

OWNER'S MANUAL

J²500.1

500W Monoblock Subwoofer Amplifier

*Thank you for purchasing a JL Audio amplifier for
your automotive sound system.*

*Your amplifier has been designed and manufactured to exacting
standards in order to ensure years of musical enjoyment in your vehicle.*

*For maximum performance, we highly recommend that you have
your new amplifier installed by an authorized JL Audio dealer. Your
authorized dealer has the training, expertise and installation equipment
to ensure optimum performance from this product. Should you
decide to install the amplifier yourself, please take the time
to read this manual thoroughly so as to familiarize yourself
with its installation requirements and setup procedures.*

*If you have any questions regarding the instructions in this
manual or any aspect of your amplifier's operation, please contact your
authorized JL Audio dealer for assistance. If you need further assistance,
please call our Technical Support Department
at (954) 443-1100 during business hours.*



PROTECT YOUR HEARING!

We value you as a long-term customer. For that reason, we urge you to practice restraint in the operation of this product so as not to damage your hearing and that of others in your vehicle. Studies have shown that continuous exposure to high sound pressure levels can lead to permanent (irreparable) hearing loss. This and all other high-power amplifiers are capable of producing such high sound pressure levels when connected to a speaker system. Please limit your continuous exposure to high volume levels.

While driving, operate your audio system in a manner that still allows you to hear necessary noises to operate your vehicle safely (horns, sirens, etc.).

SERIAL NUMBER

In the event that your amplifier requires service or is ever stolen, you will need to have a record of the product's serial number. Please take the time to enter that number in the space provided below. The serial number can be found on the bottom panel of the amplifier and on the amplifier packaging.

Serial Number:

INSTALLATION APPLICATIONS

This amplifier is designed for operation in vehicles with 12V, negative-ground electrical systems. Use of this product in vehicles with positive ground and/or voltages other than 12V may result in damage to the product and will void the warranty.

This product is not certified or approved for use in aircraft.

Do not attempt to "bridge" the outputs of this amplifier with the outputs of a second amplifier, including an identical one.

PLANNING YOUR INSTALLATION

It is important that you take the time to read this manual and that you plan out your installation carefully. The following are some considerations that you must take into account when planning your installation.

Cooling Efficiency Considerations:

The outer shell of your JL Audio amplifier is designed to remove heat from the amplifier circuitry. For optimum cooling performance, this outer shell should be exposed to as large a volume of air as possible. Enclosing the amplifier in a small, poorly ventilated chamber can lead to excessive heat build-up and degraded performance. If an installation calls for an enclosure around the amplifier, we recommend that this enclosure be ventilated with the aid of a fan. In normal applications, fan-cooling is not necessary.

! IMPORTANT

Mounting the amplifier upside down is strongly discouraged.

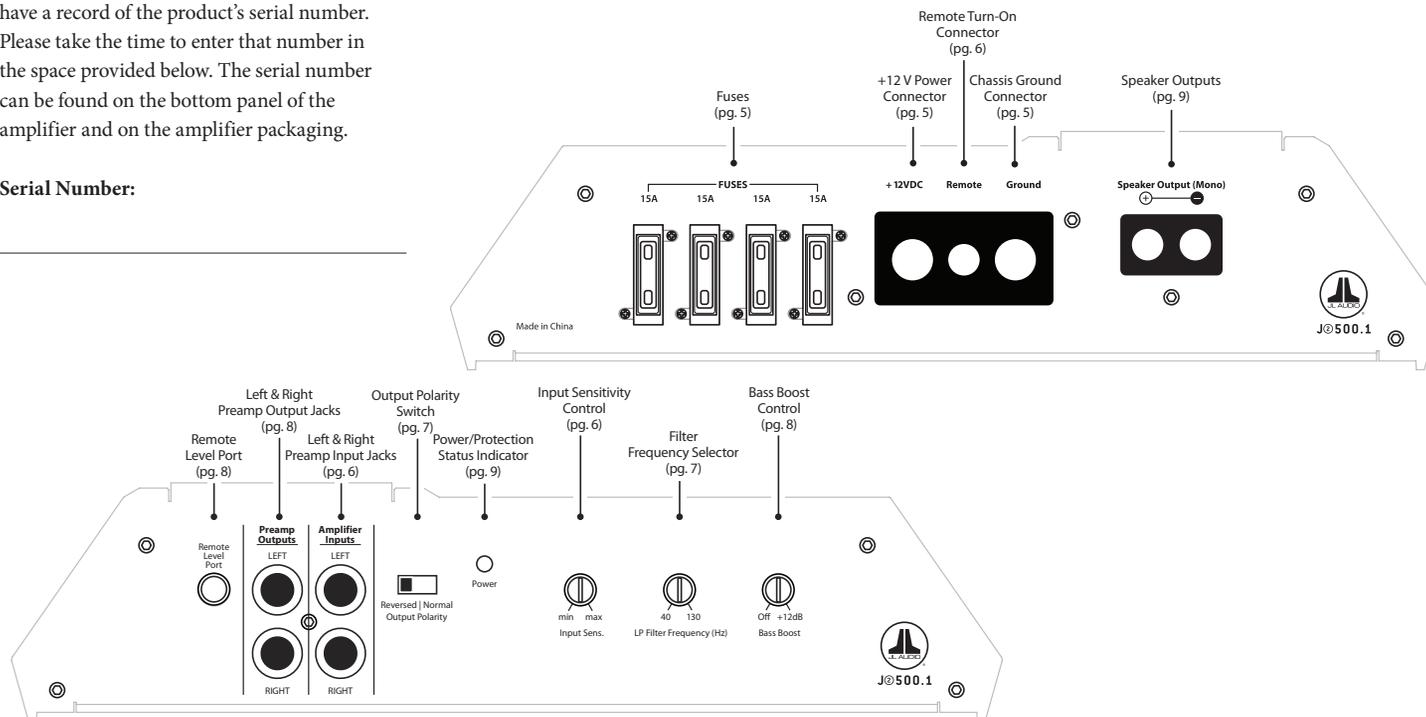
If mounting the amplifier under a seat, make sure there is at least 1 inch (2.5 cm) of space above the amplifier's outer shell to permit proper cooling.

Safety Considerations:

Your amplifier needs to be installed in a dry, well-ventilated environment and in a manner which does not interfere with your vehicle's safety equipment (air bags, seat belt systems, ABS brake systems, etc.). You should also take the time to securely mount the amplifier using appropriate hardware so that it does not come loose in the event of a collision or a sudden jolt to the vehicle.

Stupid Mistakes to Avoid:

- Check before drilling any holes in your vehicle to make sure that you will not be drilling through a gas tank, brake line, wiring harness or other vital vehicle system.
- Do not run system wiring outside or underneath the vehicle. This is an extremely dangerous practice which can result in severe damage to your vehicle and person.
- Protect all system wires from sharp metal edges and wear by carefully routing them, tying them down and using grommets and loom where appropriate.
- Do not mount the amplifier in the engine compartment, under the vehicle, on the roof or in any other area that will expose the amplifier circuitry to the elements.



PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

The JL Audio J2-500.1 is a monoblock subwoofer amplifier utilizing Class B technology. Its frequency response is limited to the range below 125 Hz. It is not designed for driving midrange speakers or tweeters. It has been optimized for low-frequency amplification. For detailed specifications, please refer to Appendix B (page 11).

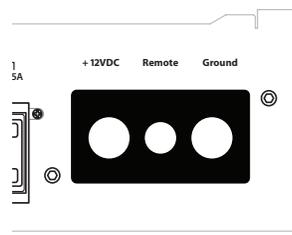
TYPICAL INSTALLATION SEQUENCE

The following represents the sequence for a typical amplifier installation, using an aftermarket source unit or OEM Interface product. Additional steps and different procedures may be required in some applications. If you have any questions, please contact your authorized JL Audio dealer for assistance.

- 1) Disconnect the negative battery post connection and secure the disconnected cable to prevent accidental re-connection during installation. This step is not optional!
- 2) Run power wire (minimum 4 AWG) from the battery location to the amplifier mounting location, taking care to route it in such a way that it will not be damaged and will not interfere with vehicle operation. Use 2 AWG or 1/0 AWG power wire if additional amplifiers are being installed with the J2-500.1.
- 3) Connect power wire to the positive battery post. Fuse the wire with an appropriate fuse block (and connectors) within 18 inches (45 cm) wire length of the positive battery post. **This fuse is essential to protect the vehicle. Do not install the fuse until the power wire has been connected to the amplifier.**
- 4) Run signal cables (RCA cables) and remote turn-on wire from the source unit to the amplifier mounting location.
- 5) Run speaker wire from the speaker systems to the amplifier mounting location.
- 6) Find a good, solid metal grounding point close to the amplifier and connect the negative power wire to it using appropriate hardware. Use minimum 4 AWG power wire, no longer than 36 inches (90 cm) from the amplifier to the ground connection point. In some vehicles, it may be necessary to upgrade the battery ground wire. (See page 5 for important notice).
- 7) Securely mount the amplifier using appropriate hardware.
- 8) Connect the positive and negative power wires to the amplifier.
- 9) Connect the remote turn-on wire to the amplifier.
- 10) Connect the RCA input cables to the amplifier.
- 11) Connect the speaker wires to the amplifier.
- 12) Carefully review the amplifier's control settings to make sure that they are set according to the needs of the system.
- 13) Install power wire fuse (60A for a single J2-500.1) and reconnect the negative battery post terminal.
- 14) Turn on the source unit at a low level to double-check that the amplifier is configured correctly. Resist the temptation to crank it up until you have verified the control settings.
- 15) Make necessary adjustments to the input sensitivity controls to obtain the right overall output and the desired balance in the system. See Appendix A (page 10) for the recommended input sensitivity setting method.
- 16) Enjoy the fruits of your labor with your favorite music.

POWER CONNECTIONS

Before installing the amplifier, disconnect the negative (ground) wire from the vehicle's battery. This will prevent accidental damage to the system, the vehicle and your person during installation.



The J2-500.1's "+12 VDC" (positive) and "Ground" (ground) connections are designed to accept 4 AWG power wire. 4 AWG is a minimum power wire size for this amplifier.

If you are installing the J2-500.1 with other amplifiers and wish to use a single main power wire, use 2 AWG or 1/0 AWG main power wire (depending on the overall current demands of all the amplifiers in the system). This 2 AWG or 1/0 AWG power wire should terminate into a distribution block mounted as close to the amplifiers as possible and should connect to the J2-500.1 with 4 AWG power wire.

Note: that smaller AWG numbers mean bigger wire and vice-versa (1/0 AWG is the largest, 2 AWG is smaller, then 4 AWG, then 8 AWG, etc.).

To connect the power and ground wires to the amplifier, strip 1/2-inch (12 mm) of insulation from each wire and insert the bare wire into the the appropriate terminal block positions on the J2-500.1. Use a Phillips screwdriver to secure the wire via the screw on the top of each terminal.

The "Ground" connection should be made using 4 AWG wire and should be kept as short as possible, while accessing a solid piece of sheet metal in the vehicle. The surface of the sheet metal should be sanded at the contact point to create a clean, metal-to-metal connection between the chassis and the termination of the ground wire. The use of a star washer to lock down the connection is advisable.

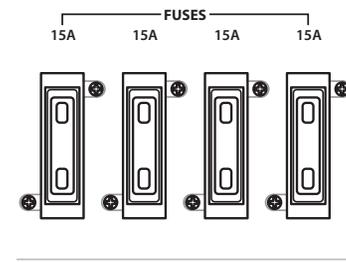
Any wires run through metal barriers (such as firewalls), must be protected with a high quality insulating grommet to prevent damage to the insulation of the wire. Failure to do so may result in a dangerous short circuit.

! IMPORTANT

Many vehicles employ small (10 AWG - 6 AWG) wire to ground the battery to the vehicle chassis and to connect the alternator's positive connection to the battery. To prevent voltage drops, these wires should be upgraded to 4 AWG (or larger) when installing a J2-500.1.

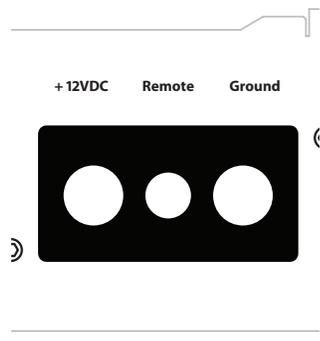
FUSE REQUIREMENTS

While the J2-500.1 has four 15A ATC fuses on its power connection panel, these do nothing to protect the vehicle from a dangerous short circuit in the power wire. They only protect the amplifier. It is absolutely vital that the main power lead to the amplifier(s) in the system be fused within 18 inches (45 cm) of the positive battery post connection. The fuse value at each power wire should be high enough for all of the equipment being run from that power wire. If only the J2-500.1 is being run from that power wire, we recommend a 60A fuse be used. AFS or MAXI-type fuses are recommended.



“REMOTE” TURN-ON

The J2-500.1 is turned on and off using a conventional +12V remote turn-on lead, typically controlled by the source unit’s remote turn-on output.

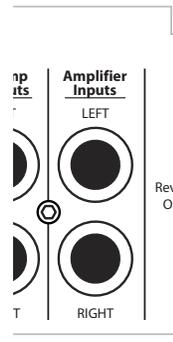


The amplifier will turn on when +12V is present at its “Remote” input and turn off when +12V is switched off. If a source unit does not have a dedicated remote turn-on output, the amplifier’s turn-on lead can be connected to +12V via a switch that derives power from an ignition-switched circuit.

18 AWG wire is more than adequate for the remote turn-on connection. To connect the remote turn-on wire to the amplifier, strip 1/2-inch (12 mm) of insulation from the wire and insert it into the “Remote” receptacle on the power connector. Tighten the connector down using a Phillips screwdriver.

“AMPLIFIER INPUTS”

The J2-500.1 only offers low-level (preamp level) input connections via a single pair of RCA-type jacks that are compatible with a wide range of aftermarket source units and processors. If you wish to use speaker level signals, you will need to employ a line-output converter (not included).



You may run a stereo or a mono signal into the inputs of the amplifier. The amplifier’s input section automatically sums stereo signals to mono for the internal amplifier section.

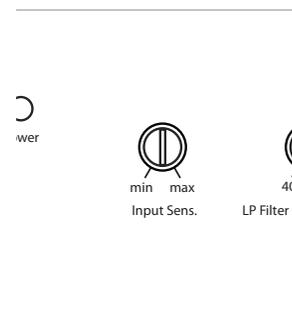
The amplifier will operate with only one input connection (left or right), but will require an increase in input sensitivity to overcome the loss of signal. If a mono input signal is to be run into the RCA jacks, we recommend that you use a “Y-adaptor” to split the mono signal into both the Left and Right inputs of the amplifier.

! IMPORTANT

If you plan to use the preamp outputs to feed a stereo amplifier, you must connect a stereo signal to the input of the amplifier. A mono signal into the amplifier will result in a mono signal out of the preamp output.

“INPUT SENSITIVITY” (GAIN) ADJUSTMENT

Located next to the input connectors is a rotary control labeled “Input Sens.”. This rotary control can be used to match the source unit’s output voltage to the input stage of the amplifier for maximum clean output.



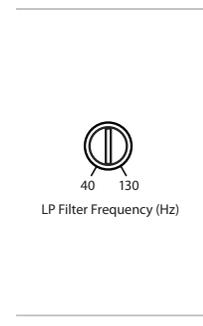
Rotating the control clockwise will result in higher sensitivity (louder for a given input voltage). Rotating the control counter-clockwise will result in lower sensitivity (quieter for a given input voltage). To properly set the amplifier for maximum clean output, please refer to Appendix A (page 12) in this manual. After using this procedure, you can then adjust the level of the amplifier by adjusting the input sensitivity downward, if the amplifier requires attenuation to achieve the desired system balance.

Do not increase the “Input Sens.” setting for any amplifier in the system beyond the maximum level established during the procedure outlined in Appendix A (page 12). Doing so will result in audible distortion and possible speaker damage.

“LP FILTER” (CROSSOVER) CONTROL

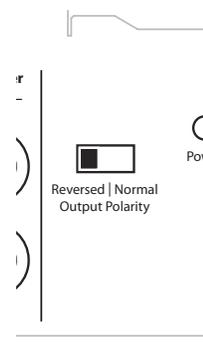
The J2-500.1 employs a 12dB/octave low-pass (LP) active filter for its internal channel. This feature is designed to attenuate frequencies above its filter frequency, so that the system’s subwoofers do not reproduce any audible midrange content.

The low-pass filter in the J2-500.1 is fully variable between 40 Hz and 130 Hz via the “LP Filter Frequency” control knob. The 12 o’clock position corresponds to 80 Hz, and is a good starting point for system tuning.



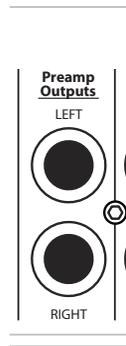
“OUTPUT POLARITY” CONTROL

The J2-500.1 includes a switch to quickly reverse the polarity of its audio output. This is very useful for establishing a smooth transition between the subwoofers and main speaker systems. Choose the position that results in the strongest midbass and the best “up-front” bass presence.



“PREAMP OUTPUTS”

The J2-500.1 incorporates a preamp output section, designed to make multiple amplifier systems easy to set up. This section consists of a pair of RCA-type jacks marked “Preamp Outputs”.



The Preamp outputs deliver the same signal that is being fed to the inputs. (If the input signal are full-range, the preamp outputs will be full-range). This signal is not affected by the bass boost or LP Filter processing selected for the amplifier.

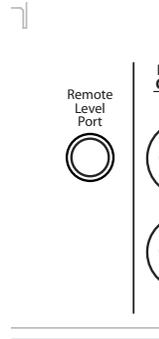
“BASS BOOST” CONTROL

The J2-500.1 includes a single band, boost-only bass equalizer controlled by a rotary knob marked “Bass Boost”. This control has a boost range of 0dB (full-counterclockwise) to +12dB (full-clockwise) and is centered at 45 Hz.



REMOTE LEVEL CONTROL

The J2-500.1 includes a remote level control that can be mounted in the front of the vehicle. This control allows the owner to adjust the overall subwoofer level to taste. To connect the remote bass control knob, insert its plug into the jack labeled “Remote Level Port” on the amplifier and route the cable and control to the desired location in the front of the vehicle.



Care should be taken to securely mount this control in a manner that does not interfere with vehicle operation.

When setting the amplifier’s input sensitivity, the Remote Level Control should be unplugged or at full clockwise rotation (maximum level).

SPEAKER OUTPUT

Speaker connection to the J2-500.1 is straightforward and takes place at the far right of the power/speaker connection panel. A single positive (“+”) connection and a single negative (“-”) connection are available via a connector labeled “Speaker Output (Mono)”.



! IMPORTANT

Speaker loads below 2Ω nominal are not recommended and will cause the amplifier to enter into a protection mode.

Do not chassis ground any speakers connected to this or any other JL Audio amplifier. Doing so will cause the amplifier to go into protection.

To connect the speaker wires to the amplifier, strip 1/2-inch (12 mm) of insulation from each speaker wire and insert them into their appropriate connector (observing correct polarity). Then, tighten each connector using a Phillips screwdriver.

! IMPORTANT

Do NOT attempt to “bridge” two J2-500.1’s together or combine their output to a single load in any manner. Doing so will damage the amplifier(s).

! IMPORTANT

Before reconnecting the battery ground and turning the system on, verify that all control settings on the amplifier are set according to the needs of the system.

“POWER” INDICATOR LED / PROTECTION CIRCUITRY

The multi-color “Power” LED on the J2-500.1 also serves as a status indicator for certain fault conditions. Its operation is as follows:

- 1) **Red:** Amplifier is turning on.
- 2) **Green:** Amplifier is on / operating normally.
- 3) **Yellow:** Protection mode activated due to one of the following: Shorted outputs, too low of a load impedance or thermal overload (too hot).

Once the fault condition is corrected, the amplifier will return to normal operating mode and the LED will turn green again. For information on troubleshooting this amplifier, refer to Appendix C (pages 12, 13).



Power

SERVICING YOUR JL AUDIO AMPLIFIER

If your amplifier fails or malfunctions, please return it to your authorized JL Audio dealer so that it may be sent in to JL Audio for service. There are no user serviceable parts or fuses inside the amplifier. The unique nature of the circuitry in the JL Audio amplifiers requires specifically trained service personnel. Do not attempt to service the amplifier yourself or through unauthorized repair facilities. This will not only void the warranty, but may result in the creation of more problems within the amplifier.

If you have any questions about the installation or setup of the amplifier not covered in this manual, please contact your dealer or technical support.

JL Audio Technical Support:

(954) 443-1100

9:00 AM – 5:30 PM (Eastern Time Zone)

Monday - Friday

APPENDIX A:

Input Sensitivity Level Setting

Following the directions below will allow the installer to adjust the input sensitivity of each amplifier channel pair simply and easily in just a few minutes using equipment which is commonly available in installation bays.

Necessary Equipment

- Digital AC Voltmeter
- CD with a sine-wave test tone recorded at 0 dB reference level in the frequency range to be amplified for that set of channels (50 Hz for subwoofer channels, 1 kHz for a midrange application). Do not use attenuated test tones (-10 dB, -20 dB, etc.).

The Nine-Step Procedure

- 1) Disconnect the speaker(s) from the amplifier's speaker output connectors.
- 2) Turn off all processing (bass/treble, loudness, EQ, etc.) on the source unit, processors (if used) and amplifier. Set fader control to center position and subwoofer level control to 3/4 of maximum. If connected, set the amplifier's Remote Bass Control at maximum (full clockwise).
- 3) Turn the "Input Sens." control all the way down.
- 4) Set the source unit volume to 3/4 of full volume. This will allow for reasonable gain overlap with moderate clipping at full volume.
- 5) Using the chart on this page, determine the target voltage for input sensitivity adjustment according to the nominal impedance of the speaker system connected to the amplifier outputs.
- 6) Verify that you have disconnected the speakers before proceeding. Play a track with an appropriate sine wave (within the frequency range to be amplified) at 3/4 source unit volume.
- 7) Connect the AC voltmeter to the speaker output connectors of the amplifier. Make sure you test the voltage at the correct connectors (+ and -).

- 8) Increase the "Input Sens." control until the target voltage is observed with the voltmeter.
- 9) Once you have adjusted the amplifier to its maximum low-distortion output level, reconnect the speaker(s). The "Input Sens." controls can now be adjusted downward if the amplifier requires attenuation to achieve the desired system balance.

! IMPORTANT

Do not increase any "Input Sens." setting for any amplifier channel or channel pair in the system beyond the maximum level established during this procedure. Doing so will result in audible distortion and possible speaker damage.

It will be necessary to re-adjust the "Input Sens." for the affected channels if any equalizer boost is activated after setting the "Input Sens." with this procedure. This applies to any EQ boost circuit, including source unit tone controls or EQ circuits. EQ cuts will not require re-adjustment.

Nom. Impedance	Target AC Voltage
4Ω	37 V
3Ω	35.5 V
2Ω	31.5 V

APPENDIX B:

J2-500.1 Specifications

General Specifications:

Recommended Fuse Value: 60A

Recommended Fuse Type: ANL at battery, 4x 15A ATC fuses on amplifier chassis.

Input Section:

Low-Level Input: Single-ended with RCA jacks

Low-Level Input Range: 200mV - 4V RMS

Amplifier Section:

Amplifier Topology: Class B Monaural with complementary bi-polar outputs

Power Supply: PWM switching type, unregulated

Rated Power with less than 1% THD (14.4V supply):

340W RMS x 1 @ 4Ω

420W RMS x 1 @ 3Ω

500W RMS x 1 @ 2Ω

Frequency Response: 10 - 100 Hz (+/- 1 dB)

Crossover Section:

Low-Pass Filter: 12 dB/octave with continuously variable cutoff frequency selection from 40 - 130 Hz. Non-defeatable.

Preamp Outputs:

2-Channel, pass-through with unity gain, RCA-type jacks.

Bass Boost:

Single-band with 45 Hz center frequency, adjustable from 0 to +12dB.

Remote Level Control:

Via included, wired remote control knob. Full mute to 0 dB range.

Dimensions (LxWxH):

13.20" x 9.60" x 2.15" (335 mm x 244 mm x 55 mm)

Due to ongoing product development, all specifications are subject to change without notice.

APPENDIX C: TROUBLESHOOTING

“How do I properly set the input sensitivity on my amplifier”

Please refer to Appendix A (page 10) to set the input sensitivity for maximum, low-distortion output.

“My amplifier doesn’t turn on”

Check the fuse, not just visually, but with a continuity meter. It is possible for a fuse to have poor internal connections that cannot be found by visual inspection. It is best to take the fuse out of the holder for testing. If no problem is found with the fuse, inspect the fuse-holder.

Check the integrity of the connections made to each of the “+12VDC”, “Ground”, and “Remote” terminals. Ensure that no wire insulation is pinched by the terminal set screw and that each connection is tight.

Check to make sure there is +12V at the “Remote” connection of the amplifier. In some cases, the turn-on lead from the source unit is insufficient to turn on multiple devices and the use of a relay is required. To test for this problem, jump the “+12VDC” wire to the “Remote” terminal to see if the amplifier turns on. If this does not work, proceed to the next step.

“My amplifier’s output fluctuates when I tap on it or hit a bump”

Check the connections to the amplifier. Make sure that the insulation for all wires has been stripped back far enough to allow a good contact area inside the terminal block.

Check the input connectors to ensure that they all are making good contact with the input jacks on the amplifier.

“My amplifier turns on, but there is no output”

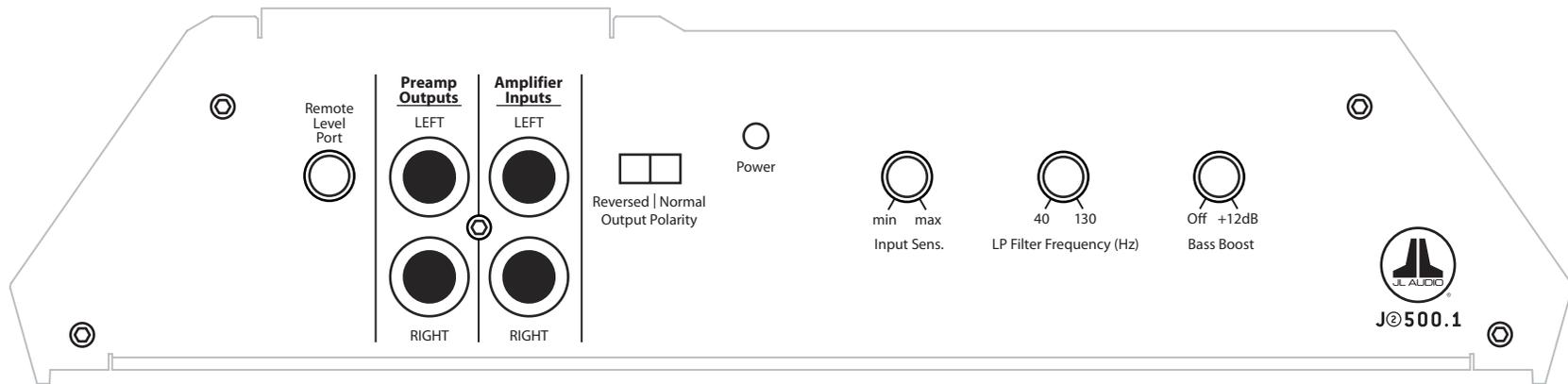
Check the input signal using an AC voltmeter to measure the voltage from the source unit while an appropriate test tone is played through the source unit (disconnect the input cables from the amplifier prior to this test). The frequency used should be in the range that is to be amplified by the amplifier (example: 50 Hz for a sub bass application or 1 kHz for a full range / high-pass application). A steady, sufficient voltage (between 0.2 and 8.0-volts) should be present at the output of the signal cables.

Check the output of the amplifier. Using the procedure explained in the previous check item (after plugging the input cables back into the amplifier) test for output at the speaker outputs of the amplifier. Unless you enjoy test tones at high levels, it is a good idea to remove the speaker wires from the amplifier while doing this. Turn the volume up approximately half way. 5V or more should be measured at the speaker outputs. This output level can vary greatly between amplifiers but it should not be in the millivolt range with the source unit at half volume. If you are reading sufficient voltage, check your speaker connections as explained below.

Check to ensure that the speaker wires are making a good connection with the metal inside the terminal block. The speaker wire connectors are designed to accept up to 8 AWG wire. Make sure to strip the wire to allow for a sufficient connection with the metal inside the terminal block.

INSTALLATION NOTES:

Use this diagram to document your amplifier's switch and control positions.



LIMITED WARRANTY - AMPLIFIERS (USA)

JL Audio warrants this product to be free of defects in materials and workmanship for a period of one (1) year from the original date of purchase.

This warranty is not transferrable and applies only to the original purchaser from an authorized JL Audio dealer. Should service be necessary under this warranty for any reason due to manufacturing defect or malfunction, JL Audio will (at its discretion), repair or replace the defective product with new or remanufactured product at no charge. Damage caused by the following is not covered under warranty: accident, misuse, abuse, product modification or neglect, failure to follow installation instructions, unauthorized repair attempts, misrepresentations by the seller. This warranty does not cover incidental or consequential damages and does not cover the cost of removing or reinstalling the unit(s). Cosmetic damage due to accident or normal wear and tear is not covered under warranty.

Warranty is void if the product's serial number has been removed or defaced.

Any applicable implied warranties are limited in duration to the period of the express warranty as provided herein beginning with the date of the original purchase at retail, and no warranties, whether express or implied, shall apply to this product thereafter. Some states do not allow limitations on implied warranties, therefore these exclusions may not apply to you. This warranty gives you specific legal rights, and you may also have other rights which vary from state to state.

If you need service on your JL AUDIO product:

All warranty returns should be sent to JL Audio's Amplifier Service Facility freight-prepaid through an authorized JL Audio dealer and must be accompanied by proof of purchase (a copy of the original sales receipt). Direct returns from consumers or non-authorized dealers will be refused unless specifically authorized by JL Audio with a valid return authorization number.

Warranty expiration on products returned without proof of purchase will be determined from the manufacturing date code. Coverage may be invalidated as this date is previous to purchase date. Non-defective items received will be returned freight-collect. Customer is responsible for shipping charges and insurance in sending the product to JL Audio. Freight damage on returns is not covered under warranty.

For Service Information in the U.S.A. please call

JL Audio Customer Service: (954) 443-1100

9:00 AM – 5:30 PM (Eastern Time Zone)

JL Audio, Inc

10369 North Commerce Pkwy.

Miramar, FL 33025

(do not send product for repair to this address)

International Warranties:

Products purchased outside the United States of America are covered only by that country's distributor and not by JL Audio, Inc.