Thank you for purchasing the Musical Fidelity A308 Integrated amplifier.

Used properly and carefully, it should give you many years of outstanding musical reproduction.

Æsthetically, the A308 Integrated amplifier is a perfect match for the A308 CR CD player.
Together, they form one of the finest hi-fi systems available.

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 your audio system, please consult your dealer who is there to help and advise.
SAFETY INFORMATION

IMPORTANT! (U.K. only)

This unit is supplied in the U.K. with a mains lead fitted with a moulded 13 amp plug. If, for any reason, you need to cut off this plug, please remove the fuse holder and dispose of the plug safely, out of reach of children. *It must not be plugged into a mains outlet.*

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 13 amp fuse must be used.

**WARNING:**

The A308 Integrated is a powerful amplifier and must necessarily supply high voltages through the loudspeaker terminals. Therefore, to avoid any possibility of an electric shock DO NOT TOUCH THE SPEAKER TERMINALS when the unit is being used. To comply with BSEN60065 safety regulations, the 4mm “banana” plug holes have been fitted with plastic blanking pieces. Removal of these will invalidate any electrical safety approval of this product.

**WARNING:**

Any modifications to this product not expressly approved by Musical Fidelity who is the party responsible for standards compliance could void the user’s authority to operate this equipment.
GENERAL ADVICE

INSTALLATION PRECAUTIONS and USER INFORMATION

Your A308 Integrated amplifier 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 shown on the back of the product.

Only connect the A308 amplifier to a mains outlet having the same voltage as marked at the back of the unit.

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

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

Do not use near water, or place water-filled containers on the amplifier, for example, flower vases or potted plants. If water does spill inside, immediately pull out the mains plug from the wall socket and inform your dealer, who should then check the unit before further use. Entry of liquid into the amplifier is dangerous, and may cause electric shock or fire hazard.

Do not place the unit near heat sources such as radiators, direct sunlight or other equipment. The case of this amplifier can run at high temperatures - operate in a well ventilated area, and do not touch the side heatsink fins after periods of use at high output power.

Do not remove covers or try to gain access to the inside. There are no internal user adjustments. Refer all service work to an authorised Musical Fidelity agent.

NOTE: Unauthorised opening of the equipment will invalidate any warranty claims.

There are fuses inside the A308 Integrated amplifier. In the unlikely event that one blows, refer the unit to your audio dealer. Do NOT try to replace the fuse yourself as this will invalidate the warranty.

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

The electronics in modern hi-fi equipment is complex and may, therefore, be adversely affected or damaged by lightning. For protection of your audio system during electrical storms, remove the mains plugs and disconnect any aerial lead.

If after-sales service is required, to help your dealer identify the A308 Integrated please quote the serial number located on the rear panel of the unit.

RADIO FREQUENCY INTERFERENCE (R.F.I)

This product has been tested to ensure that its operation is not adversely affected by normal background levels of R.F.I., and that it does not itself generate excessive amounts of interference. However, if a problem persists, please contact your Musical Fidelity agent.
CONNECTIONS AND FACILITIES

Front panel layout

1. Power on indicator LED
2. POWER on/off switch button
3. MUTE LED
4. TAPE input select button and LED
5. CD input select button and LED
6. PHONO input select button and LED
7. Volume control and LEDs
8. TUNER input select button and LED
9. AUXILIARY 1 input select button and LED
10. AUXILIARY 2 (direct input) input select button and LED
11. Infra Red Remote receiver for remote control
12. TAPE MONITOR button and LED

Back panel layout

13. Right SPEAKER OUTPUT terminals
14. PHONO moving magnet / moving coil selection switch
15. Phono earth terminal
16. PHONO input sockets
17. CD input sockets
18. TUNER input sockets
19. AUXILIARY 1 input sockets
20. AUXILIARY 2 direct input sockets (see page 6)
21. TAPE input sockets
22. TAPE RECORD output sockets
23. PRE-AMPLIFIER OUT sockets
24. Left SPEAKER OUTPUT terminals
25. IEC mains power inlet
REMOTE CONTROL

The blue buttons on the remote control enable main functions of the amplifier to be operated from a convenient distance. Remaining buttons on this universal handset are for use with other Musical Fidelity products, and have no effect on the A308 Integrated amplifier.

Equivalent buttons on the remote handset have the same functions as those on the front panel of the unit.

As the remote control uses an invisible infra-red light beam, the transmitter must be pointed directly towards the receiver window on the front of the amplifier, without visual obstruction between them.

Pressing the volume-up or -down buttons on the remote handset will advance the motorised volume control in the required direction.

Pressing the MUTE button mutes the SPEAKER output and PRE-OUT sockets, but has no effect on the TAPE OUT sockets for recording. To show that the amplifier is muted, the red LED on the front panel will light. Press the MUTE button again to cancel mute function, and the LED will go off.

If the range of the remote control greatly decreases, replace the batteries with new ones. Do not mix old and new batteries - two are required, type SUM-4, AAA or LR03.
All input, output and power connections should be made with the mains power switched OFF.

**INPUT CONNECTIONS**

The A308 integrated amplifier has one pair of phono inputs, which can be used either for moving magnet (MM) or the lower output moving coil (MC) pickups.

The phono input sensitivity requirement can be changed from MM to MC by pressing the MM/MC push-button switch located on the rear panel.

*Important* - Do not operate the MM/MC switch with the volume control turned up.

Some turntable/pickup arm combinations are fitted with an extra wire for chassis earthing. This should be connected to the earth terminal on the back panel.

The A308 also has four “line level” inputs controlled by the internal volume setting. They all have the same input sensitivity, and are therefore suitable for use with any source component having an output of at least 300mV. The four sockets on the rear panel are marked CD, TUNER, AUXILIARY 1, and TAPE, corresponding with function selector buttons on the front panel.

The AUXILIARY 2 (HOME THEATRE DIRECT) sockets are intended for home theatre use. When selected, they are routed inside the A308 directly to the power amplifier circuit, which is not controlled by the volume adjustment.

*Do not therefore connect these sockets to a source without its own volume control.*

(continued....)

Using good quality co-axial audio leads, connect the left and right outputs from your CD player to the CD sockets, your tuner to the TUNER sockets and any other source to the AUXILIARY 1 RCA input sockets.

Connect the A308’s TAPE input sockets to the line output of your tape recorder, and A308’s TAPE RECORD output sockets to the line input sockets of the tape deck.

**OUTPUT CONNECTIONS**

Connect your loudspeakers to either of the two pairs of terminals on the back panel marked as LEFT and RIGHT SPEAKER outputs. *Note: the combined load impedance must not be less than 4 ohms.*

**PRE-AMPLIFIER OUTPUT**

The A308 amplifier has its pre-amplifier output available from RCA sockets on the back panel marked PRE-OUT, and is controlled by the volume adjustment.

This is to allow “bi-amplification” using suitable external amplifiers and crossover networks to power the speaker drive components separately, giving noticeable improvement in clarity, imaging and bass weight.

In this arrangement, typically the A308’s speaker outputs are used to drive the speaker’s “tweeter” (high audio frequencies), and an external stereo amplifier drives the “woofer” (low frequencies).

The A308’s PRE OUT RCA sockets would therefore be connected to the input of the external “woofer” amplifier in this example.

If you are in doubt about bi-amplification, please contact your dealer for advice.
**BEFORE SWITCHING ON**

Plug the accessory IEC mains lead into the rear panel socket, then the other end into a wall outlet.

Turn the volume control on the front panel to minimum (anticlockwise).

**STARTING . . . .**

Press the **POWER** button on the A308 amplifier - the blue power LED on the front panel will light indicating that the unit is ready for use. However, for about five seconds no sound will be heard from your speakers, and the red mute LED will light to confirm initial mute action.

Unless using your amplifier for off-tape monitoring (see paragraph opposite ) ensure that the **TAPE MONITOR** button has not been pressed accidentally, as otherwise no sound will be heard through the speakers.

Select the required audio input source by pressing an appropriate function button on the front panel or the remote control, and adjust the volume control to obtain the preferred sound level.

**TAPE RECORDING**

To record, simply select the required source with the input selector button on the front panel. This source will now be routed to the A308’s **TAPE RECORD** output for recording by the external tape deck.

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

Note - adjustment of the volume control has no effect on the recording level.

**OFF - TAPE MONITORING**

In conjunction with a 3-head cassette deck, off-tape monitoring allows the user to compare the recorded sound with the original whilst a recording is being made. To do this, first select the required source in the normal way and start recording.

The **MONITOR** button on the front panel can now be used to switch between the source signal and the recorded version allowing direct comparison.

The red LED just above the **MONITOR** button confirms that the tape monitor function is operating.

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

If in doubt, please refer to your tape deck operating manual.
Basic problem-solving with an amplifier is similar to troubleshooting 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Problem</th>
<th>Possible Cause</th>
<th>Remedy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No power when <strong>POWER</strong> button is pressed</td>
<td>Mains plug not inserted fully into rear socket</td>
<td>Plug in securely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No sound</td>
<td>Tape monitor function has been selected</td>
<td>Switch off tape monitor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mute function is still active (mute LED is on)</td>
<td>Press the mute button again to cancel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wrong connections between input sources and the A308</td>
<td>Check audio input lead connections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Speakers not connected, or incorrectly wired</td>
<td>Check speaker cables</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sound is not precise, lacking in bass and stereo image</td>
<td>Speakers are connected out of phase, i.e., connections to one speaker (+ and -) are reversed</td>
<td>Ensure speakers are connected correctly</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 A308 integrated amplifier yourself, as this will invalidate the guarantee.
### SPECIFICATIONS:

**A308 Dual Mono Integrated Amplifier**

#### Output:
- Voltage RMS: 35 Volts, 20Hz to 20kHz
- Peak: 99 Volts
- Power: 150 Watts per channel into 8 Ohms (21.8dBW), 300 Watts per channel into 4 Ohms
- Peak-to-peak output current: 48 Amps
- Damping factor: 140
- Output devices per channel: 4
- Pre-output impedance: 50 Ohms

#### Line inputs:
- Total harmonic distortion + noise, 20Hz to 20kHz: < 0.008%
- Signal / noise ratio: > 100dB ‘A’-weighted
- Input sensitivity for 150 Watts into 8 Ohms: 270mV
- Input impedance: 220k Ohms
- Overload margin: 26dB
- Channel separation: > 70dB 20Hz to 20kHz
- Frequency response: 20Hz to 20kHz, +0, -0.2dB

#### Auxilliary 2 (Home Theatre Direct) input:
- Input sensitivity: 30dB gain (31.5 times) nominal

#### Phono input:
- Frequency response reference
  - IEC RIAA - see graph....
- Signal / noise ratio: > 96dB Moving Magnet, > 89dB Moving Coil ‘A’-weighted
- Input sensitivity: 2.5mV Moving Magnet, 350µV Moving Coil
- Input impedance: 47k Ohms
- Overload margin: 24dB

#### Inputs:
- 4 pairs line level RCA connectors, 1 pair (Aux 2) direct power amplifier input RCA connectors, 1 pair phono (MC or MM, switchable) RCA connectors

#### Outputs:
- 2 amplifier channels via 2 pairs per channel binding posts, 1 pair RCA audio outputs controlled by the volume, 1 pair RCA tape record fixed line level output

#### Power requirement:
- 100 / 115 / 230Volts AC 50 / 60Hz (factory pre-set), 550 Watts maximum into 8 Ohms, 39 Watts idle

#### Weight:
- 20.5 kg, 45.5 lbs unit only, unboxed
- 23.5 kg, 48.5 lbs in shipping carton

#### Dimensions:
- 440 mm, 17.3 inches wide
- 143 mm, 5.6 inches high including feet
- 420 mm, 16.5 inches deep including terminals

#### Standard accessories:
- IEC type mains lead, remote control (universal), 2 batteries (type SUM-4, AAA, LR03)

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

Issue 3: March 2003