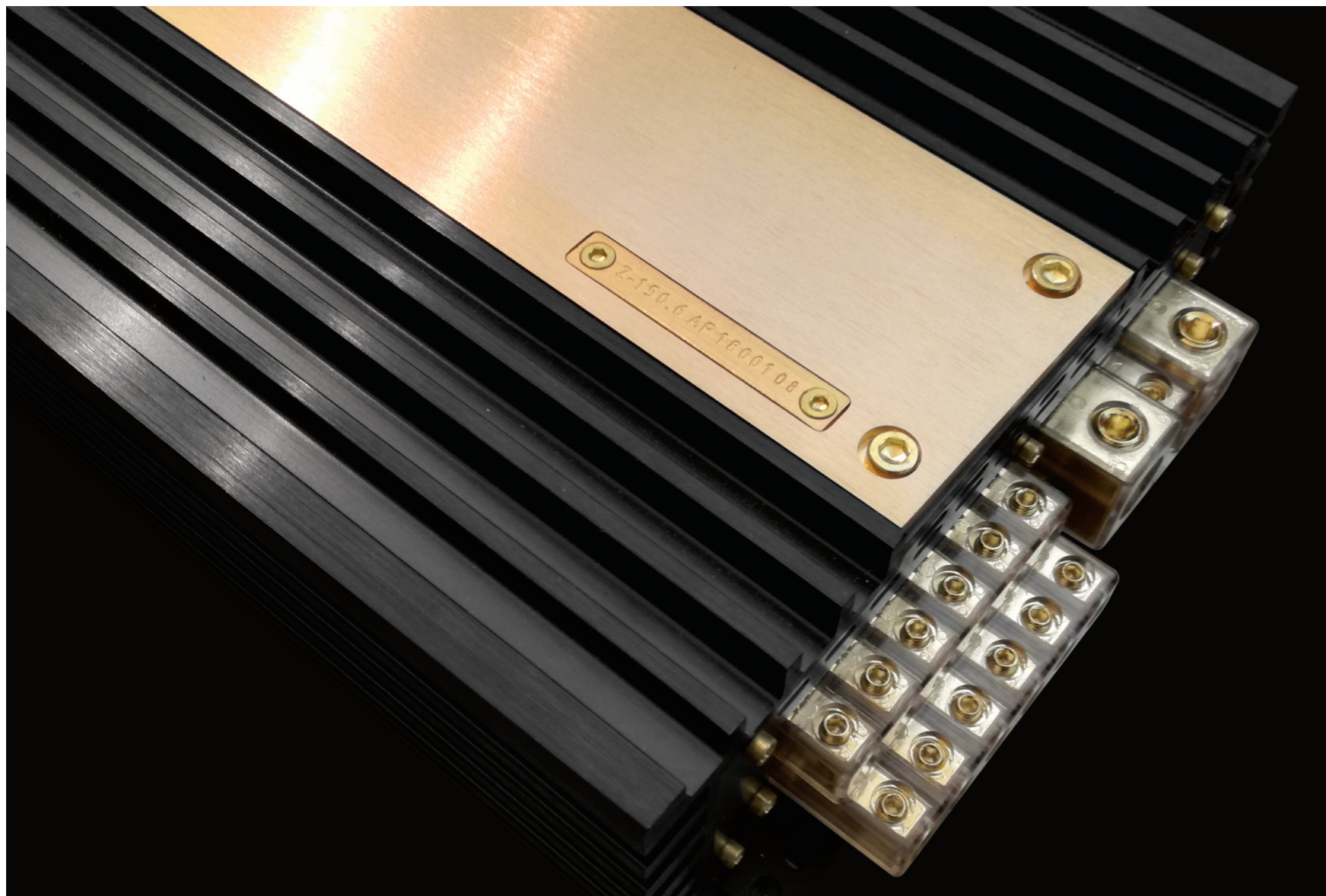


Z-AP SERIES
Owner's Manual



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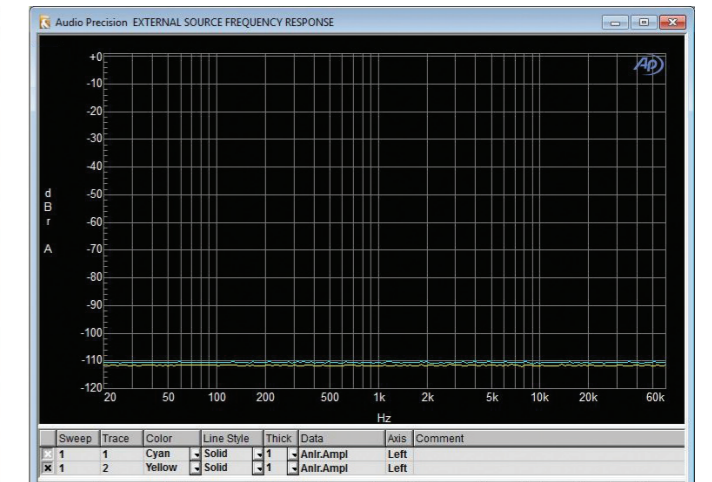
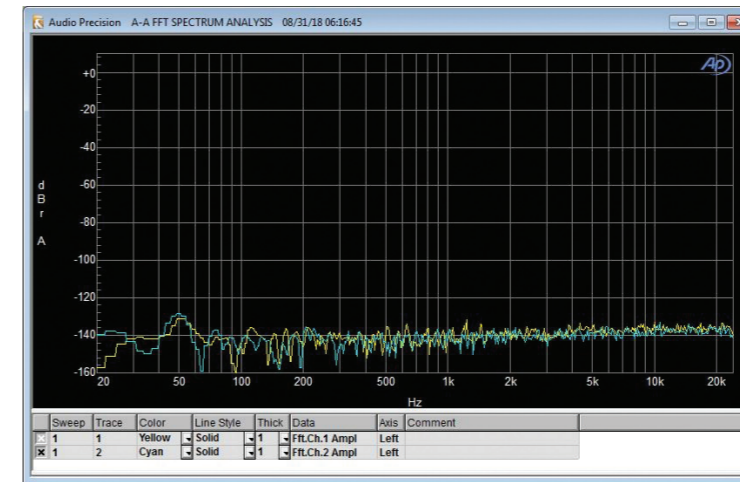
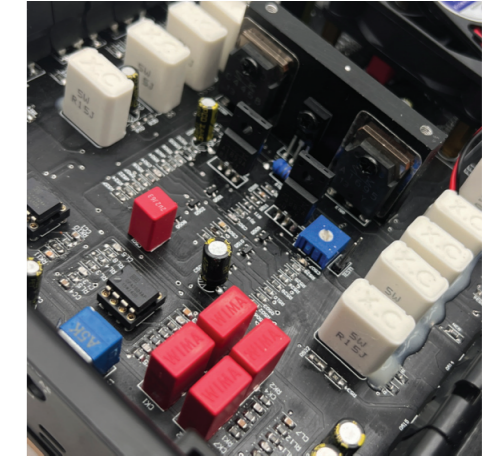


Committed to excellence

Audiophile: An audio fanatic whose sole passion is accurate sound reproduction that brings all the purity of a live performance to recorded music. It is a familiar term with high-end home gear, but a term always considered unattainable in the automotive environment. Zapco disagrees! In 1974 Zapco began a quest for perfect sonic reproduction. In 2000 we introduced the C2K Competition amplifiers and by 2003 Zapco accounted for over 33% of ALL awards at the IASCA Car Audio Finals. In 2012 we introduced the new Z-Series amps with high end internal components matched for pure sound quality. This was our first line developed by listening rather than by measuring. That series was favorably compared to the best home amps, and quickly went straight to the winner's circle in Audio contests. They were called the best Zapco ever. How did we respond? We said "thank you, but we think we can do even better". And we did. We upgraded to the newest audiophile caps and op-amps, redesigned the power supply, and made board modifications to create the Z-Series LX amps. Not only did they top the car audio comparisons, but home speaker makers even brought their speakers to our CES suite to demonstrate what their speakers could do. The LX was beating their demo home amps in sound quality. How did Zapco respond? We said "thank you, but we think we can do even better". And we did! With the Z-AP Series we built an amplifier to set new sound quality standards

The Zapco Z-AP Series

With the Z-AP Series we built an amplifier to set new sound quality standards. How did we do it? We took the best of the LX amp and we tweaked the circuitry. We used the same high-end audio quality electrolytic caps in the power supply that we used in the LX amplifiers. In the Signal path we replaced the electrolytics with the high-end WIMA poly caps. We used a new low noise, audio op-amp for the input stage and the smoothest audio op-amp we could find for the signal path (the right op-amp for the right job). We doubled the output drivers, and increased the operating voltage of the matched final output devices. To get heat off the output devices faster, and increase efficiency, we used a new insulator material developed for aerospace. At the differential input stage, we used 0.1% resistors to assure the lowest possible floor. We developed our own patented, multi ground RCA connectors with extra heavy gold plating for perfect signal transfer. We even improved the low noise gain pots had added detents to make watching levels a breeze. To top it all off, we gave it a new look, with a matt black finish and a solid copper plate with the logo and serial number engraved right in for posterity. The Result: The ultimate SQ amplifier designed by listening with ears and much as by measuring. So we get the possible smoothest, purest overall sound quality and, at the same time, a signal to noise ratio of over 110dB, so you get all that pure sound quality in even the quietest of musical passages.



Class, Power, Heat

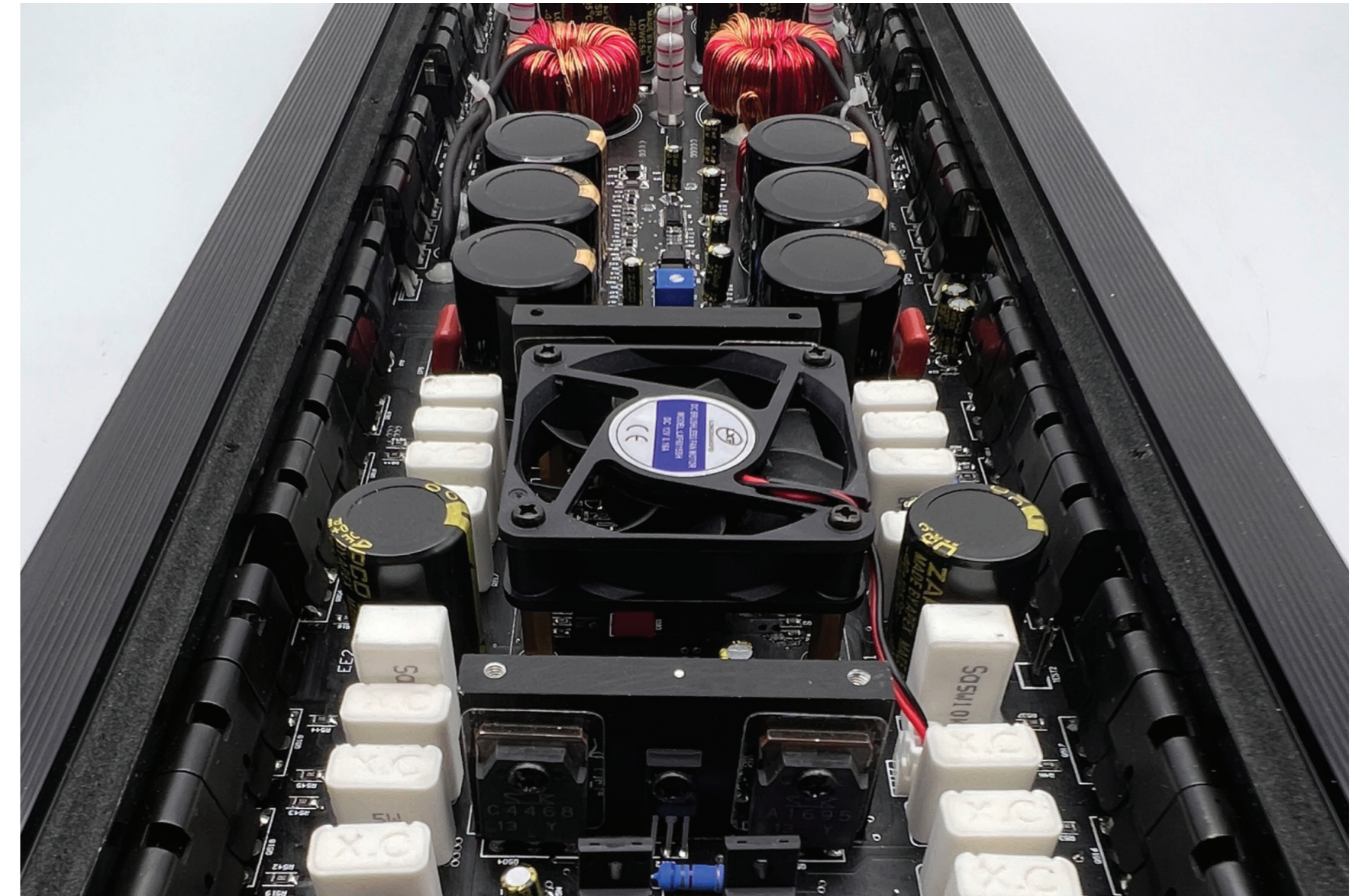
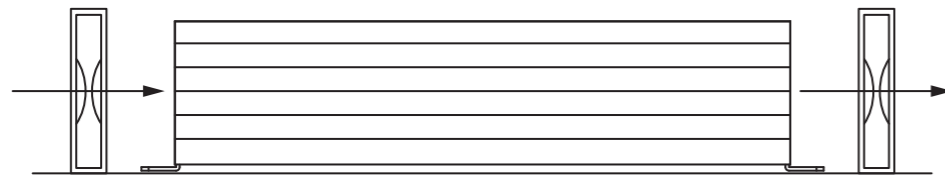
When buying or selling a car audio amplifier you need to consider more than just the power output. The basic design platform of the amplifier (Amplifier Class) will influence how the amp will work in any given situation, for any given user. All amplifiers make small signals bigger and in doing so create heat. Class A produces the most heat and Class D produces the least. If the amplifiers are not properly cooled, they will get too hot and problems will arise. Either the amp will be damaged, or protection circuits will engage to shut the amp off until it has cooled down enough to safely work again. Conversely, better cooling will allow an amp to make more power, longer, without damage or thermal shut down.

Class A/B amplifiers are used when audio fidelity is the primary goal and efficiency is of secondary concern. Class A/B amps have superior sound quality but with lower efficiency, they generate more heat and need more cooling.

Sound Quality and Dynamic Range: Our amps are designed solely for the best possible sound quality, so we do not current limit the amps. This gives Zapco amps more Dynamic Range than other amplifiers. Dynamic range, the ability to go from very quiet to extremely loud without distortion, is a major reason Zapco amps sound better than others. So, with Z-AP amplifiers, consumers have more dynamics plus the sound quality of class A/B amplifiers. If the Zapco Class A/B are used at the maximum dynamic range without distortion, they don't need so much cooling and never will shut down. But if they are driven into its distortion the amplifier will more easily reach maximum temperature and will shut down.

Critical: Volume does not make a system sound loud. Distortion sounds loud. With clean sound it is easy to drive an amp to full power and not know it because it still sounds clean. But when the power requested of the amplifier takes it into distortion the amplifier will overheat and shut down... and possibly be damaged. Zapco offers both Class A/B and Class D amps. Class A/B for the user who puts sound quality and dynamics first, and Class D for the user who wants big power in a small box.

Installation and Cooling: All the amplifiers need cooling, whether they are class A/B or class D. For cooling, the heatsink of the amplifier needs to exchange heat with air around it. So, the amplifier cannot be covered or put in a space where there is not enough air or ventilation. As noted above, in many cases a good installation needs to use external fans to make the ventilation more efficient. Some amplifiers have fans inside, but the problem is not solved if the fans cannot have an exchange of air with the environment.



All Wire is not created equal

Do not use CCA wire with Zapco amplifiers

It is easy to think of wire as just wire but the fact is there are major differences between the types of wires being offered today. The price of copper has gone up quite a bit lately, but you will notice that you can still buy heavy primary wire at very reasonable prices. How can this be? Simple... That lower price wire is not all copper, it is CCA wire. CCA stands for Copper Clad, Aluminum. That means it is aluminum wire with a thin coating of copper around the outside of the wire.

Does it look like copper wire? Absolutely. But does it conduct electrical current like copper? Absolutely Not.

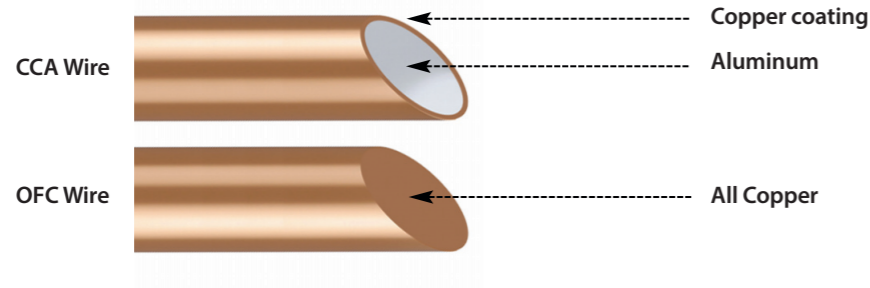
Two things can and likely will happen:

- Because CCA wire can not conduct DC electrical current like copper wire can, your amp will not get the current it needs to produce its rated power. That means you get less power and more distortion. It also taxes the amplifier that is trying to make its power, shortening the life of the amp
- CCA wire corrodes quickly and causes terminals that used to be tight to become loose. This causes arcing when electrons to fly around all the open space lookin for more copper. This causes heat that damages connections and can even eventually melt the terminal blocks on your amplifier

In short: While CCA wire is excellent for high frequency AC current (like tweeter voice coils), it is absolutely bad for high current 12V DC like power and ground for a car audio amplifier. We have seen CCA wire become a major cause of amplifier failures as buyers are offered CCA as a low cost alternative to pure copper wire.

So always look at the description of the contents of wire that you purchase. When someone offers to save you some money with CCA wire just say "No, thank you".

Protect your investment with real copper wire.



Wire Size

The second most common cause of under performing amplifiers is insufficient power current or a poor power connection. The most common cause of under performing amplifiers is insufficient ground current or a bad ground connection. 12-volt current: Battery power works only if it travels in a complete circuit from the battery positive terminal to the battery negative terminal. Main power input, of course, is attached to the battery positive terminal. Ground current is returned to the battery through the chassis to the point where the battery is grounded. The current available for your amplifier to use to produce power will be restricted by the smallest gauge of wire in the circuit and by the weakest physical connection in the circuit.

It's often surprising how many people will obsess about signal wire but routinely provide the amplifier with only a fraction of the current it needs to do its job.

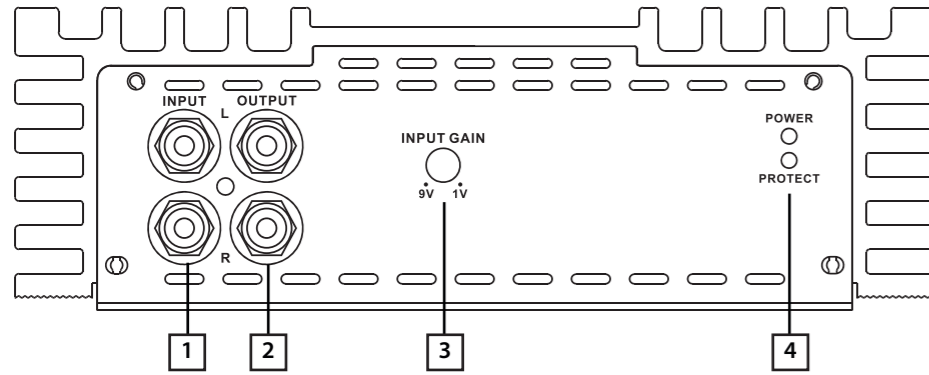
The most common wire gauge used in car audio is 10-gauge, and the most common location for amplifiers is in the trunk.

Wire Sizing Chart

	←----- Length ----->							
	4 ft	7 ft	10 ft	13 ft	16 ft	19 ft	22 ft	28 ft
0-20 amps	14	12	12	10	10	8	8	8
20-35 amps	12	10	8	8	6	6	6	4
35-50 amps	10	8	8	6	6	4	4	4
50-60 amps	8	8	6	4	4	4	4	2
65-85 amps	6	6	4	4	2	2	2	0
85 -105amps	6	6	4	2	2	2	2	0
105-125 amps	4	4	4	2	2	0	0	0
125-150 amps	2	2	2	2	0	0	0	0

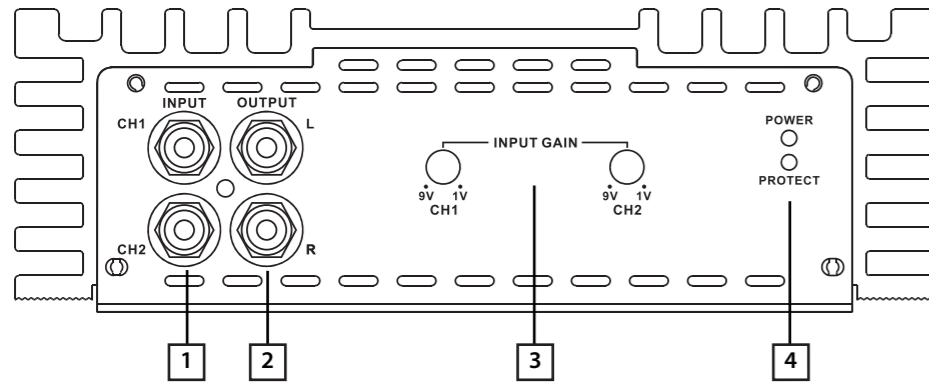
Let's look at a fairly small system. If you use a 50 watt/ch amp (25 amps) for the highs and a 100 watt/ch amp (40 amps) for the woofers, you need at least a 4-gauge and maybe a 2-Guage wire to provide 65 amps at the trunk. Use the Wire Sizing Chart. Add up the fuse values on the amplifier(s) then choose the proper size wire based on the distance from the car battery to the amplifier location. Always use the same gauge wire for the main ground as you do for the main power. Always make your ground as short as possible and secure it to a clean solid surface, preferably the vehicle frame.

1-Ch. Amplifier Controls



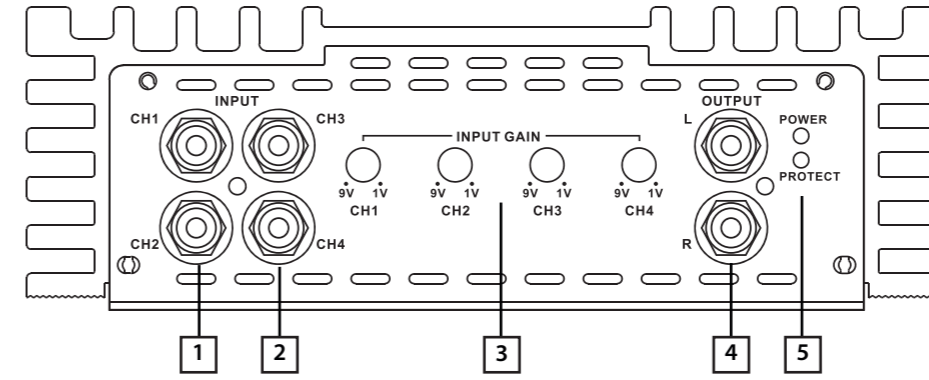
- 1• RCA Inputs
- 2• Pass-through RCA outputs so you can "daisy-chain" multiple amps while only running one front-to-back RCA
- 3• Variable gain control
- 4• The power on (green) LED and the protect (red) LED

2-Ch. Amplifier Controls



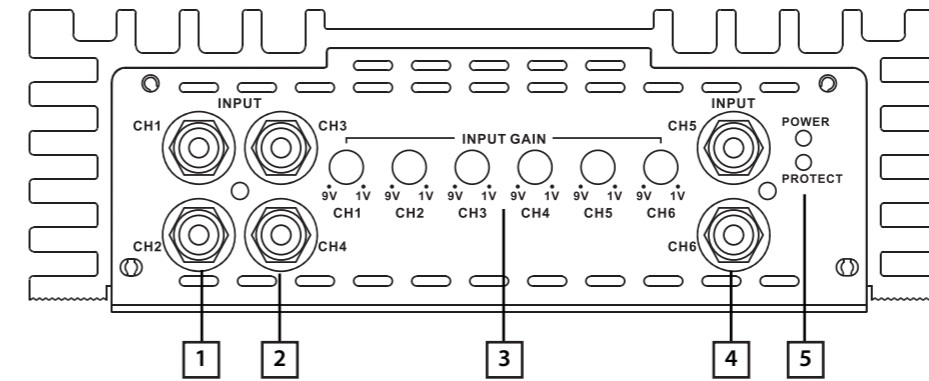
- 1• RCA Inputs
- 2• Pass-through RCA outputs so you can "daisy-chain" multiple amps while only running one front-to-back RCA
- 3• Variable gain control
- 4• The power on (green) LED and the protect (red) LED

4-Ch. Amplifier Controls



- 1• Ch. 1 and Ch. 2 RCA input connectors using Zapco's proprietary gold plated connectors
- 2• Ch. 3 and Ch. 4 RCA input connectors using Zapco's proprietary gold plated connectors
- 3• Variable gain control
- 4• Pass-through RCA outputs so you can "daisy-chain" multiple amps while only running one front-to-back RCA
- 5• The power on (green) LED and the protect (red) LED

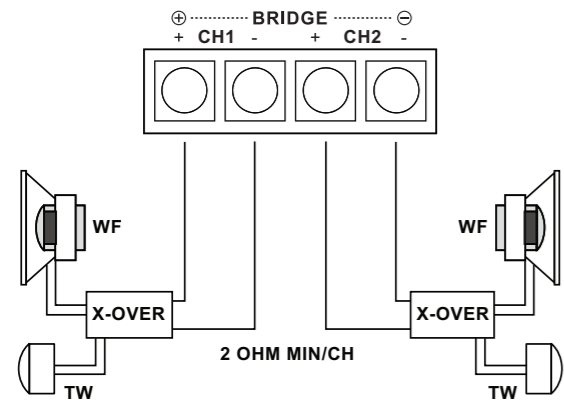
6-Ch. Amplifier Controls



- 1• Ch. 1 and Ch. 2 RCA input connectors using Zapco's proprietary gold plated connectors
- 2• Ch. 3 and Ch. 4 RCA input connectors using Zapco's proprietary gold plated connectors
- 3• Variable gain control
- 4• Ch. 5 and Ch. 6 RCA input connectors using Zapco's proprietary gold plated connectors
- 5• The power on (green) LED and the protect (red) LED

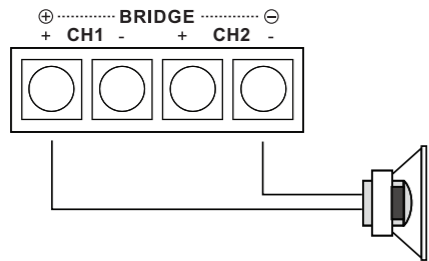
2-Ch. Amplifier - Stereo Mode

A simple 2 channels hookup for a right and left stereo pair.



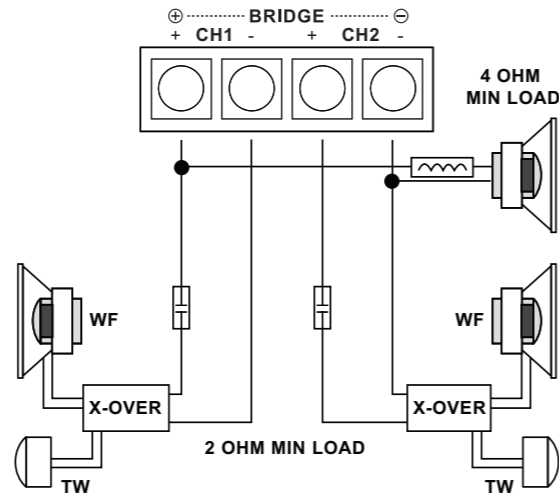
2-Ch. Amplifier - Single Channel Mode

This method is used most often to drive a mono woofer but can also be used to run separate amplifiers for the right and left channel. The bridged speaker must be of 4Ω minimum impedance.



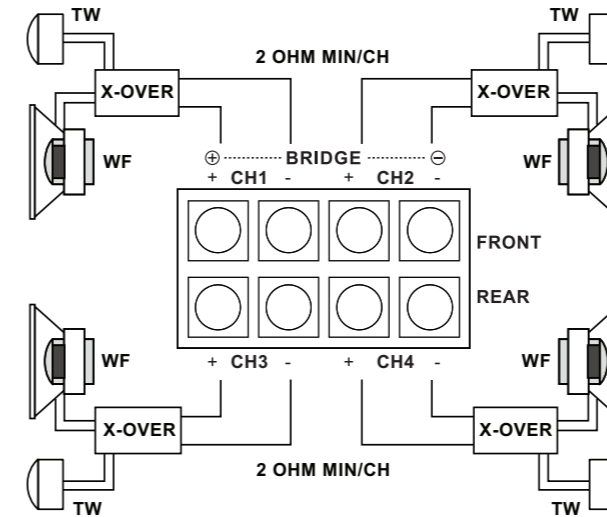
2-Ch. Amplifier - 3Ch Mode

It is possible to run the 2-Ch. amps in "3-Channel" mode by running a pair of speakers for the mids and highs on left and right channels, and at the same time run a woofer bridged between the L+ and R- terminals as shown. However, since each channel will see 1/2 the impedance of the woofer you must use a woofer of no less than 4Ω. The amplifier sees impedance by frequency, so you can have two 2Ω loads but you must use a passive crossover on each speaker in the 3-Ch. mode. With the crossovers in the line, the amplifier will always see a minimum load of 2Ω on each channel at all frequencies. Main speakers can be 2Ω~4Ω. Woofer can be 4Ω~8Ω but cannot be less than 4Ω. A 3-Way hookup requires a coil on the woofer and capacitors on the highs to act as a crossover and maintain correct impedance. Consult the speaker manufacturer for correct cap and coil values.



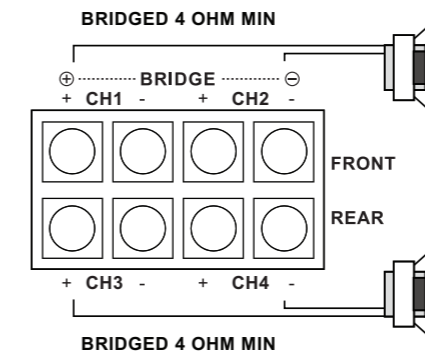
4-Ch. Amplifier - Stereo Mode

A simple 4 channels hookup for a right and left stereo pair. This is the standard hookup for full range front and rear speakers.



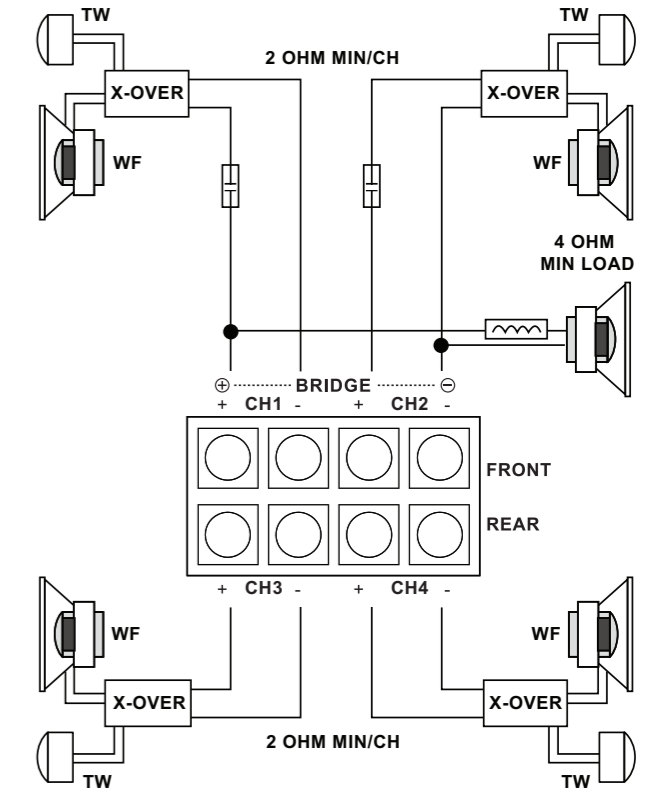
4-Ch. Amplifier - High Power 2-Ch. Mode

Want more power? Instead of 4 channels of 150 watts, you can have two channels of 500W each by bridging both front and rear amp sections to one speaker each.



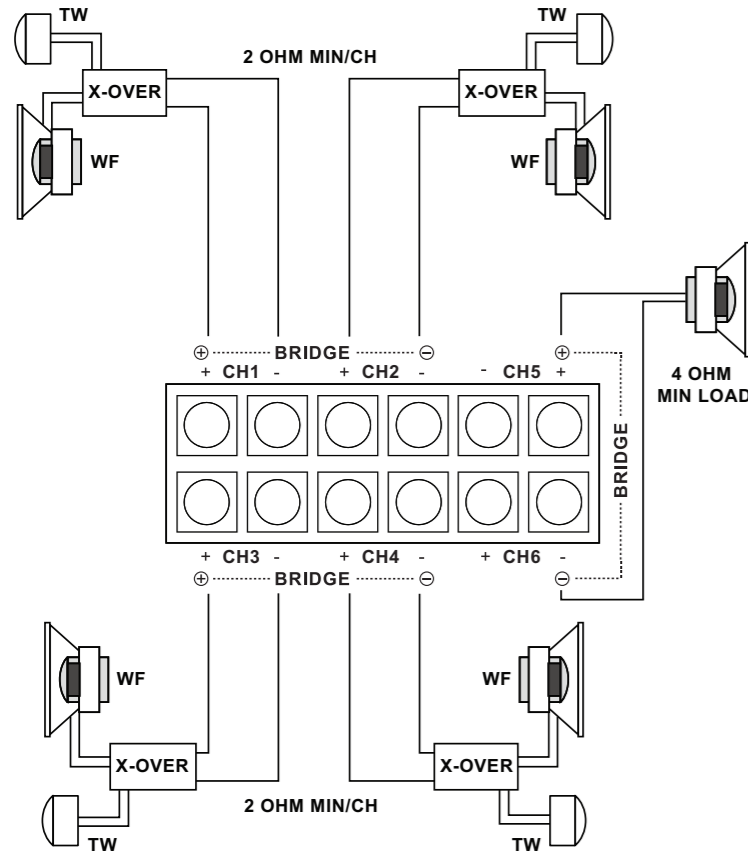
4-Ch. Amplifier - 5-Ch. Mode

A 3-way system with front stage, rear stage and subwoofer in mixed mono configuration. The 5-speakers system requires a passive crossover between the front highs and the mono woofer, with capacitors on the front highs positives and a coil on the woofer positive. All amplifiers channels are full range.



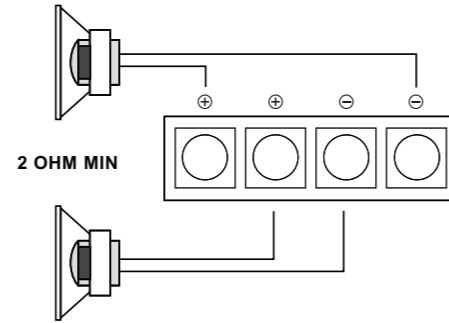
6-Ch. Amplifier - 5-Ch. Mode

The most popular system for a six channel amplifier is right/left front, right/left rear, and a mono sub. Note the hookup especially of the sub as Ch5+ and Ch6-. This gives the sub the combined power of the 2 channels. Note that since the sub is a bridged hookup the sub must be 4Ω minimum.



1-Ch. Amplifier

A simple 1 channel hookup for a single speaker or two speakers. The speakers must be 2Ω minimum.



Technical Specifications

Model	Type	Power (W) Channel/RMS	THD	S/N	Frequency Response	Net/Overall Dim. (mm, WxHxL)
Z-150.2 AP	2-Ch, Class AB	2 x 150 (4Ω) / 2 x 275 (2Ω) / 2 x 500 (1Ω)* 550 (Br, 4Ω) / 1000 (Br, 2Ω)*	< 0.1%	>110dB	10Hz ~ 30KHz	190 x 62 x 300 / 190 x 62 x 328
Z-300.2 AP	2-Ch, Class AB	2 x 300 (4Ω) / 2 x 500 (2Ω) / 2 x 800 (1Ω)* 1000 (Br, 4Ω) / 1600 (Br, 2Ω)*	< 0.1%	>110dB	10Hz ~ 30KHz	190 x 62 x 450 / 190 x 62 x 478
Z-600.2 AP	2-Ch, Class AB	2 x 600 (4Ω) / 2 x 1000 (2Ω) / 2 x 1600 (1Ω)* 2000 (Br, 4Ω) / 3200 (Br, 2Ω)*	< 0.1%	>110dB	10Hz ~ 30KHz	190 x 62 x 600 / 190 x 62 x 628
Z-150.4 AP	4-Ch, Class AB	4 x 150 (4Ω) / 4 x 275 (2Ω) / 4 x 400 (1Ω)* 2 x 550 (Br, 4Ω) / 2 x 800 (Br, 2Ω)*	< 0.1%	>110dB	10Hz ~ 30KHz	190 x 62 x 440 / 190 x 62 x 468
Z-150.6 AP	6-Ch, Class AB	6 x 150 (4Ω) / 6 x 275 (2Ω) / 6 x 500 (1Ω)* 3 x 500 (Br, 4Ω) / 3 x 1000 (Br, 2Ω)*	< 0.1%	>110dB	10Hz ~ 30KHz	190 x 62 x 600 / 190 x 62 x 628
Z-1100.1 AP	Mono, Class AB	650 (4Ω) / 1100 (2Ω) / 1600 (1Ω)*	< 0.1%	>110dB	10Hz ~ 30KHz	190 x 62 x 480 / 190 x 62 x 588
Z-2000.1 AP	Mono, Class AB	1200 (4Ω) / 2000 (2Ω) / 2400 (1Ω)*	< 0.1%	>110dB	10Hz ~ 30KHz	190 x 62 x 600 / 190 x 62 x 628

***Important Note:** AP amplifiers are stable on 1Ω and 2Ω Bridged only when used with music signal. The limits of the amplifiers to deliver power over time are not dependent on the load impedance, but rather on their ability to dissipate the heat produced. If this is not possible, the amplifier will go into protection mode. Furthermore, several protection cycles, repeated in a short time interval, can irreparably damage the amplifier.

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