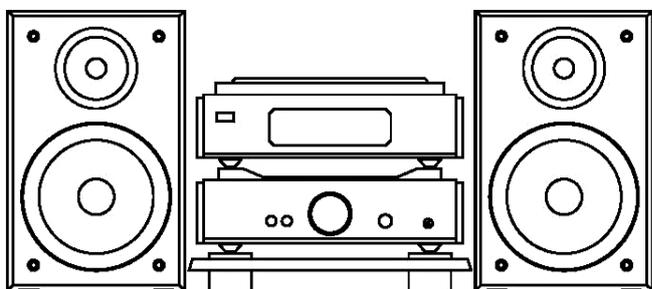


# HITACHI

## AX-M81

### Instruction Manual



**CASUAL HI-FI COMPONENT SYSTEM**

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## Important Cautions

Thank you for purchasing this system. Please read these operating instructions before operating the unit. The operating instructions should be retained for future reference.

### For your safety

 <b>CAUTION</b> <b>RISK OF ELECTRIC SHOCK</b> <b>DO NOT OPEN</b>  <b>CAUTION: TO REDUCE THE RISK OF ELECTRIC SHOCK, DO NOT REMOVE COVER. NO USER SERVICEABLE PARTS INSIDE REFER SERVICING TO QUALIFIED SERVICE PERSONNEL.</b>	 This symbol indicates that dangerous voltage constituting a risk of electric shock is present within this unit.  This symbol indicates that there are important operating and maintenance instructions in the literature accompanying this unit.
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<b>Laser Product</b> This product is equipped with low power laser equipment. For your own safety do not remove any covers or take the product apart. Repair work must be carried out by qualified personnel.	 <b>CLASS 1 LASER PRODUCT</b>	<b>Caution:</b> This product is equipped with low power laser equipment inside, for your safety, don't open the laser radiation protective equipment. Don't look at the laser radiation district when the equipment is operating.
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## Precautions

This equipment has been designed and manufactured to meet international safety standards but, like any electrical equipment, care must be taken if you are to obtain the best results and safety is to be assured.

- .....
- DO** read the operating instructions before you attempt to use the equipment.
  - DO** ensure that all electrical connections (including the mains plug, extension leads and inter-connections between the pieces of equipment) are properly made and in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Switch off and withdraw the mains plug before making or changing connections.
  - DO** consult your dealer if you are ever in doubt about the installation, operation or safety of your equipment.
  - DO** be careful with glass panels or doors on equipment
- .....
- DON'T** remove any fixed cover as this may expose dangerous voltages.
  - DON'T** obstruct the ventilation openings of the equipment with items such as newspapers, tablecloths, curtains, etc. Overheating will cause damage and shorten the life of the equipment.

- DON'T** allow electrical equipment to be exposed to dripping or splashing, or objects filled with liquids, such as vases, to be placed on the equipment and don't handle the power cord with wet hands.
- DON'T** place hot objects or naked flame sources such as lighted candles or nightlights on, or close to equipment. High temperatures can melt plastic and lead to fires.
- DON'T** use makeshift stands and **NEVER** fix legs with wood screws - to ensure complete safety always fit the manufacturer's approved stand or legs with the fixings provided according to the instructions.
- DON'T** listen to headphones at high volume, as such use can permanently damage your hearing.
- DON'T** leave equipment switched on when it is unattended unless it is specifically stated that it is designed for unattended operation or has a stand-by mode. Switch off using the switch on the equipment and make sure that your family knows how to do this. Special arrangements may need to be made for infirm or handicapped people.
- DON'T** continue to operate the equipment if you are in any doubt about it working normally, or if it is damaged in any way - switch off, withdraw the mains plug and consult your dealer.

.....

**ABOVE ALL,**  
**NEVER** let anyone especially children push anything into holes, slots or any other opening in the case - this could result in a fatal electrical shock.  
**NEVER** guess or take chances with electrical equipment of any kind...it is better to be safe than sorry!

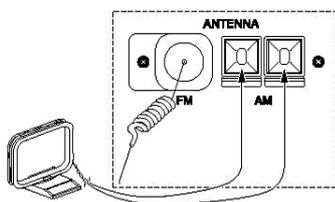
## Connections

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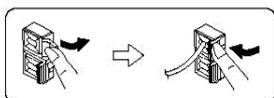
**Caution:** Make all connections before plugging the system into an AC power outlet.

### Connecting the AM Antenna

AM loop antenna



1. Open the AM antenna terminals on the rear of the unit.
2. Attach the AM loop to its base by snapping the tabs on the loop into the slot in the base.
3. Close each of the terminals to securely connect the antenna.

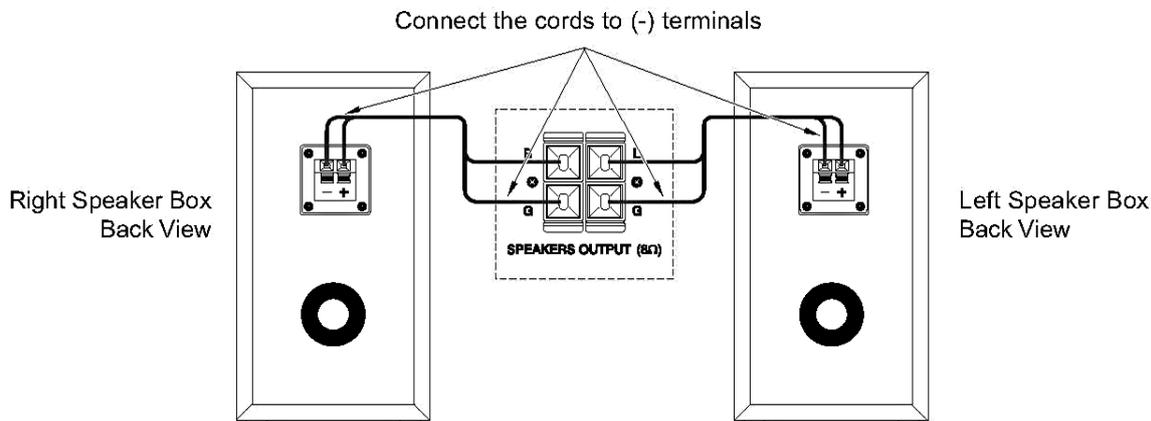


Turn the AM loop until you have the best reception.

## Connecting the Speakers

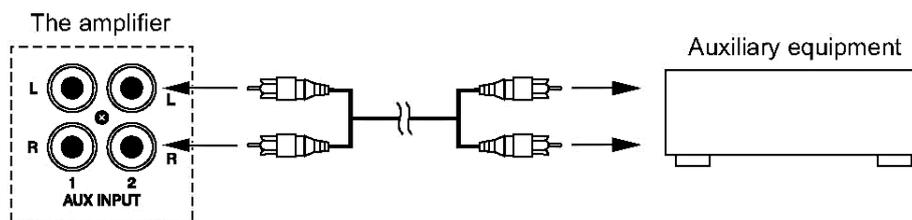
Connect the speaker cords between the terminals as shown below.

Connect the cords with a silver line to the (-) (G) terminals and cords with a gold line to the (+) (L) (R) terminals.



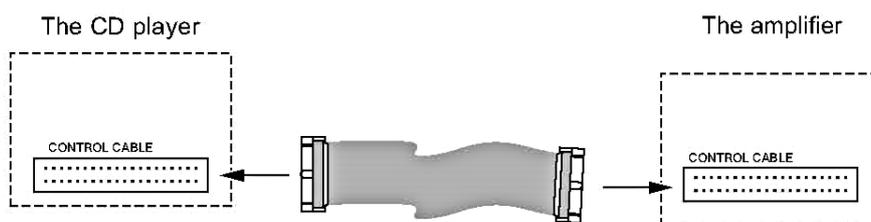
## Connecting Auxiliary Equipment

Connect signal cords between the AUX input terminals on the amplifier and the output terminals of your auxiliary equipment.



## Connecting Control Cable

Connect the control cable between the CD player and the amplifier.



## Connecting the AC Power Cord

Insert the AC power cord into a wall outlet, and your system is at your command!

**Caution:** Be sure to unplug the power cord from the outlet when going out or when the system is not in use for an extended period of time.

## Connecting the Headphones

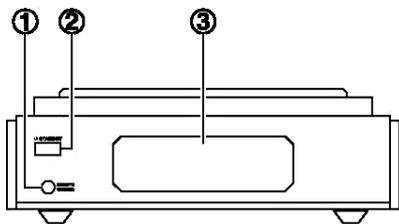
Connect a pair of headphones to the phones jack. No sound comes out of the speakers.

**Note:** Be sure to turn down the volume before connecting or putting on headphones.

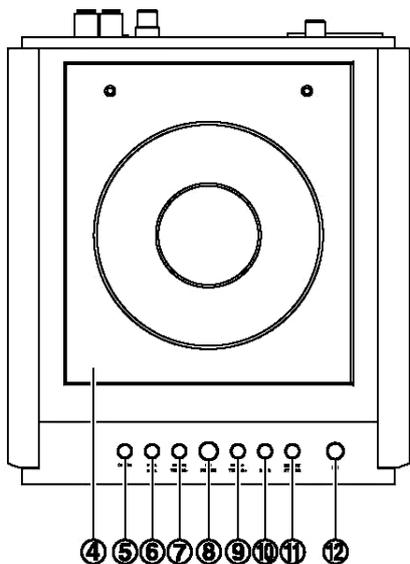
## Control Locations

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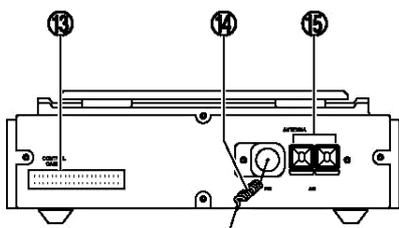
### The CD/Tuner



1. Remote Sensor
2. Standby Button
3. VFD Display Lens

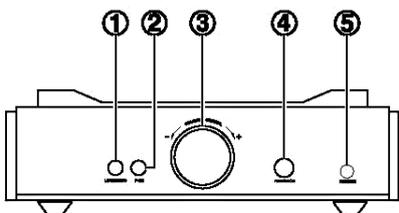


4. Disc Door
5. Clock Button
6. Program Button
- Memory Button
7. Previous/Search Backward Button
- Tuning Backward Button
8. Play/Pause Button
9. Presetting Stations Button
10. Next/Search Forward Button
- Tuning Forward Button
11. Stop Button
- Band Switch Button
12. Repeat Button
- Stereo/MONO Select Button
13. Open/Close Button

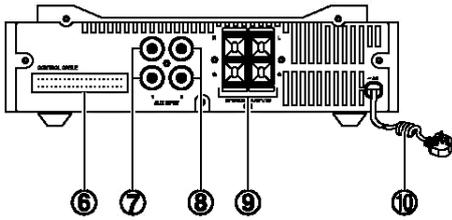


13. Control Cable Connector
14. FM Antenna
15. AM Antenna terminals

### The Amplifier

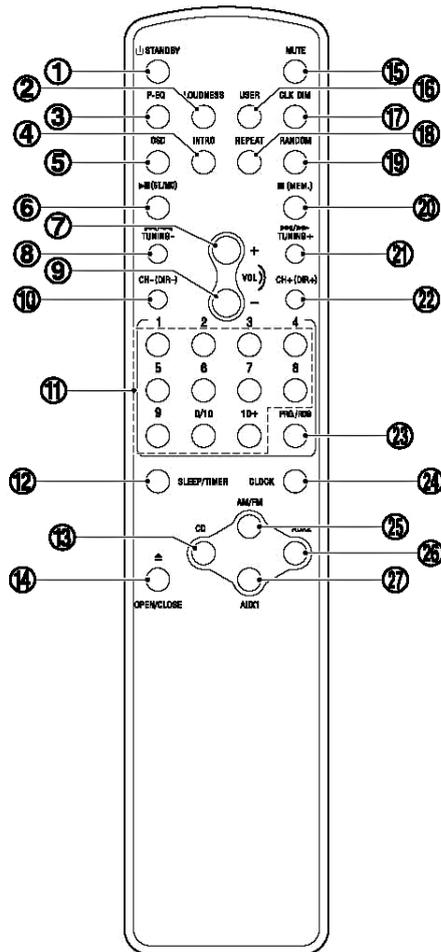


1. Loudness Button
2. Preset Equalizer Button
3. Volume Control Knob
4. Function Button
5. Headphone Jack



6. Control Cable Connector
7. AUX1 Input Terminals (L&R)
8. AUX2 Input Terminals (L&R)
9. Left & Right Speaker Output Terminals
10. AC Power Cord

## The Remote Control



1. Standby
2. Loudness
3. Preset Equalizer
4. Intro
5. OSD
6. Play/Pause  
Stereo/MONO Select
7. Volume Up
8. Previous/Search Backward  
Tuning Backward
9. Volume Down
10. Directory Down  
Channel Select Backward
11. Number
12. Sleep/Timer
13. CD Function
14. Open/Close
15. Mute
16. User
17. Clock Dimmer
18. Repeat
19. Random
20. Stop  
Memory
21. Next/Search Forward  
Tuning Forward
22. Directory Up  
Channel Select Forward
23. Program  
RDS Display
24. Clock
25. Tuner Function  
AM/FM Switch
26. AUX2 Function
27. AUX1 Function

## Installation of Batteries

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1. Remove the battery compartment cover.
2. Insert two batteries (size AAA) correctly so that the + and - polarities match the polarity diagrams in the battery compartment.
  - \* About half a year of normal operation can be expected.
  - \* When the batteries are exhausted, the remote control can no longer operate the system. Replace both batteries at the same time with new ones.
  - \* Don't use an old battery with a new one.
  - \* Don't use different types of batteries together.
  - \* When the remote control is not to be used for a long time period of time, remove the batteries to avoid damage caused by battery leakage and corrosion.

## Turning the Power On and Off

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### Turning the System On

Press the standby button (STANDBY) to turn the system on from standby mode. The display comes on.

#### Caution:

When turning the system on, the system comes on ready to continue in the mode it was in when last turned off.

### Turning the System Off

Press the standby button (STANDBY) again to turn the system off (called Standby Mode). The clock will be displayed.

#### Caution:

Be sure to unplug the system from the wall output when the system is not in use for an extended period of time.

## Sound Quality

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### Adjusting the Volume

To increase or decrease the volume, rotate the volume control knob (- VOLUME CONTROL +) on the amplifier or press the volume up/down buttons (VOL +/-) on the remote control.

For private listening, you can connect headphones to the headphone jack, no sound comes out of the speakers.

**Note:** Be sure to turn down the volume before connecting or putting on headphones.

**Warning:** The unit automatically turns on at volume 8.

### Adjusting the Super Bass/Treble

Press the user button on the remote control, the "BASS" will display on the VFD, then use the volume up/down buttons (VOL +/-) to adjust the effect.

Press the button again, the "TREB" will display on the VFD, then use the volume up/down buttons (VOL +/-) to adjust the effect.

If no buttons are pressed for 3 seconds the unit returns to the original display.

## Control the Loudness

This unit has loudness function, it can automatically increase bass sound effect at low volume (the higher volume, the smaller bass increase). You only need to press the loudness button (LOUDNESS) to obtain the loudness function, the "LOUDNESS" will display on the VFD.

## Preset Equalizer

You can adjust the sound reproduced simply by choosing from 5 preset equalizer. Press the preset equalizer button (P-EQ) once by once to select cyclically one of the following 5 preset equalizer:

POPS → JAZZ → CLASSIC → ROCK → USER/No Display  
↑

- POPS : Vocal sound is intensified
- JAZZ : For jazz
- CLASSIC : For classic
- ROCK : For rock
- USER : The effect of BASS/TREB setting

## Listening to Radio Broadcasts

---

You can listen to FM and AM stations. Stations can be tuned in manually, automatically, or from preset memory storage.

**Caution:** Before listening to the radio, please check that both the FM and AM antennas are correctly connected or adjust length and direction.

### Tuning in a Station

1. Repeatedly press the function button (FUNCTION) on front of the unit or direct press the tuner function button (AM/FM) on the remote control (under the number buttons).
2. Press the AM/FM button on the remote control to select the band or the band button on the top of the unit.
3. Select a station using one of the following methods.

#### ◆ Manual Tuning

Press the tuning backward button (TUNING-) or tuning forward button (TUNING+) repeatedly to change the frequency until you find the station you want.

#### ◆ Auto Tuning

If you press and hold the tuning backward button (TUNING-) or tuning forward button (TUNING+) on the unit or remote control for one second or more, the frequency changes down, or up, automatically until a station is found.

#### ◆ Preset Tuning (Possible only after presetting stations)

Press the preset stations button (PRESET) on the CD player or press the channel select backward button (CH-), channel select forward button (CH+) on the remote control to select the desired preset number. Its band and frequency are displayed on the VFD.

## Presetting Stations

You can preset up to 16 FM stations and up to 16 AM stations.

Tune in the desired station:

1. Press the memory button (MEM.), the "MEM" will flash on the display and the preset number will be displayed.
2. Press the preset stations button (PRESET) on the CD player or press the channel select backward button (CH-), channel select forward button (CH+) on the remote control to select the preset number.

PRESET Increases cyclically the preset number

CH- Decreases the preset number by 1

CH+ Increases the preset number by 1

**Note:** If you select more than 16, the preset number will be changed to "1" automatically.

3. Press the memory button (MEM.) to store the station. After 1 second, the display returns to the broadcast frequency display.
4. Repeat above steps 1 to 3 for each station you want to store in memory with a preset number.

**Note:** If the system is unplugged or if a power failure occurs, the preset stations will not be erased.

## To change the FM Reception Mode

When you are tuned into an FM stereo broadcast, "FM ST." will be displayed and you can hear stereo effects.

If an FM stereo broadcast is hard to receive or noisy, you can select monaural mode. Reception improves, but you lose any stereo effect. Press the stereo/MONO select button (STEREO) on the CD player or stereo/MONO select button (ST./MO.) on the remote control so that the "FM ST" is not displayed.

To restore the stereo effect, press the stereo/MONO select button (STEREO) on the CD player or stereo/MONO select button (ST./MO.) on the remote control so that the "FM ST" is displayed.

## RDS (Radio Data System) Reception

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Many FM stations are broadcasting added data compatible with RDS. This radio set offers convenient functions using such data.

### ◆ PS (Program Service Name)

When an RDS station is received, the RDS indicator lights and automatically displays the name of that station instead of the frequency. When RDS display button (RDS) on the remote control is pressed during PS display, the CT is displayed for 3 seconds, then PS display returns.

### ◆ PTY (Program Type)

Program type identification signal. (Example: News, Rock, Classical music.)

### ◆ CT (Clock Time System)

The CT system may not properly operate in areas where RDS CT service is not available. Once CT service is received, the CT system keeps operating. "NO CT" is displayed in areas where no CT services is available.

### ◆ Changing Display

During PS display, press the RDS display button (RDS) on the remote control repeatedly to select the CT, PTY or Frequency. They will be displayed for 3 seconds, then the PS display returns.

## CD Operation

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### CD Playing

1. Repeatedly press the function button (FUNCTION) on the front of the product or press the CD function button on the remote control (under the number button).
2. Press the open/close button (▲) to open the disc door and place the disc on the disc tray (with the printed side up).
3. Press the open/close button (▲) to close the disc door, the unit will read the disc and play it automatically.

**Note:** If in stop mode, please press the play/pause button (▶||) to start playing the disc.

4. Press the play/pause button (▶||) to pause the playing, press the button again, it will be continue to play.
5. Press the stop button (■) to stop the disc playing.

### Direct Select track

Load a disc, upon finishing reading the disc, you can select tracks by using number buttons (0/10, 1-9, 10+) on the remote control and play.

- ◆ If the song number is less than 10, press the number buttons 1-9.
- ◆ If the song number is over 10, press 10+ button and press the one of the number buttons 0/10, 1-9. Each press of 10+ increases the tens by 1 eg 10, 20, 30, so for track '22' press '10+' twice then '2'.

### To Skip Search and Play

- ◆ Press the previous button (◀◀/◀) once or more to skip previous one or more tracks of the disc.
- ◆ Press the next button (▶/▶▶) once or more to skip forward one or more tracks of the disc.

### To Search

Press and hold the search backward button (◀◀/◀) or search forward button (▶/▶▶) to search for the position that you intend to start playing.

### Program Play

You can programme a maximum of 99 tracks into the player.

1. Insert a disc and press STOP when it starts playing.
2. Press the program button (PRG.), "MEM" appears and the display changes to "0".
3. Press the number buttons (0/10, 1-9, +10) on the remote control to select the desired track number. (Please note: The track number is not displayed.)
4. Press the play/pause button (▶||) to start programme play.
5. Press the stop button (■) to stop the programme play. Press twice to clear program.

### Random Play (CD and MP3 discs)

You can have the CD played in a random order.

Random play begins by pressing the random button (RANDOM) on the remote control in stop mode.

### Playing the Beginning (Intro) of each Track

In stop mode, press the intro button (INTRO) on the remote control to play the beginning of each track consecutively. The playing time of each track is 10 seconds.

When you hear the desired track, press play.

## Playing Repeatedly

ONE and ALL repeat play can be set by pressing the repeat button (REPEAT).

First press : To repeat the same track.

Second press : To repeat all tracks on a disc.

Third press : To cancel the repeat playing.

## MP3 Disc Playing

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When selecting tracks the player will automatically display the directory and track number. For example: track number 21 may be from directory 3, track 7.

1. Press the open/close button (▲) to open the disc door and place the MP3 disc on the disc tray.
2. Press the OSD button (OSD) on the remote control, ID3 information (song title and artist) will be displayed or "NO ID3" if there is no ID3 information. Press this button again, directory, track and playing time will be displayed.
3. When playing MP3 discs the current directory and track will be displayed.
4. Press the previous/search backward button (◀◀/◀) or the next/search forward button (▶/▶▶) to select the previous/next track. When pressing the above buttons for a few seconds, it will search backward or search forward.
5. Press the directory up button (DIR+) or directory down button (DIR-) on the remote control to select the next/previous directory, and play the first track of this directory.  
If playing is stopped, press the directory up button (DIR+) or directory down button (DIR-) on the remote control to select the next/previous directory.  
Then choose the track with the next/search forward button (▶/▶▶) or previous/search backward button (◀◀/◀).
6. Press the play/pause button (▶||) to start play the disc.
7. Press the stop button (■) to stop playing.

**Note:** Play will continue to the final track when the selected tracks have been played.

The first 2 digits of the display is the directory number, the next 3 digits. Is the track number and the remaining digits display the minutes and seconds.

## Playing Repeatedly

ONE, DIR and ALL repeat play can be set by pressing the repeat button (REPEAT).

First press : To repeat the same track.

Second press : To repeat DIR (Directory).

Third press : To repeat ALL (All directories and tracks).

Fourth press : To cancel the repeat playing.

## Setting the Clock Automatically

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Tune into a RDS station and wait for a few minutes. To confirm, press the clock button.

## Setting the Clock Manually

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The built-in clock shows the time on the display.

1. Press the clock button (CLOCK), hour indicator will blink.
2. Set the hour with the tuning backward button (TUNING-) or tuning forward button (TUNING+).
3. Press the clock button (CLOCK), minute indicator will blink.
4. Set the minute with the tuning backward button (TUNING-) or tuning forward button (TUNING+).
5. Press the clock button (CLOCK), the built-in clock starts operating and the seconds start counting from 0.

### Caution:

- \* The operating time of every step shouldn't be longer than 3 seconds or it will return to the time display.
- \* If there is a power failure or the systems power is turned off, the clock loses its setting.

## Clock Dimmer

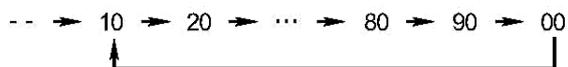
This unit has three brightness levels for you to adjust the clock display. You only need to press the clock dimmer button (CLK DIM) on the remote control, then you can choose the proper lighting to use this system at different times (in standby mode).

## Setting the Sleep Timer

---

Use the sleep timer to turn the system off after a certain number of minutes when it is playing. By setting the sleep timer, you can fall asleep to music and know that your system will turn off by itself rather than play all night.

1. Play a CD or tune in to the desired station.
2. To set the sleep timer press the sleep button (SLEEP) on the remote control repeatedly, it changes the number of minutes shown on the display in this sequence:



After setting the number of minutes for the sleep timer, the display will return to the display as before setting the sleep timer.

The system is now set to turn off after the number of minutes you set.

### To confirm the sleep time

When the sleep button (SLEEP) on the remote control is pressed once, the remaining sleep time is displayed. Wait for a second until the display returns to the original display.

### To cancel the sleep timer setting

Repeatedly press the sleep button (SLEEP) on the remote control until the "00" is displayed. Turning off the system also cancels the sleep timer.

## Setting the Daily on Timer

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You can use the setting timer to make the unit automatically turn on at a certain time everyday from standby. When the setting timer is on, the timer indicator “Ⓞ” will be displayed. But the clock must be correctly set for the timer to operate correctly.

1. In standby mode, press the timer button (TIMER) on the remote control twice, the hour indicator will blink.
2. Set the hour with the tuning backward button (TUNING-) or tuning forward button (TUNING+).
3. Press the timer button (TIMER) on the remote control, the minute indicator will blink.
4. Set the minute with the tuning backward button (TUNING-) or tuning forward button (TUNING+).
5. Press the timer button (TIMER) on the remote control, the selected time is set. Then set the daily timer to “ON” (daily timer set is in effect) or “OFF” (daily timer set is to cancel) by pressing the tuning backward button (TUNING-) or tuning forward button (TUNING+).

### Caution:

- \* You can set the daily timer only in standby mode.
- \* The operating time of every step shouldn't be longer than 3 seconds or it will return to time display.
- \* The sound source on the automatic on mode is the same as the sound source the last time, the unit was turned off by the standby switch.
- \* The volume automatically comes on at level 8.

### To confirm the daily time

When you press the timer button (TIMER) on the remote control in standby mode, the daily time is displayed. Wait for a few seconds until the display returns to the time display.

### To cancel the daily timer setting

Repeat the previous steps for setting the daily timer until “OFF” is displayed.

Turning off the system also cancels the daily timer.

## Disc Handling

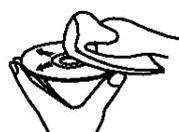
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1. To keep the disc clean, please don't touch the disc's surface when you are holding it. You should hold the edge. (See fig. 1)
2. If the disc is dirty, it will affect the sound quality. Please use a clean and soft cloth to wipe the disc from inside to outside. Don't wipe the disc in a circular direction. (See fig. 2)

Fig.1



Fig.2



3. Don't stick paper on the disc.
4. Don't put the disc in a place with direct sunshine or hot sources.
5. Do not play any damaged discs in this player.
6. When you have finished playing a CD, remove it from the CD player and store in its protector cover.

## Troubleshooting

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If you are having a problem with your system, check this list for a possible solution before calling for service.

If you cannot solve the problem from the hints given here, or the system has been physically damaged, call a qualified person, such as your dealer, for service.

<b>Symptom</b>	<b>Possible Cause</b>	<b>Action</b>
No sound is heard	Connections are incorrect, or loose	Check all connections and make corrections
Poor radio reception	The antenna is disconnected The AM loop antenna is too close to the system The FM wire antenna is not properly extended and positioned	Reconnect the antenna securely Change the position and direction of the AM loop Antenna Extend FM wire antenna to the best reception position
The CD skips	The CD is dirty or scratched	Clean or replace the CD
The CD does not play	The CD is upside down	Put the CD in with the label side up
Unable to operate the remote control	The path between the remote control and the sensor on the CD player is blocked The batteries have lost their charge	Remove the obstruction Replace the batteries
Operations are disabled	The built-in microprocessor has malfunctioned due to external electrical interference	Unplug the system then plug it back in

## Specifications

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### System Specification

Power Requirements	:	AC 230V/50Hz
FM Tuning Range	:	87.5~108 MHz
AM Tuning Range	:	531~1602 kHz
Power Consumption	:	100W (standby 3.5W)
Output Power	:	25W x 2
Rated Output Power	:	15W x 2
THD	:	≤ 0.7%
Dimensions	:	(CD) 192(W) x 67(H) x 235(D) mm (Amplifier) 192(W) x 62(H) x 242(D) mm

### Speaker Specifications

Impedance	:	8Ω
Output Power	:	30W
Dimensions	:	128(W) x 205(H) x 205(D) mm

### Accessories

AM Loop Antenna .....	1
Remote control .....	1
Speaker Cords .....	2
Control Cable .....	1
Acrylic Stand .....	1
Instruction Manual .....	1