C355 Stereo Integrated Amplifier

Features

- 80W x 2 Continuous Power into 8 ohms
- 115W, 185W, 240W IHF Dynamic power into 8, 4 and 2 ohms, respectively
- PowerDrive™ circuit
- NAD SR 5 Full System Remote control
- Headphone socket
- Front panel Media Player (MP) input for attaching portable Music Player
- Relay Input Switching
- Holmgren Toroidal Power transformer
- 7 Line inputs, including two tape in/outs
- All discrete circuitry
- Short signal path from input to output
- All sockets Gold plated
- Tone controls defeat switch
- Main-amp input & 2 pre-amp outputs
- Speaker A + B Outputs
- Soft Clipping™
- IR Input/Output
- 12 volt trigger output
- RS-232 Interface
- Detachable IEC Power Cable

Details

The C355 is the latest in NAD's range of affordable, yet very high performance Integrated Amplifiers. Building on the strengths of our highly acclaimed C352 (winner of What Hi-Fi Amplifier-of-the-Year and the Hi-Fi Choice Gold Award among many others), the C355 boasts many upgrades and refinements taken directly from the highly acclaimed NAD Masters Series M3 Amplifier. These include the application of Bjorn Erik Edvardsen's innovative and patented Distortion Canceling Circuit in the output stage and BEE Clamp in the power supply. An improved tone control circuit and revised PCB layout has reduced distortion and noise to unprecedented levels. Taken together, these improvements mark a sharp upturn in performance that simply must be heard, to be fully appreciated!

Features:
The C355 is fully remote controlled and comes supplied with the NAD SR 6 system remote control. The remote control features an ergonomic form, with large buttons that are differentiated by shape and position, to make operation intuitive and enjoyable. The SR 6 will also operate many other NAD products such as CD players, tuners, etc.

Flexibility is another NAD strong point. The C355 has 7 line inputs (including 2 tape in/outputs with dubbing facility) and the pre-amplifier section can be separated from the power amplifier for easy upgrades or adding ancillary equipment. Thus the C355 can be expanded to meet future system needs. The C355 sports 2 pre-amp outputs: Many systems benefit from the use of multiple power amplifiers for "Bi-Amping" (using separate power amplifiers to drive the bass and treble section of a loudspeaker). With the second Preout 2 facility an extra power amplifier, such as NAD's C272, which has identical amplification factor (gain) as the C355's power amp section - is easily connected. This output can also be used to connect a powered subwoofer, an increasingly popular option.

For remote on/off switching of ancillary components in a system, such as power amplifiers or active speakers, the C355 is equipped with a 12V-trigger system. When switching the amplifier on, the 12V- trigger output is also activated which in turn can activate a 12V-trigger input and switch on the remote devices. Besides the 12V-trigger, the C355 also has rear panel IR in and out and an RS-232 port to allow interface to advanced home automation systems. In fact, NAD is a 'certified partner' with AMX and Crestron, leaders in the field of home automation guaranteeing compatibility with these systems.

It is fashionable to omit tone controls nowadays: However, provided that the tone controls are properly designed, they can be really useful tools in making improvements to the overall sound. The C355 tone controls only work at the frequency extremes leaving the critical mid-band essentially unaltered. The tone control circuits can be completely bypassed by using the tone defeat switch. The C355 also incorporates NAD's acclaimed switchable "Soft Clipping" circuit, which significantly reduces the risk of damage to loudspeakers due to prolonged high power operation.

Design: PowerDrive™

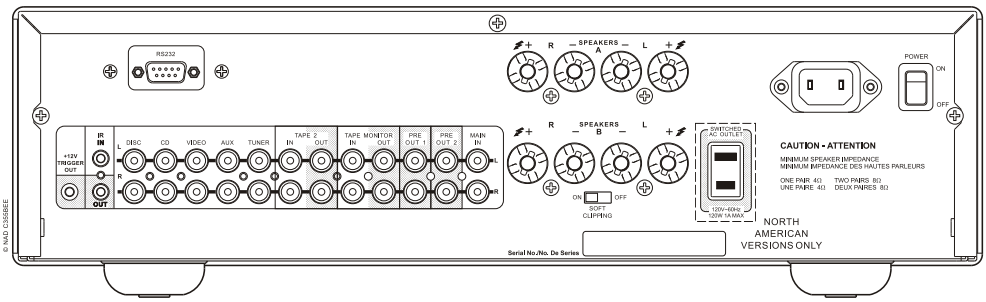
The C355 also benefits from NAD's proprietary PowerDrive circuit topology, now well established and used throughout the NAD product range. The PowerDrive topology allows the C355 to deliver maximum performance under virtually any circumstance, independent of the loudspeakers it is driving. The circuitry automatically senses the impedance characteristics of the loudspeaker and will then adjust its power supply settings to best cope with that specific load. PowerDrive topology is a practical approach for enabling an amplifier to easily deal with musical dynamics and difficult speaker loads. Thus we have the highly desirable characteristics of high dynamic power and low impedance drive capability in one affordable package.

NAD also takes a stand against the meaningless "brochure power" touted by many of our competitors by offering Full Disclosure power specs. We specify minimum continuous power, across the entire audible range of frequencies, at rated distortion, for both 8 and 4 Ohms with all channels driven simultaneously. Perhaps even more importantly, we also specify Dynamic Power at 8, 4, and even 2 Ohms, which better describes the way the amplifier will perform in the real world, with musical signals and reactive loudspeaker loads.

Less Distortion = More Music

Noise and distortion mask the fine details of a musical recording robbing musical texture and dimension and replacing them with non-musical artifacts. NAD is has spent the last 35 years perfecting our designs to have the lowest distortion and highest power in its price class. This cannot be overstated! Our competitors often rate distortion at only 80% of rated power, and even then can't match our very conservative spec of 0.03% at any frequency within the range of human hearing. At 80% power our distortion drops to 0.005% or less. Our noise spec is often 10dB (100 times!) less than that of competing amplifiers. This is far from trivial.

However, even the most carefully reported specs cannot fully describe the sonic performance of an amplifier. Only your own ears can finally judge our achievement. We urge you to listen and compare NAD to other products in its price range, and even higher. We don't think you'll find anything that comes close to offering the C355's overall musical satisfaction, well-rounded performance, and stellar value for money.



SPECIFICATIONS

Pre-Amp Section

Line level inputs	
Input impedance (R+C)	220kΩ / 100pF
Input sensitivity, rated power	325mV
Frequency response (20Hz - 20kHz)*	±0.3dB
Line level outputs	
Output impedance	100Ω
Tape	Source Z + 1kΩ
Power Amp Section	
Continuous output power into 8Ω	80W (19.5dBW)
Rated Distortion (THD 20Hz - 20kHz)	0.03%
Clipping power	90W (18dBW)
IHF dynamic power at 8Ω	140W (21.5dBW)
IHF dynamic power at 4Ω	210W (23.2dBW)
IHF dynamic power at 2Ω	270W (24.3dBW)
Peak Output Current	65A
Damping factor (ref. 8Ω, 50Hz)	>150
Input impedance	22kΩ/ 1nF
Input Sensitivity (for rated power into 8Ω)	948mV
Voltage gain	29dB
Frequency response; 20Hz-20kHz	+/-0.3dB
Signal/noise ratio; ref 1W	>100dB
Signal/noise ratio; ref rated power	>120dB
Phones	220ΩmW
Physical Specifications	
Net Dimensions (W x H x D)	17 1/8 x 4 1/2 x 11 7/16" (435 x 115 x 290mm)
Gross Dimensions (W x H x D)**	17 1/8 x 5 x 13 1/8" (435 x 127 x 334mm)
Net Weight	16.6 lbs (7.5kg)
Shipping Weight	20.0 lbs (9.0kg)

* Tone Defeat on
** Gross Dimensions include volume knob / speaker terminals / connectors / feet.
Note: Installers should allow a minimum clearance of 2 - 4 inches for wire management.

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