

Black EX

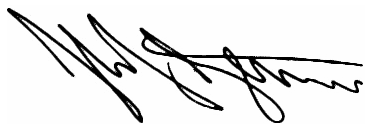


DUAL MONO AMP

User's Guide

We are proud to present to you the BLACK EX AMPLIFIER by Bel Canto. This product is the result of our passion for the ultimate realism in audio playback. It represents over 20 years of research and development. BLACK is a highly refined dual-mono amplifier containing sophisticated analog audio circuitry and power supply technology for perfect signal transfer. Bel Canto BLACK is a promise to deliver a compelling musical experience from any source. We wish you many years of musical enjoyment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Stronczer', with a stylized, cursive script.

John Stronczer
CEO and Chief of Design
Bel Canto Design, Ltd.



DUAL MONO AMPLIFIER

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Important Safety Instructions

Explanation of symbols used in this manual or on the rear/underside of the apparatus:



The Lightning Flash with arrowhead symbol within an equilateral triangle is intended to alert the user to the presence of uninsulated "dangerous voltage" within the product enclosure that may be of sufficient magnitude to constitute a risk of shock to persons.



The exclamation point within an equilateral triangle is intended to alert the user to the presence of important operating and maintenance (servicing) instructions in the literature accompanying the product.

TO COMPLETELY DISCONNECT THIS APPARATUS FROM THE AC MAINS, DISCONNECT THE POWER SUPPLY CORD PLUG FROM THE AC RECEPTACLE.

THE MAINS PLUG OF THE POWER SUPPLY CORD SHALL REMAIN READILY ACCESSIBLE.

Disconnect supply cord before changing fuse.
Refer servicing to qualified service personnel.

WARNING: TO REDUCE THE RISK OF FIRE OR ELECTRIC SHOCK, DO NOT EXPOSE THIS APPARATUS TO RAIN OR MOISTURE AND OBJECTS FILLED WITH LIQUIDS, SUCH AS VASES, SHOULD NOT BE PLACED ON THIS APPARATUS.

- Read, keep and follow these instructions.
- Heed all warnings.
- Do not use the apparatus near water, e.g. near a bathtub, kitchen sink, laundry tub, in a wet basement, near a swimming pool etc.
- Clean only with a dry cloth.
- Install in accordance with the Manufacturer's instructions.
- Do not install near any heat sources such as radiators, heat registers, stoves, or other apparatus that produce heat.
- Do not defeat the safety purpose of the polarized or grounding type plug. A polarized plug has two blades with one wider than the other. A grounding type plug has two blades and a third grounding prong. The wide blade or the third prong is provided for your safety. If the provided plug does not fit into your outlet; consult an electrician for replacement of the obsolete outlet.
- Protect the power cord from being walked on or pinched particularly at plugs, convenience receptacles, and at the point where they exit from the apparatus.
- Unplug this apparatus during lightning storms or when unused for long periods of time.
- Refer all servicing to qualified service personnel. Servicing is required when the apparatus has been damaged in any way, such as power-supply cord or plug has been damaged, liquid has been spilled or objects have fallen into the apparatus, the apparatus has been exposed to rain or moisture, does not operate normally, or has been dropped.
- Mains plug: Use the mains plug to disconnect the apparatus from the mains supply. The mains plug must be accessible at all times. Use the mains switch (if applicable) when the apparatus is not in use.
- Do not expose the apparatus to liquids or moisture, dripping or splashing. Do not place a vessel containing liquid on top of the apparatus.
- No naked flame sources, such as lighted candles, should be placed on the apparatus.
- The apparatus has been designed for use in moderate and tropical climates

In the U.K.

Fuse replacement: This appliance is fitted with a non-rewireable 10 amp mains plug. The plug contains a 10 amp fuse. If the fuse has blown it can be replaced as follows: 1) Pull out the black fuse cover/carrier. 2) Remove and dispose of the blown fuse. 3) Fit a new 10 amp BS1362 approved fuse into the carrier and push the carrier back into the plug. Always ensure the fuse cover is fitted. If the fuse cover is missing do not use the plug. Contact your Bel Canto retailer to obtain a replacement fuse cover. Fuses are for fire protection and do not protect against electric shock.



WARNING: THIS APPLIANCE MUST BE GROUNDED

FCC Notice

Note: This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class B digital device, pursuant to Part 15 of the FCC Rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference in a residential installation. This equipment generates, uses, and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with the instructions, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. However, there is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation. If this equipment does cause harmful interference to radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning the equipment off and on, the user is encouraged to try to correct the interference by one or more of the following measures:

- Reorient or relocate the receiving antenna.
- Increase the separation between the equipment and receiver.
- Connect the equipment into an outlet on a circuit different from that to which the receiver is connected.
- Consult the dealer or an experienced radio/TV technician for help.

Warranty Information

Bel Canto products are automatically covered by a 90 day factory warranty that covers all internal parts and labor. Register online (<http://www.belcantodesign.com/home/support/warranty-registration/black/>) within 30 days of purchase from an authorized dealer to automatically extend your warranty for 5 years starting from the date of purchase. If you do not have web access, please contact your dealer for assistance. Upon fully completing registration, within 5 business days you will receive an email that officially validates your warranty. Your information will be used for internal use only and will not be sold or released outside Bel Canto. Your comments and suggestions are appreciated and help us continually improve our products and services.

The warranty is only valid to the original owner and is non-transferable. Damage caused by unauthorized modification, abuse, or neglect of product will void your warranty. Any cost associated with return of product is the sole responsibility of the owner. All returns require a return authorization number issued after contacting us at info@belcantodesign.com. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us online at info@belcantodesign.com.

Unpacking the EX AMPLIFIER

Carefully inspect each item for any visual damage. If there is any damage, or anything missing from the list below, please contact your dealer or distributor.

The below items are shipped with your system:

- 1 (one) – EX Dual Mono Amplifier
- 1 (one) – BLACK User's Guide
- 1 (one) – IEC Power Cable

IMPORTANT: Save all packing materials as they are specially designed to protect the EX AMPLIFIER during transportation. If the packing materials are compromised, contact your dealer, distributor, or Bel Canto for proper packaging before attempting to ship your EX AMPLIFIER.

Power Connection

The power supply in the EX AMPLIFIER is preset for the proper power voltage. The power cable should have the correct plug for your local power system. If you believe this to not be true, please contact your dealer immediately. This product, like any electrical component, can be dangerous and cause injury unless correct handling procedures are observed and used. Before powering this product, it is necessary to read and follow proper setup and procedures.



Setup & Placement

The EX AMPLIFIER can be placed in many locations without compromise. We do not recommend placing weights or other objects directly on EX AMPLIFIER. This may scratch or mar the chassis finish. Do not use harsh chemicals or abrasives when cleaning the outside of your EX AMPLIFIER. Use a clean microfiber cloth to remove fingerprints from the chassis.

Single Ended RCA and Balanced XLR connectors are available. XLR connectors follow the standard AES pin configuration:

- Pin 1 Ground
- Pin 2 Signal +
- Pin 3 Signal -

We recommend placing the EX AMPLIFIER in an easily accessible location near your source components.

System Connections



- 1 **RIGHT Loudspeaker NextGen Connectors** are optimized for sound quality with any good spade or NextGen banana connector. Note that the NextGen connector is clutched to ensure optimum pressure on the contact. - **Do not over tighten-** The NextGen connector creates a tight and damped contact preventing chatter and contact noise at the connection to the loudspeaker. Outputs are compatible with any loudspeaker down to 2 ohms.
- 2 **RIGHT Input Switch** selects either XLR or RCA input. When set to RCA mode it will short the -XLR input to ground. **Do not connect both XLR and RCA cables to the inputs at the same time.**
- 3 **RIGHT XLR Input** for a balanced connection from the DAC or Preamp.
- 4 **RIGHT RCA Input** for an unbalanced connection from the DAC or Preamp.
- 5 **IEC Inlet.** Region specific voltage is internally set.
- 6 **5/12V Trigger** Requires a 3.5mm plug connector with tip at 5 to 12VDC. The Mains Power Switch must be in the ON position for the Trigger to work. When the trigger voltage is set between 5 and 12V the amplifier will go into standby mode, turning the front switch LED yellow.
- 7 **Mains Power Switch** connects AC input to the power board when set to the I position. The amplifier will start in standby with the switch LED yellow. A press on the front panel switch puts the amp into operating mode, the switch LED turns red.
- 8 **LEFT Loudspeaker NextGen Connectors** are optimized for sound quality with any good spade or NextGen banana connector. Note that the NextGen connector is clutched to ensure optimum pressure on the contact. - **Do not over tighten-** The NextGen connector creates a tight and damped contact preventing chatter and contact noise at the connection to the loudspeaker. Outputs are compatible with any loudspeaker down to 2 ohms.
- 9 **LEFT Input Switch** selects either XLR or RCA input. When set to RCA mode it will short the -XLR input to ground. **Do not connect both XLR and RCA cables to the inputs at the same time.**
- 10 **LEFT XLR Input** for a balanced connection from the DAC or Preamp.
- 11 **LEFT RCA Input** for an unbalanced connection from the DAC or Preamp.

Standby Mode



The EX AMP will power up in standby mode. This is indicated by the LED front switch being yellow. Pressing the front switch will put the EX AMP into operational mode, indicated by the LED being red. Press the front switch again to return to standby mode.

Tips for Operation

The EX AMPLIFIER and DC Coupling

The EX AMPLIFIER is DC coupled with no coupling capacitors in the signal path. This optimizes audio signal quality, maximizing micro and macro-dynamic performance. While the amplifier will protect itself and your loudspeakers from excessive DC offset, it is critical to ensure that any Preamplifier or DAC has low DC offset at its output as this will be amplified by the EX AMPLIFIER. If there is excessive DC into the EX AMPLIFIER the amplifier will shut itself and the main power supply off, protecting both the amp and loudspeaker from damage. If this occurs, then have the DC offset of the signal source checked by a qualified technician.

What to do if there is hum or ground noise

In case there is hum or ground noise, check that the RCA/XLR switch is in the correct position for the type of connection being used.

Ensure that the preamplifier or any source components are not producing hum by setting the preamplifier to a MUTE or Standby setting.

The design of the EX AMPLIFIER reduces the chance for ground loop induced hum, but we still recommend using shorter interconnect cables to the preamplifier or DAC. Connect all power cables to a common outlet box or power conditioner unit to reduce the possibility for ground current noise being induced into the audio signal path.

If you choose to power your source and preamplifier components from a different AC supply than used for the REF600M amplifiers, we recommend that you use a high quality balanced XLR cable driven from a true balanced XLR preamplifier output.

We do not recommend that you resort to 'cheater plugs' or some other means to disconnect the power ground from the EX AMPLIFIER as this may lead to dangerous operation and void the warranty.

The LED Switch at the front of the unit indicates that power is connected to the EX AMPLIFIER and that the power switch is in the ON position. If the amplifier detects a fault or short circuit in the output connections, it will go into a protection mode and stop playing. If this occurs toggle the power switch to the OFF position and check the speaker cabling to ensure that no speaker output is either shorted together or connected to a ground. When you are certain that the loudspeaker cabling is correct, power the unit ON again, check that the green LED is lit and that music will play.

There is an internal fuse protection on the EX AMPLIFIER. If the power switch is in the ON position, the power cable is connected to a functioning power outlet at the correct voltage and the green LED is not lit, this indicates that the internal fuse may have blown. If this occurs contact your dealer, distributor or Bel Canto for service. There are no user replaceable fuses or other parts. Opening the chassis will void your warranty.

Power Up

We recommend leaving the EX AMPLIFIER powered on all times as it benefits the overall sound quality and draws little power. If your system will not be used for an extended period of time, such as two weeks, or if there is an imminent electrical storm, we recommend shutting off your system.

Output Connectors

Bel Canto amplifiers are all equipped with WBT Nextgen binding posts that accept spade lugs measuring 6mm², standard 4 mm² banana plugs, and wire with a diameter of 6mm² (10AWG). **DO NOT USE TOOLS** when tightening binding posts as it can damage the connector.

Specifications

Performance:

Power Output 1% THD:	700W 4 ohms, 350W 8 ohms
Minimum Load:	2 ohms
Peak Output Current:	27 amperes
Frequency Response:	+/-3 dB 0Hz-50KHz, all loads
THD+N:	0.002% 1W, 1KHz, 4 ohms
IMD (CCIF):	0.0003%, 1W, 14:15KHz, 4 ohms
Output noise:	35uVRMS A-weighted 10Hz-20KHz
Voltage gain:	27dB (internal switches select for 33dB)
Damping factor:	>500
Output Impedance at 100Hz:	<16 milliohms
Dynamic Range:	126dB
Input Voltage for Max Output:	2.3Vrms at 27dB gain
Input connections:	Single-ended RCA or balanced XLR
RCA input impedance:	100Kohms
Balanced input impedance:	20Kohms
Output connections:	2-sets WBT NextGen 5-way binding posts

General:

Power On usage:	44W
Standby usage:	0.5W
Internally Set Operating Voltages:	100-120VAC or 230-240VAC 50/60 Hz
Size:	17.75 W x 15.5 D x 3.5 H inches – 451 x 394 x 89mm
Weight:	25lbs (12 kg)

Features and specifications are subject to improvements and changes without prior notice.



Declaration of Conformity

We, the offerer,
Bel Canto Design, Ltd., Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401 USA
acknowledge our sole responsibility, that the product:

Kind of equipment: Black Series
Type designation: EX DUAL MONO AMPLIFIER

Technical regulations: EN 55013:2001 + A1:2003 + A2:2006
EN 55020:2007 + A11:2011
EN 61000-3-2:2006 + A2:2009
EN 61000-3-3:2008

Technical regulations: EN 62368-1:2014+A11:2017
IEC 62368-1:2014+A11:2017

in accordance with Ecodesign Requirements for Energy Related Products Directive 2009/125/EC,
is in compliance with the following norm(s) or documents(s):

Technical regulations: EC No. 1275/2008, EN 62301

is in conformity with Directive 2011/65/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 8 June 2011 on the restriction of the use of certain hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment, and it has been demonstrated that the requirements specified in Article 4 of such Directive have been met.

June, 2020

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