when planning your installation.

Cooling Efficiency Considerations:

Your JL Audio amplifier employs an advanced type of heat management, called RealSink™. This feature takes advantage of convection and radiation effects to remove heat from the amplifier circuitry. For optimum cooling performance, the vertical heat sinks located at the back of the amplifier should be exposed to as large a volume of air as possible. Enclosing the amplifier in a small, poorly ventilated chamber can lead to excessive heat build-up and degraded performance. If an installation calls for an enclosure around the amplifier, we recommend that this enclosure be ventilated with the aid of a fan. In normal applications, fan-cooling is not necessary, but you still need to follow some basic guidelines:

- Amplifier mounted vertically with heat sink fins pointing up: Optimum
- Amplifier mounted horizontally, right side up: Good
- Amplifier mounted horizontally, but upside down: Fair (not recommended if there is less than 1 inch (2.5 cm) clearance above the amplifier heat sinks)
- Amplifier mounted vertically with heat sink fins pointing laterally: Fair
- Amplifier mounted vertically with heat sink fins pointing down: Poor (not recommended)

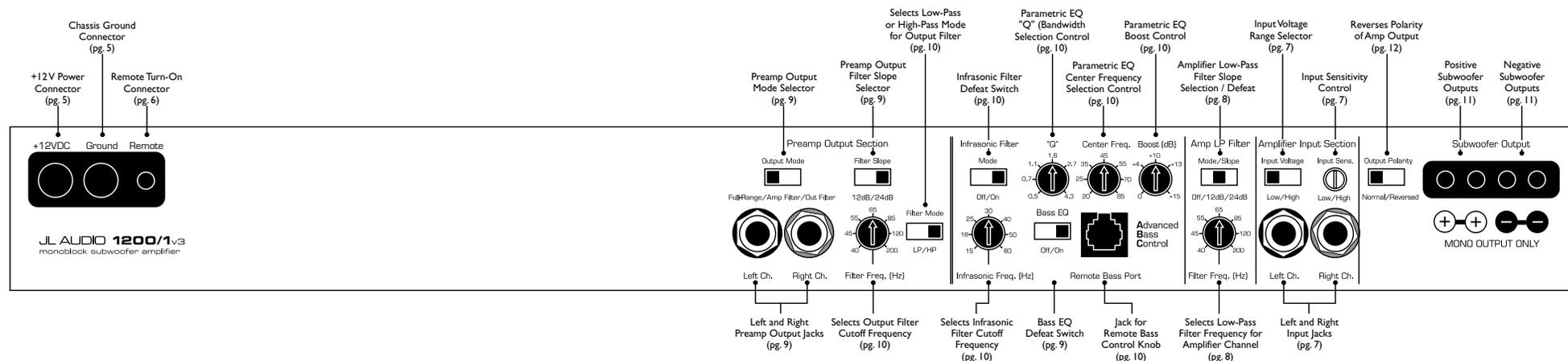
If mounting the amplifier under a seat, make sure there is at least 1 inch (2.5 cm) of space above the amplifier's outer shell to permit proper cooling.

Safety Considerations:

Your amplifier needs to be installed in a dry, well-ventilated environment and in a manner which does not interfere with your vehicle's safety equipment (air bags, seat belt systems, ABS brake systems, etc.). You should also take the time to securely mount the amplifier using appropriate hardware so that it does not come loose in the event of a collision or a sudden jolt to the vehicle.

Stupid Mistakes to Avoid:

- Check before drilling any holes in your vehicle to make sure that you will not be drilling through a gas tank, brake line, wiring harness or other vital vehicle system.
- Do not run system wiring outside or underneath the vehicle. This is an extremely dangerous practice which can result in severe damage to your vehicle and person.
- Protect all system wires from sharp metal edges and wear by carefully routing them, tying them down and using grommets and loom where appropriate.
- Do not mount the amplifier in the engine compartment, under the vehicle, on the roof or in any other area that will expose the amplifier circuitry to the elements.



PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

The JL Audio 1200/1v3 is a monoblock subwoofer amplifier utilizing proprietary and patented Class D technology. Its frequency response is limited to the range below 250 Hz. It is not designed for driving midrange speakers or tweeters. Every aspect of its operation has been optimized for low-frequency amplification. For detailed specifications, please refer to Appendix B (page 15).

TYPICAL INSTALLATION SEQUENCE

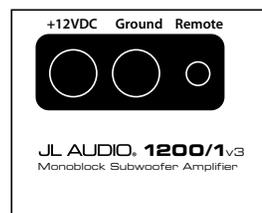
The following represents the sequence for a typical amplifier installation, using an aftermarket source unit or OEM Interface processor (like the CleanSweep® CL441dsp). Additional steps and different procedures may be required in some applications. If you have any questions, please contact your authorized JL Audio dealer for assistance.

- 1) Disconnect the negative battery post connection and secure the disconnected cable to prevent accidental re-connection during installation. **This step is not optional!**
- 2) Run power wire from the battery location to the amplifier mounting location, taking care to route it in such a way that it will not be damaged and will not interfere with vehicle operation. 2 AWG or larger is recommended for wire runs greater than 72 inches (180 cm) in length. This 2 AWG wire needs to be reduced to 4 AWG within 36 wire inches of the amplifier using a distribution block. Use a 1/0 AWG or 1/0 AWG main power wire with a fused power distribution block when additional amplifiers are being installed with the 1200/1v3 and are being powered from the same main power wire.
- 3) Connect power wire to the positive battery post. Fuse the wire with an appropriate fuse block (and connectors) within 18 inches (45 cm) wire length of the positive battery post. This fuse is essential to protect the vehicle. Do not install the fuse until the power wire has been connected to the amplifier.
- 4) Run signal cables (RCA cables) and remote turn-on wire from the source unit or interface processor to the amplifier mounting location.
- 5) Run speaker wire from the speaker systems to the amplifier mounting location.

- 6) Find a good, solid, bare metal grounding point close to the amplifier and connect the negative power wire to it using appropriate hardware. Use minimum 4 AWG power wire, no longer than 36 inches (90 cm). In some vehicles, it may be necessary to upgrade the battery's ground wire as well. (See page 6 for important notice).
- 7) Securely mount the amplifier using appropriate hardware.
- 8) Connect the remote turn-on wire and the positive and negative power wires to the amplifier's power connector plug. Then insert the power connector plug into the amplifier's power connector receptacle, pushing firmly.
- 9) Connect the RCA input cables to the amplifier.
- 10) Connect the speaker wires to the speaker connector plug and insert the plug firmly into the speaker connector receptacle.
- 11) Carefully review the amplifier's control settings to make sure that they are set according to the needs of the system.
- 12) Install power wire fuse (100A for a single 1200/1v3) and reconnect the negative battery post terminal.
- 13) Turn on the source unit at a low level to double-check that the amplifier is configured correctly. Resist the temptation to crank it up until you have verified the control settings.
- 14) Make necessary adjustments to the input sensitivity controls to obtain the right overall output and the desired balance in the system. See Appendix A (pages 14) for the recommended input sensitivity setting method.
- 15) Enjoy the fruits of your labor with your favorite music.

POWER CONNECTIONS

Before installing the amplifier, disconnect the negative (ground) wire from the vehicle's battery. This will prevent accidental damage to the system, the vehicle and your person during installation.



+12V Battery Connection

You will need to connect a power wire to the vehicle's positive battery terminal, using an appropriate power ring or specialized battery terminal connector, such as the JL Audio XB-BTU or XD-BTS. This connection must be tight and corrosion-free to ensure proper connectivity. This wire **MUST** be fused appropriately for safety. Any power wires run through metal barriers (such as firewalls), must be protected with a high quality insulating grommet to prevent damage to the insulation of the wire. Failure to do so may result in a dangerous short circuit.

Power Wire Requirements

The 1200/1v3's "+12 VDC" and "Ground" connections are designed to accept 4 AWG power wire. 2 AWG or 1/0 AWG pure copper wire is recommended for any power wire run longer than 72 inches (180 cm). This larger wire should be reduced to 4 AWG using a distribution block within 36 wire inches (90 cm) of the amplifier's "+12 VDC" connector. For runs shorter than 72 inches, 4 AWG pure copper power wire is acceptable.

If you are installing the 1200/1v3 with other amplifiers and wish to use a single main power wire, use 1/0 AWG pure copper wire as a main power wire. This 1/0 AWG power wire should terminate into a fused distribution block mounted as close to the amplifiers as possible and should connect to the 1200/1v3 with 4 AWG pure copper power wire.

Please note that lower AWG numbers mean bigger wire and vice-versa (1/0 AWG is the largest, 2 AWG is smaller, then 4 AWG, then 8 AWG, etc.).

! IMPORTANT

We do not recommend the use of "copper-clad aluminum wire" or "CCA" wire because this wire is significantly less conductive than pure copper wire. Only use pure copper power wire, such as JL Audio's Premium Power Wire. Tinned copper wire (silver color) is acceptable as the tin-plating is only a very minor component of the wire.

Fuse Requirements

The installation of a fuse on the main power wire, within 18 wire inches (45 cm) of the positive battery terminal is vital to protect the wire and the vehicle from fire in the event of a collision or short-circuit. The fuse value at each power wire should be just high enough for all of the equipment being run from that power wire. Do not use a fuse with a value that far exceeds the total fuse rating of the electronics connected to the wire.

If only the 1200/1v3 is being run from that power wire, we recommend a 100A fuse be used. MaxiFuse™ (big plastic-body fuse) or ANL (large blade-type) fuses are recommended.

If other amplifiers are also being powered from a main power wire and all the amplifiers together exceed 100 amps in total fuse rating, we recommend the use of an ANL (large-blade) fuse and holder at the battery plus a fused distribution block near the amplifiers. Each amplifier must be fused independently at the outputs of the fused power distribution block. We recommend appropriately rated MaxiFuse™ fuses and a JL Audio fused distribution block.

Please consult with your JL Audio dealer to make sure that the wire, fuse holder and fuse ratings are appropriate for your system's needs. The safety of your installation depends on appropriate power connections and fuse protection.

Ground Connection

The chassis ground connection must be made using 4 AWG pure copper wire and should be kept as short as possible, while accessing a solid piece of sheet metal in the vehicle. The surface of the sheet metal should be sanded at the contact point to create a clean, metal-to-metal connection between the chassis and the termination of the ground wire with a brass or copper power ring. For optimal grounding, we recommend the use of a JL Audio master ground lug (XB-MGLU). Alternatively, a sheet metal screw or bolt can be used with a star washer.

! IMPORTANT

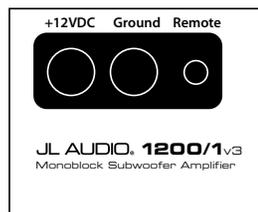
Many vehicles employ small (10 AWG - 6 AWG) wire to ground the battery to the vehicle chassis and to connect the alternator's positive connection to the battery. To prevent voltage drops, these wires should be upgraded to 4 AWG pure copper wire (or larger) when installing amplifier systems with main fuse ratings above 60A.

REMOTE TURN-ON

The 1200/1v3 uses a conventional +12V remote turn-on lead, typically controlled by the source unit's remote turn-on output. The amplifier will turn on when +12V is present at its "Remote" input and turn off when +12V is switched off. If a source unit does not have a dedicated remote turn-on output, the amplifier's turn-on lead can be connected to +12V via a switch that derives power from an ignition-switched circuit.

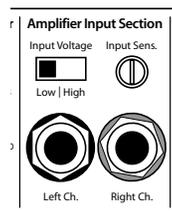
The 1200/1v3's "Remote" turn-on connector is designed to accept 12 AWG – 8 AWG wire. 12 AWG is more than adequate for this purpose.

To connect the remote turn-on wire to the amplifier, first back out the set screw on the top of the amplifier, using the supplied hex wrench. Strip 1/2 inch (12mm) of wire and insert the bare wire into the receptacle on the front panel of the amplifier, seating it firmly so that no bare wire is exposed. Smaller wire than 12 AWG can be used, but it may be necessary to strip 1 inch of insulation from the wire and fold the bare wire in half prior to insertion. While holding the wire in the terminal, tighten the set screw firmly, taking care not to strip the head of the screw and making sure that the wire is firmly gripped by the set screw.



AMPLIFIER INPUT SECTION

The 1200/1v3 employs a differential-balanced input topology that provides the user with a high degree of input flexibility while retaining superior noise rejection. This type of circuit also allows the 1200/1v3 to accept high-voltage inputs from factory source unit outputs without excessive distortion or noise problems.



1) **Input Connections:** A standard left/right pair of RCA type jacks is used for input on the 1200/1v3. You may run a stereo or a mono signal into the inputs of the amplifier. The amplifier's input section automatically sums stereo signals to mono for the internal amplifier section and for the "LP" "Filter Mode" of the "Preamp Output" section.

! IMPORTANT

If you plan to use the "Preamp Output" in "Full-Range" or "HP" mode to feed a stereo amplifier, you must connect a stereo signal to the input of the amplifier. A mono signal into the amplifier will result in a mono signal out of the preamp output. (It's a great amplifier, but it doesn't do magic).

The amplifier will operate with only one input connection (left or right), but will require an increase in input sensitivity to overcome the loss of signal. If a mono input signal is to be run, we recommend that you use a "Y-adaptor" like the JL Audio ECS model XD-CLRAICY-1F2M to split the mono signal into both inputs of the amplifier.

2) **Input Voltage Range:** A wide range of signal input voltages can be accommodated by the 1200/1v3's input section (200mV – 8V). This wide range is split up into two sub-ranges, accessible via switches located in the "Amplifier Input Section" of the amplifier. The "Low" position on the "Input Voltage" switch selects an input sensitivity range between 200mV and 2V. This means that the "Input Sens." rotary control will operate within that voltage window. If you are using an aftermarket source unit, with conventional preamp-level outputs, this is most likely the position that you will use. The "High" position on the "Input Voltage" switch selects an input sensitivity range between 800mV and 8V. This is useful for certain high-output preamp level signals as well as speaker-level output from source units and small amplifiers. To use speaker-level sources, splice the speaker output wires of the source unit or small amplifier onto a pair of RCA cables or plugs or use the JL Audio ECS Speaker Wire to RCA adaptor (XD-CLRAIC2-SW).

! IMPORTANT

The output of the amplifier will decrease for a given input voltage when the “Input Range” switch is placed in the “High” position. Conversely, the output will be higher with the switch in the “Low” position. While this may sound counter-intuitive, it is correct as described.

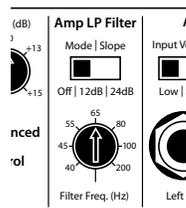
3) Input Sensitivity Adjustment: Located next to the “Input Voltage” switch, in the “Amplifier Input Section”, is a rotary control labeled “Input Sens.”. Once the appropriate “Input Voltage” range has been selected, this rotary control can be used to match the source unit’s output voltage to the input stage of the amplifier for maximum clean output. Rotating the control clockwise will result in higher sensitivity (louder for a given input voltage). Rotating the control counter-clockwise will result in lower sensitivity (quieter for a given input voltage). To properly set the amplifier for maximum clean output, please refer to Appendix A (page 14) in this manual. After using this procedure, you can then adjust the level of the amplifier by adjusting the input sensitivity downward, if the amplifier requires attenuation to achieve the desired system balance. Do not increase the “Input Sens.” setting for any amplifier in the system beyond the maximum level established during the procedure outlined in Appendix A (page 14). Doing so will result in audible distortion and possible speaker damage.

CROSSOVER CONTROLS

Crossovers are groups of individual electronic filters which allow only certain frequency ranges to pass through them by attenuating frequencies outside the selected range. These filters allow the user to specify what frequency range will be sent out of each channel section of the amplifier. This, in turn, allows each speaker system to only reproduce a range of frequencies it is well-suited for, resulting in reduced distortion and improved fidelity.

AMPLIFIER LOW-PASS FILTER

The 1200/1v3 employs a sophisticated, state-variable, low-pass active filter for its internal channel. This feature is designed to attenuate frequencies above its filter frequency, so that the system’s subwoofers do not reproduce any audible midrange content.



1) Filter Operation: The low-pass filter in the 1200/1v3 is fully variable between 40 Hz and 200 Hz via the “Filter Freq.” control knob and features the ability to select between a moderate “12dB” per octave or a steep “24dB” per octave slope via the “Mode/Slope” switch. Depending on the subwoofer system and the vehicle, different slopes may be required to produce a smooth transition to the mid-bass speakers in the system. Experiment to find the slope which best matches the acoustic requirements of your system.

Tuning Hint: A trunk mounted sub whose output has to “fight” through a rear deck or a back seat often benefits from the 12 dB/octave slope which lets more upper bass content pass through. A sub that fires directly into the listening environment is more likely to benefit from a 24 dB/octave slope.

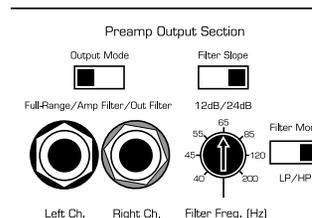
The above hint is not “set-in-stone”... You should always listen to the system carefully to determine the best choice as vehicle acoustics and other factors play a big role in choosing the most appropriate filter slope.

2) Precise Frequency Selection: The filter frequency markings on the front panel of the amplifier are for reference purposes and are generally accurate to within 1/3 octave or better. If you would like to select the filter frequency with a higher level of precision, consult Appendix C: Chart A-1 (page 16) of this manual. This chart gives you a more accurate frequency for each of the forty detented positions of the frequency selection control. This method can be very useful if the amplifier is mounted in a location where you can’t see the front panel markings easily.

3) Defeating the Amplifier Filter: The Low-Pass filter can also be defeated completely, by switching the “Mode/Slope” switch to the “Off” position. This is useful if you are using an external active crossover in the system. Keep in mind that turning the internal crossover off also defeats the “Advanced Bass Control” section processing (see page 10 for details). With the internal crossover turned off, the 1200/1v3’s upper frequency response limit is 250 Hz, due to its bass-specific Class D design.

PREAMP OUTPUT SECTION

The 1200/1v3 incorporates a flexible preamp output section, designed to make multiple amplifier systems easy to set up. The Preamp output can be configured in three different “Output Modes”:



1) “Full-Range”: This is a pass-through mode for the preamp output, delivering the same signal that is being fed to the “Amplifier Input Section” (If the input signal is full-range, the preamp output will be full-range). This signal is not affected by the “Advanced Bass Control” processing selected for the amplifier.

2) “Amp Filter”: The preamp output delivers the same signal that is feeding the 1200/1v3’s amplifier section, including all the processing induced by the “Amp LP Filter” and “Advanced Bass Control” sections. This is primarily used for running additional 1200/1v3’s in a “Slave” configuration from the “Master/Slave” amplifier. For detailed information on “Master/Slave” configurations, see Appendix D (page 18). If the “Output Mode” switch is in the “Amp Filter” position and the “Amp LP Filter” switch is in the “Off” position, there will be no output from the preamp output jacks. The independent output filter controls (“Filter Slope”, “Filter Freq” and “Filter Mode”) are inactive in “Amp Filter” mode.

3) **“Out Filter”**: The preamp output is filtered by a fully variable, active filter incorporated into the output section and is not affected by the bass control processing selected for the amplifier. In **“Out Filter”** mode, the user can select:

- High-pass (**“HP”**) or low-pass (**“LP”**) filtering by way of the **“Filter Mode”** switch.
- 12 dB/octave or 24 dB/ octave filter slope by way of the **“Filter Slope”** switch.
- A filter cutoff frequency between 40 - 200 Hz for the preamp output signal by way of the **“Filter Control”** switch.

This is completely independent of the amplifier’s internal filter and allows the user to match, stagger or overlap the subwoofer low-pass filter frequency of the amplifier crossover with the output filter’s frequency for precise control and optimized midbass performance.

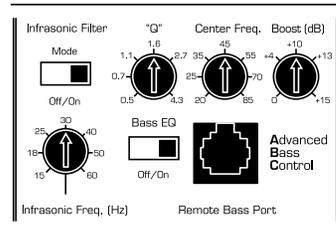
If you would like to select the filter frequency with a higher level of precision, consult Appendix C: Chart A-2 (page 16) of this manual.

!! CAUTION

The signal level of the **“Preamp Output”** is always low level regardless of the voltage applied to this amplifier’s inputs and the setting chosen on this amplifier’s **“Input Range”** switch. All **“Slave”** amplifiers should have their switches set to **“Low”**. See Appendix D (page 18) for details.

ADVANCED BASS CONTROL SECTION

The 1200/1v3 includes a versatile bass processing section consisting of two primary components: a fully variable, 24 dB per octave infrasonic filter and a parametric, single-band equalizer.



1) **“Infrasonic Filter”**: The infrasonic filter is a 24 dB/octave high-pass filter, with a fully variable cutoff frequency between 15 - 60 Hz. When set at frequencies lower than 30 Hz, it conserves amplifier power without audibly affecting the quality of the sub-bass output. If set at frequencies higher than 30 Hz, there will be an audible effect, but one which may be desirable for SPL competition purposes or curve shaping of a bottom-heavy system. With ported enclosures, the use of the infrasonic filter is highly recommended to protect the speaker(s) from excessive excursion below box tuning. With sealed enclosures, the use of the filter is less necessary, but can still help protect the speaker system. If you would like to select the infrasonic filter frequency with a higher level of precision, consult Appendix C: Chart A-3 (page 17) of this manual. The infrasonic filter can be completely defeated by selecting the **“Off”** position on the **“Mode”** switch. This bypasses all signal from flowing through the circuit.

2) **Parametric Bass Equalizer**: The parametric equalizer allows the user to select the center frequency of the boost band as well as the bandwidth (**“Q”**) of the boost band. The **“Q”** control selects the bandwidth of the boost around the center frequency. Lower numbers pertain to wider bandwidths while higher numbers pertain to narrower bandwidths. The **“Center Freq.”** control selects the center frequency of the boost bandwidth within a range of 20 - 80 Hz. If you would like to

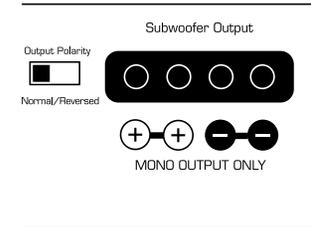
select the filter frequency with a higher level of precision, consult Appendix C: Chart A-4 (page 17) of this manual. The **“Boost”** control determines how much boost (in dB) you are adding to the bass signal. A range of 0 - 15dB of boost is available. The **“Remote Bass Port”** allows the connection of an optional remote boost knob (the RBC-1) that can be mounted in the front of the vehicle. This optional control takes the place of the **“Boost”** knob on the amplifier when connected and bypasses the **“Boost”** control on the amplifier.

!! IMPORTANT

The **“Advanced Bass Control”** section will only operate when the amplifier’s filter is activated with the **“Amp LP Filter”** switch in the **“12dB”** or **“24dB”** position. It will not work with this switch in the **“Off”** position. This is to prevent cascading the processing of multiple amplifiers when configured in a master/Slave arrangement as shown in Appendix D (page 18). If you are using an external active crossover and would like to use the **“Advanced Bass Control”** features, set the **“Amp LP Filter”** switch on **“12dB”** and rotate the frequency selection knob fully clockwise to the **“200 Hz”** position. This will activate the **“LF Boost”** and **“Infrasonic Filter”** controls without significantly affecting the crossover point selected by the external active crossover.

SUBWOOFER OUTPUT

The 1200/1v3 employs JL Audio’s exclusive Regulated, Intelligent Power Supply (R.I.P.S.) design. This sophisticated power supply allows the amplifier to produce its optimum power (1200 watts x 1) over a wide range of speaker impedances.



Unlike conventional amplifiers that require a specific impedance to produce optimum power, the R.I.P.S.-equipped 1200/1v3 gives you the freedom to use a variety of subwoofer configurations that achieve final nominal impedances between 1.5 - 4Ω (without sacrificing power output or sound quality).

The operation of the R.I.P.S. circuitry is entirely automatic and adjusts itself every time the amplifier is turned on according to the lowest impedance present at the speaker load. There are no user controls to configure. The system operates through multiple stages of impedance optimization, choosing the stage most appropriate to the actual impedance of the speaker(s) you connect to it.

!! IMPORTANT

If you connect a load higher than 4Ω nominal to the 1200/1v3, power will drop by half with every doubling of impedance above 4Ω. If you connect a load lower than 1.5Ω nominal to the 1200/1v3, the amplifier protection circuitry activates a **“safe”** mode which reduces amplifier power to protect the circuitry from failure (the yellow LED on the top of the amplifier will light to indicate that this has happened). See page 12 for details.

! IMPORTANT

Speaker loads below 1.5Ω nominal are not recommended and may cause the amplifier output to distort excessively.

Speaker connections to the 1200/1v3 are straightforward and take place at the far right of the front panel. You will notice that there are two “+” positive connections and two “-” negative connections. This is to facilitate multiple speaker wiring. The two positive and two negative connections are connected in parallel inside the amplifier. Connecting two speakers, each to one set of positive and negative terminals, will result in a parallel speaker connection. If only connecting one pair of speaker wires, it is not necessary to use both sets of connections.

Do not chassis ground any speakers connected to this or any other JL Audio amplifier. Doing so will cause the amplifier to go into protection and mute the output.

The 1200/1v3's speaker connectors are designed to accept 12 AWG – 8 AWG wire.

To connect the speaker wires to the amplifier, first back out the set screws on the top of the amplifier, using the supplied 2.5 mm hex wrench. Strip 1/2 inch (12 mm) of insulation from each wire and insert the bare wire end into the receptacles on the front panel of the amplifier, seating them firmly so that no bare wire is exposed. While holding each wire in place, tighten each set screw firmly, taking care not to strip the head of the screw and making sure that the wire is firmly gripped by the set screw.

! IMPORTANT

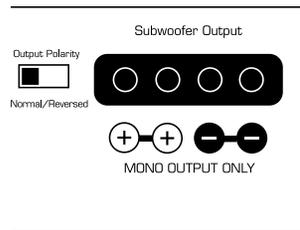
Do NOT attempt to “bridge” two 1200/1v3's or combine their output to a single load in any manner. Doing so will damage the amplifier(s).

! IMPORTANT

Before reconnecting the battery ground and turning the system on, verify that all control settings on the amplifier are set according to the needs of the system.

OUTPUT POLARITY SWITCH

Depending on the distance relationship of the mid-bass speakers and the subwoofers in a system, it can be desirable to reverse the polarity of the subwoofer system in order to produce a better transition between subwoofer and mid-bass speaker output. The “**Output Polarity**” switch allows you to perform this polarity inversion without removing any wires. Simply flip the switch from the “**Normal**” to the “**Reversed**” position. Experiment with this switch to determine which polarity produces the best overall bass performance in your system, listening in particular to the mid-bass smoothness and impact to make your determination.



STATUS INDICATOR LIGHTS / PROTECTION CIRCUITRY

There are three status indicator lights on the top of the amplifier. These are as follows:

- 1) “**Power**” (Green): lights to indicate that the amplifier is turned on and operating normally.
- 2) “**Thermal**” (Red): lights to indicate that the amplifier has exceeded its safe operating temperature, putting the amplifier into a self-protection mode, which reduces the power output of the amplifier. The red light will shut off and the amplifier will return to normal, full-power operating mode if the heat sink temperature drops back to a safe level.
- 3) “**Low Ω**” (Amber): lights to indicate that the impedance of the speaker load connected to the amplifier is lower than the optimum impedance load range for the amplifier. When this light is on, a protection circuit engages and reduces the power output of the amplifier.

The amber indicator will also light when a short-circuit is detected in the speaker wiring (this can be a short between the positive and negative speaker wires or between either speaker wire and the vehicle chassis).

- 4) “**Low V**” (Blue): lights to indicate any dip in supply voltage below 8 volts. The blue LED will remain lit longer than the dip duration to better alert the user to the problem. **This will be accompanied by a shutdown of the amplifier (green LED will shut off) and a total loss of output.** Once the voltage rises above 9 volts, the amplifier will turn itself on. Because voltage dips occur in rapid succession, the typical behavior will be a cycling of the amplifier on and off, accompanied by flashing of the “**Low V**” blue LED. If this is happening in your system, you will need to investigate the cause of the voltage problem. This could be a bad ground on the amplifier, battery or alternator OR a faulty battery/charging system OR a problem with a fuse holder or wire connection.

If you are unsure as to the cause of the problem, please consult your JL Audio dealer or a qualified automotive electrical specialist.

Keep in mind that any large amplifier, like the 1200/1v3, places a very heavy demand on a vehicle's charging system when operated at its limits. Vehicles with weak charging systems may need to be serviced and/or upgraded to provide ample current to a system including a 1200/1v3.

There is only one condition that will shut down an undamaged 1200/1v3 completely... If battery voltage drops below 10 volts, the entire amplifier will shut itself off. The green “**Power**” indicator on the top of the amplifier will turn off when this occurs. The amplifier will turn back on when voltage climbs back above 10 volts. This may happen in a rapid cycle when bass-heavy program material causes a weak charging system to dip below 10 volts momentarily. If this is happening in your system, have your charging system inspected to make sure it is working properly.

For information on troubleshooting this amplifier, refer to Appendix E (page 20).

SERVICING YOUR JL AUDIO AMPLIFIER

If your amplifier fails or malfunctions, please return it to your authorized JL Audio dealer so that it may be sent in to JL Audio for service. There are no user serviceable parts or fuses inside the amplifier. The unique nature of the circuitry in the JL Audio amplifiers requires specifically trained service personnel. Do not attempt to service the amplifier yourself or through unauthorized repair facilities. This will not only void the warranty, but may result in the creation of more problems within the amplifier.

If you have any questions about the installation or setup of the amplifier not covered in this manual, please contact your dealer or technical support.

JL Audio Technical Support:

(954) 443-1100

9:00 AM – 5:30 PM (Eastern Time Zone)

Monday - Friday

APPENDIX A:

Input Sensitivity Level Setting

JL Audio amplifiers utilizing the Regulated Intelligent Power Supply (R.I.P.S.) allow delivery of their rated power when connected to any load impedance from 1.5 - 4Ω per channel and when connected to a charging system with any voltage from 11 - 14.5V. This design is beneficial for many reasons. One of these reasons is ease of setup. Because each JL Audio amplifier will always deliver the same amount of power within its operational range of impedances and supply voltages, the maximum, unclipped output is very predictable.

This makes setting the gain structure via the input sensitivity controls very simple. Following the directions below will allow the user to adjust the input sensitivity of the amplifier(s) simply and easily in just a few minutes using equipment which is commonly available in installation bays.

Necessary Equipment

- Digital AC Voltmeter
- CD with a sine-wave test tone recorded at 0 dB reference level in the frequency range to be amplified for that set of channels (50 Hz for subwoofer channels, 1 kHz for a midrange application). The CleanSweep® Calibration Disc contains the appropriate test tones and is available for sale at <http://store.jlaudio.com> Do not use attenuated test tones (-10 dB, -20 dB, etc.).

The Nine-Step Procedure

- 1) Disconnect the speaker(s) from the amplifier's speaker output connectors.
- 2) Turn off all processing (bass/treble, loudness, EQ, etc.) on the source unit, processors (if used) and amplifier. Set fader control to center position and subwoofer level control to 3/4 of maximum (if used to feed the 1200/1v3).
- 3) Switch the "Input Voltage" switch to "Low" and turn the "Input Sens." control all the way down.
- 4) Set the source unit volume to 3/4 of full volume. This will allow for reasonable gain overlap with moderate clipping at full volume.

- 5) Using the chart on this page, determine the target voltage for input sensitivity adjustment according to the nominal impedance of the speaker system connected to the amplifier outputs.
- 6) Verify that you have disconnected the speakers before proceeding. Play a track with an appropriate sine wave (within the frequency range to be amplified by the 1200/1v3) at 3/4 source unit volume.
- 7) Connect the AC voltmeter to the speaker output connectors of the amplifier. If the channel pair is operating in stereo, it is only necessary to measure one channel. If bridged, make sure you test the voltage at the correct connectors (L+ and R-).
- 8) Increase the "Input Sens." control until the target voltage is observed with the voltmeter.
- 9) Once you have adjusted the 1200/1v3 to its maximum low-distortion output level, reconnect the speaker(s). The "Input Sens." control can now be adjusted downward if the amplifier requires attenuation to achieve the desired system balance.

! IMPORTANT

Do not increase any "Input Sens." setting for any amplifier channel or channel pair in the system beyond the maximum level established during this procedure. Doing so will result in audible distortion and possible speaker damage.

It will be necessary to re-adjust the "Input Sens." for the affected channels if any equalizer boost is activated after setting the "Input Sens." with this procedure. This applies to any EQ boost circuit, including source unit tone controls or EQ circuits. EQ cuts will not require re-adjustment.

Nom. Impedance	Target AC Voltage
4Ω (or higher)	64.3V
3Ω	60.0V
2Ω	49.0V
1.5Ω	42.4V

APPENDIX B:

1200/1v3 Specifications

General Specifications:

Recommended Fuse Value: 100A

Recommended Fuse Type: ANL or MaxiFuse™

Input Section:

Input Type: Differential-balanced with RCA jack inputs

Input Range: Switchable from 200mV - 2V RMS to 800mV - 8V RMS

Amplifier Section:

Amplifier Topology: H-Bridge, Class D Mono with impedance optimization and patented discrete drive circuitry

Power Supply: Pulse width modulation-regulated switching power supply

Rated Power: 1200W RMS x 1 @ 1.5 - 4Ω (11 - 14.5V)

THD at Rated Power: <0.05% @ 4Ω, 50 Hz

Signal to Noise Ratio: >95 dB referred to rated power (A-weighted, 20 Hz - 20 kHz noise bandwidth)

Frequency Response: 5 - 250 Hz (+0, -3 dB)

Damping Factor: >500 @ 4Ω/50 Hz, >250 @ 2Ω/50 Hz

Crossover Section:

Amplifier Low-Pass Filter: State-variable, 12 dB/octave Butterworth or 24 dB/octave Linkwitz-Riley with continuously variable cutoff frequency selection from 40 - 200 Hz, defeatable

Preamp Output:

2-Channel, with fully independent, state-variable, 12 dB/octave Butterworth or 24 dB/octave Linkwitz-Riley filter with continuously variable cutoff frequency selection from 40 - 200 Hz, defeatable

Advanced Bass Control Section:

Parametric EQ: Single-band, fully parametric equalizer with "Q" adjustment from 0.5 - 4.0, center frequency adjustment from 20 - 80 Hz, boost adjustment from 0 to +15 dB and port for optional remote bass boost control (RBC-1), defeatable

Infrasonic Filter: Fully variable, 24 dB/octave Butterworth high-pass filter, cutoff frequency adjustable from 15 - 60 Hz, defeatable

Dimensions (H x W x D):

2.36 in x 19.7 in x 9.25 in (60mm x 500mm x 235mm)

Due to ongoing product development, all specifications are subject to change without notice.

APPENDIX C:
Precise Frequency Selection Chart

CHART A-1

AMPLIFIER LOW-PASS FILTER		
Detent Number	Panel Marking	Actual Freq.
Full counter-clockwise: 42		
01		.42
02		.42
03		.42
04	"40"	.42
05		.43
06		.44
07		.46
08	"45"	.47
09		.49
10		.50
11		.52
12		.53
13		.55
14	"55"	.57
15		.58
16		.60
17		.63
18		.65
19	"65"	.67
20		.70
21		.73
22		.76
23		.79
24	"80"	.83
25		.87
26		.92
27		.96
28		1.02
29	"100"	1.08
30		1.14
31		1.22
32		1.31
33		1.43
34		1.57
35		1.84
36	"200"	1.93
37		1.98
38		1.98
39		1.98
Full-clockwise : 198		

CHART A-2

PREAMP OUTPUT SECTION		
Detent Number	Panel Marking	Actual Freq.
Full counter-clockwise: 41		
01		.41
02		.41
03		.41
04	"40"	.42
05		.42
06		.43
07		.44
08	"45"	.45
09		.47
10		.48
11		.49
12		.51
13		.53
14	"55"	.54
15		.56
16		.58
17		.60
18		.62
19	"65"	.64
20		.67
21		.69
22		.72
23		.75
24	"80"	.78
25		.82
26		.86
27		.90
28		.95
29	"100"	1.00
30		1.07
31		1.13
32		1.22
33		1.31
34		1.43
35		1.56
36	"200"	1.69
37		1.86
38		1.92
39		1.97
Full-clockwise : 197		

CHART A-3

INFRASONIC FILTER		
Detent Number	Panel Marking	Actual Freq.
Full counter-clockwise: 14		
01		.14
02		.14
03		.14
04	"15"	.14
05		.15
06		.15
07		.16
08	"18"	.17
09		.17
10		.18
11		.19
12		.20
13		.20
14	"25"	.21
15		.22
16		.24
17		.25
18		.27
19		.28
20	"30"	.30
21		.33
22		.35
23		.39
24		.42
25	"40"	.47
26		.50
27		.51
28		.54
29		.56
30		.56
31	"50"	.57
32		.58
33		.58
34		.58
35		.59
36	"60"	.60
37		.61
38		.61
39		.61
Full-clockwise : 61		

CHART A-4

EQ CENTER FREQUENCY		
Detent Number	Panel Marking	Actual Freq.
Full counter-clockwise: 22		
01		.22
02		.22
03		.22
04	"20"	.22
05		.22
06		.24
07		.24
08	"25"	.25
09		.26
10		.27
11		.28
12		.30
13		.31
14	"30"	.32
15		.34
16		.35
17		.38
18		.40
19	"40"	.42
20		.45
21		.48
22		.51
23		.56
24	"60"	.61
25		.67
26		.69
27		.72
28		.75
29	"75"	.76
30		.77
31		.77
32		.78
33		.79
34		.80
35		.81
36	"80"	.81
37		.81
38		.81
39		.81
Full-clockwise : 81		

APPENDIX D:

Master/Slave Configurations

With the flexible on-board crossovers and processing incorporated into the 1200/1v3, it is possible to connect multiple 1200/1v3's in a "Master/Slave" configuration, with each amplifier driving its own speaker system but controlled by the processing and filtering of only one amplifier. This is very useful when driving multiple subwoofers with multiple amplifiers.

To create a Master/Slave configuration, first determine which amplifier will be the "Master" amplifier and connect the main input signal to that amplifier (from the source unit or from an outboard processor). This amplifier's "Amp LP Filter" section and "Advanced Bass Control" features will process the signal for the "Slave" amplifier or amplifiers.

Here is the procedure for implementing a "Master/Slave" configuration:

- 1) Set the "Master" amplifier's "Output Mode" switch to the center "Amp Filter" position. This will send a parallel, mono-summed signal from the "Master" amplifier's "Amp LP Filter" section to its preamp outputs.
- 2) Connect an RCA cable from the "Master" amplifier's preamp outputs to the main input of the first "Slave" amplifier. Set the "Slave" amplifier's "Amp LP Filter" to the "Off" position. This will defeat the LP filter and the bass processing of this "Slave" amplifier.

- 3) The input sensitivity of the two amplifiers needs to be adjusted independently. To properly calibrate the amplifiers for maximum, identical, clean output, please refer to Appendix A (page 14). After using this procedure, you can then adjust the level of the amplifiers by adjusting the input sensitivities downward, if the amplifiers require attenuation to achieve the desired system balance. If the input sensitivities are adjusted, the amplifiers must be recalibrated to ensure identical power output levels.

Note: The "Input Range" switch on all "Slave" amplifiers needs to be set to "Low", even if the "Master" amplifier is high voltage and its switch is set to "High". All signals passed out of the preamp outputs of the amplifier are compatible with the "Low" setting on the "Input Range" control.

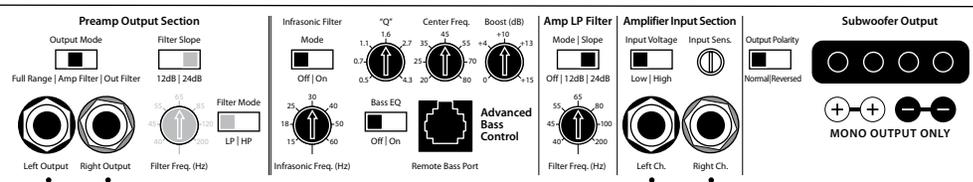
- 4) If you would like to run a third amplifier in "Slave" configuration, select the "Full-Range" position on the "Output Mode" switch of the first "Slave" amplifier. Then, connect an RCA cable from the first "Slave" amplifier's preamp outputs to the second "Slave" amplifier. As you did with the first "Slave" amplifier, set the second "Slave" amplifier's "Amp LP Filter" to the "Off" position. Then, calibrate the third amplifier's "Input Range" and "Input Sens." controls in the same manner as you did for the second amplifier.

Additional amplifiers may be added to this "Master/Slave" configuration following the same procedure as in step 4.

Once you match the input sensitivities of all the amplifiers, you can use the "Master" amplifier's "Amp LP Filter" and "Advanced Bass Control" features to control the "Slave" amplifier(s). If the remote bass control (RBC-1) is used, it need only be connected to the "Master" amplifier to control all the amplifiers in the "Master/Slave" chain.

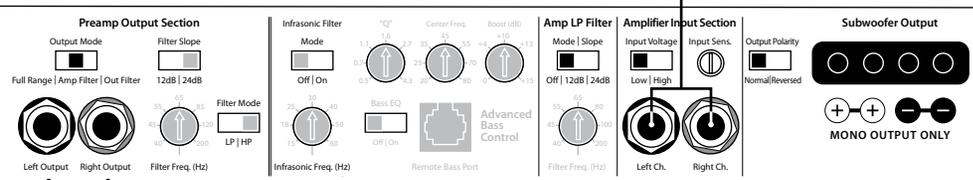
Reference the diagram showing a "Master/Slave" configuration with one "Master" (top amplifier) and two "Slave" amplifiers. Switches and controls that are defeated in the "Slave" amplifiers are printed in gray.

MASTER:



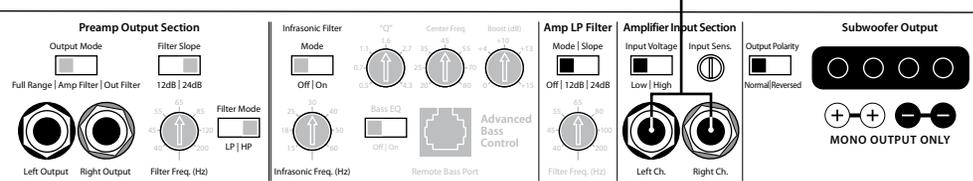
The Master amplifier's "Advanced Bass Control" section is active and affects all three amplifiers equally.

SLAVE (A):



This Slave amplifier's "Advanced Bass Control" section and AMP LP Filter are inactive, but the Full-Range (pass-through) feature of its "Preamp Output" feeds the input of the next Slave amplifier.

SLAVE (B):



The last Slave amplifier's "Advanced Bass Control" section, AMP LP Filter and "Preamp Output" are inactive.

APPENDIX E: TROUBLE SHOOTING

“How do I properly set the input sensitivity on my amplifier”

Please refer to Appendix A (page 14) to set the input sensitivity for maximum, low-distortion output.

“My amplifier doesn’t turn on”

Check the fuse, not just visually, but with a continuity meter. It is possible for a fuse to have poor internal connections that cannot be found by visual inspection. It is best to take the fuse out of the holder for testing. If no problem is found with the fuse, inspect the fuse-holder.

Check the integrity of the connections made to each of the “+12VDC”, “Ground”, and “Remote” terminals. Ensure that no wire insulation is pinched by the terminal set screw and that each connection is tight.

Check to make sure there is +12V at the “Remote” connection of the amplifier. In some cases, the turn-on lead from the source unit is insufficient to turn on multiple devices and the use of a relay is required. To test for this problem, jump the “+12VDC” wire to the “Remote” terminal to see if the amplifier turns on.

“I get a distorted / attenuated sound coming out of the speaker(s)”

Check the speaker wires for a possible short, either between the positive and negative leads or between either speaker lead and the vehicle’s chassis ground. If a short is present, you will experience distorted and/or attenuated output. The “Low Ω ” light will illuminate in this situation. It may be helpful to disconnect the speaker wires from the amplifier and use a different set of wires connected to a test speaker.

Check the nominal load impedance to verify that the amplifier is driving a load between 1.5 - 4 Ω . JL Audio monoblock amplifiers have two “+” positive connections and two “-” negative connections. This is to facilitate multiple speaker wiring. The two positive and two negative connections are connected in parallel inside the amplifier. Connecting two speakers, each to one set of positive and negative terminals, will result in a parallel speaker connection. In this case, each of the two loads should have a nominal impedance between 3 - 8 Ω .

Check the input signal and input signal cables to make sure signal is present at the “Amplifier Inputs” and the cables are not pinched or loose. It may be helpful to try a different set of cables and/or a different signal source to be sure.

“My amplifier’s output fluctuates when I tap on it or hit a bump”

Check the connections to the amplifier. Make sure that the insulation for all wires has been stripped back far enough to allow a good contact area inside the terminal block.

Check the input connectors to ensure that they all are making good contact with the input jacks on the amplifier.

“My amplifier shuts off once in a while, usually at higher volumes”

Check your voltage source and grounding point. The power supply of the 1200/1v3 will operate with charging system voltages down to 10V. Shutdown problems at higher volume levels can occur when the charging system voltage drops below 10V. These dips can be of very short duration making them extremely difficult to detect with a common DC voltmeter. To ensure proper voltage, inspect all wiring and termination points. It may also be necessary to upgrade the ground wire connecting the battery to the vehicle’s chassis and the power wire connecting the alternator to the battery. Many vehicles employ small (10 AWG - 6 AWG) wire to ground the battery to the vehicle’s chassis and to connect the alternator to the battery. To prevent voltage drops, these wires should be upgraded to 4 AWG when installing amplifier systems with main fuse ratings above 60A. **Grounding problems are the leading cause of misdiagnosed amplifier “failures.”**

“My amplifier turns on, but there is no output”

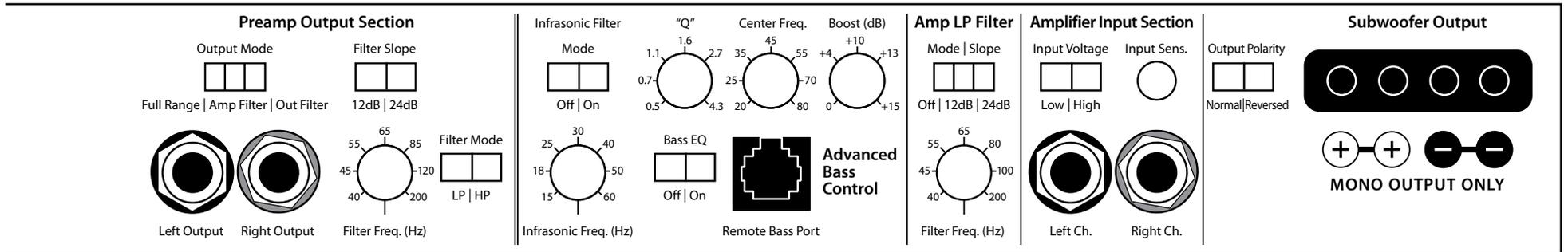
Check the input signal using an AC voltmeter to measure the voltage from the source unit while an appropriate test tone is played through the source unit (disconnect the input cables from the amplifier prior to this test). The frequency used should be in the range that is to be amplified by the amplifier (example: 50 Hz for a sub bass application or 1 kHz for a full range / high-pass application). A steady, sufficient voltage (between 200mV and 8.0-volts) should be present at the output of the signal cables.

Check the output of the amplifier. Using the procedure explained in the previous check item (after plugging the input cables back into the amplifier) test for output at the speaker outputs of the amplifier. Unless you enjoy test tones at high levels, it is a good idea to remove the speaker wires from the amplifier while doing this. Turn the volume up approximately half way. 5V or more should be measured at the speaker outputs. This output level can vary greatly between amplifiers but it should not be in the millivolt range with the source unit at half volume. If you are reading sufficient voltage, check your speaker connections as explained below.

Check to ensure that the speaker wires are making a good connection with the metal inside the terminal block. The speaker wire connectors are designed to accept up to 8 AWG wire. Make sure to strip the wire to allow for a sufficient connection with the metal inside the terminal block.

INSTALLATION NOTES:

Use this diagram to document your amplifier's switch and control positions.



LIMITED WARRANTY - AMPLIFIERS (USA)

JL AUDIO warrants this product to be free of defects in materials and workmanship for a period of two (2) years. The warranty is extended to three (3) years total if installation is performed by an authorized JL Audio dealer using a JL Audio Premium Power Connection System for power wiring.

This warranty is not transferable and applies only to the original purchaser from an authorized JL AUDIO dealer. Should service be necessary under this warranty for any reason due to manufacturing defect or malfunction, JL AUDIO will (at its discretion), repair or replace the defective product with new or remanufactured product at no charge. Damage caused by the following is not covered under warranty: accident, misuse, abuse, product modification or neglect, failure to follow installation instructions, unauthorized repair attempts, misrepresentations by the seller. This warranty does not cover incidental or consequential damages and does not cover the cost of removing or reinstalling the unit(s). Cosmetic damage due to accident or normal wear and tear is not covered under warranty.

Warranty is void if the product's serial number has been removed or defaced.

Any applicable implied warranties are limited in duration to the period of the express warranty as provided herein beginning with the date of the original purchase at retail, and no warranties, whether express or implied, shall apply to this product thereafter. Some states do not allow limitations on implied warranties, therefore these exclusions may not apply to you. This warranty gives you specific legal rights, and you may also have other rights which vary from state to state.

If you need service on your JL AUDIO product:

All warranty returns should be sent to JL AUDIO's Amplifier Service Facility freight-prepaid through an authorized JL AUDIO dealer and must be accompanied by proof of purchase (a copy of the original sales receipt). Direct returns from consumers or non-authorized dealers will be refused unless specifically authorized by JL AUDIO with a valid return authorization number.

Warranty expiration on products returned without proof of purchase will be determined from the manufacturing date code. Coverage may be invalidated as this date is previous to purchase date. Non-defective items received will be returned freight-collect. Customer is responsible for shipping charges and insurance in sending the product to JL AUDIO. Freight damage on returns is not covered under warranty.

For Service Information in the U.S.A. please call

JL Audio Customer Service: (954) 443-1100

9:00 AM – 5:30 PM (Eastern Time Zone)

JL Audio, Inc

10369 North Commerce Pkwy.

Miramar, FL 33025

(do not send product for repair to this address)

International Warranties:

Products purchased outside the United States of America are covered only by that country's distributor and not by JL Audio, Inc.