



Electro-Voice®
a MARK IV company

DMC-2181A

DeltaMax™
Electronic Controller for
DML-2181A-Series
Low-Frequency Sound-
Reinforcement
Speaker Systems

SYSTEM SPECIFICATIONS:¹

Frequency Response, DMC-2181A with
DML-2181A-series Speaker, One Watt into
Sub Midband (2.00 Volts at 70 Hz) on Axis
in Anechoic Environment (see Figure 1):
36-100 Hz

CONTROLLER SPECIFICATIONS:

General Functions:

Two-way crossover; subwoofer output
includes frequency and time-delay
equalization, 12-dB-per-octave infrasonic
filter, temperature, excursion and amplifier
clipping protection

Channel Configuration:

Single channel (monaural) two-way, one
sense channel (subwoofer); high-frequency
output unity gain above crossover
frequency

Crossover Frequency:

100 Hz

Crossover Filter:

4th-order Linkwitz-Riley (24-dB-per-octave)

Gain:

+5 dB nominal, equalized sub output. Unity
gain high output.

Signal-Path Equalization (subwoofer section):

+3 dB at 37 Hz
-3 dB at 30.5 Hz

Signal Delay (subwoofer output):

4.0 ms at crossover frequency

Total Harmonic Distortion, 20-20,000 Hz:

0.03% typical, 0.1% maximum

Noise, Each Output, 20-20,000 Hz Band- width, Typical:

-86 dBu¹

Signal Input,

Type:

Active differential

Maximum Level:

+18 dBu

Impedance:

20,000 ohms and .0015 µf

Common-Mode Range:

±24 V

CMRR, Typical:

-55 dB

Connector:

Female 3-pin XLR-type

Signal Outputs,

Type:

Transformer floating differential

Maximum Level:

+18 dBu

Minimum Load Impedance

for Full Level:

600 ohms

Protection:

Safe for short circuit or ±25 volts dc

Connectors:

Male 3-pin XLR-type

Sense Inputs (subwoofer only),

Type:

Active differential

Maximum Level:

145 volts rms

Impedance:

200,000 ohms differential

Input Polarity:

Floating, either side hot

Connector:

Binding post/banana jacks,
spaced 1.9 cm (0.75 in.)

Controls (all except power switch are screwdriver adjustable):

Output levels, amplifier limit calibration,
amplifier clip/limit switch; power on-off
switch

Indicators:

Three LED input level
(-20, 0, and +16 dBu)
Three LED gain reduction
(3, 6, and 12 dB)
Three LED LF output protection
(temperature, excursion, clipping)
One LED power on

Power Requirements:

100, 120, or 240 volts ac, 50-60 Hz,
13 watts

Chassis Construction:

Painted steel

Color:

Gray front panel and black chassis with
white graphics

Mounting and Dimensions :

EIA 19-inch rack mount, 4.45 cm (1.75 in.)
high, 20.9 cm (8.25 in.) behind panel
(excluding connectors) (see Figure 3);
supplied with front-panel security cover
for controls

Net Weight:

3.6 kg (8 lb)

Shipping Weight:

4.2 kg (9 lb, 3 oz)

DESCRIPTION

The Electro-Voice DMC-2181A controller is
part of the DeltaMax™ series of electronically
controlled speaker systems intended for high-
level sound reinforcement and permanent
installation applications. The DMC-2181A
controller is intended to be used only with the
DML-2181A-series low-frequency speaker
systems. In addition to providing frequency

1. See DML-2181A-series engineering data sheets for
detailed speaker system specifications.
2. 0 dBu is 0.775 volts rms sine wave.

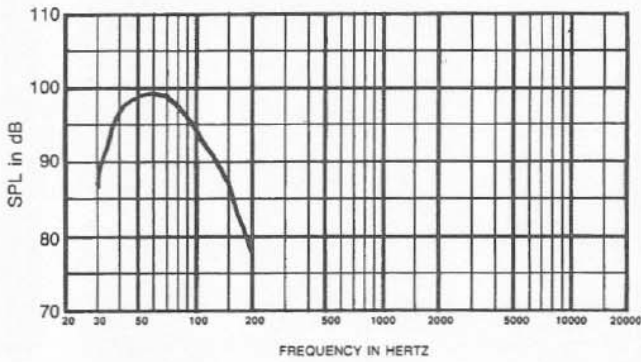


FIGURE 1
DML-2181A-Series/DMC-2181A Axial Frequency Response
 (1 watt/1 meter into LF midband)

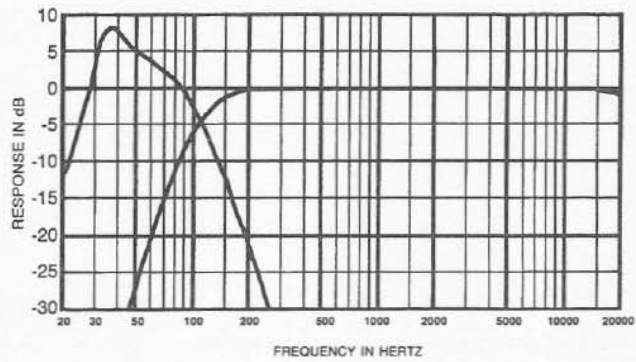


FIGURE 2
DMC Frequency Response, Crossover,
EQ Transfer Function, etc.

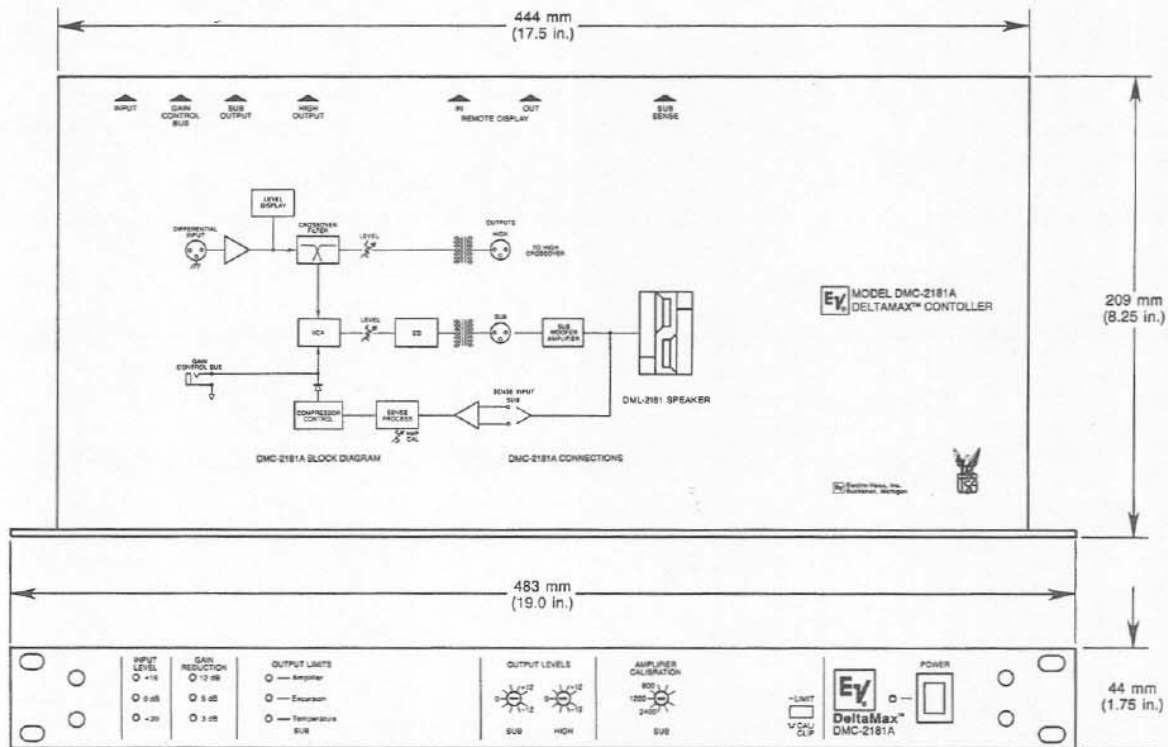


FIGURE 3
Chassis Mechanical Drawing

division, time-offset correction, broad-band equalization and high-pass filtering, the controller, when placed in the signal path before the amplifier, incorporates special speaker performance-modeling circuitry to electronically protect the transducers against overexcursion, voice-coil overheating and amplifier clipping. The result is maximum fidelity at extreme power outputs, without sacrificing reliability.

The companion DML-2181A-series speaker enclosures utilize two DL18MT low-frequency reproducers, and incorporate Electro-Voice's Manifold Technology® enclosure design. This allows greater output over conventional vented boxes in a greatly reduced package size. Additionally, acoustic loading is improved, yielding increased low-frequency efficiency and reduced distortion over direct-radiating and horn-loaded cabinets.

The electronic circuitry in the DMC-2181A is designed to provide optimum audio performance, even when the audio drive level is increased beyond normally safe levels for maximum loudness. A high-quality, low-noise VCA is driven by speaker performance-modeling circuitry to provide long-term temperature protection and amplifier anticlip limiting. Excursion protection is accomplished via voltage-limiting circuitry which follows excursion/frequency modeling parameters to control amplitude peaks before damage is incurred.

Front-panel indicator lights show input level, gain reduction, and low-frequency output-limit thresholds for excursion, temperature and amplifier clipping. Operation of the protection functions is completely automatic. The user-adjustable clipping-threshold calibration will work with any professional amplifier operating within the power and gain range stated in the Amplifier Requirements section.

IMPORTANT CAUTION!

Optimum performance and maximum protection of the DML-2181A-series speaker systems can only be attained in conjunction with the DMC-2181A electronic controller. **DO NOT DRIVE THESE SPEAKERS WITH OTHER ELECTRONIC CROSSOVERS OR PROCESSORS. DO NOT USE THE DMC-2181A CONTROLLER ON OTHER SPEAKERS AS ALL PARAMETERS ARE SPECIFIC TO THE DML-2181A SERIES.**

PRINCIPAL OF OPERATION

Refer to block diagram in Figure 3.

The signal path consists of an active differential input circuit which drives a fourth-order Linkwitz-Riley crossover section, providing both high- and low-frequency adjustable outputs. The high-frequency split passes unaffected to its respective output. The low-frequency signal drives a VCA (voltage controlled amplifier) section, which derives its control signal from a single amplifier-linked sensing input after passing through a dual-time-constant compressor control circuit. Following the VCA, the low-frequency signal enters a delay circuit (for

proper time/phase alignment relative to other DeltaMax systems at crossover frequency) and a frequency-contouring equalizer to provide optimum flat response for the speaker system. Additionally, an underdamped second-order high-pass filter, combined with a variation of a first-order shelving low-boost function provides optimum low-frequency system rolloff. Both outputs are transformer isolated, with feedback for distortion reduction.

The primary dynamic action (gain reduction) of the compressor circuit is controlled by a dual-time-constant detection circuit driven by rectified audio sensed at the speaker terminals. The compression ratio above the threshold is determined by modeling circuits, which increases the compression ratio as required by detection of temperature, and/or amplifier-clipping limits being passed. In all modes, the compressor gain-transfer function has a gradually changing slope across its threshold. This soft-knee design reduces the audibility of the compression. The ratio above the threshold can vary from 1:1 (no effect) to approximately 20:1 (hard limiting) depending on the signal source and the type of protection called for.

A dynamic frequency-sensitive voltage limiter at the output of the low-frequency band protects the speakers from excursion damage. If the speakers approach their excursion limit, the peak of the output waveform is clamped at a level above which excursion damage would occur.

FREQUENCY RESPONSE

The frequency response of the DMC-2181A/DML-2181A-series combination shown in Figure 1 was measured on axis in the far field of an anechoic environment, using swept one-third-octave input and calculated to a one-meter equivalent distance using the inverse-square law. Drive level was set at one watt of power (2 volts rms at 70 Hz) delivered to the midband of the low-frequency range.

INSTALLATION

Mounting/Location

The unit is one rack space high, 4.4 cm (1.75 in.), and fits a standard EIA 19-inch rack. Mount the DMC controller in a rack cabinet near the power amplifiers to simplify wiring. The controller is well shielded from magnetic and radio-frequency interference. It is possible to use the controller at a "house mix" location, removed from the amplifier mounting location and near the mixing board, in order to facilitate adjustment of the crossover levels and provide easy visual inspection of the LED metering. In this application, signal-return lines are needed to feed signal splits to the amplifiers. The low source impedance will adequately drive long cable lengths. A speaker sense line must be returned to each DMC-2181A controller from the amplifier location.

Grounding

A widely accepted grounding scheme for audio systems is the star-connection (single-

point) ground technique. While the final configuration will be determined by the size of the system and the equipment used, the star-connection grounding scheme is recommended as a start.

Never lift the safety ground of the ac power cable, as it protects against chassis shock hazard.

Ventilation

In normal operation, the controller generates some heat. In order to keep all components in their operating range, it is recommended that the electronics be mounted with adequate flow-through ventilation front and back. Do not place amplifiers or controllers in a sealed enclosure. Leaving a single empty rack space between adjacent amplifiers and the controller, preferably vented, will provide a margin of safety for all devices. Ambient temperature inside the enclosure should never exceed 60 degrees Centigrade (140° F).

Security

A security cover and mounting screws are supplied for protecting the user-adjustable controls on the front panel of the controller.

CONNECTIONS

The DeltaMax controller has XLR-type connectors for signal input and outputs. Pin 1 is shield, pin 2 is high (+), and pin 3 is low (-). The input is active differential and the outputs are transformer-balanced differential. When used in an unbalanced configuration, pin 3 should be shorted to ground.

The SUB sense connection is a dual binding post/banana jack (five-way binding post). The sense input is active differential, enabling connection to the output of mono-bridged amplifiers, and are high impedance, allowing small gauge wire (e.g. #22 AWG) to be used for the sense connection. Although current flow in the sense lines is negligible, they must be capable of handling the high-output voltages of the amplifiers.

AMPLIFIER REQUIREMENTS

The DML-2181A cabinet contains two drivers. With a 4-pin Neutrik Speakon™ NL4MP-R connector, each driver may be accessed separately. There are two ways these drivers may be wired:

1. Each driver may be connected to its own separate amplifier channel. Each amplifier channel should have a power rating of 400-600 watts into eight ohms. The amplifier channels must be identical, having the same voltage gain and power rating.
2. The two drivers may be paralleled to one amplifier channel. The speakers should be paralleled at the amplifier, not at the cabinet. The amplifier channel should have a power rating of 800-1200 watts into four ohms.

NOTE: DML-2181A cabinets may be paralleled (in either of the above configurations) with other DML-2181A's if the amplifier is capable of delivering adequate power at the lower impedance. The use of amplifiers with

lower power ratings is acceptable; however, the DML-2181A will not realize its full power capabilities. The use of amplifiers with significantly higher power ratings is wasteful and may endanger the loudspeakers; it is not recommended. The user is instructed to consult the DeltaMax™ Owner's Manual for details. The manual is included with the DMC-2181A electronic controller.

ARCHITECTS' AND ENGINEERS' SPECIFICATIONS

The controller shall consist of a crossover circuit with fourth-order Linkwitz-Riley filters, a compression system with variable ratio and dual-time-constant detector, a voltage-clamping circuit for excursion protection, speaker-modeling circuits which control the compressor and clamp circuits to prevent destruction of the drivers due to excessive drive level. Included in the signal path shall be special frequency equalization and signal delay to provide flat (± 3 dB) on-axis anechoic frequency response in the range of 36 Hz to 100 Hz.

The total harmonic distortion through the signal path shall be nominally 0.03% and no greater than 0.1% from 20 Hz to 20 kHz, within the unit's passband. The noise at the outputs measured with a 20-20,000-Hz equivalent-noise-bandwidth filter shall be typically -86 dBu.

The signal input shall be active differential with a level capability of +18 dBu, and a female XLR-type connector. The outputs shall be transformer isolated with a level capability of +18 dBu into 600 ohms, and male 3-pin connectors. There shall be two active differential sense inputs for speaker protection, with binding-post/banana-jack connectors.

Front panel controls shall include sub and high level controls, a sub amplifier calibration control, and a switch to control the amplifier limit function, all accessible with a screwdriver after removing the security cover. There shall be a power switch on the front panel. Front panel indicators shall include input level, gain reduction, output limits (for amplifier, excursion, and temperature), and power on.

The chassis shall be made of painted steel with a gray front panel and white graphics. It shall be rack-mountable in a 19-inch EIA rack and be 4.45 cm (1.75 in.) high and 20.9 cm (8.25 in.) deep, excluding connectors. The unit shall weigh 3.6 kg (8 lb). The unit shall be an Electro-Voice DMC-2181A.

ELECTRO-VOICE® UNIFORM LIMITED WARRANTY STATEMENT

Electro-Voice products are guaranteed against malfunction due to defects in materials or workmanship for a specified period, as noted in the individual product-line statement(s) below, or in the individual product data sheet or owner's manual, beginning with the date of original purchase. If such malfunction occurs during the specified period, the product will be repaired or replaced (at our option) without charge. The product will be returned to the customer prepaid. **Exclusions and Limitations:** The limited warranty does not apply to: (a) exterior finish or appearance; (b) certain specific items described in the individual product-line statement(s) below, or in the individual product data sheet or owner's manual; (c) malfunction resulting from use or operation of the product other than as specified in the product data sheet or owner's manual; (d) malfunction resulting from misuse or abuse of the product; or (e) malfunction occurring at any time after repairs have been made to the product by anyone other than Electro-Voice or any of its authorized service representatives. **Obtaining Warranty Service:** To obtain warranty service, a customer must deliver the product, prepaid, to Electro-Voice or any of its authorized service representatives together with proof of purchase of the product in the form of a bill of sale or receipted invoice. A list of authorized service representatives is available from Electro-Voice at 600 Cecil Street, Buchanan, MI 49107 (616) 695-6831 and/or Electro-Voice West at 8234 Doe Avenue, Visalia, CA 93291 (209) 651-7777. **Incidental and Consequential Damages Excluded:** Product repair or replacement and return to the customer are only remedies provided to the customer. Electro-Voice shall not be liable for any incidental or consequential

damages including, without limitation, injury to persons or property or loss of use. Some states do not allow the exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages so the above limitation or exclusion may not apply to you. **Other Rights:** This warranty gives you specific legal rights, and you may also have other rights which vary from state to state.

Electro-Voice Electronics are guaranteed against malfunction due to defects in materials or workmanship for a period of three (3) years from the date of original purchase. Additional details are included in the Uniform Limited Warranty statement.

Electro-Voice Speakers and Speaker Systems are guaranteed against malfunction due to defects in materials and workmanship for a period of five (5) years from the date of original purchase. The Limited Warranty does not apply to burned voice coils or malfunctions such as cone and/or coil damage resulting from an enclosure design inappropriate for the program material. Electro-Voice flying hardware (including enclosure-mounted hardware and rigging accessories) is guaranteed for one (1) year from the date of original purchase. Electro-Voice active electronics associated with the speaker systems are guaranteed for three (3) years from the date of original purchase. Additional details are included in the Uniform Limited Warranty statement.

Electro-Voice Accessories are guaranteed against malfunction due to defects in materials or workmanship for a period of one (1) year from the date of original purchase. Additional details are included in the Uniform Limited Warranty statement.

Service and repair address for this product: Electro-Voice, Inc., 600 Cecil Street, Buchanan, MI 49107.

Specifications subject to change without notice.



ELECTRO-VOICE, INC., 600 Cecil Street, Buchanan, Michigan 49107

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