

MC501
Monoblock
Power Amplifier



**“flawless audiophile
performance and a design
with the future in mind”**

The MC501 Monoblock Power Amplifier has been designed to meet the expectations of the most demanding audiophile. Delegating an individual amplifier to each speaker eliminates any chance of interaction between channels and expanding into multi-channel formats is as easy as adding additional amplifiers.

Quad-Differential Circuitry, exclusive to McIntosh, reduces noise and distortion to their lowest possible level. While the MC501 delivers a massive 500 watts continuous power into 2, 4 or 8 ohms and over 1200 watts of peak power into low impedances, its noise levels are 124dB below rated output. This means that the MC501 combines super-high power with record-low levels of noise...*nearly an impossible combination!*

The MC501 has a bold look yet is unmistakably a McIntosh. It features a 2-dimensional glass front panel containing a large peak-responding true-wattmeter, all illuminated with cool running, ultra long-life LED fiber-optic lighting. The chassis gleams in polished stainless steel and vertically mounted connectors at the back make attaching cables easier and takes up less shelf space. Both unbalanced and balanced inputs are provided along with three sets of huge, gold-plated speaker binding posts for high-performance speaker cables.

Fully Balanced Quad-Differential Design
New 3D Glass Panel Design
Exclusive McIntosh Output Autoformer®
Exclusive McIntosh Power Assurance System
Power Guard® Clipping Protection
Sentry Monitor® Current Protection
Thermal Protection
DC Failure Protection
Turn-On Delay
Soft Start Inrush Protection
Fiber-Optic Light Diffuser Illumination
Illuminated Peak-Responding Wattmeter
Balanced Connections
Remote Power Control

A Tradition of Excellence



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MC501 Power Amplifier

OUTPUT TRANSFORMERS

Ensure that you get all the power you paid for, whether your speakers are 2, 4, or 8 ohms. Each speaker impedance has a separate set of connectors, and the high power and low distortion levels remain constant with any loudspeaker. Only McIntosh gives you this feature.

WATTMETER

Voltage and current readings are swift and accurate, so staying within the power limits of your speakers is easy.

POWER GUARD®

Other amplifiers have "clipping lights" that inform you, after it's too late to do anything, that your amplifier has exceeded its full power and has sent a burst of distortion to your speakers. In contrast, Power Guard® will turn the volume down, and back up, using ultra-fast photo optics, in as little as 1/1000 of a second when amplifier power limits are exceeded. Your speakers are protected before you knew anything needed your attention.

INVERTED CHASSIS

This design, plus higher efficiency heat sinks, has allowed the chassis depth to be reduced to only 14-13/16 inches, making installation easier.

FREQUENCY RESPONSE

+0, -0.25dB from 20Hz to 20kHz
+0, -3dB from 10Hz to 100kHz

TOTAL HARMONIC DISTORTION

0.005% maximum at any level from 250mW to rated power output.

INTERMODULATION DISTORTION

SMPTE 0.005% maximum if instantaneous peak output does not exceed twice the output rating.

A-WEIGHTED SIGNAL-TO-NOISE RATIO

Unbalanced and Balanced: 97dB
(124dB below rated output)

RMS POWER OUTPUT

500W minimum sine wave continuous average power output from 20Hz to 20kHz.

INPUT IMPEDANCE

10,000 ohms (unbalanced)
20,000 ohms (balanced)

INPUT SENSITIVITY

2.1 Volts unbalanced
4.2 Volts balanced

WIDE BAND DAMPING FACTOR

100 @ 8 ohms

DYNAMIC HEADROOM

1.8dB

RATED POWER BAND

20Hz to 20kHz

POWER GUARD®

Clipping is prevented and THD does not exceed 2% with up to 14dB overdrive at 1kHz.

POWER REQUIREMENTS

120V 50/60Hz, 6.6A

OVERALL DIMENSIONS (H x W x D)

9-7/16" (22.86cm) x
17-1/2" (44.45cm) x
14-13/16" (37.62cm)
including front panel
and knobs.

WEIGHT

91.5 lbs. (41.6 kg) net
105.5 lbs. (48 kg) boxed

Fully balanced quad-differential design

500 watts

High output current capability

Balanced and unbalanced inputs

Exclusive McIntosh Output Autoformer®

Wide power bandwidth, low distortion

Exclusive McIntosh Power Assurance System

Illuminated peak-responding, true-reading wattmeter with hold mode

Fiber optic light diffuser illumination for front panel nomenclature and wattmeter

Remote power control

Massive gold plated output binding posts

Silent convection cooling

Modular construction with stainless steel chassis with super mirror finish

