

# MOMENTUM STEREO AMPLIFIER

OWNER'S MANUAL



## *A note from Dan D'Agostino*

FOUNDER, CEO, AND CHIEF DESIGNER OF DAN D'AGOSTINO MASTER AUDIO SYSTEMS

I would like to thank you for purchasing the Momentum Stereo amplifier.

This is a very special product—the second I have produced under my own name—and the faith that you have shown in my efforts means a lot to me. I'm proud to say your amplifier was built by hand at our Connecticut factory, using the best manufacturing techniques I know of (and I've tried them all) and the best parts I can find (and I've tried most of those, too).

This amplifier reflects two profound beliefs I've come to in my decades of designing audio electronics.

First, I believe that audio electronics should be able to deliver true state-of-the-art performance without using bulky components and unwieldy designs. When I started Dan D'Agostino Master Audio Systems, one of my main goals was to make my components like Ferraris: products that perform at the top of their field yet are also the most beautiful produced in their industry. I hope you agree that we've achieved this with the Momentum Stereo amplifier.

Second, I believe that the audio industry should do its part to conserve energy and help preserve our environment. This is why the Momentum Stereo amplifier consumes less than 1 watt of power at idle. Your cell phone charger probably uses more energy. It took a lot of work to achieve this spec without affecting the sound quality of the Momentum Stereo amplifier in any way, but I think the result was well worth the effort.

I believe so much in this amplifier that I put my signature on the front of it—the first time in my long career that I've done this. I hope you enjoy the Momentum Stereo amplifier as much as I enjoyed designing and building it, and I hope you'll keep an eye out for our future designs, too.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel D'Agostino". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, prominent "D" at the beginning.

# LEGAL NOTIFICATIONS

Dan D'Agostino Master Audio Systems is a registered trademark of D'Agostino LLC. The information in this owner's manual is subject to change without notice. Current Version 1.1 of this manual was produced by the Dan D'Agostino LLC engineering, sales and marketing departments.

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**CAUTION:** NO USER SERVICEABLE PARTS INSIDE. Do not open the amplifier's chassis or remove any of its screws. Contact D'Agostino LLC or your dealer if you have service needs.

**WARNING:** Do not expose this amplifier to moisture or excessive humidity, and do not use it outdoors. Fire hazard may result.



The lightning flash with arrowhead, within an equilateral triangle, is intended to alert the user to the presence of uninsulated "dangerous voltage" within the product's enclosure that may be of sufficient magnitude to constitute a risk of electrical shock to persons.



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

# UNPACKING AND INSTALLATION

## *Package contents*

If any of the following items are missing, please contact your dealer:

- ✓ 1 Momentum Stereo amplifier encased in protective static cling vinyl
- ✓ 1 Transparent Audio AC power cord (some markets)
- ✓ 2 single-ended (RCA) to balanced (XLR) adapter connections
- ✓ 1 owner's manual
- ✓ 1 warranty card
- ✓ 1 pair of white lifting gloves
- ✓ 1 microfiber cleaning cloth

## *Unpacking the Momentum Stereo amplifier from the Pelican case*

Two adults are recommended for lifting the nearly 100-pound amplifier from the Pelican case. When the amplifier is still in its case, please move it to a location near the place where it will be installed. Remove all jewelry including watches, rings and belts from your person to avoid damage to the exterior of the amplifier during the removal and installation. Put on the included white lifting gloves to avoid leaving fingerprints on the amplifier's chassis.

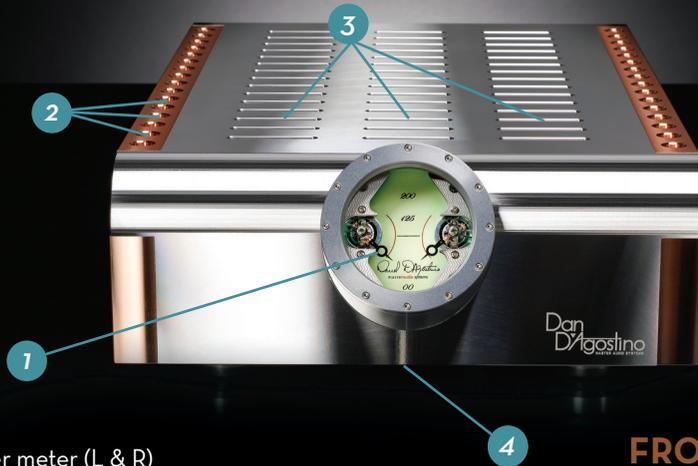
NOTE: You may see slight blemishes in the machined metal parts of the Momentum Stereo amplifier's chassis. This is a normal and unavoidable artifact of the machining process.

## *Installation requirements*

The surface that will support the Momentum Stereo amplifier must be capable of safely supporting the nearly 100-pound weight of the amplifier.

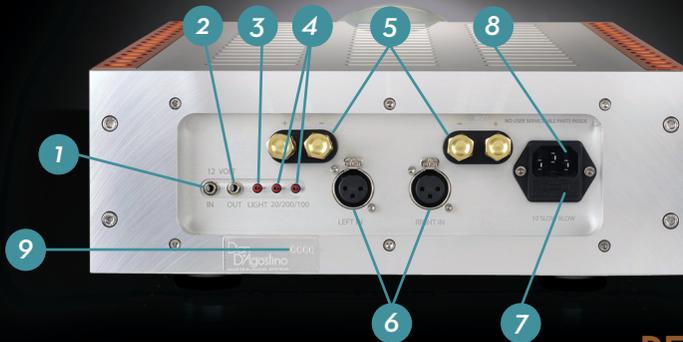
Adequate ventilation must be provided for the amplifier. There should be at least 3 inches of clearance on each side of the amplifier and 3 inches of clearance at the top, and the bottom vents of the amplifier must not be obstructed by thick carpet, dust, etc. We recommend that the amplifier be installed in an open equipment rack or on an amplifier stand to assure proper ventilation. The amplifier may be installed in a closed cabinet in an equipment closet, but the cabinet or closet must be designed with substantial ventilation at top and bottom; active ventilation (i.e., powered fans) is preferred. Do not place the amplifier directly on a carpeted floor.

For best possible sound quality and maximum output, we recommend you connect the Momentum Stereo amplifier to a dedicated 15-amp outlet. ■



## FRONT PANEL

1. Power meter (L & R)
2. Heat sink venturis
3. Top panel vents
4. Power button



## REAR PANEL

1. 12-volt on/off trigger input
2. 12-volt trigger output
3. Three-position toggle switch for power meter brightness
4. Three-position toggle switch for power meter sensitivity and on/off
5. Speaker cable binding posts (L & R)
6. XLR audio inputs (L & R)
7. Fuse holder
8. IEC AC power connector
9. Serial number

# MAKING CONNECTIONS TO THE MOMENTUM STEREO AMPLIFIER

## *Speaker cables*

Install the speaker cables first. We recommend the use of high-quality cables terminated with spade or ring lugs that will fit the Momentum Stereo's binding posts. We advise against the use of pin connectors, banana plugs, or bare-wire connections.

Note that the positive (+) binding post has a red ring and the negative (-) binding post has a black ring. Double check to confirm that you are connecting your speaker cable's conductors to the appropriate binding posts—red to positive, black to negative. If your cables are marked to show desired signal flow, orient the cable so that the installation conforms to the cable manufacturer's instructions.

To install speaker cables tipped with spade lugs or rings, use the supplied binding post wrench to carefully loosen each speaker binding post. Turn counter-clockwise to loosen. If using spade lugs, insert each spade lug so that its two tines straddle the binding post, then tighten the binding post nut with the binding post wrench. If using rings, remove the binding post nut, place the ring on the binding post, then replace the nut and tighten it securely.

A firm connection, tight enough that the spade lug or ring cannot move, is all that's needed. Overtightening could damage the binding posts. Do not use a conventional wrench to tighten the binding posts. **Be sure the wires are not in contact with one another.**

## *Interconnect cables*

We recommend the use of high-quality balanced XLR audio interconnect cables with the Momentum Stereo amplifier. If your preamp does not offer XLR output, use the high-quality RCA-to-XLR adapters provided with the Momentum Stereo amplifier.

Connect the XLR cables to the inputs by pushing the cables onto the jacks. To release the XLR cable, push on the small tab on the end of the jack then grasp the cable by the plug and gently pull it out. Never grasp interconnect cables by the cable itself—you could damage the cable.

## *AC cord*

The Momentum Stereo amplifier is supplied with a high-quality Transparent Audio AC cord tipped with a 15-amp IEC connector at the amplifier end and a three-conductor AC plug at the other end. You may use a different power cord with the Momentum Stereo amplifier if you wish, as long as it is tipped with a 15-amp IEC connector and a three-conductor AC plug.

After the speaker and interconnect cables are connected, push the IEC connector on the power cord into the IEC jack on the Momentum Stereo amplifier. ■

# OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

## *Initial power-up of the amplifier*

The power button is located on the front underside edge of the amplifier. Pressing the button will power up the amplifier and illuminate the power meter.

After power is switched on, the Momentum Stereo amplifier requires approximately 30 minutes to reach optimal operating temperature. Although the amplifier will sound excellent upon initial listening, the sound quality will improve as it warms up, much as the flavor of a fine red wine improves if it is allowed to breathe for a few minutes.

## *During operation*

The Momentum Stereo amplifier requires no adjustments during normal operation. If there is no sound or the sound quality is in some way impaired, consult the “Troubleshooting” section.

## *Power meter settings*

Two toggle switches on the back panel control the brightness and sensitivity of the power meter. In order to prevent accidental operation, these switches are partially recessed.

Use your finger to gently move the switches.

**Brightness switch:** This switch has three positions. Move it to the left (when looking at the amp from the rear) for high brightness and to the right for low brightness. Center the light is off.

**Sensitivity switch:** If you listen at low levels, the needles on the meter will not move dramatically; this switch allows you to get more action out of the meter. Move the switch to the left (when looking at the amp from the rear) for 100-watt sensitivity and to the right for 50-watt sensitivity. In the center position, the meter will read 200-watt sensitivity.

## *Maintenance*

The Momentum Stereo amplifier requires no user maintenance other than to keep it clean and ensure that the vents remain unobstructed.

To clean the amplifier, first disconnect the AC plug. Do not use polish or cleaners on the Momentum Stereo’s chassis. Use the supplied high-performance 3M microfiber cloth and gently wipe the amplifier’s surface to remove dust. Do not use a circular motion. You can lightly moisten the cloth with distilled water if necessary to remove fingerprints. A normal dusting cloth will not scratch the surface, but any stitching on the edges of the cloth could scratch the surface if you apply strong pressure.

If dust or other contaminants or objects collect around the heat sink venturis or the vents at the top and bottom of the amplifier, remove small objects by hand and use a shop vacuum or hand vacuum to remove the dust. Use a brush attachment on the vacuum to avoid scratching the amplifier’s surface. ■

# TROUBLESHOOTING

## *Amplifier will not power up*

If the front meter is not illuminated, follow the procedure outlined below. If one step succeeds in activating the power, stop there and ignore the other steps.

1. Push the power switch on the front underside edge of the amplifier.
2. Check to make sure the AC cord is plugged into the wall outlet.
3. Check at the back of the amplifier to make sure the 15-amp IEC connector is pushed all the way into the jack on the back of the amplifier.
4. Open fuse drawer and slide extra fuse inside drawer. Be sure to replace the fuse with one of proper value. (Extra fuse is inside the small drawer). Consult your dealer or D'Agostino LLC.
5. Check your household electrical box to make sure the circuit breaker has not been tripped. If it has, flip the breaker back on.
6. If the breaker trips again, check the speaker cable connections on the amplifier and the speakers to make sure that the terminals are not shorted, and check the entire length of the cable to ensure there has been no damage to it.
7. If all of these steps fail to return power to the amplifier, consult your dealer for service.

## *Front meter is illuminated but you hear no sound*

Follow these steps in order. If one step succeeds in restoring the sound, stop there and ignore the other steps.

1. Check your preamp and source device to make sure they are both turned on.
2. Check the source device to make sure it is playing, i.e., if it's a record player, make sure it's spinning and the tonearm is lowered, or if it's a CD player, make sure it's in play mode and not in pause.
3. Make sure your preamp is not muted and that the desired source is selected.
4. Check the line-level connections between the source device and the preamp, and between the preamp and the amplifier. Reconnect any cables that may have become disconnected.
5. Check the cables between the amplifier and the speakers to make sure they are properly connected and that the cables have not become damaged.

### *Front meter is illuminated but you hear no sound (cont.)*

6. If you have a spare pair of interconnect cables (even cheap ones will work temporarily), try using them instead of the interconnect cables between the source device and the preamp and between the preamp and the amplifier. If this restores sound, replace the defective cables.
7. If all of these steps fail to restore sound, consult your dealer for service.

### *Sound comes from only one channel*

Follow the below steps in order. If one of these steps succeeds in restoring the sound, stop there and ignore the other steps.

1. Check speaker cable connections for the malfunctioning channel. Reconnect any cables that may have become disconnected. Inspect the cable to make sure it has not been damaged. If it has been damaged, replace it.
2. Swap the left-channel interconnect cable from the preamp to the amplifier with the right-channel interconnect cable. If the malfunctioning channel now works but the other channel does not, replace the defective interconnect cable with one of the exact same type. You may have to replace both right and left cables to make sure they match.
3. Swap the left-channel interconnect cable from the source device to the preamp with the right-channel interconnect cable. If the malfunctioning channel now works but the other channel does not, replace the defective interconnect cable with one of the exact same type. You may have to replace both right and left cables to make sure they match.
4. Try using a different source device. If the alternate source device delivers sound in both channels, it is likely the original source device is defective. Consult the manufacturer of that source device or your dealer for further information.
5. If possible, try using a different preamp. If the alternate preamp delivers sound in both channels, it is likely the original preamp is defective. Consult the manufacturer of the preamp or your dealer for further information.
6. If all of these steps fail to restore sound, consult your dealer for service.

## *Sound seems unclear or unfocused*

Follow the below steps in order. If one of these steps fixes the problem, stop there and ignore the other steps.

- 1.** Play a CD (not a record) of a vocalist and sit in your usual listening position, which should be equidistant from each speaker and typically 8 to 15 feet away from them. If the vocal image appears centered between the speakers, they are connected correctly and your system is probably operating properly.
- 2.** If the vocal image is unfocused and the vocal seems to come from all the room, your speakers are probably wired out of phase. Make sure that the speaker cables on your amplifier are connected correctly. The cable connector marked + or colored red should be connected to the speaker binding post with the red ring. The cable connector marked - or colored black should be connected to the speaker binding post with the black ring.
- 3.** If the sound is still unclear or unfocused, consult your dealer. Your system may have a setup problem outside the scope of this manual. ■

# MOMENTUM STEREO AMPLIFIER LIMITED WARRANTY

D'Agostino LLC warrants the Momentum Stereo amplifier against manufacturing defects and defects in materials for five years from the date of purchase from an authorized Dan D'Agostino Master Audio Systems dealer, subject to the conditions listed below:

1. The warranty covers only new products purchased from an authorized D'Agostino LLC dealer.
2. The warranty is non-transferable and is valid only for the original purchaser.
3. The warranty is valid only if the product has been used according to the instructions in the owner's manual. Damage due to accidents or owner abuse or neglect is not covered under this warranty.
4. All service must be performed by an authorized Dan D'Agostino Master Audio Systems dealer. Damage resulting from service by other parties is not covered under this warranty.
5. All products returned for service must be packaged in the original container and must include a photocopy of the original purchase receipt. If the original container has been lost or discarded, contact D'Agostino LLC for a replacement.
6. If the product must be shipped back to D'Agostino LLC for warranty service, the customer shall pay shipping costs. D'Agostino LLC will pay for return shipping.
7. Before shipping the product to D'Agostino LLC for service, the customer must first obtain a Return Authorization (RA) number by calling D'Agostino LLC. The RA number must be marked clearly on the side of the package.
8. This warranty covers only defects in products made by D'Agostino LLC. It does not cover incidental or consequential damages, or damages to other products resulting from defects in D'Agostino LLC products.
9. U.S. residents: Depending on which state you live in, you may have other rights not elaborated in this document. For further information, contact D'Agostino LLC.
10. Residents of other countries: Your authorized importer or dealer bears the direct responsibility for warranty coverage of your amplifier. Please contact your importer or dealer with requests for service under warranty. D'Agostino LLC will work with your importer or dealer to assure that the terms of the warranty are fulfilled. ■

## SPECIFICATIONS

<i>Power</i>	200 watts x 2 @ 8 $\Omega$ / 400 watts @ 4 $\Omega$ / 800 watts @ 2 $\Omega$
<i>Frequency Response</i>	1Hz to 200 kHz, -1 dB/20Hz to 20 kHz, $\pm$ .1 dB
<i>Distortion (Full output @ 8<math>\Omega</math>)</i>	.15% @ 1 kHz
<i>Signal-to-Noise Ratio</i>	105 dB, unweighted
<i>Gain</i>	24.5 dB
<i>Power Consumption at Standby</i>	<1 watt
<i>Inputs</i>	2 balanced XLR / 2 unbalanced RCA (adapter supplied)
<i>Outputs</i>	High-quality binding posts
<i>Weight</i>	95 lbs / 43.2 kg
<i>Chassis Dimensions</i>	4.3 x 12.5 x 18.5 inches (hwd) / 10.9 x 31.8 x 47 cm (hwd)
<i>Overall Dimensions</i>	5 x 12.5 x 21 inches (hwd) / 12.7 x 31.8 x 53.3 cm (hwd) (Including meter, feet and binding posts)

*UPGRADE PROGRAM: Your Momentum Stereo amplifier can be upgraded at modest cost to a Momentum 300-watt monoblock amplifier at the factory. You can then purchase a second Momentum monoblock to create a high-powered, dual-monoblock stereo system.*

