

A3

DUAL MONO INTEGRATED AMPLIFIER

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

*Thank you for purchasing the Musical Fidelity
A3 remote control integrated Amplifier.
Used properly and carefully, it should give you many
years of outstanding musical reproduction.*

*The A3 operates in Class A/B which in our experience
offers the ultimate in musical accuracy and pleasure.
The A3 is based on ideas and principles developed
in the legendary X-A1 Integrated amplifier
but with subtle changes and improvements.*

*Aesthetically, the A3 is a perfect match for the
A3 CD player and the A3 Tuner.
Together, they form one of the finest hi-fi systems
that you can own today.*

*Dust regularly with a soft duster or soft brush but be
careful when using cleaning or polishing agents - they may
harm the surface finish.*

*If you have any questions about anything in your
audio system, please consult your dealer who is there to
help and advise you.*

SAFETY INFORMATION

IMPORTANT!

This unit is supplied in the UK with a mains lead fitted with a moulded 13 amp plug. If, for any reason, you need to cut off this plug, please observe the following safety precautions. Please dispose of the cut-off plug safely. It must not be plugged into a mains power supply.

The wires in the mains lead supplied with this appliance are coloured in accordance with the following code:

Green and yellow.....Earth
Blue.....Neutral
Brown.....Live

WARNING - This appliance must be earthed

As the colours of the wires of the mains lead of this appliance may not correspond with the coloured markings identifying the terminals in your plug, proceed as follows:

The wire which is coloured green-and-yellow must be connected to the terminal in the plug which is marked with the letter E or coloured green or green-and-yellow, or by the earth symbol.



The wire which is coloured brown must be connected to the terminal which is marked with the letter L or coloured red.

The wire which is coloured blue must be connected to the terminal which is marked with the letter N or coloured black.

If connecting to a BS1363 plug, a 10 amp fuse must be used.

WARNING - Radio Frequency Interference (RFI)

This hi-fi product has been tested to ensure that its operation will not be adversely affected by normal background levels of RFI. It is possible that if this product is subjected to abnormally high levels of RFI the unit may be susceptible and not perform as expected. In the unlikely event of this happening on a regular basis, please contact Musical Fidelity's service department. The unit has also been tested to ensure that it does not radiate excessive levels of RFI that could affect other pieces of electronic or electrical equipment.

The electronics in modern hi-fi equipment is complex and hence may be damaged by lightning. It is possible that during electrical storms the operation of some equipment may be adversely affected. For complete protection of your hi-fi system during such storms, mains plugs and aerial leads should be disconnected.

Always ensure that when disconnecting and reconnecting your hi-fi equipment the mains supply is switched off.

GENERAL ADVICE

INSTALLATION PRECAUTIONS and USER INFORMATION

Your new A3 is designed and built to provide trouble-free performance but as with all electronic devices it is necessary to observe a few precautions.

Heed all warnings on the back of the unit.

Only connect the A3 to a mains outlet of the voltage marked on the back of the unit.

A3 will operate in accordance with its specifications as long as the environmental conditions are kept in the following ranges:-

*Temperature 5 to 45 degrees Celsius
Humidity 10 to 90% non condensing*

Position the mains lead, speaker leads and signal interconnects where they are not likely to be walked on or trapped by items placed on them.

Do not use near water. The unit shall not be exposed to dripping or splashing and no objects filled with liquids, such as vases, shall be placed on the unit.

Do not place the unit near direct heat sources such as radiators or other equipment that produces heat.

Do not place the unit where it can be subjected to direct sun-light.

Do not remove any covers or try to gain access to the inside. The warranty is invalid if the unit has been tampered with. There are no user adjustments within. Refer all service work to an authorised Musical Fidelity agent.

Dust regularly with a soft duster or soft brush but be careful when using cleaning or polishing agents - they may harm the surface finish.

There are fuses in the A3. In the unlikely event that one blows, take your unit to your audio dealer. Do NOT try to replace the fuse yourself or you will invalidate the warranty.

No naked flame sources, such as lighted candles, should be placed on the unit.

ATTENTION:- This amplifier can run at high temperatures. Under no circumstances place anything over the unit, such as newspapers or clothing. Under no circumstances place anything under the unit between the feet. Position in a well ventilated area.

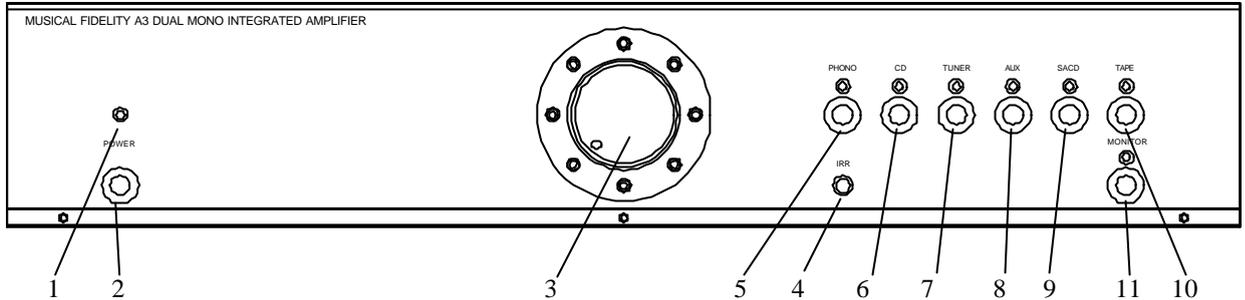
Keep out of reach of children.

For battery disposal, refer to the manufacturers instructions.

Important! Unauthorised opening of the equipment will invalidate any warranty claims.

Note: To help your dealer identify your amplifier if after-sales service is required, please quote the serial number located on the rear panel of the unit.

CONNECTIONS AND FACILITIES

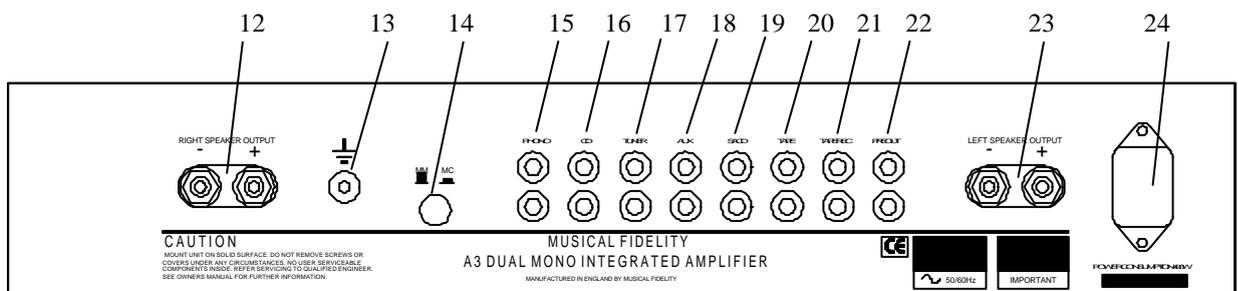


A3 front panel layout

- 1 Power on indicator LED
- 2 Power on/off switch
- 3 Volume control
- 4 Infra red receiver
- 5 Phono input select button and LED
- 6 CD input select button and LED
- 7 Tuner input select button and LED
- 8 AUX input select button and LED
- 9 SACD input select button and LED
- 10 TAPE input select button and LED
- 11 Tape monitor button and LED

A3 back panel layout

- 12 RIGHT speaker output
- 13 Phono earth connection
- 14 MM/MC selection switch
- 15 Phono input
- 16 CD input
- 17 Tuner input
- 18 AUX input
- 19 SACD input
- 20 TAPE input
- 21 TAPE RECORD output
- 22 PREAMP output
- 23 LEFT speaker output
- 24 IEC mains inlet



Before switching on the stereo system please read carefully the instructions on the following pages. The functional arrangement of the controls makes the stereo system fairly easy to operate. You should nevertheless study these instructions to get the best from your equipment.

LOUDSPEAKERS

To get a realistic soundstage and full dynamic range from your A3, use it with loudspeakers of a reasonable efficiency and high power handling. We recommend power handling of at least 150W. An average rating for a loudspeaker these days is about 88dB. This should mean that for an input of 1 watt, measured at 1 metre distance, the sound pressure output will be 88dB. This is the minimum efficiency that we recommend you should use.

BEFORE YOU SWITCH ON

You should make all connections to the A3 before switching on.

Follow this routine before you listen for the first time, and each time you change any connections.

- 1 Check all the inputs and outputs to the A3.
- 2 Then check again.
- 3 Turn the volume control to minimum.
- 4 Now you can switch on the power and carefully advance the volume to the level you want and enjoy the music.

CONNECTIONS

All connections should be made with the power OFF.

The A3 has 1 phono input which can be used for either moving magnet (MM) or moving coil (MC) cartridges.

The A3 also has 5 line level inputs - CD, Tuner, Aux, SACD, and Tape.

All line level inputs are electrically identical and are suitable for use with any source component with an output voltage in the hundreds of millivolts (mV). This includes CD players, Super Audio CD players (SACD), tuners, tape machines and the audio outputs of video recorders, televisions, DVD and LaserDisc players etc.

PREAMP OUTPUT

The A3 has a permanently active preamp output situated on the back panel. This provides extra flexibility for use in multi-room or surround-sound systems etc. This signal comes from the A3's internal pre-amp and its output level is thus controlled by the front panel volume control.

This output allows easy upgrading by passive bi-amping with a pair of X-A50s or X-A200s.

To bi-amp (which requires bi-wireable speakers) an extra pair of X-ponent amplifiers is attached to this permanent preamp output.

The A3's built in power amps can then for instance drive the left and right channel tweeters whilst the X-A50s or X-A200s drive the left and right channel bass units.

Passive bi-amping in this way can give noticeable gains in clarity, imaging and bass weight.

If you would like further details please contact your dealer or Musical Fidelity directly.

REMOTE CONTROL

The remote control enables you to activate the main functions of the amplifier from the comfort of your armchair. Pressing the volume up or down buttons on the remote handset will advance the motorised volume control in the desired direction.

Input selection can also be controlled with the remote handset.

The mute button on the remote handset mutes the output. To show the amplifier is muted the red LED in the volume control goes out. Press the mute button again to switch the mute off, the red led will light again.

The following should be noted when operating the amplifier using the remote control. The Infra Red receiver is the small red lens marked I.R.R. situated on the front panel. It is important to ensure that when operating the remote control, the line-of-sight from the remote to the infra red receiver is not obstructed.

- Point the remote control (transmitter) towards the I.R. lens (infra red) on the amplifier.
- Visual contact must exist between the transmitter and receiver.
- If the range of the remote control decreases dramatically, replace the batteries with new ones. (dispose of old batteries as per the manufacturers instructions)

PHONO

The A3 has a phono input for turntables fitted with either a moving magnet cartridge (MM) or a moving coil cartridge (MC). Use the MM/MC push button switch to select the type of cartridge that is fitted to your turntable.

IMPORTANT NOTE Do not operate the MM/MC switch with the volume turned up.

Some turntable/pick-up arm combinations are fitted with an extra wire called a chassis earth, which should be connected to the green earth terminal on the back of the amplifier.

TAPE RECORDING

The A3 has a single tape circuit with facilities for off-tape monitoring with 3-head cassette decks.

Connection of your tape machine to the A3 should be as follows. The tape machine's Tape/Line outputs go to the A3's 'Tape' input sockets.

The tape machine's Tape/Line inputs go to the A3's 'Tape Record' output.

To record, simply select the required source with the source selector button on the front panel. The selected source will now be sent to the 'Tape Record' output for recording by the attached tape machine.

You will also be able to hear the selected source through the loudspeakers.

Note - you can adjust the listening level with the volume control without affecting the recording level.

OFF TAPE MONITORING

In conjunction with a 3-head cassette deck, off-tape monitoring allows the user to compare the recorded to original sound whilst a recording is made. To do this, first select the required source in the normal way and start recording. The Tape Monitor button on the front panel can now be used to switch between the source signal and the recorded signal allowing direct comparison.

The red LED just above the tape monitor button indicates that tape monitor is selected.

Note that tape (the recorded signal) is selected when the LED is lit. On some 3-head cassette decks there is an additional 'tape/source' switch which will need to be in the 'tape' position for the above to work.

If you are in any doubt consult your tape machine's manual.

TROUBLESHOOTING

Basic troubleshooting of an amplifier is similar to troubleshooting of any other electrical or electronic equipment. Always check the most obvious possible causes first. To give you a few ideas of what to look for, check the following:

<i>Problem</i>	<i>Probable Cause</i>	<i>Remedy</i>
No power when POWER is pressed	Mains plug not inserted correctly	<i>Plug in securely</i>
No sound	Volume control is set to minimum	<i>Turn up the volume</i>
	Wrong input selected	<i>Select correct input</i>
	Mute is selected	<i>Press mute button on remote control</i>
	Unit has not yet come out of power-up mute	<i>Wait 10-15 seconds on power-up for unit to un-mute</i>
	Tape Monitor button is depressed	<i>Press Tape monitor button</i>
	Speakers are not connected, or are connected incorrectly	<i>Check speaker cables</i>
Sound is not precise, lacking in bass and stereo image	Speakers are connected out of phase	<i>Make sure that both speakers are connected correctly</i>
Remote control unit will not operate	POWER switch set to OFF	<i>Set switch to ON</i>
	Batteries not inserted in remote control unit	<i>Insert batteries</i>
	Batteries flat	<i>Change batteries</i>
	Remote control not pointed at IR receiver lens	<i>Ensure line of sight between remote control and IR receiver lens is not obstructed</i>
Range of remote control has dramatically reduced	Batteries running out	<i>Change batteries</i>

If none of these actions effect a cure, please contact your dealer, or an authorised Musical Fidelity service agent. Remember, never open the case of the A3 yourself, as this will invalidate the guarantee.

SPECIFICATIONS

A3

INTEGRATED AMPLIFIER

Power output	85 watts per channel into 8 Ohms 170 watts per channel into 4 Ohms
THD	< 0.008% at 1KHz
Frequency response	20Hz - 20KHz \pm 0.5dB
Inputs	1 phono 5 line level
Outputs	Speaker outputs, Tape out, Preamp out.
Input sensitivity (line inputs)	300mV
Input sensitivity (MM input)	3.5mV
Input sensitivity (MC inputs)	350uV
Input impedance	100KOhm
S/N ratio (line inputs)	> 83dB 'A' weighted (Ref 1W) > 96dB 'A' weighted (Ref 85W)
S/N ratio (MM)	> 78dB 'A' weighted (Ref 1W) > 80dB 'A' weighted (Ref 85W)
S/N ratio (MC)	> 70dB 'A' weighted (Ref 1W) > 72dB 'A' weighted (Ref 85W)
Power consumption	400W Max
Dimensions	Amplifier 440 x 95 x 400mm (W x H x D) Height includes feet, depth includes terminals
Power requirements	100/115/230V AC 50/60Hz (Factory preset)
Weight	13 kg (un-boxed)



Musical Fidelity reserves the right to make improvements which may result in specification or feature changes without notice.