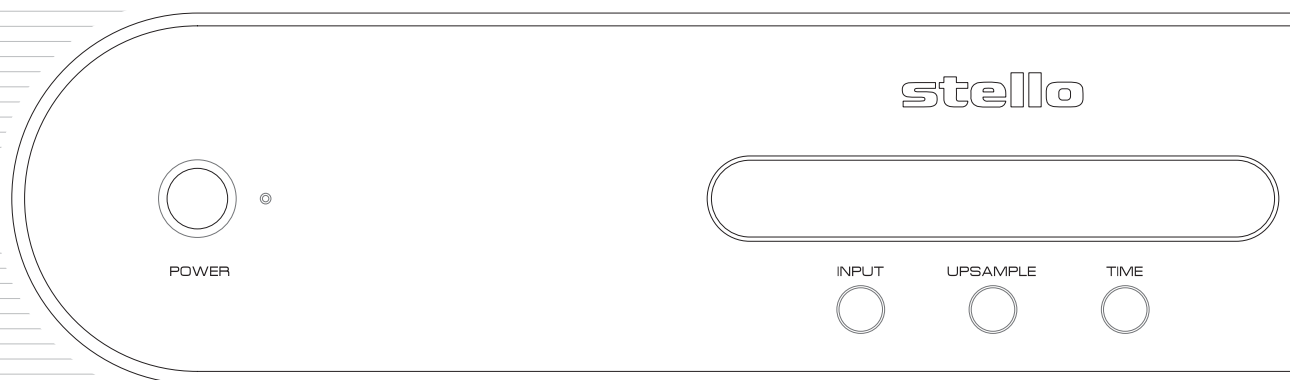


stello

Ai 500

Integrated Amplifier + D/A Converter



Contents

Introduction	2
Features	2
Precautions	3
Unpacking	4
Rear & Front Panel	5
1. Rear Panel Connections.....	5
2. Front Panel Connections.....	6
How to connect	7
1. Analog Inputs.....	7
2. BYPASS.....	7
(1) Power Amplifier.....	7
(2) Surround Processor.....	8
3. Preamplifier (PRE OUT).....	9
(1) Another Power Amplifier.....	9
(2) Sub Woofer.....	9
4. COAX, OPT.....	10
5. PC (USB).....	11
6. iPod.....	11
Remote	12
Specifications	14
Warranty	15

Introduction

Congratulations on purchasing the Stello Ai500 Integrated Amplifier. Stello components are recognized worldwide for their superb musicality and excellent value. The Ai500 combines state-of-the-art analog and digital circuitry with features sure to please the most demanding music lovers.

With power output reaching 300 Watts/channel @ 4 Ohms, the Ai500 is compatible with virtually all loudspeakers. The Ai500 features an oversize power supply with a 90,000 μ F capacitor bank ; a Cirrus logic CS3310 digital volume control for precise sound level adjustment ; four pairs of analog line inputs ; a "bypass" pair of inputs for direct feed of the output stage ; and digital inputs for every source : disc player, PC, iPod, and cable TV receiver. The Ai500 includes an ultra-high performance digital-to-analog converter capable of elevating your computer audio files to true high-fidelity performance.

Features

Preamplifier section

The Ai500's solid-state circuitry includes high-speed, low-noise transistors, and direct coupling throughout. Meticulous ground isolation techniques insure superb signal-to-noise ratio. Much care has been taken in the selection of components and the layout of circuitry for low noise, fast response time, and linear frequency response. We are confident that the Ai500 is among the very best preamplifiers on the market, at any price. Small-signal Wima brand capacitors, where needed, are all 1% tolerance resistors.

Power amplifier

Stello Ai500's output stage employs matched Hitachi MOSFET power transistors in Class AB push-pull configuration. Class AB offers the best trade-off between high performance and high efficiency. Input circuitry, gain stage, drive stage and bias net are April Music's unique proprietary circuitry, with optimum signal transfer and minimum phase shift.

Power amplifier section is driven by a custom designed discrete component circuit (A3 module) to improve mid-high range transparency.

Features

D/A Converter

Digital signals received via COAX and OPTIC inputs are processed by the digital input receiving circuit. Likewise, the USB signal from a PC enters the USB DAC through the digital input receiving circuit. All the digital input accept up to 96 kHz/ 24 bit.

Power supply

Separate power supplies deliver super-stable DC voltages to the preamplifier and DAC circuits. The power amplifier's supply has tremendous current reserves for lifelike dynamics. With an overlarge 800VA toroidal transformer, fast-recovery rectifiers, and an enormous capacitor bank (90,000 μ F), the Ai500 will never "run out of breath" even with the most demanding music and the most difficult loudspeaker loads.

Connectors

Ai500 features Neutrik balanced connectors, gold-plated RCA jacks, and gold-plated speaker terminal binding posts.

Precautions

The Ai500 runs warm because the output transistors' working point is set for better sound performance. This may cause some heat when this unit is run for a long time. This won't affect the life of this unit, but it's best to place the Ai500 on an open shelf where it has plenty of ventilation. Closed cabinets are not good.

When the Ai500's front-panel Main switch is off, all power to Ai500 is blocked. When it is on, the Ai500 goes into working state and remembers the previous playing mode. It is recommended to keep the main power switch 'ON' all the time.

Ai500 is DC Coupled for better sound quality. A little bit of popping noise might be heard when you switch the unit on. To minimize this, always turn the volume to zero before switching the unit off.

The maximum analog input voltage is 3.5 Vrms. Any signal higher than this will cause clipping noise. Most sources have output signal voltage at around 2 to 3 Vrms. If you want to use a source unit with output of more than 3.5 Vrms, please contact your local dealer or April Music headquarters. Especially, if you want to connect a phono preamplifier, please make sure to check its specification first.

Unpacking and Hooking up Your Ai500

In the carton, you will find everything you need to get started : the Ai500, IEC power cord, remote control with batteries, USB cable, iPod docking cable, and user's manual. Not included are digital and analog connecting cables, speaker wires, and loudspeakers.

Placement

Put your Ai500 on a sturdy flat surface near your other equipment. Tightly enclosed cabinets are not recommended. Open shelving is ideal as it provides plenty of ventilation. The IEC power cord fits into a recessed connector on the Ai500's back panel, and its other end goes into an electrical outlet in the wall. The Ai500 comes pre-set to the mains voltage in your home country. The supplied IEC power cord has the proper plug.

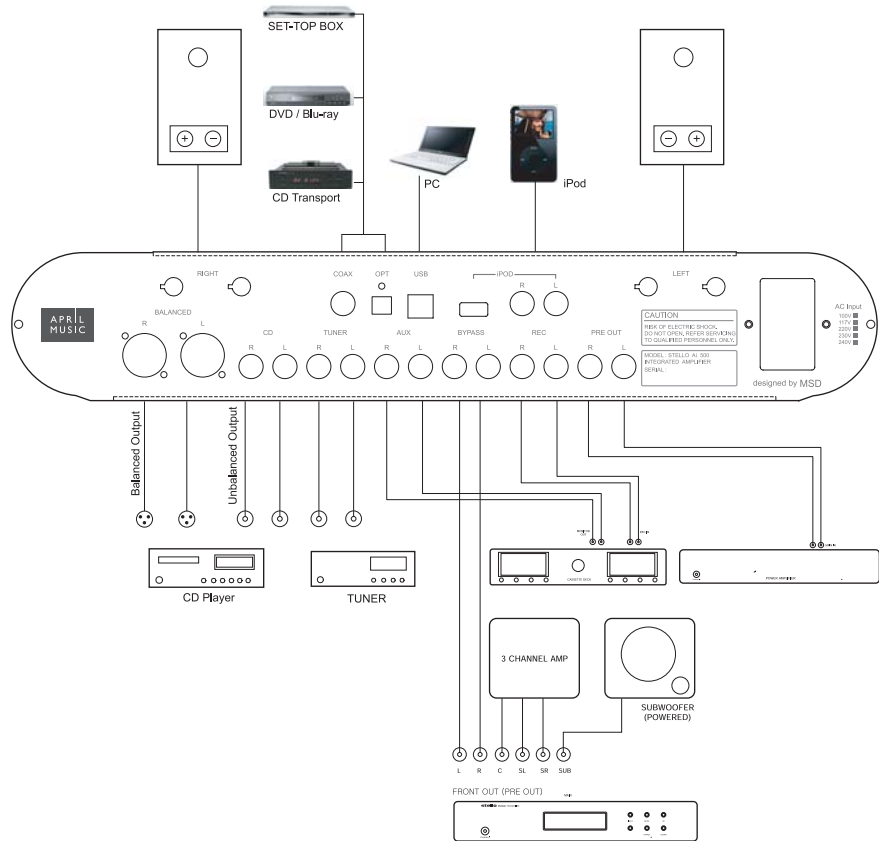
Speaker hookup

Using high-quality cables, connect your left and right loudspeakers to the left and right speaker terminals on the upper rear panel of the Ai500. Make sure to obtain correct polarity by connecting the "+" and "-" terminals at each end of the speaker wire the same way. Most speaker wires have differently colored jackets or printing on one side to differentiate the two conductors.

Your loudspeakers should be positioned where they offer the best sound. This will require some experimentation. Keep your speaker wires as long as possible during the experiment. After you have found the best location, you can trim them to length to keep your installation looking tidy.

Rear & Front Panel

1. Rear Panel



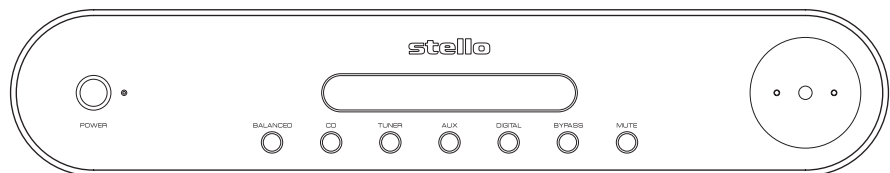
Ai500 has 4 unbalanced inputs and 1 balanced input. If you have audio equipment with balanced outputs (some CD players and DACs, including Stello components) you should use AES/EBU type balanced interconnects. This is the low-noise option. Tuners, Cassette decks, external video sources such as cable boxes, and DVD players connect via unbalanced inputs, using cables with RCA connectors.

- **BALANCED** : Audiophile or professional grade disc players and DACs
- **CD** : Unbalance connection depending on CD player
- **TUNER** : For FM/AM connection
- **AUX** : For Video, TV connection
- **BYPASS** : Unbalanced connection, multi-channel surround processor or preamplifier
- **REC** : Unbalanced connection, cassette tape input for recording
- **PRE OUT** : Unbalanced connection for external power amplifier
- **Speaker Output** : Binding posts accept bare wire, banana plugs, spade lugs, and pin terminals.

Rear & Front Panel

- **COAX** : The best way to connect a digital source such as CD transport to the internal DAC in the Ai500
- **OPT** : This fiber optic connection has the advantage of breaking electrical ground loops.
- **USB** : Connect your PC here. Practical length limit of USB cables is 3 meters.
- **iPod** : USB control cable plus left-right stereo analog inputs

2. Front Panel Operations



- **POWER** : Ai500 remembers previously played setting when power is on. Volume is set at 21 from the factory. If you were listening louder than volume gain 21 before you turned off the main power, it will automatically re-appear. The white LED next to the main power switch is always on when the power is on.
- **BALANCED** : Balanced input selection button.
BAL 37
- **CD** : CD input selection button.
CD 37
- **TUNER** : Tuner input selection button.
TUN 21
- **AUX** : Aux input selection button.
- **DIGITAL** : When pressed, changes sequentially as 'COAX → OPT → PC USB → IPOD → COAX →'.



Rear & Front Panel

- **BYPASS** : When BYPASS is pressed, LED display reads BYPASS, and buttons for amplifier won't function. When pressed again, it will go back to previous non-BYPASS setting.

BYPASS

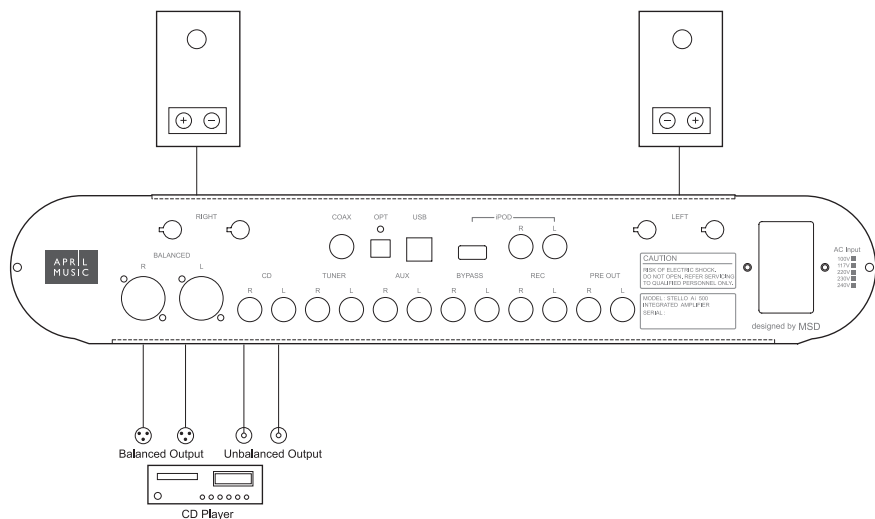
- **MUTE** : Temporarily shuts off all sound. Useful for stopping the music to answer phone calls, etc.

MUTE

- **VOLUME ENCODER** : Range from 0 to 99 in increments of 1 for a total of 100 steps. Turn volume knob clockwise and counter clockwise to set the volume level.

How to Connect

1. Analog input (Balanced, Unbalanced)



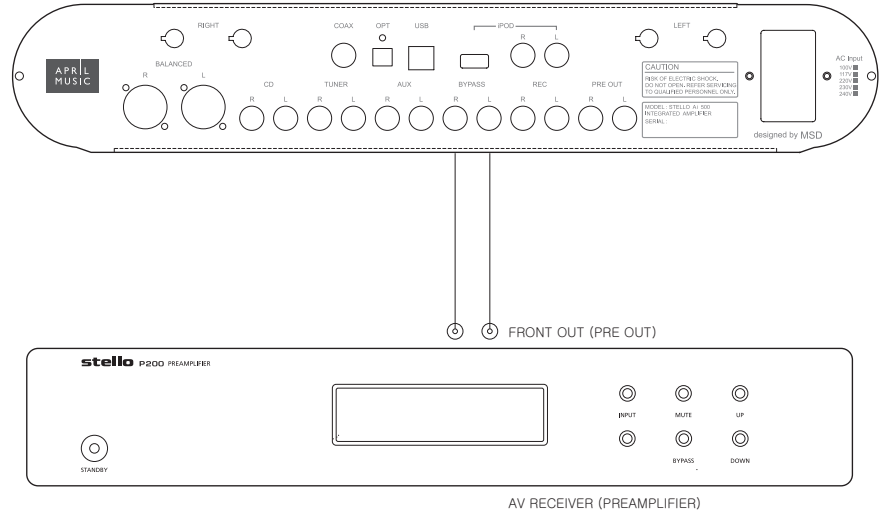
Both analog (tape decks, phono preamplifiers, etc) and digital devices (CD players, DACs, DVD players) have analog outputs. Typically these are fed to the inputs via coaxial cables fitted with RCA connectors. The Ai500 also has one pair of balanced

2. BYPASS

(1) Connecting directly to the Ai500 Power Amplifier stage

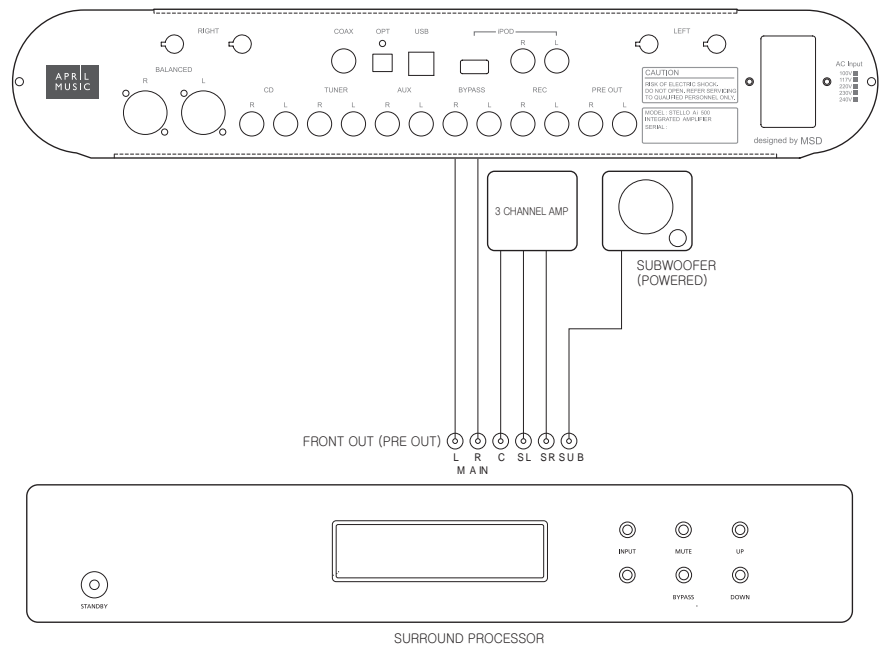
- When BYPASS switch is pressed, Ai500 acts as pure two-channel stereo power amplifier. You can try it with different preamplifiers to experience a variety of sound performances. The Ai500 has an extremely robust amplifier stage, capable of 300 Watts/channel @ 4 Ohms. Always begin your music listening sessions with your volume control at minimum and advance it carefully.

How to Connect



(2) Surround Processor

A novel way to use the Ai500 in a multichannel environment.



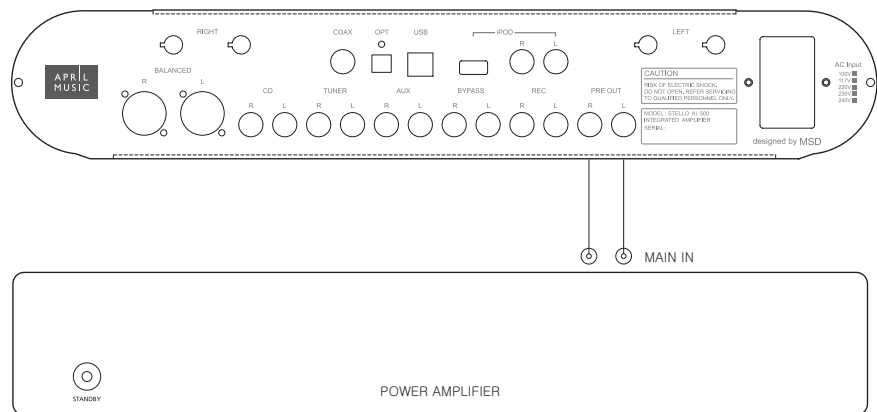
- Surround Processor must have its own Volume Control.
- When used as 5.1 Channel, volume control for entire system should be done on Surround Processor.

How to Connect

3. Preamplifier (PRE OUT)

(1) This output enables using another power amplifier, either separately from the Ai500 internal amplifier, or in parallel with it.

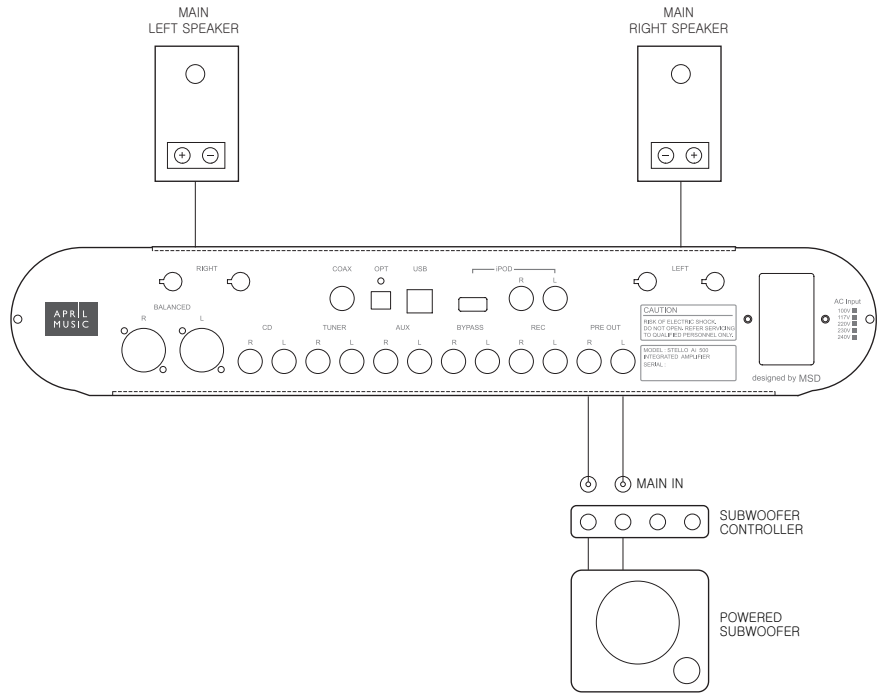
- In the drawing below, output from Ai500 preamplifier connects to external power amplifier input stage.



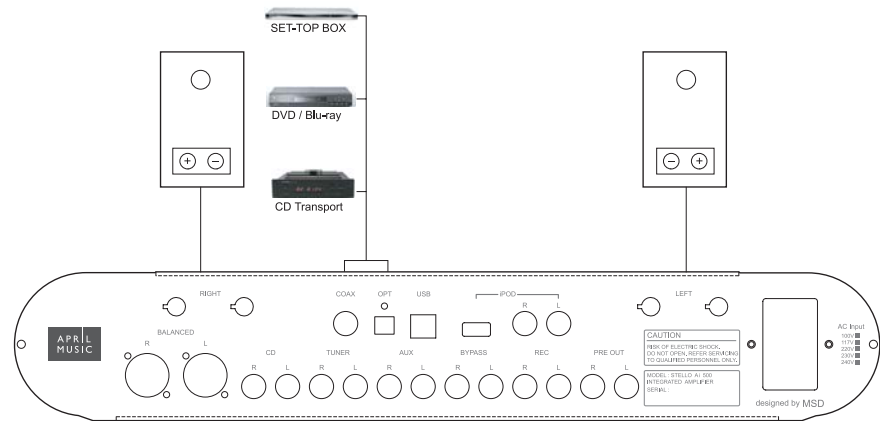
(2) Adding a Subwoofer

- With small main speakers, adding a separate subwoofer with powerful low bass will improve the musical focus.
- In this case, connect main speaker as it is, with preout stage connected to Subwoofer controller input stage.
- Refer to subwoofer owners manual for subtle adjustments like Volume, Cut-off frequency, and polarity. Note that the Ai500 preamplifier output is full-range, but that only low frequencies will appear in the subwoofer output. This is because the subwoofer has an input filter that blocks all but the lowest frequencies. Set your subwoofer level so that the bass output blends perfectly with your main speakers. If the bass is too prominent, your subwoofer level is set too high.

How to Connect

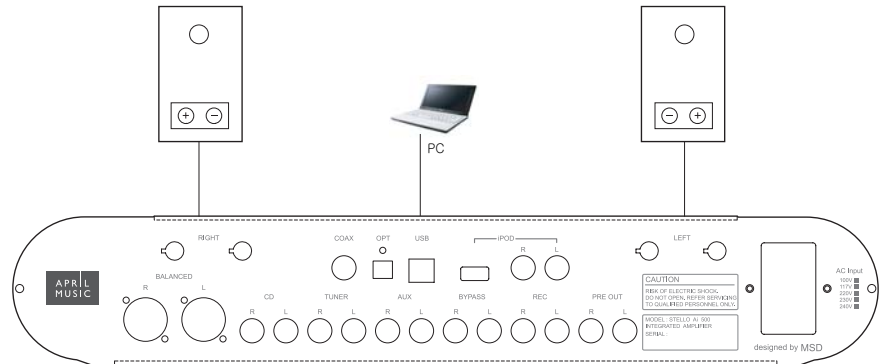


4. COAX, OPT



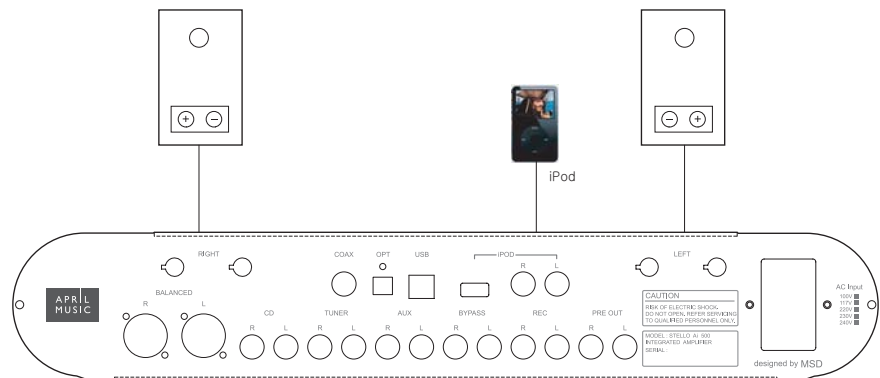
How to Connect

5. PC(USB)



- Most PCs will recognize the Ai500 automatically as an external audio device. If not, please check the USB Audio DAC from the Audio setting under Control Panel on your PC, as follows : 'Control panel' → 'Sound and Audio setting??' → 'Audio' choose Stello Ai500 (USB Audio DAC)

6. iPod



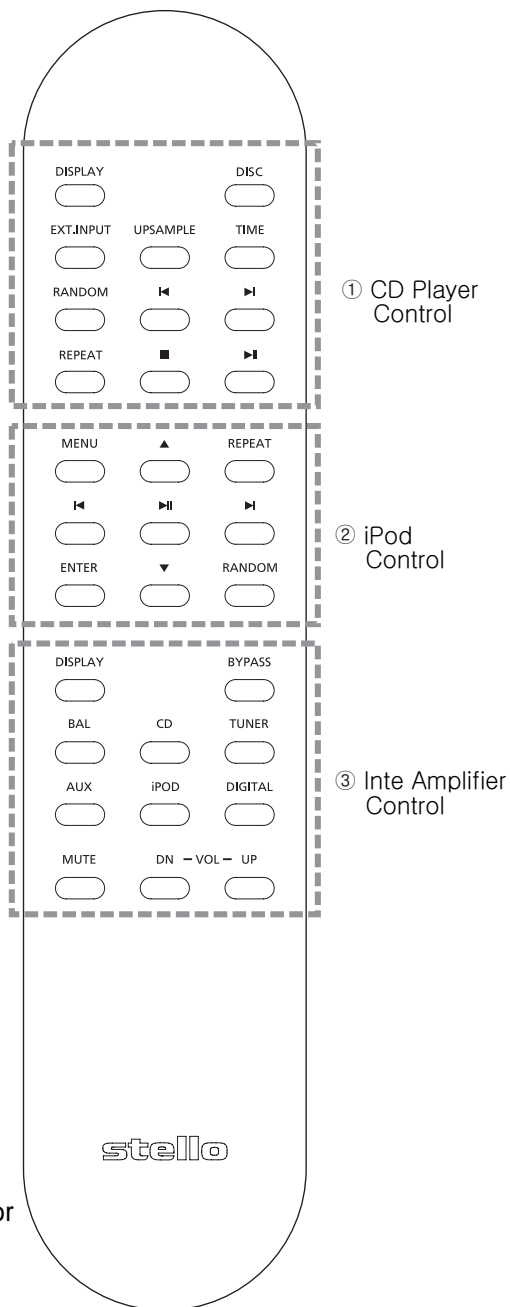
- This connection requires an iPod dock control cable and left/right RCA cables.

Remote

The remote control supplied with the Ai500 is made of high-quality Swiss duralumin. It features 31 keys and can control both the Stello Ai500 and Stello CDA500. The remote incorporates various user interfaces, and is divided into three sections as illustrated below. The remote control not only duplicates many of the front panel's functions, but also makes available function.

1. CD Player Control Section

- **DISC :**
CD loading
- **DISPLAY :**
Allows dimming the display in discrete steps
- **EXT. INPUT :**
Allows selection of mode (external input) on CDA500
- **UPSAMPLE :**
Allows selection of upsample mode
- **TIME :**
Shows elapsed time of current selection, total time of CD
- **RANDOM :**
Mixes up the play order of any disc
- **◀ :** Back one track
- **▶ :** Forward one track
- **■ :** Stops the CD turn table from spinning and the laser from reading the digital information on the disc.
- **▶|| :** Used for play or pause button.



Please refer to CDA500 users manual for specific detail.

2. iPod Control Section

When connected displays 'CONNECT' and shows playable numbers of songs. Then press '▶||' button.

9 buttons plus "TIME" button on CD player control section are used for iPod mode : MENU, REPEAT, ENTER, RANDOM, ▲, ▼, ◀, ▶||, ▶, TIME

When pressed, 'MENU' → ' ▲ ' or ' ▼ ' can navigate between Playlists, Artists, Albums, Songs, Genres, and Composers.

- **MENU** : In iPod play mode, pressing 'MENU' shows playlist.
- **▲** : Used for moving up to upper directory.
- **REPEAT** : May be used to repeat a section, a track.
- **◀** : Moving to previous track.
- **▶||** : Used for play or pause button.
- **▶** : Moving to the next track.
- **ENTER** : Used to see playlist by pressing 'MENU' and then 'ENTER'.
- **▼** : Moving down to below directory
- **RANDOM** : Pressing this button will play tracks randomly.
- **TIME** : ID3 TAG on/off

3. Integrated Amp Control Section

- **BYPASS** : Disconnects preamplifier section from power amplifier, for use with external preamplifier.
- **DISPLAY** : 5 steps of brightness (off to very bright)
- **BAL** : Selects balanced input
- **CD** : Selects CD
- **TUNER** : Selects Tuner
- **AUX** : Selects Aux
- **iPOD** : Selects iPod
- **DIGITAL** : COAX→OPT→PC USB→IPOD→COAX→....
- **MUTE** : Stops all sound
- **DN-VOL-UP** : Changes volume in 1 step from 00 to 99.

Specifications

- **Output Power** : 150 Watts/channel @ 8 Ohms,
300 Watts/channel @ 4 Ohms
- **Output Stage** : Quad Para Push-Pull Hitachi MOSFET Power Transistors, Class AB
- **Power Supply** : Custom-made 800 VA Toroidal Transformer, 90,000 μ F Capacitor Bank
- **Frequency Response** : 20~45 KHz
- **THD + N** : < 0.05 %
- **Volume Control** : Cirrus logic CS3310 digital volume control
- **Analog Inputs** : 3 unbalanced analog line inputs
1 balanced analog line input
1 BYPASS input
- **2 Analog Outputs** : Pre-out, REC
- **3 Digital Inputs** : COAX, OPTIC, PC USB Link
 - COAX : up to 192 kHz / 24 bit
 - PC USB, OPTIC : up to 96 kHz / 24 bit
- **1 iPod docking**
- **Front Panel** : POWER, BALANCED, CD, TUNER, AUX, DIGITAL, BYPASS, MUTE, Rotary Volume Encoder
- **Full Function Remote Control**
- **Dimension** : 460(W) \times 86(H) \times 400(D) mm
- **Weight** : 16 Kg (NET)

International Limited Warranty

The warranty service is valid only when purchased from an authorized dealer. A valid proof of purchase must be supplied for all warranty services. Any unauthorized work, modification or service rendered on the player will void the warranty.

Warranty Period	2 years
Date of Purchase	
Authorized Dealer	
Telephone	
Serial No.	
Authorized Service center	

Unauthorized persons should not try to modify April Music products!



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