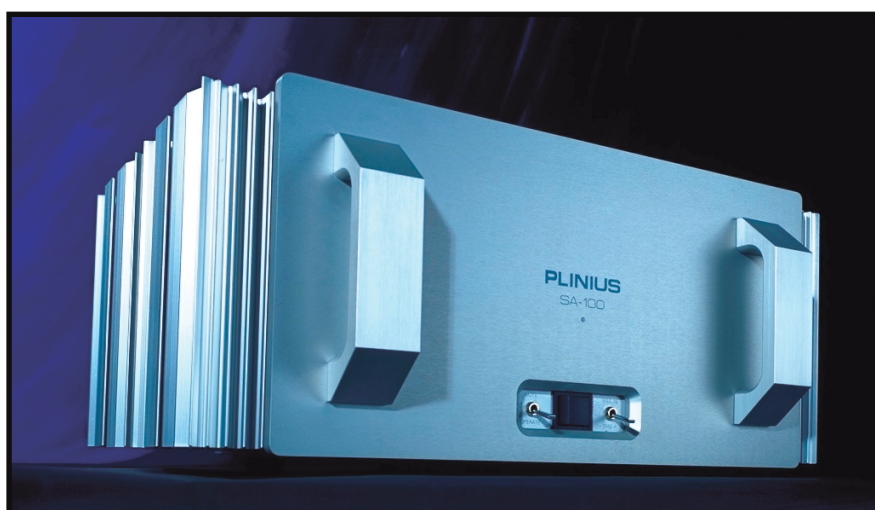


PLINIUS

SA-100

Class A Power Amplifier



INSTRUCTION MANUAL

REFINED AUDIO EQUIPMENT



MANUFACTURED WITH PRIDE IN NEW ZEALAND

CONGRATULATIONS on your decision to become the proud owner of this
Plinius SA-100 Power Amplifier.

This manual has been prepared to help you understand the operation of your amplifier, and to provide information about its design and the variety of ways it may be used.

We have designed and manufactured this amplifier to reproduce faithfully and accurately, your favourite music. With a little care and a full understanding of the operating recommendations in this manual, your Plinius SA-100 Power Amplifier will provide years of high-quality, trouble-free performance.

Serial Number:

Date of Manufacture:

Final Test Certified By:

**IMPORTANT: PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO READ THIS MANUAL
THOROUGHLY BEFORE USING YOUR AMPLIFIER.**

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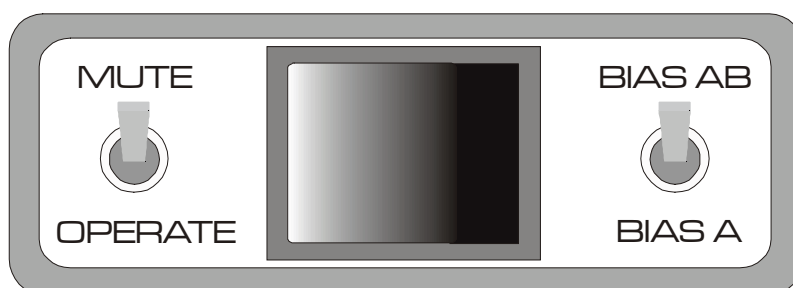
PRECAUTIONS

Please take special note of the following precautions before operating your new amplifier:

- The Plinius SA-100 Power Amplifier can be operated in bridged mode and may deliver in excess of 400 watts into 8 ohms. This amplifier is also capable of a very large peak current delivery.
- The Plinius SA-100 Power Amplifier operates in Class A. It is capable of generating temperatures that could have an adverse effect on other equipment, furniture etc. DO NOT leave flammable material on the amplifier whilst running, as this could pose a serious fire risk.
- The Plinius SA-100 Power Amplifier is of direct-coupled design, and offers no protection from preamplifiers that have a high DC component at their outputs.
- This amplifier operates at hazardous voltage levels. We recommend that any work requiring removal of the lid or base of this amplifier be referred to a suitably qualified and experienced service technician.
- DO NOT attempt to connect any input of this amplifier to it's own outputs.
- DO NOT earth any output terminal or connect any of these terminals together without following the instructions in this manual or seeking qualified assistance.
- DO NOT place this amplifier in any position where liquids or any foreign material may accidentally enter it.
- DO NOT connect any voltage source, short circuit, earth/ground or appliance (other than suitable high fidelity loudspeakers) to the amplifier output terminals.
- Some preamplifiers, processors, CD players' etc. produce large switching pulses when switched on causing a loud click through the loudspeakers. For this reason, turn on all other equipment in your system before turning on your Plinius SA-100, or ensure that the amplifier is in MUTE. You will not experience this phenomenon with Plinius Preamplifiers.

AMPLIFIER FEATURES – FRONT PANEL

The front of the Plinius SA-100 Power Amplifier incorporates a small panel fitted with three switches. These switches control the functions most used on the amplifier.



FRONT PANEL LAYOUT SHOWING MUTE, MAINS AND BIAS SWITCHES

The operation of these switches is, from the left:

MUTE SWITCH

It is not recommended practice to interfere with the input cables while the amplifier is switched on and connected to the loudspeakers, so a Mute switch is fitted to interrupt the input signal. This allows you to connect and disconnect the input cables without the necessity of turning the amplifier off.

When the switch is depressed down, the amplifier will be operating (out of mute). When the switch is in the upper position the amplifier is switched into mute. Take care not to touch any terminals other than the outputs when changing the output (loudspeaker) leads.

MAINS SWITCH

This heavy-duty rocker switch in the centre of the panel turns the Mains/Line Power to the amplifier ON or OFF. Depress the right hand side of the switch to power the amplifier on. Despite the "Soft Start Circuit" within the amplifier reducing current demand on the mains as the amplifier is switched on, it is not good practice to rapidly turn the Mains switch on and off repeatedly.

BIAS SWITCH

This switch on the right of the panel alters the operating bias of the amplifier. When the switch is depressed down, the amplifier will be in Class A. When the switch is in the upper position the amplifier is switched to Class AB.

BIAS AB: This position reduces the bias on the output stage to operate the amplifier in Class AB. This is a bias configuration used by the majority of high fidelity amplifier designers for their products. In Class AB your Plinius SA-100 produces very high quality sound, suitable for all occasions where 'super critical' listening is not a priority. The quality of performance in this mode may exceed that of many other amplifiers so a dual benefit exists in that this facility provides the user with a much cooler operating temperature, and a much reduced demand on electricity particularly at idle (while the amplifier is not reproducing music). This unique feature allows you to leave the Plinius SA-100 switched ON at all times, rendering the amplifier ready for use and requiring only a few minutes of warm-up in Class A before the very best of the amplifier's sonic qualities may be experienced.

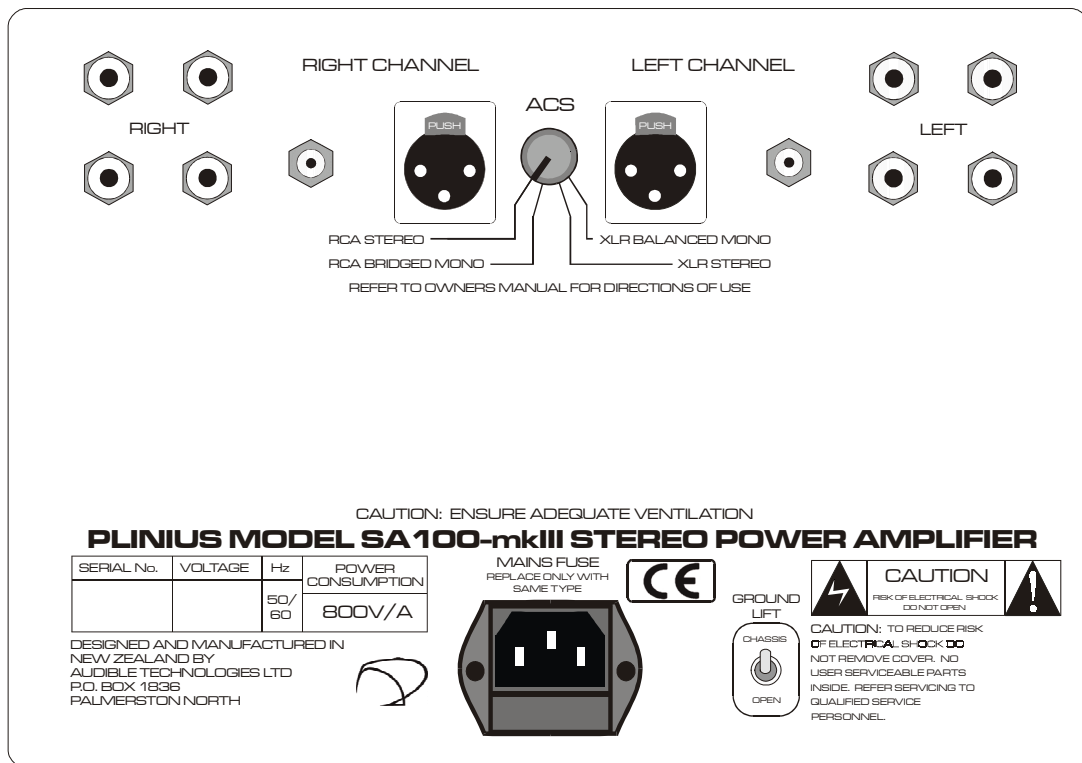
BIAS A: This position provides a true Class A bias to the output stage therefore ensuring the optimum performance of the amplifier during all listening events. Class A amplifiers run hotter than Class AB amplifiers, hence our specially designed and distinctive heat sinks. Operating the amplifier in BIAS A necessitates two precautions that should be observed.

1. On switching to BIAS A, the temperature of the amplifier will quickly increase and the amplifier will become quite hot. Once again we remind you to ensure that you have left adequate space around the amplifier for ventilation. Ensure that no objects are resting on the amplifier and check that the heat sink (cooling fins) are not obstructed in any way.
2. The current required from the mains supply in BIAS A is approximately 500 watts. The amplifier should not be connected to a wall outlet that is shared with other heavy current appliances such as heaters or electric motors. If in doubt, check with your Plinius dealer for advice.

AMPLIFIER FEATURES – REAR PANEL

This panel incorporates all the terminals for connecting the input signals from your preamplifier, and output to the loudspeakers, and mains supply. A reasonable understanding of this amplifier and a logical approach should ensure that you are listening to this amplifier without any difficulties at all.

Please remember that your Plinius SA-100 Power Amplifier is a high quality electronic instrument capable of an exceptional level of performance. Be sure that you understand your system's requirements fully before you make any connection to this amplifier or adjust the ACS (Amplifier Configuration Selector).



REAR PANEL OF THE PLINIUS SA-100 SHOWING ALL OF THE AVAILABLE FACILITIES INCLUDING INPUT AND OUTPUT TERMINALS, ACS (AMPLIFIER CONFIGURATION SELECTOR), MAINS INPUT AND GROUND LIFT.

INPUT TERMINALS

Input terminals for your Plinius SA-100 Power Amplifier are easily accessible and fitted to the top centre area of the rear panel. A brief summary of connection possibilities is listed below, while a more detailed explanation follows later in this instruction manual.

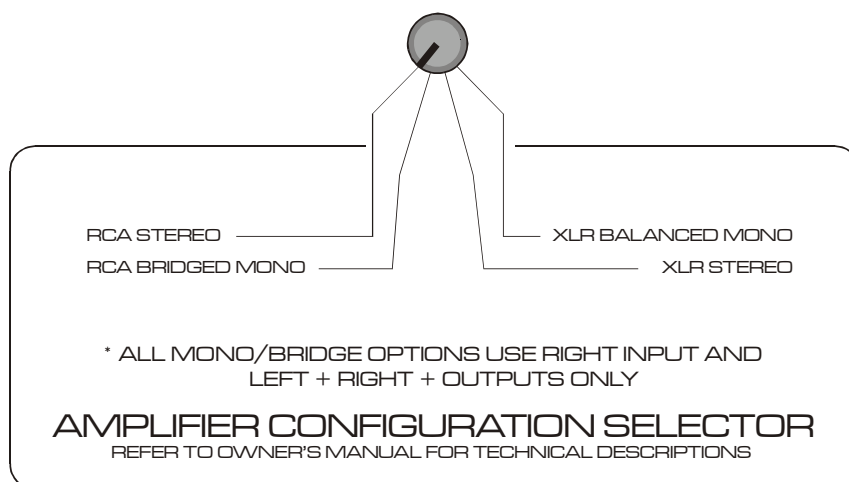
RCA INPUTS LEFT & RIGHT: These standard RCA terminals are for use with unbalanced signals from most signal sources such as audio preamplifiers.

XLR BALANCED INPUTS LEFT & RIGHT: XLR connectors fitted to this amplifier are for use with balanced line signals from audio preamplifiers. Balanced signals are carried via a three way cable that connects all three pins at each end of the interconnect cable.

AMPLIFIER CONFIGURATION SELECTOR (ACS)

The Amplifier Configuration Selector (ACS) is a unique switching method that exploits all of the operational features of your Plinius SA-100 Power Amplifier. By using this switch it is possible to operate your amplifier with either balanced or unbalanced signals and achieve a stereo or mono output.

Stereo or Mono use of this amplifier will depend on the type of ancillary equipment employed with your system. If you wish to use this amplifier as a single channel (mono) Power Amplifier in a stereo high fidelity system, then another SA-100 will be required for the other channel. This will provide an extremely high performance option.



AMPLIFIER CONFIGURATION SELECTOR

The ACS switch options are:

RCA STEREO: This option provides a stereo output via both left and right output channels from a stereo signal connected to both left and right input RCA inputs.

RCA BRIDGED MONO: This option configures your amplifier to drive one loudspeaker from one unbalanced signal fed to the RIGHT RCA input. The loudspeaker is connected to both positive (+) channel's output terminals, giving an available power in this mode four times the rated output of the amplifier, approximately 400 watts into 8 ohms. Special care must be taken in connecting the input signal and loudspeakers to ensure safe operation and best possible performance.

XLR STEREO: This option provides a stereo output signal from a balanced stereo input signal connected to both the left and right XLR inputs. All the advantages of balanced line transmission will be realised with good rejection of noise and some freedom from earth or ground loops (hum).

XLR BALANCED MONO: In this mode both channels of your Plinius SA-100 combine to operate as a true balanced mono amplifier, from input to output. This configuration provides the highest quality mono performance from a balanced line input connected to the RIGHT BALANCED XLR INPUT. As with RCA Bridged configuration, the loudspeaker is connected to both positive (+) channel's output terminals. Available power in this mode is four times the rated output of the amplifier, approximately 400 watts RMS into 8 ohms. Special care must be taken in connecting the input signal and loudspeakers to ensure safe operation and best possible performance.

BALANCED/UNBALANCED SIGNALS

Balanced or unbalanced input options will depend on the type of signal available from your preamplifier or other equipment. The Plinius SA-100 provides both options to allow you to choose the most suitable preamplifier for your purposes. Plinius Preamplifiers offer both balanced and unbalanced output options.

BALANCED LINE is normally used to transmit signals in a professional environment. Because balanced line effectively reduces or eliminates noise pick-up by the system cabling, it has become increasingly more important in high-quality domestic high fidelity systems.

UNBALANCED leads such as single ended, RCA or coaxial are common and are used in the majority of audio signal systems. The terminal plug and socket are most commonly called RCA and can be found on your Plinius SA-100 for use as the standard input terminals for both left and right inputs.

OUTPUT TERMINALS - STEREO

Output connections for the loudspeakers are provided on the left and right hand side of the rear panel. Two parallel pairs of five way binding posts for each channel are fitted – these provide ease of use with bi-wiring and multiple cables requiring a large contact area.

OUTPUT TERMINALS - BRIDGED/MONO

In bridged/mono modes, the loudspeakers utilise only the positive (+) outputs of your Plinius SA-100. In this configuration power output to the loudspeakers is dramatically increased (around four times as much), and is commonly used in conjunction with another amplifier for amplification of each channel from the preamplifier.

Please note that in order to achieve STEREO performance in either of the Mono modes, it will be necessary to use two Plinius SA-100 Power Amplifiers - one amplifier each for left and right channels.

GROUND LIFT SWITCH

This switch is located adjacent to the Mains Input Socket, and allows the signal ground to be disconnected from the chassis. In some installations a hum loop may exist due to duplicate ground paths from different equipment. Use this switch to remove the connection from 0V to ground thus allowing some flexibility in your particular set-up.

MAINS POWER CORD IEC CONNECTOR

This connector is where the mains supply cable from your wall connects to the amplifier. You will notice that a fuse holder is mounted within this connection, and it holds a mains fuse to provide surge and overload protection for your amplifier.

INSTALLATION AND OPERATION

PLACEMENT AND VENTILATION

Your Plinius SA-100 is designed to operate at a moderately high temperature, even more so when used in Class A. The ideal location is on a rigid stand or floor mounted away from direct contact with any temperature sensitive materials or deep pile carpets. The flow of air around the amplifier should also be kept unimpeded, so ensure that the heat sinks (cooling fins) are not covered or restricted in any way to ensure adequate ventilation.

The Plinius SA-100 design incorporates a very high level of mechanical decoupling of the input and output. It can however still be influenced by acoustical feedback in the operating environment. The use of acoustic cones or a suitably spiked amplifier stand or table may further enhance the performance of this amplifier. Consult your **PLINIUS** dealer for further advice if required.

MAINS VOLTAGE CONNECTION

Firstly check that the mains supply voltage printed on the rear of this amplifier is similar to the mains supply voltage in your area. If in doubt, please consult your **PLINIUS** dealer.

Mains supply power connection is via the supplied plug-in lead. A standard IEC socket connects the mains power at the amplifier end while a local mains plug is required at the wall end.

The wiring code used inside all Plinius product is:

Green to Earth/Ground

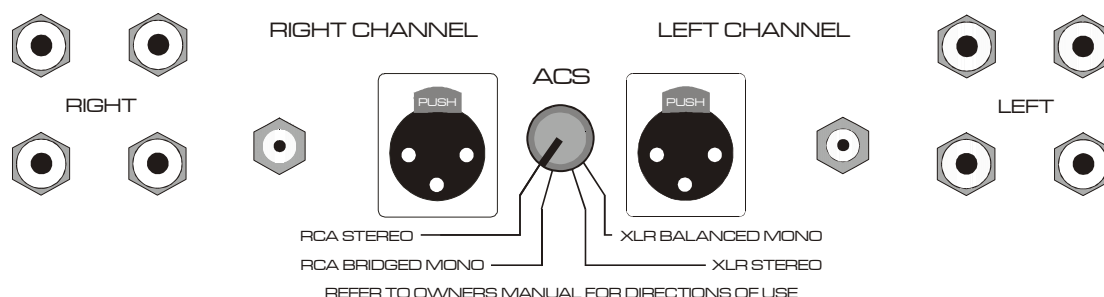
Blue to Neutral

Brown to Phase/Live

Should a 'local' plug need fitting to the wall end of the lead, ensure that a suitably qualified or experienced service technician wires the plug correctly.

IMPORTANT: DO NOT POWER UP YOUR AMPLIFIER UNTIL YOU HAVE CONNECTED YOUR INPUT/OUTPUTS CORRECTLY FOR YOUR SYSTEM, (AS EXPLAINED IN THE NEXT SECTION).

INPUT/OUTPUT CONNECTION



REAR PANEL SHOWING LOCATION OF INPUT/OUTPUT TERMINALS

It is important that you connect your loudspeakers (outputs) and preamplifier (inputs) to the Plinius SA-100 Power Amplifier correctly to ensure the amplifier is not damaged, and sounds it's best with your system. Now that you have read and familiarised yourself with the connections on the back of the amplifier as covered in the previous section, we will describe in detail the different ways in which you can connect the amplifier to your system.

There are essentially four different ways that you can connect your system components to the Plinius SA-100 Power Amplifier:

1. RCA STEREO
2. RCA BRIDGED MONO
3. XLR STEREO
4. XLR BALANCED MONO

RCA STEREO

Connect your preamplifier or input signal to the two RCA inputs at the top of the amplifier back panel. Make sure you connect the red coded cable to the red RIGHT RCA input and the black (or white) cable to the black LEFT RCA input. Also make sure the RCA connectors are a snug fit and are inserted all the way in.

Next connect your loudspeaker wires to the output posts on either side of the rear panel. Connect your right loudspeaker (ie the one on the right of you when seated in your normal listening position) to the right output terminals, ensuring that the red positive (+) terminal is connected to the red terminal on your loudspeaker. Do the same with the black or negative (-) terminals.

Now turn the ACS switch fully clockwise so that it is in the RCA Stereo position. It is now safe to switch on your amplifier.

RCA BRIDGED MONO

This option configures your amplifier to drive one loudspeaker from one unbalanced signal fed to the red RIGHT RCA input. In bridged mono mode the only input made to your preamplifier is to the red RIGHT channel RCA input. The black LEFT channel RCA input is not connected.

Next your loudspeakers are connected to both positive (+) channel output terminals. So the positive red connection on your loudspeaker is connected to the red RIGHT amplifier output, and the negative black connection on the loudspeaker should be connected to the red LEFT amplifier output. **DO NOT CONNECT ANYTHING AT ALL TO THE NEGATIVE (-) TERMINALS. MAKING A CONNECTION TO THE NEGATIVE (-) TERMINALS OF THE AMPLIFIER IN THIS MODE CAN CAUSE SERIOUS DAMAGE!**

You can still connect two loudspeakers using the lower positive (+) amplifier output terminals. This is explained in the bi-wiring section following.

Now turn the ACS switch fully clockwise then one position counter-clockwise so that it is in the RCA Bridged Mono position. It is now safe to switch on your amplifier.

XLR inputs are becoming more popular and provide professional quality signal wiring. XLR inputs allow the use of fully balanced or quasi balanced signals from preamplifiers, CD players and other ancillary equipment to be fed directly to the amplifier. The technical advantages of this system of wiring may be fully realised here due to the dedicated 'balanced' input circuit facilities provided.

XLR STEREO

Connect your preamplifier or input signal to the two XLR inputs at the top of the amplifier back panel. Make sure you connect the RIGHT XLR input and LEFT XLR inputs to the right and left outputs from your preamplifier respectively. Also make sure the XLR connectors click into place.

Next connect your loudspeaker wires to the output posts on either side of the rear panel. Connect your right loudspeaker (ie the one on the right of you when seated in your normal listening position) to the right output terminals, ensuring that the red positive (+) terminal is connected to the red terminal on your loudspeaker. Do the same with the black or negative (-) terminals.

Now turn the ACS switch fully clockwise then two positions counter-clockwise so that it is in the XLR Stereo position. It is now safe to switch on your amplifier.

XLR BALANCED MONO

As with RCA Bridged Mono, this option configures your amplifier to drive one loudspeaker, but from one balanced line input connected to the RIGHT XLR Input. In balanced mono mode the only input made to your preamplifier is to the RIGHT channel XLR input. The LEFT channel XLR input is not connected.

Next your loudspeakers are connected to both positive (+) channel output terminals. So the positive red connection on your loudspeaker is connected to the red RIGHT amplifier output, and the negative black connection on the loudspeaker should be connected to the red LEFT amplifier output. **DO NOT CONNECT ANYTHING AT ALL TO THE NEGATIVE (-) TERMINALS. MAKING A CONNECTION TO THE NEGATIVE (-) TERMINALS OF THE AMPLIFIER IN THIS MODE CAN CAUSE SERIOUS DAMAGE!**

You can still connect two loudspeakers using the lower positive (+) amplifier output terminals. This is explained in the bi-wiring section following.

Now turn the ACS switch fully counter-clockwise so that it is in the XLR Balanced Mono position. It is now safe to switch on your amplifier.

TERMINATION QUALITY

Quality of the connections must be examined to ensure that high performance trouble free operation is enjoyed. Check that the connections are tight but do not over tighten. If bare wires are used make sure that no loose strands of wire short cross the other terminals or the amplifier chassis. When using plugs such as bananas, be sure to use good quality plugs with a firm fit.

BI-WIRING

Bi-wiring uses two pairs of loudspeaker cables for each channel loudspeaker. You will notice that the rear panel of your Plinius SA-100 has two pairs of output terminals for this purpose. When using bi-wires, connect positive (+) to positive (+) or red to red for either STEREO installation. With a MONO setup remember that your speaker wires must use the red positive (+) output posts ONLY. No connection is made to the black negative (-) terminals. Check that you have both your red speaker positives (+) connected to the amplifier red right hand side output positives (+), and both black speaker negatives (-) connected to the amplifier red left channel output positives (+).

PHASING (OR POLARITY)

It is important to achieve good stereo imaging in your listening room. By observing the wiring instructions above, each Power Amplifier/loudspeaker combination should be in phase. If you experience poor stereo image and/or a lack of bass, check that the loudspeaker wiring has been connected correctly. We recommend that you use one of the easily obtainable 'test discs' to help you ensure both phasing and channel orientation are correct. If in doubt, consult your **PLINIUS** dealer for advice.

To achieve a sound performance that is correctly aligned to your room, make sure all of the leads carrying signals for the RIGHT channel loudspeaker are connected to the RIGHT input to the amplifier from your preamplifier or CD player etc. Signals for the LEFT channel should be wired in a similar fashion.

CONNECTING THE MAINS SUPPLY

Now that your Plinius SA-100 Power Amplifier is configured to your system correctly, the mains cable can be plugged into the IEC connector on the back of the amplifier. Once the power is connected, ensure the mute switch is in the upward position (muted) then flick the main power switch on the front panel to the right. The power LED will light and the soft start circuit relays will be heard clicking in. Put the mute switch in the operate position to enjoy your new Plinius SA-100 Power Amplifier.

SA-100 FEATURES

FUSE PROTECTION

When any internal fuse is damaged one or more fuse warning LEDs will light. These LEDs are under the amplifier lid located in the four corners of the main circuit board. Should any of the internal fuses need to be replaced the lid of the amplifier will need to be removed and the fuses located. The rail fuses are near the corners of the circuit board. Replace them with the same type (10 amp normal blow).

IMPORTANT: DO NOT FIT A FUSE WITH A HIGHER RATING.

Please note that fuse failure may indicate a severe problem. Check all speakers and speaker cables for damage/short circuit etc. Should the amplifier continue to exhibit rail fuse failure contact your **PLINIUS** dealer.

MAINS/LINE FUSE

A Mains/Line fuse is fitted within the IEC Mains/Line socket on the rear of the amplifier. A small drawer at the bottom of this socket may be removed (after the IEC plug is removed) by levering it out with a flat blade screwdriver. The fuse fitted should be rated at no greater than 10 amps slow blow.

In the unusual event that this fuse should blow, you must first establish the cause of this failure (such as power surges, damaged mains cable etc.) before replacing the fuse with one of the same rating and type.

IMPORTANT: DO NOT FIT A FUSE WITH A HIGHER RATING.

CHANGING THE MAINS/LINE VOLTAGE CONFIGURATION

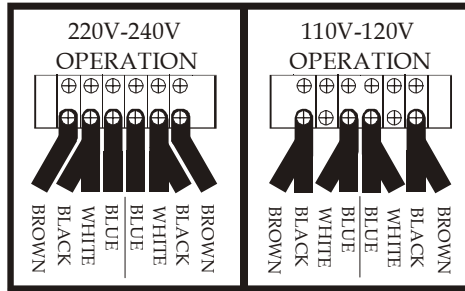
In the event that your mains supply voltage is different to that printed on the back of your Plinius SA-100, a suitably qualified service technician may alter it.

The two options are:

110V - 120V (USA/Japanese Markets)

220V - 240V (European/Pacific Rim Markets)

Firstly disconnect the lead from the IEC socket on your Plinius SA-100 and make sure the Mains switch is OFF. Carefully remove the base by undoing the 16 posi-drive screws. Locate the mains terminal block with a clear perspex guard, towards the front of the amplifier. Remove the guard by undoing the M3 nuts.



***VOLTAGE CONFIGURATION
WIRING LABEL***

With reference to the layout label attached to the bottom tray inside the amplifier, remove the ring terminals on the transformer side of the connector block. Take care to ensure correct orientation of the wires. Now reassemble your Plinius SA-100. If you experience any problems consult your **PLINIUS** Dealer.

**IMPORTANT: DOUBLE CHECK THE WIRE ORIENTATION BEFORE
REFITTING THE AMPLIFIER LID.**

LOUDSPEAKER SELECTION

Your Plinius SA-100 Power Amplifier is designed for use with high fidelity loudspeakers. It should not be used to operate any other type of appliance or equipment.

Choice of loudspeakers is one of personal taste, providing the chosen loudspeakers are suitable for use with your amplifier. Be certain that your loudspeakers can handle most of the rated output power of this amplifier. You may find loudspeaker specifications confusing or misleading so you should discuss this with your audio dealer prior to purchase. As a general rule, the use of high power (200 watt RMS or greater) loudspeakers is recommended and desirable. However, our experience indicates that medium to low power loudspeakers (100 to 200 watt RMS) are quite often suitable for use on this amplifier provided the volume is maintained at a level where no distortion is audible.

Impedance of the loudspeaker load is important to ensure the rated performance of this amplifier. Any combination of loudspeakers may be used but the total average impedance load for each channel should be within a range of 4 to 8 ohms. Again, if you have doubts about the impedance of your loudspeaker configuration, we recommend you speak to your **PLINIUS** dealer.

WHY CLASS A IS BETTER

Class A has always been regarded as the perfect operating mode for audio amplifiers. Many leading amplifier designers and manufacturers world wide recognise that a well designed Class A circuit has inherently lower distortion than any other design.

Class A circuit topology is one in which the total current the amplifier is capable of delivering, is kept flowing in the circuit regardless of demand. In a conventional or Class AB amplifier circuit this current flow varies when demand varies. Furthermore, as current varies, the voltage on the rails (as seen by the output stage) varies too. In a Class A circuit, current draw should be constant therefore there is an absence of the power supply modulation common in Class AB design amplifiers. Pinpoint images, tonal clarification, intertransient silence, more readily defined dynamic shadings, inner detail and authority are all inherent advantages of good Class A design.

SPECIFICATIONS

100-WATTS RMS PER CHANNEL INTO 8 OHMS.

200-WATTS RMS PER CHANNEL INTO 4 OHMS.

BOTH CHANNELS DRIVEN FROM 20Hz TO 20kHz AT 0.05% TOTAL HARMONIC DISTORTION.

- **BRIDGED OUTPUT:** 380 Watts RMS 20Hz to 20kHz into 8 ohms (Mono).
- **DYNAMIC HEADROOM:** 1dB or greater at 8 ohms with music.
- **FREQUENCY RESPONSE:** 20Hz to 20kHz +/- 0.2dB. 0dB at 0Hz and -3dB at 70kHz.
- **DISTORTION:** Typically <0.05% THD at rated power. 0.1% THD and IM worst case prior to clipping.
- **SATURATION:** 130 Watts per channel or greater into 8Ω.
- **VOLTAGE SWING:** 100V_{pp} per channel.
- **CURRENT OUTPUT:** 30A short duration continuous per channel. Fuse protected.
- **RISE TIME:** Typically 5μs.
- **PHASE RESPONSE:** +0° at 20Hz and -14° at 20kHz.
- **HUM & NOISE:** 100dB below rated output 20Hz to 20kHz A-weighted.
- **INPUT SENSITIVITY:** 0.8V RMS for rated output at 1kHz.
- **INPUT IMPEDANCE:** 47kΩ.
- **HEIGHT:** 220mm (8 3/4")
- **WIDTH:** 500mm (19 3/4")
- **DEPTH:** 455mm (18")
- **WEIGHT:** 32kg (70lbs)

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CONTACT DETAILS

All operational, technical and descriptive material published here is subject to change at any time without notice. For further product information or queries, please contact us at the address below.

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