

# Operating Manual

Mark Levinson®

N° 333

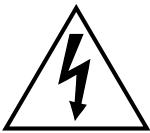
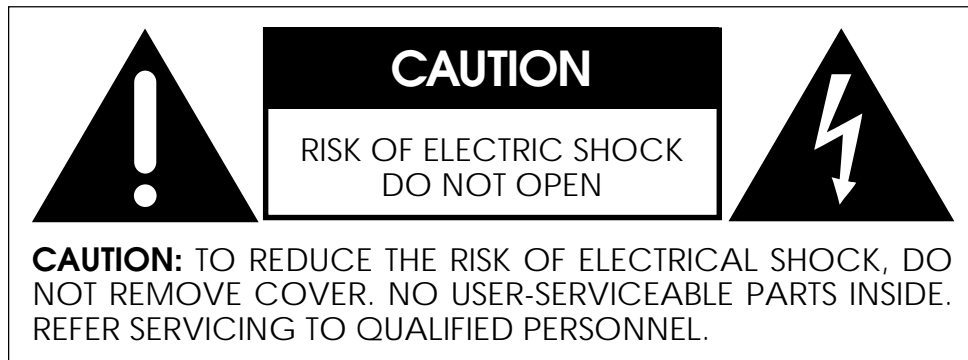
N° 332

N° 331

Dual Monaural  
Power Amplifiers

**Madrigal Audio Laboratories, Inc.**

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



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



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



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

The information contained in the manual is subject to change without notice. The most current version of this manual will be posted on our web site at <http://www.madrigal.com>.

# Important Safety Instructions

Please read all instructions and precautions carefully and completely before operating your Mark Levinson® power amplifier.

1. **ALWAYS** disconnect your entire system from the AC mains before connecting or disconnecting any cables, or when cleaning any component.
2. This product must be terminated with a three-conductor AC mains power cord which includes an earth ground connection. To prevent shock hazard, all three connections must **ALWAYS** be used.
3. AC extension cords are **not** recommended for use with this product.
4. **NEVER** use flammable or combustible chemicals for cleaning audio components.
5. **NEVER** operate this product with any covers removed.
6. **NEVER** wet the inside of this product with any liquid.
7. **NEVER** pour or spill liquids directly onto this unit.
8. **NEVER** block air flow through ventilation slots or heatsinks.
9. **NEVER** bypass any fuse.
10. **NEVER** replace any fuse with a value or type other than those specified.
11. **NEVER** attempt to repair this product. If a problem occurs, contact your Mark Levinson® retailer.
12. **NEVER** expose this product to extremely high or low temperatures.
13. **NEVER** operate this product in an explosive atmosphere.
14. **ALWAYS** keep electrical equipment out of the reach of children.
15. **ALWAYS** unplug sensitive electronic equipment during lightning storms.



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# Unpacking Your Amplifier



## Warning!

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***Under no circumstances should you consider unpacking your amplifier without adequate assistance, as both personal injury and damage to the product is likely unless you follow the procedures listed below.***

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The shipping weight of your Dual Monaural Power Amplifier is over 100 lbs. (45 kg)—the N°333, for example, weighs in at 150 pounds (68 kg)! Any freight this massive must be handled with extreme care to avoid injury. At least two strong people are required to unpack these amplifiers safely.

Included with your new Mark Levinson amplifier is two pairs of knit, white gloves designed to assist you in the initial unpacking and placement of your new purchase. Please accept them as a token of our appreciation for having purchased one of our products.



## Caution!

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***Do not attempt to lift your power amplifier from its packing carton alone.***  
***Never attempt to lift your power amplifier while bending from the waist.***  
***Always stand as straight as possible and use your leg muscles to lift your amplifier.***

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After unpacking your power amplifier, ***keep all packing materials for future transport***. In the event that you need to ship your amplifier, *only* the original, purpose-designed shipping carton is acceptable. Any other method of shipping this heavy product will almost certainly result in damage to the amplifier—damage that would not be covered by the warranty.

Carefully inspect your amplifier for possible damage due to shipping. If you discover any, contact your Mark Levinson dealer immediately.

## Warm up/break-in period

Although your Mark Levinson 300-series power amplifier delivers outstanding performance straight out of the box, you should expect to hear it continue to improve as it reaches its normal operating temperatures and its various components “break-in.” It has been our experience that the greatest changes occur within the first 25-50 hours, but that the amplifier will continue to improve in sound quality for about 300 hours, after which time it remains quite constant.

The only exception to this rule is if power is removed from the unit, allowing it to cool down. In this case you should expect a brief warm-up period before the amplifier’s sound quality is at its best. (Fortunately, you will never have to repeat the full 300 hour break-in period.)

# Placement Considerations

## PRECAUTION

*For your protection, review “Important Safety Instructions” and “Operating Voltage” before you install your amplifier.*

Your Mark Levinson 300-series power amplifier is specifically designed to stand on the floor, and must be used as a freestanding unit. In most installations, locating it near the loudspeakers is best. Obviously, this approach minimizes the length of the speaker wires and necessitates longer interconnecting cables from the preamplifier to the power amplifier. The advantage to this strategy lies in the fact that the interconnecting cables carry low-current signals which are more readily transmitted over distances with great accuracy than are the necessarily high current signals required by loudspeakers.

Note that adequate clearance for the AC cord and connecting signal cables must be left behind your amplifier. We suggest leaving at least six inches (15 cm) of free space behind your amplifier so all cables have sufficient room to bend without crimping or undue strain.

If yours is a CE-certified unit (e.g., European market), the amplifier should also be placed in such a way that the power switch on the rear panel is easily accessible. This switch disconnects power from even the supervisory power supply, resulting in effective disconnection of the amplifier from the AC mains. (Note that under these conditions, the amplifier cannot respond to remote-turn-on commands, etc.)

## Ventilation

As a freestanding unit, your power amplifier normally has no problem with ventilation. Regardless of where you choose to locate your amplifier, we advise locating the amplifier well away from sensitive low-level components, typically near the floor. (The massive output currents of which the 300-series amplifiers are capable can generate significant magnetic fields, which could conceivably induce noise in some sensitive components.)

The N°333 dual monaural power amplifier dissipates approximately 350 watts of energy as heat when “at idle.” The N°332 and N°331 dissipate about 325 and 260 watts at idle, respectively. It is therefore normal and perfectly safe for them to run somewhat warm. They do, however, require free air flow around them to allow adequate heat dissipation through air circulation. The top plate and heatsinks of the amplifier must be kept free from any obstruction that would reduce the free flow of air.

Allow at least 4–6 inches above the amplifier and at least 2 inches to sides for adequate ventilation. If the amplifier becomes too warm to touch, the ventilation is inadequate. (Note that your new amplifier is protected against thermal damage. Inadequate ventilation may cause nuisance shutdowns, but should not cause permanent damage to the amplifier.)

Mechanical drawings are included in this manual to facilitate special installations where necessary (see “Dimensions” at the end of this manual).

# Operating Voltage, N°333

Your Mark Levinson Dual Monaural Power Amplifier is characterized by its remarkable ability to pass a musical signal with utter integrity, regardless of how demanding that signal and the loudspeakers used might be. When called upon to do so, your amplifier is capable of generating truly prodigious power levels into virtually any speaker load, on either an instantaneous or a continuous basis.

Depending on the demands placed on the amplifier by your loudspeaker and your listening habits, it is *possible* (although unlikely) for the capabilities of your electrical service to become the limiting factor in the performance of your system. As a result, the N° 333 has been designed to be capable of taking advantage of dedicated high current AC mains supplies which cannot limit its performance.

For compatibility with existing household outlets, a standard three prong, 15 ampere plug is provided on the captive, high current AC mains cable. If you decide to use a dedicated, higher-current (30 ampere) line for your N° 333, the only thing that needs to be changed is the AC plug itself.



**Important:**

***When it comes to high current AC wiring such as the N° 333 is capable of using, building regulations and electrical codes vary from region to region, and even from one municipality to the next. For this reason, it is impossible for us to anticipate the requirements of your area with regard to high current AC hookups. If you plan to install a dedicated, high current AC line for your N° 333, please review this section carefully and then contact a local electrical contractor for advice.***

The Mark Levinson N° 333 amplifiers may be factory-set for 100V, 120V, 200V, 210V, 220V, 230V or 240V AC mains operation at either 50 or 60Hz, based on the country for which they are manufactured. Depending on local electrical codes and regulations, the plug on the supplied AC input module may need to be replaced by a local, licensed electrical contractor. The maximum current requirements (in amperes) at these various voltages under various test conditions are listed in the table shown below. *(Note that only 230V units are sold in the European Union countries, per CE requirements.)*

N° 333 AC mains maximum current requirements

	100V	120V	200V	210V	220V	230V	240V
Off	.1	.09	.05	.047	.045	.043	.042
Standby	2.04	1.70	1.02	.971	.927	.887	.850
On, at idle	3.49	2.91	1.75	1.66	1.59	1.52	1.46
300w @ 8Ω*	18.48	15.4	9.24	8.80	8.40	8.03	7.70
600w @ 4Ω*	31.9	26.6	15.9	15.2	14.5	13.9	13.3
1200w @ 2Ω*	54.2	45.2	27.1	25.9	24.7	23.6	22.6

\* power ratings are continuous (rms) with less than 0.5% THD, from 20-20,000 Hz.

It is important to understand that these are worst-case requirements under severe test conditions, which are *extremely* unlikely to be encountered in normal use.



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# Operating Voltage, N°332 & N°331

Your Mark Levinson Dual Monaural Power Amplifier is characterized by its remarkable ability to pass a musical signal with utter integrity, regardless of how demanding that signal and the loudspeakers used might be. When called upon to do so, your amplifier is capable of generating truly prodigious power levels into virtually any speaker load, on either an instantaneous or a continuous basis.

Depending on the demands placed on your amplifier by your loudspeaker and your listening habits, it may use a significant portion of the total current capability of a standard, 15 ampere household AC mains circuit. Fortunately, most installations do not require special attention be paid to the AC mains service. If you have multiple, powerful amplifiers such as your new Mark Levinson amplifier, or other appliances on the same circuit that use significant current, you may want to consider having a dedicated AC line installed for your home entertainment system.

For compatibility with existing household outlets, a standard three conductor, 15 ampere, IEC-standard, detachable AC mains cable is provided for use with your amplifier.

Mark Levinson power amplifiers may be factory-set for 100V, 120V, 200V, 210V, 220V, 230V or 240V AC mains operation at either 50 or 60Hz, based on the country for which they are manufactured. Depending on local electrical codes and regulations, the plug on the supplied AC input module may need to be replaced by a local, licensed electrical contractor. The maximum current requirements at these various voltages under various test conditions are listed in the tables shown below. *(Note that only 230V units are sold in the European Union countries, per CE requirements.)*

N° 332 AC mains maximum  
current requirements

	100V	120V	200V	210V	220V	230V	240V
Off	.1	.09	.05	.047	.045	.043	.042
Standby	2.04	1.70	1.02	.971	.927	.887	.850
On, at idle	3.24	2.70	1.62	1.54	1.47	1.41	1.35
200w @ 8Ω*	12.8	10.7	6.38	6.07	5.80	5.54	5.31
400w @ 4Ω*	21.8	18.2	10.9	10.7	9.89	9.46	9.06
800w @ 2Ω*	37.8	31.6	18.9	18.0	17.2	16.5	15.8

\* power ratings are continuous (rms) with less than 0.5% THD, from 20-20,000 Hz.



# Special Design Features

Congratulations on your purchase of a Mark Levinson N° 300-series Dual Monaural Power Amplifier. While your new amplifier is straightforward in its everyday use, it includes several design features which are responsible for its outstanding performance. In particular, your new Dual Monaural power amplifier defies the accepted wisdom that it is impossible to design a large, powerful amplifier that also has all of the finesse of the finest smaller amplifiers. A few of the technical highlights that make this possible are given below.

## Massive Power Supply

Each Mark Levinson 300-series amplifier includes two large, completely independent power supplies—one for each channel. Each supply includes a high capacity, low noise toroidal transformer, and two large, low ESR capacitors in each channel. Since these are true, dual monaural designs, each channel has its own dedicated power supply. Specifically, the amplifiers use:

N° 333:	two 2450 VA transformers	four 50,000 $\mu$ F capacitors
N° 332:	two 1338 VA transformers	four 50,000 $\mu$ F capacitors
N° 331:	two 801 VA transformers	four 44,000 $\mu$ F capacitors

Heavy oxygen-free copper bus bars enhance the efficiency of power distribution within the amplifier and eliminate variances introduced by the wiring harnesses, etc. more commonly found even in high performance amplifiers. High frequency power supply bypass is accomplished on individual PC boards by five components of several film types. The resulting uniformly low power supply impedance seen by the various circuits within the amplifier lays the foundation for both the massive power and the extraordinary finesse that characterizes the 300-series.

## Balanced design

A truly balanced input topology eliminates the need for an input buffer amplification stage and allows the first stage differential amplifier to be driven directly by the source. Matched impedances are presented to the source and both signals travel through identical circuit paths.

Painstaking attention to layout of the amplifier was essential to minimize magnetic field distortions possible with such a massive power delivery system, including careful mirror-imaging of circuits to cancel magnetic fields. A balanced input signal remains balanced throughout the voltage gain stages. Rejection of common mode noise and distortion is achieved in the final, current gain stage.

## True Voltage Source

The 300-series power amplifiers operate as virtually perfect textbook cases of a “voltage source.” This is to say that they will maintain whatever the appropriate voltage might be at any moment (given the demands of the music, and within the rated voltage output of the amplifier) without any particular regard for the current demands of the loudspeaker.

Because of this “voltage source” characteristic, the 300-series amplifiers double their power output every time the loudspeaker impedance is cut by half. For example, the N°333's *continuous* rated power is 300 watts per channel at 8 $\Omega$ ; 600 watts per channel at 4 $\Omega$ ; 1200 watts per channel at 2 $\Omega$ —assuming the electrical circuit in the wall can support these extraordinary power levels. A *continuous* 2 $\Omega$

test of the N°333 at maximum power requires about **45 amperes at 120V**. (The laws of physics refuse to be cheated. Long-term, you cannot deliver more power into the speaker than you can pull from the wall.)

Thirty-two TO-3 output transistors are distributed in the heatsinks of the N° 333 to conduct and control the flow of its remarkable power capabilities to the loudspeaker. There are eight matched, complementary pairs of output transistors in each channel of the amplifier. Similarly, the N°332 uses 24 TO-3 output transistors in six matched, complementary pairs of output transistors for each channel, and the N°331 uses 16 TO-3 output transistors in four matched, complementary pairs of output transistors for each channel.

No known high quality loudspeaker can absorb the *continuous* full power capability of the N° 333. (Nor would you want to be present in the room were you to find one that could do so.) However, many high quality loudspeakers may require rather extreme power levels on a *short term* basis when reproducing music at realistic levels. The 300-series amplifiers can answer these needs with impunity, without any power supply “sag” and without altering their sonic performance in any way. The resultant imperturbable nature of these amplifiers is reflected in the authority and control with which they reproduce music. Your selection of any particular model depends only on the maximum power you need, based on your loudspeakers, listening room, and listening habits.

#### **Adaptive Biasing of the Output Stage**

Magazines and product literature have both contributed to a great deal of poorly-informed discussion of “class A” operation over the years. Unfortunately, the thermal management problems of *true* class A operation in a high-current output stage are severe, and introduce serious sonic compromises of their own. For this reason, the output stage of your new amplifier are not class-A biased in a traditional fashion. (All *voltage* gain stages of the 300-series amplifiers are biased to operate in a full class A mode in order to keep the active devices safely within their most linear, distortion-free range at all times.)

The 300-series amplifiers use a proprietary adaptive biasing scheme developed by Madrigal (and first introduced in the N° 33 Reference Monaural Amplifiers) that delivers the sonic advantages of a Class A output stage without incurring the substantial inefficiencies and consequent thermal problems of pure Class A operation. Uniquely, this adaptive biasing scheme never allows the output devices themselves to be reverse-biased. This approach results in greatly reduced dynamic distortions, and a sweeter sound that exhibits a greater sense of ease at all volume levels.

#### **Extensive Protection**

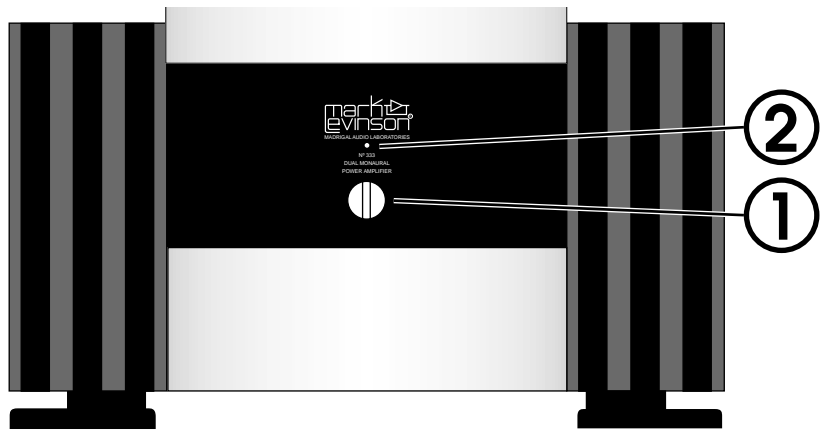
Your 300-series power amplifier will shut itself down if it senses any of a number of fault conditions which could cause damage to either itself or to your loudspeakers. These fault conditions include:

- the presence of DC (direct current) at the output
- either over-voltage or under-voltage conditions on the AC mains ( $\pm 10\%$ )
- unsafe operating temperatures in any of several critical areas within the amplifier

If any of these fault conditions is sensed while the amplifier is in either standby or fully on, the amplifier will shut down completely (**off** mode, not merely **standby**). Moreover, it will not turn on again until the fault condition is corrected.

In addition, the AC input to each transformer is fused to protect against excessive current conditions such as driving shorted outputs. Inrush limiting prevents premature aging of power supply components during power-up, and switches off-line once the power supply has been charged.

Finally, your amplifier incorporates a controlled clipping circuit that prevents the output devices from saturating. The harsh high frequency harmonics generated by hard-clipped output devices are avoided by the waveshaping action of this controlled clip circuitry.



## Front Panel

### 1 STANDBY BUTTON

When power is first applied to the power amplifier (if yours is a CE-certified unit, this means plugging it in and turning on the **rear panel AC mains switch**), the amplifier remains **off**. Pressing the front panel **standby button** will bring the amplifier from **off** to **standby**. After a delay of ten seconds (to allow the power supplies to charge and all circuitry to stabilize), subsequent pressing of the **standby** button will toggle the amplifier between **standby** mode and fully **on**. Power consumption of the N°333 (the most extreme example) when at idle is approximately 350 watts—the equivalent of leaving a few light bulbs on. When in **standby**, the amplifiers still draw as much as 200 watts to keep the sensitive voltage gain stages warmed up and sounding their best at all times).

To turn the amplifier **off** (as opposed to standby), press *and hold* the **standby button** for approximately one second, until the front panel **indicator light** turns off. To turn off even the supervisory power supply, you must either unplug the amplifier from the wall or (in the case of CE-certified units only) use the rear panel **AC mains switch**. (see below)

### 2 INDICATOR LIGHT

The **indicator light** shows the operational status of your N°333:

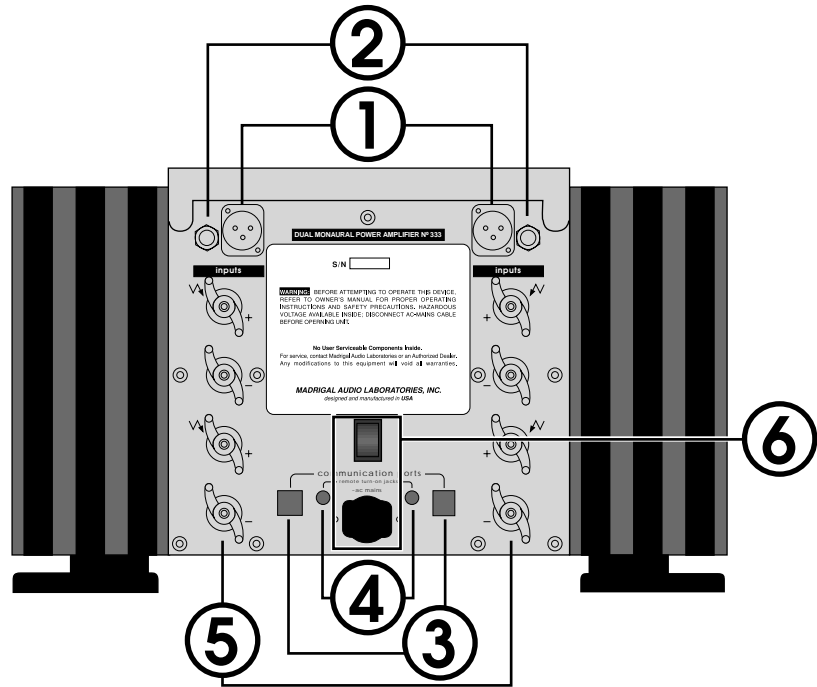
**Full brightness** indicates that the N°33 is **on** and ready to be used.

**Blinking slowly** indicates the unit is in **standby**.

**Dimly lit** indicates that the main power supply is completely off, leaving only the supervisory supply operational.

**Completely off** indicates that the amplifier is not connected to the ac mains, disengaging even the supervisory power supply.

If the amplifier will not turn on, you should check your AC connections, or have your dealer inspect the internal fuses (which are *not* user-serviceable). If yours is a CE-certified unit, you may want to check the **rear panel AC mains switch** to ensure it is in the **on** position.



## Rear Panel



### Caution!

**Turn the volume on your preamplifier all the way down before attempting to connect anything to your Mark Levinson power amplifier.**

### 1 BALANCED AUDIO INPUT

Accepts a signal from a preamplifier with balanced outputs via a high quality XLR connector. If connection to the preamplifier is made with a balanced interconnecting cable, it is important to remove the shorting plugs from between pins #1 and #3 of the XLR inputs which were placed there prior to shipment from the factory. Save them for possible use at a later date (should you want to listen to a friend's single-ended cable, for example).

The pin assignments of this XLR-type female input connector is:



- Pin 1: Signal ground
- Pin 2: Signal + (non-inverting)
- Pin 3: Signal - (inverting)
- Connector ground lug: chassis ground

These pin assignments are consistent with the standards adopted by the Audio Engineering Society. Refer to the operating manual of your balanced-output preamplifier to verify that the pin assignments of its output connectors correspond to your Mark Levinson amplifier. If not, wire the cables so that the appropriate output pin connects to the equivalent input pin.



## 2 SINGLE-ENDED INPUTS

These RCA connectors accept single-ended inputs from preamplifiers with single-ended (RCA) outputs. Single-ended input signals are converted to balanced signals immediately upon being received at the amplifier, and are handled as balanced signals thereafter.

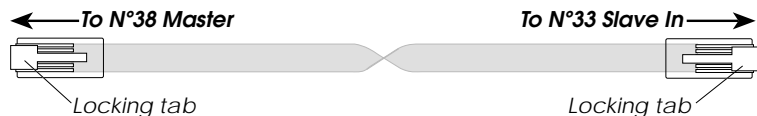
If your preamplifier does not support balanced connection to the power amplifier, connect the single-ended output of your preamplifier to the RCA input on the amplifier. To reduce the chance of noise pickup at the (otherwise unterminated) inverting input of the XLR, insert the provided U-shaped shorting strap between pins #1 and #3 of the XLR connector. (As delivered from the factory, this shorting strap is already installed.)

## 3 COMMUNICATIONS LINKS

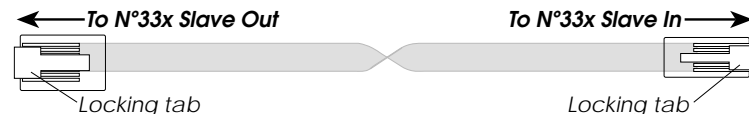
Your 300-series power amplifier may be controlled by a “linked” Mark Levinson 30-series preamplifier when the **slave in** communications port is connected to the **master** port of the preamplifier. Subsequent 300-series amplifiers may be “daisy chained” from the first amplifier’s **slave out** to their **slave in** port, up to a maximum of six amplifiers total (to support multi-amped systems, for example).



A “straight-through,” six conductor Link cable with six-conductor modular connectors on both ends is used to connect the preamplifier to the first power amplifier. Such a cable is made (counter-intuitively) by incorporating a 180° twist into the cable before terminating it, as shown below:



A different Link connector configuration is used for the “daisy-chain” of one amplifier to the next, to minimize the opportunity for mis-wiring. In effect, this cable is identical to the one between preamplifier and power amplifier except that it uses pins 1 through 6 of an eight-conductor modular connector at one end, as shown on the next page:



(Note that the pins are numbered 1 through 8 from left to right when the locking tab is down and the metal contacts are pointing away from you.)

When connected in this manner, the power amplifiers will be toggled between **standby** and fully **on** when the preamplifier goes between **standby** and fully **on**.

In addition, should a fault condition cause any amplifier's protection circuitry to activate, it can report the nature of the problem to a linked Mark Levinson preamplifier via this communications link. If this occurs, the preamplifier will display the number of the amplifier at fault (AMP1 being the first amplifier in the daisy chain, AMP2 being the second amplifier, and so on). The preamplifier will also indicate the nature of the fault condition with one of the following codes:

Code	Fault Condition
HOT!	thermal shutdown
DCO!	uncorrectable DC offset

If upon first connecting your Link cables the system does not automatically toggle the amplifiers from the preamp, you may have to cycle power (not standby, but actual AC power) once to alert the system as to the presence of the newly-established Links.

#### 4 REMOTE TURN-ON INPUTS

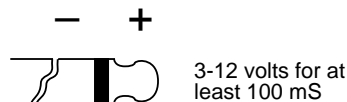
Additional remote turn-on jacks provide compatibility with a wide range of products, to facilitate remote turn-on and turn-off in systems which do not include a Mark Levinson 30-series preamplifier (which would normally use the Mark Levinson Communications Link described above). These 1/8" (3.5 mm) "mini-jacks" allow other components to bring the power amplifier in and out of **standby**. Two such mini-jacks are provided to allow "daisy-chaining" of multiple amplifiers.

If this method of control is used for the amplifier(s), the last mini-jack in the chain must be terminated with a dummy 1/8" plug [that is, an empty plug must be inserted into the final 1/8" (3.5 mm) jack]. Even if only a single amplifier is controlled in this fashion, the "extra" mini-jack must be terminated.

If you are not using these turn-on inputs, you may leave them both empty of any plugs.

This remote "trigger" input will be operated by a 3–12 volts DC positive-polarity pulse, of at least 100 milliseconds duration, with tip polarity as shown below:

*Remote turn-on  
tip polarity*



Receiving such a pulse will cause the amplifier to "toggle" between **standby** and **operate**, much like pressing the front panel **standby** button. Sending a long-term DC signal (more than one second) will force the amplifier into the fully **off** condition (as does a prolonged press of the front panel button.) Your Mark Levinson dealer can help you take advantage of these design features to maximize your system's versatility.

## 5 SPEAKER BINDING POSTS

The Mark Levinson 300-series amplifiers are equipped with custom made, gold-plated, high-current binding posts for output termination to a loud-speaker system. To take full advantage of the amplifier's sonic quality, we recommend using high-quality speaker cable; please see your Mark Levinson dealer.



**Caution!**

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**NEVER connect a power amplifier's output terminals to any device other than a loudspeaker.**  
**NEVER short-circuit the amplifier's output terminals.**  
**NEVER connect the output terminals of one amplifier to the output terminals of another amplifier.**

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There are two recommended methods for connecting speaker cables to your amplifier. A high-quality spade lug or hook lug, soldered to the cable (or crimped with extremely high pressure), is best.



Spade lug



Hook lug

Connect a + (positive or red) output post of the amplifier to the + (positive or red) input terminal of the appropriate loudspeaker. [If biwiring, repeat using the other + (positive or red) output post of the amplifier and the + (positive or red) input terminal of the loudspeaker.]

Connect a – (negative or black) output post of the amplifier to the – (negative or black) input terminal of the appropriate loudspeaker. [If biwiring, repeat using the other – (negative or black) output post of the amplifier and the – (negative or black) input terminal of the loudspeaker.]



**Caution!**

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**DO NOT OVERTIGHTEN the binding posts on your amplifier! The unique design of these posts gives far more leverage than traditional posts. You will achieve tight, high contact pressure connections with only modest finger-tightening, and without having to resort to special tools.**

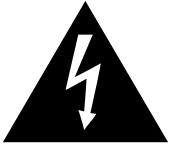
**DO NOT FORCE the "wings" up and over a bent or oversized connector, as this may damage the binding post. If your connectors obstruct the turning of the "wings," slide them into place when the binding post opening is a snug fit; then apply a final quarter-turn as needed to tighten the connection.**

---

## 6 AC MAINS CORD AND AC MAINS SWITCH

Conventional IEC standard power cords cannot be used in the N° 333, due to the potential current requirements of N° 333 when operating into low impedance loads. (The highest available current rating for an IEC standard three-conductor connector such as is used on most stereo equipment, including other Mark Levinson products, is 16 amperes.) Instead, the N° 333 incorporates a high current AC cord which is attached directly to the amplifier itself.

Conventional IEC standard power cords are used in the N° 332 and N°331, since their lower rated power reduces their worst-case current requirements when operating into low impedance loads.



**Warning!**

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***Your new Mark Levinson amplifier has been safety-tested and is designed for operation with a three-conductor power cord. Do not defeat the "third pin" or earth ground of the AC power cord.***

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In CE-certified units intended for European use, an **AC mains switch** is located adjacent to the power cord on the rear panel of the amplifier. This switch may be used to disconnect the supervisory power supply from the AC mains without having to actually unplug the amplifier from the wall outlet. Since this small supervisory supply controls the main power supply's access to AC power, shutting down the supervisory power supply also disconnects the main supply from AC. If you plan to be away for an extended period, or have any other reason to turn the amplifier completely off, you may either unplug the amplifier or (in the case of CE units) you may use the **AC mains switch**.



**Note:**

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***When first connected to the AC mains, the amplifier normally draws a small amount of power which is used to control the power-up sequence. Turning the CE-required rear panel switch "off" disconnects even this small power supply; you must turn this switch back "on" before you can enter the power-up sequence described in Front Panel, item #2, or before the amplifier will respond to a remote turn-on command.***

***Amplifiers intended for non-European markets do not have this switch, somewhat simplifying operation.***

---

Two fast-acting 30 ampere fuses are located inside the N° 333, on the AC mains module. The N°332 uses two 15 ampere slo-blo fuses, and the N°331 uses two 10 ampere slo-blo fuses. The protection circuitry has been designed such that only a catastrophic failure could cause these fuses to blow. As a result, if you suspect that your AC fuses have blown, disconnect your amplifier from the AC mains and contact your Mark Levinson dealer for assistance. ***Do not attempt to replace these fuses yourself.***



***Danger!***

---

***Potentially dangerous voltages and current capabilities exist within your power amplifier, even when disconnected from AC mains. Do not attempt to open any portion of the amplifier's cabinet. There are no user-serviceable parts inside your power amplifier. All service of this product must be referred to a qualified Mark Levinson dealer or distributor.***

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# Bridged Operation

Your Mark Levinson amplifier has been designed to be extremely versatile. Should your needs change or grow over time, you may wish to add additional power by one of two means: Bridging, or Biamping. We will discuss bridged operation first.

## Bridging Explained

Bridging refers to the act of reconfiguring the circuitry in both the left and right channels of your amplifier to act as though it were a single, much larger amplifier. (Of course, you will need a second bridged amplifier for stereo; more for multi-channel sound, as in home theater applications.)

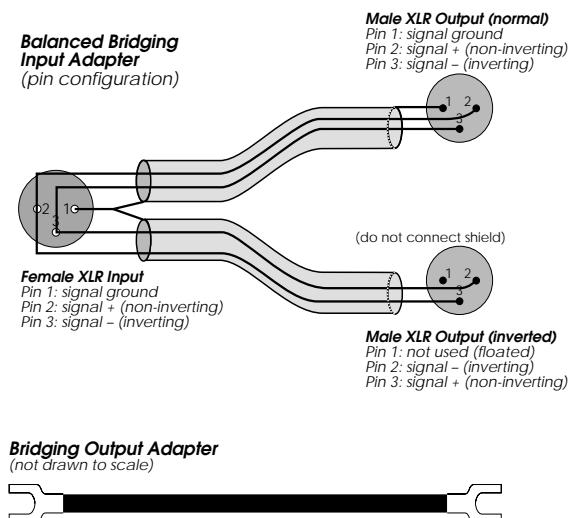
Bridging is accomplished by sending a normal signal to one channel and an *inverted* signal to the other. In this configuration, one channel will always be “pushing” when the other is “pulling.” By connecting the loudspeaker leads across the left and right red output terminals, the amplifier can now deliver twice the normal voltage to the loudspeaker. Working together this way, the two amplifier channels can deliver almost *four times* the power to a speaker that a single channel could deliver on its own.

Bridged operation is particularly beneficial with low sensitivity, high-impedance loudspeakers ( $8\Omega$  or higher) that have a greater need for voltage than for current. It is not recommended for loudspeakers that have an impedance significantly below  $4\Omega$ , as the speaker's impedance is “split” by the two halves of the amplifier. Thus the bridged amplifier “sees” a  $2\Omega$  load when connected to a  $4\Omega$  loudspeaker. Prolonged delivery of high power levels into such a low impedance creates a great deal of heat that needs to be dissipated. (Of course, your amplifier is protected against overheating, but having an amplifier shut itself down even temporarily can put a damper on the evening's entertainment.)

## Balanced Bridging

If your preamplifier has balanced outputs, you should use them. For this discussion, we will assume that you are using a Madrigal Balanced Bridging Adapter Kit for each channel to be bridged. (Alternatively, you may have custom cables built using your preferred wire and connectors, being careful to follow the wiring diagram below.)

### Balanced Bridging Kit



The “normal” leg of the Madrigal Balanced Bridging Input Adapter will be marked with a red stripe to indicate positive polarity, and the inverted leg will be marked with a black stripe to indicate inverted polarity (corresponding to the red and black terminals of your loudspeaker).

The Balanced Bridging Output Adapter is simply a single, heavy gauge bus bar, used to strap two of the output ground terminals together. This establishes a common reference for the amplifier and completes the circuit that includes the loudspeakers.

**Important!**

***Do not attempt to operate your amplifier in a bridged mode without first strapping the black output terminals together. Failure to establish a common ground reference between the two channels can damage your amplifier by forcing significant currents to flow where they do not belong!***

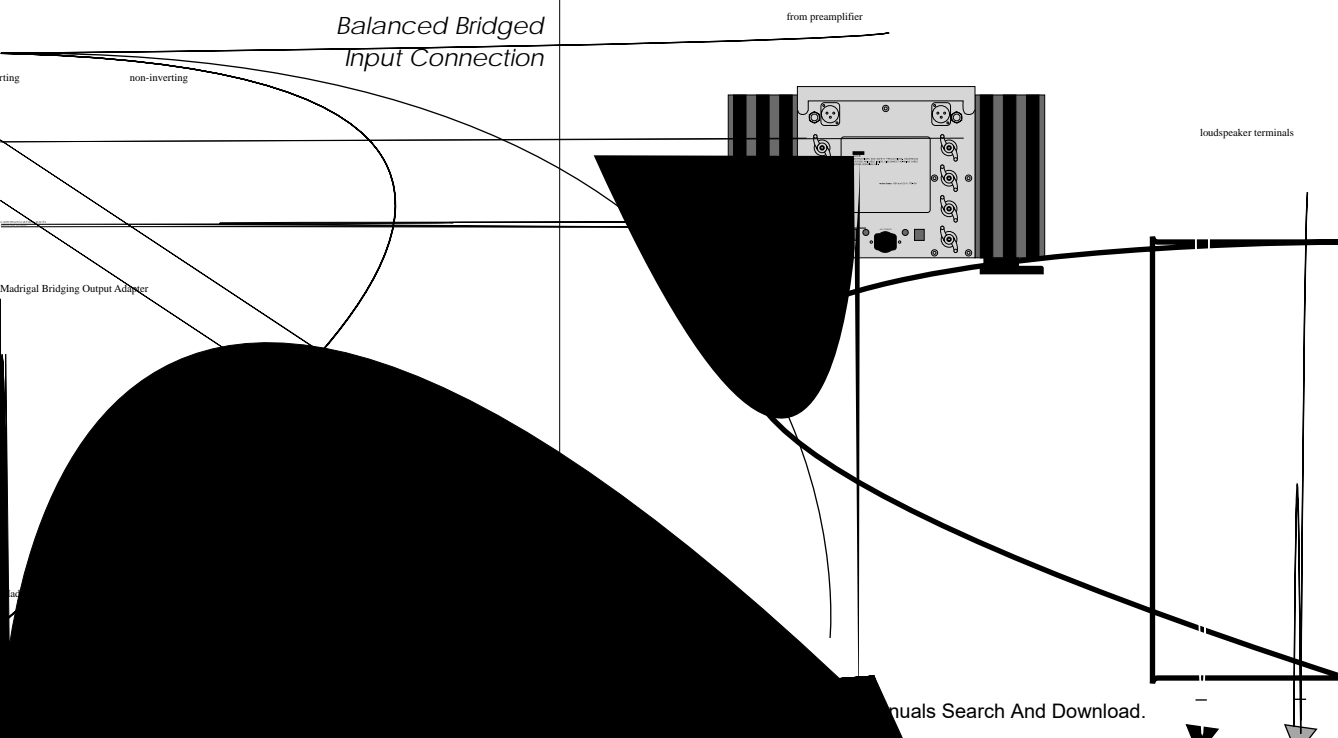
To bridge your Mark Levinson amplifier using a balanced input signal, follow these steps:

**1 DISCONNECT YOUR AMPLIFIER FROM EVERYTHING**

Start with your amplifier totally disconnected from inputs, outputs, and AC power. It is always best to power down an amplifier before changing connections; here you are also changing its basic configuration.

**2 CONNECT THE BALANCED BRIDGING INPUT ADAPTER TO THE AMP'S INPUTS**

Connect the two male XLRs to the inputs of your amplifier, noting which XLR is marked red and which is black. You may want to standardize on “Red is Right” to avoid confusion, although it makes no difference to the amplifier. The channel with the red, normal input will later be connected to the red, positive terminal of your loudspeaker.



### 3 CONNECT ONE END OF THE BALANCED BRIDGING OUTPUT ADAPTER TO TWO SIDE-BY-SIDE BLACK OUTPUT TERMINALS

All Mark Levinson amplifiers have two sets of output terminals per channel, wired in parallel (for convenience when biwiring). You may use either the upper or the lower black output terminals. Connect one end of the Balanced Bridging Output Adapter to a black output terminal on one side of the amplifier, and then connect the other end to a black output terminal on the other side of the amplifier. (The two connections should be side-by-side rather than one above the other.) Make sure these connections are snug and secure.

### 4 CONNECT YOUR LOUDSPEAKER WIRE ACROSS TWO SIDE-BY-SIDE, RED OUTPUT TERMINALS

In this case, you may use either the upper or the lower red output terminals. Connect the positive/+ /red binding post of your loudspeaker to the red output terminal associated with the red (normal) side of the Input Adapter. Connect the negative/- /black binding post of your loudspeaker to the red output terminal on the other side of the amplifier, the one associated with the black (inverted) side of the Input Adapter.

Following this connection convention preserves the polarity of the signal sent to the loudspeaker. In practice, the most important thing is to be consistent throughout the system, as inconsistency will result in out-of-phase loudspeakers. In turn, this results in unstable imaging and poor bass reproduction. (The effect is not dangerous, but neither is it subtle.)

### 5 CONNECT ONE OUTPUT CHANNEL OF YOUR PREAMPLIFIER TO THE INPUT OF YOUR BRIDGED AMPLIFIER

The female XLR at the junction of the Balanced Bridging Input Adapter is now the *single* input to this *bridged* amplifier.

### 6 POWER UP YOUR AMPLIFIER

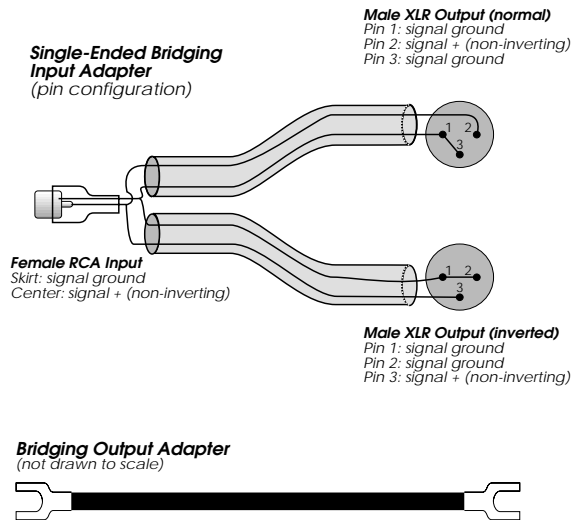
Remember that your Mark Levinson power amplifier incorporates inrush protection circuitry that allows its power supply to charge up gently, enhancing its longevity. Plug the amplifier back into the AC mains; press the **standby** button once to bring the amp from **off** to **standby**; wait at least ten seconds; and press the **standby** button again to bring it from **standby** to **operate**.

### 7 REPEAT THIS PROCESS WITH YOUR OTHER AMPLIFIER(S)

#### Single-Ended Bridging

If your preamplifier has only single-ended (RCA) outputs, a few details of bridged operation will differ from the discussion above, all pertaining to the connection of the preamp to the bridged amplifiers. For this discussion, we will assume that you are using a Madrigal Single-Ended Bridging Adapter Kit for each channel to be bridged. (Alternatively, you may have custom cables built using your preferred wire and connectors, being careful to follow the wiring diagram below.)





The “normal” leg of the Madrigal Single-Ended Bridging Input Adapter will be marked with a red stripe to indicate positive polarity, and the inverted leg will be marked with a black stripe to indicate inverted polarity (corresponding to the red and black terminals of your loudspeaker).

The Balanced Bridging Output Adapter is simply a single, heavy gauge bus bar, used to strap two of the output ground terminals together. This establishes a common reference for the amplifier and completes the circuit that includes the loudspeakers.

**Important!**

---

***Do not attempt to operate your amplifier in a bridged mode without first strapping the black output terminals together. Failure to establish a common ground reference between the two channels can damage your amplifier by forcing significant currents to flow where they do not belong!***

---

To bridge your Mark Levinson amplifier using a single-ended (RCA) input signal, follow these steps:

**1 DISCONNECT YOUR AMPLIFIER FROM EVERYTHING**

Start with your amplifier totally disconnected from inputs, outputs, and AC power. It is always best to power down an amplifier before changing connections; here you are also changing its basic configuration.

**2 CONNECT THE SINGLE-ENDED BRIDGING INPUT ADAPTER TO THE AMP'S INPUTS**

Connect the two male XLRs to the inputs of your amplifier, noting which XLR is marked red and which is black. You may want to standardize on “Red is Right” to avoid confusion, although it makes no difference to the amplifier. The channel with the red, normal input will later be connected to the red, positive terminal of your loudspeaker.



# Biamplication

In contrast to bridged operation (wherein a two channel amplifier is “fooled” into behaving as a single, larger amplifier), biamplication makes use of a two-channel amplifier to drive *different portions* of a single loudspeaker. As with bridging, it offers a modular way of increasing the overall performance of your system (if your loudspeakers support biamplication).

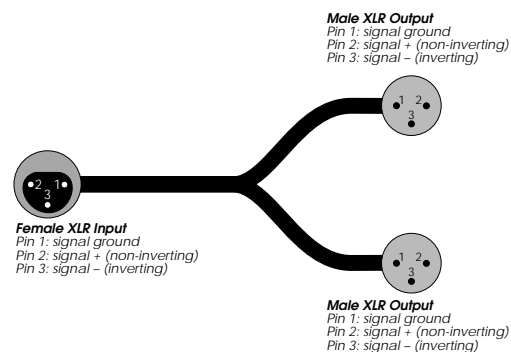
Since each channel of the amplifier is delivering current into its load only over a limited range of frequencies (typically bass *vs.* mids and treble), several forms of distortion are reduced as compared to each channel handling the full range of musical information. For this reason, many loudspeaker companies are designing their products to include multiple speaker inputs (since using multiple amplifiers improves the performance of their products as well). Another common use of biamplication involves adding a subwoofer (along with an appropriate electronic crossover) to supplement and/or improve the deep bass performance of your system.

Always refer to the specific directions provided by your loudspeaker manufacturer prior to setting up a biamplified speaker system. Any instructions contained herein cannot be substituted for those that are specific to the loudspeaker in question. In general, however, biamping is done in one of two ways: *active* biamplication, or *passive* biamplication.

Active biamping refers to the presence of an “active” electronic crossover that divides the music into two (or sometimes more) bands of frequencies. These are then forwarded to separate power amplifiers, and sent on directly to the appropriate drivers in the speakers. The most common application of this approach is the use of a subwoofer crossover to separate the deep bass (below, say, 80 Hz) from the rest of the program material. It is then amplified separately and sent to a dedicated subwoofer designed to handle those extremely low frequencies.

Apart from adding a subwoofer, the next most common form of biamping (called *passive* biamplication) involves merely using a conventional “Y-adapter” (either balanced or single-ended) to provide a full range signal to two channels.

Balanced Y-adapter



The outputs of these two channels are then connected to two sets of binding posts on each loudspeaker. (See below.) The loudspeaker’s internal crossover continues to divide the frequencies appropriately among the various drivers.



# Care & Maintenance

To remove dust from the cabinet of your amplifier, use a feather duster or a lint-free soft cloth. To remove dirt and fingerprints, we recommend isopropyl alcohol and a soft cloth. Dampen the cloth with alcohol first and then lightly clean the surface of the amplifier with the cloth. Do not use excessive amounts of alcohol that might drip off the cloth and into the amplifier.



**Caution!**

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***At no time should liquid cleaners be applied directly to the amplifier, as direct application of liquids may result in damage to electronic components within the unit.***

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# U.S. and Canadian Warranty

## 90-Day Limited Warranty

This Mark Levinson® product is warranted to be free from defects in material and workmanship under normal use for a period of ninety (90) days from the date of purchase. **To extend the warranty of this Mark Levinson product**, return the warranty registration card along with a copy of the original receipt of purchase to Madrigal Audio Laboratories, Inc., P. O. Box 781, Middletown, CT 06457.

## Five Year Extended Warranty

The **extended warranty** for this Mark Levinson product is **five (5) years** from the date of purchase. During the warranty period, any Mark Levinson component exhibiting defects in materials and/or workmanship will be repaired or replaced, at our option, without charge for either parts or labor, at our factory. The warranty will not apply to any Mark Levinson component that has been misused, abused or altered.

Any Mark Levinson component not performing satisfactorily may be returned to the factory for evaluation. Return authorization must first be obtained by either calling or writing the factory prior to shipping the component. The factory will pay for return shipping charges only in the event that the component is found to be defective as above mentioned. There are other stipulations that may apply to shipping charges.

There is no other express warranty on this component. Neither this warranty nor any other warranty, express or implied, including any implied warranties of merchantability or fitness, shall extend beyond the warranty period. No responsibility is assumed for any incidental or consequential damages. Some states do not allow limitations on how long an implied warranty lasts and other states do not allow the exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages, so that the above limitation or exclusion 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. **This warranty is applicable in the United States and Canada only.** Outside of the U.S. and Canada, please contact your local, authorized Mark Levinson distributor for warranty and service information.

# Obtaining Service

We take great pride in our dealers. Experience, dedication, and integrity make these professionals ideally suited to assist with our customers' service needs.

If your Mark Levinson component must be serviced, please contact your dealer. Your dealer will then decide whether the problem can be remedied locally, or whether to contact Madrigal for further service information or parts, or to obtain a Return Authorization. The Madrigal Technical Services Department works closely with your dealer to solve your service needs expediently.



## **Important!**

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***Return authorization must be obtained from Madrigal's Technical Services Department BEFORE a unit is shipped for service.***

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It is extremely important that information about a problem be explicit and complete. A specific, comprehensive description of the problem helps your dealer and the Madrigal Technical Services Department locate and repair the difficulty as quickly as possible.

A copy of the original bill of sale will serve to verify warranty status. Please include it with the unit when it is brought in for warranty service.



## **Warning!**

---

***All returned units must be properly packaged (preferably in their original packing material), and the proper return authorization numbers must be marked on the outer carton for identification. If the packaging to protect the unit is, in our opinion or that of our dealer, inadequate to protect the unit, we reserve the right to repackage it for return shipment at the owner's expense. Neither Madrigal nor your dealer can be responsible for shipping damage due to improper (that is, non-original) packaging.***

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Your dealer can order a new set of shipping materials for you if you need to ship your component and no longer have the original materials. There will be a charge for this service. We *strongly* recommend saving all packing materials in case you need to ship your unit some day.

# Specifications

*The correlation between published specifications and performance is unreliable. Measurements of the your amplifier yield excellent results by any standards. However, only those specifications that apply to its actual operation are included here. All specifications are subject to change at any time, in order to improve the product.*

- **N°333 Rated power output:** 300 w/ch continuous rms power @ 8Ω  
600 w/ch continuous rms power @ 4Ω  
1200 w/ch continuous rms power @ 2Ω
  - **N°332 Rated power output:** 200 w/ch continuous rms power @ 8Ω  
400 w/ch continuous rms power @ 4Ω  
800 w/ch continuous rms power @ 2Ω
  - **N°331 Rated power output:** 100 w/ch continuous rms power @ 8Ω  
200 w/ch continuous rms power @ 4Ω  
400 w/ch continuous rms power @ 2Ω
- all above power ratings from 20 Hz–20kHz at <0.5% THD*
- **Frequency response:** within 0.1 dB from 20 Hz to 20 kHz
  - **Signal to Noise ratio (main outputs):** better than –80 dB (ref. 1 w)
  - **Input impedance:** 100kΩ (balanced)  
50kΩ (single-ended)
  - **Voltage gain:** 26.8 dB
  - **Input sensitivity (2.83V output):** 130 mV (all models)
  - **Input sensitivity (full output):** 2.25V for N°333  
1.80V for N°332  
1.30V for N°331
  - **Power consumption (N°333):** 350W (±5%) at idle, 200W (±5%) in standby
  - **Power consumption (N°332):** 325W (±5%) at idle, 200W (±5%) in standby
  - **Power consumption (N°331):** 260W (±5%) at idle, 110W (±5%) in standby
  - **Mains voltage:** determined by the needs of country for which the unit was manufactured; cannot be reset by dealer or user
  - **Overall dimensions:** See “Dimensions”
  - **N°333 Shipping weight:** 150 lbs. (68.2kg) each
  - **N°332 Shipping weight:** 150 lbs. (68.2kg) each
  - **N°331 Shipping weight:** 112 lbs. (50.9kg) each
  - **Connector complement:** four custom binding posts per channel  
one 3-pin XLR balanced input connector per channel  
one RCA input connector per channel  
two 1/8" mini-jacks for remote turn-on  
two Mark Levinson communications ports  
one captive high current AC mains cord (N°333 only), or  
one IEC-standard high current AC receptacle (N°332, N°331)
  - **Output impedance:** less than 0.05Ω from 20–20,000 Hz
  - **Damping factor:** greater than 800, 20–20,000 Hz @ 8Ω

For more information, see your Mark Levinson dealer, or contact:

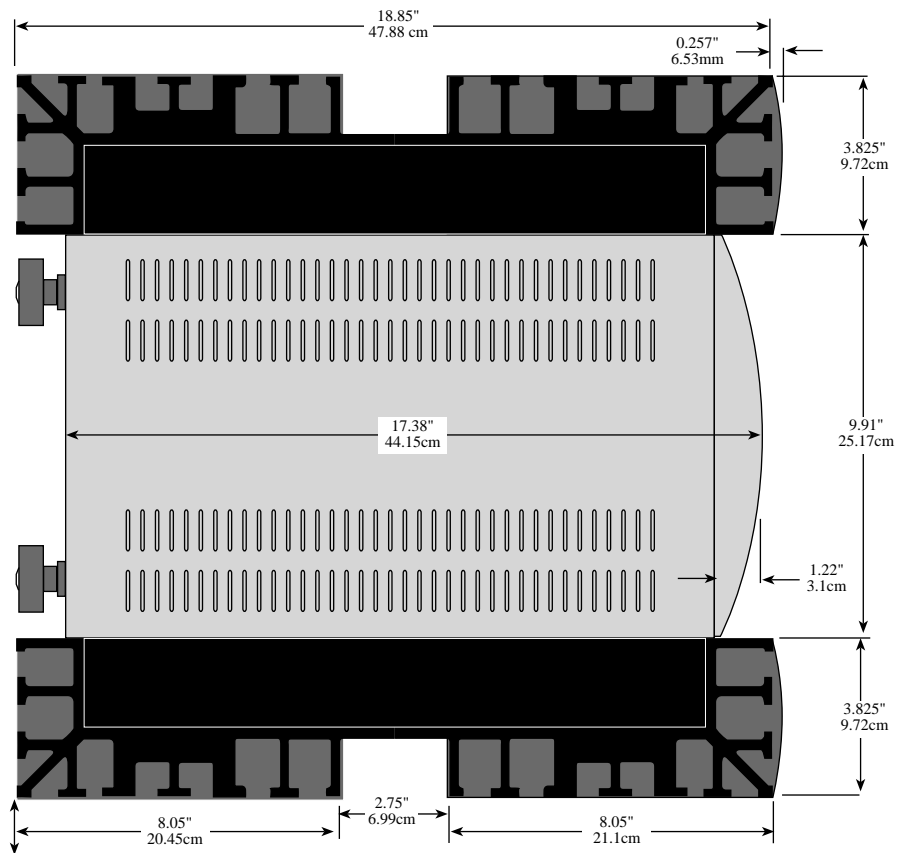
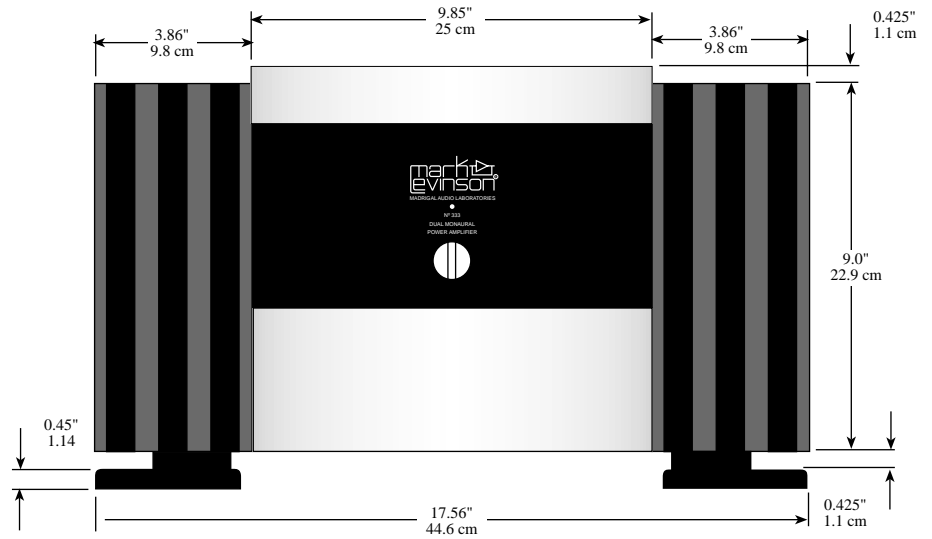
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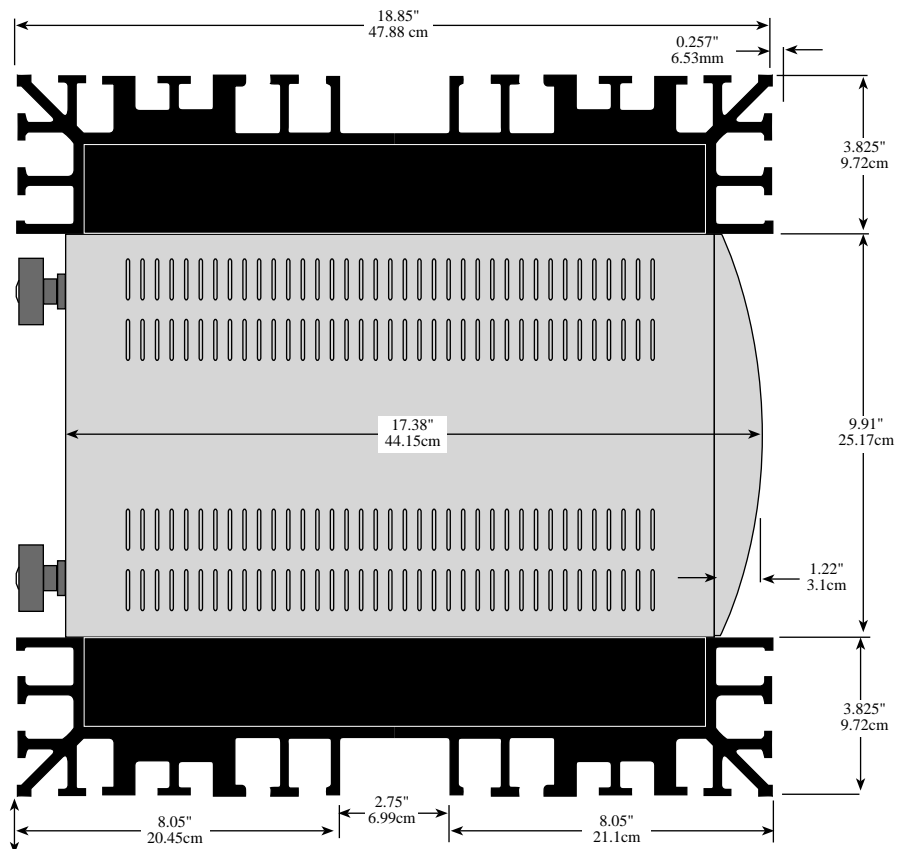
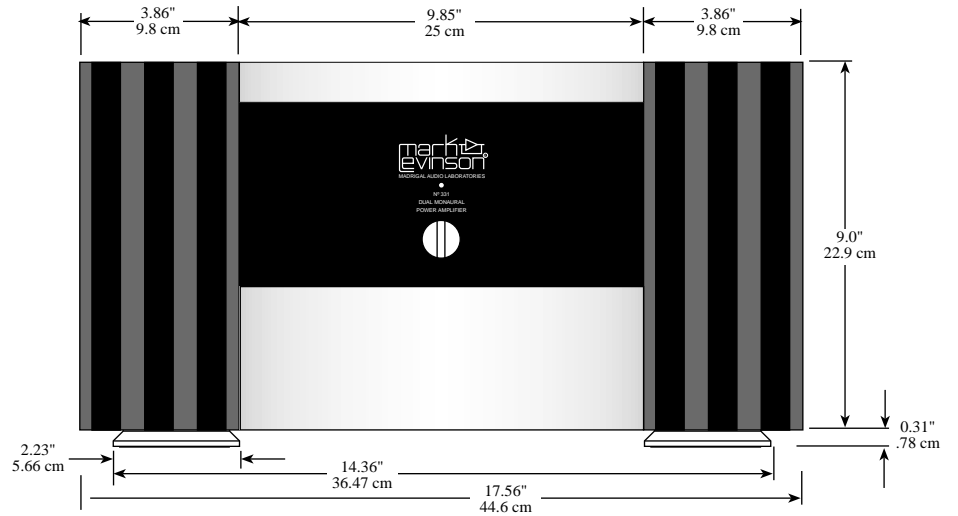


# Dimensions: N° 333 & N°332





# Dimensions: N° 331









**MADRIGAL**

Madrigal Audio Laboratories, Inc.  
2081 South Main Street, P.O. Box 781  
Middletown, Connecticut 06457 USA

Telephone: (860) 346-0896  
Fax: (860) 346-1540  
<http://www.madrigal.com/>

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