

[Manuals.plus](#) /

- › [Harman Kardon](#) /
- › Harman Kardon AVR 355 A/V Receiver User Manual

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Harman Kardon AVR 355 A/V Receiver User Manual

Model: AVR 355 / avr 355/230

1. INTRODUCTION

The Harman Kardon AVR 355 is a sophisticated 7.1-channel A/V receiver designed to deliver an immersive home theater experience. It integrates advanced audio and video processing technologies, including HDMI 1.3a repeater functionality, Faroudja DCDi Cinema processing, and support for the latest high-definition audio formats. This manual provides essential information for setting up, operating, and maintaining your AVR 355 receiver to ensure optimal performance and longevity.



Figure 1: Front view of the Harman Kardon AVR 355 A/V Receiver, showcasing its minimalist design with a black display panel and brushed aluminum lower section.

2. KEY FEATURES

- **7.1-Channel A/V Receiver:** Delivers 7 x 65 Watts of power, providing robust sound for a comprehensive surround sound setup.
- **HDMI 1.3a Repeater:** Features three HDMI inputs supporting Full HD video signals up to 1080p, allowing for longer cable runs to displays or projectors.

- **Advanced Video Processing:** Incorporates Faroudja DCDi Cinema™ video processors for enhanced 1080p output from all video sources, ensuring exceptional picture quality. Compatible with 12-bit Deep Color.
- **High-Definition Audio Decoding:** Supports Dolby TrueHD and DTS-HD Master Audio for the latest Blu-ray and HD-DVD sound formats. Processes 7.1-channel PCM audio via HDMI inputs.
- **Multiroom Capability:** Offers Zone-II amplifier sections and A-BUS® system compatibility for multi-zone audio distribution using a single CAT-5 cable or A-BUS hubs (e.g., ABH 4000).
- **EzSet/EQ Automatic Calibration:** Simplifies setup and optimizes sound quality for any listening environment by measuring and compensating for frequency peaks and dips, and adjusting output levels and delay times.
- **Intuitive On-Screen Display (OSD):** Features a full-color graphical OSD for guided setup and configuration, complemented by a programmable remote control.
- **High-Current, Ultrawide-Bandwidth Amplifier Design:** Ensures uncompromised sound quality, dynamic range, and accurate reproduction of both movies and music.

3. SETUP

3.1. Unpacking and Placement

Carefully remove the AVR 355 from its packaging. Place the receiver on a stable, level surface with adequate ventilation. Ensure there is sufficient space around the unit for airflow to prevent overheating. Avoid placing it near heat sources or in direct sunlight.

3.2. Connecting Your Components

The AVR 355 offers a wide array of input and output connections for various audio and video sources. Refer to the rear panel diagram below for connection points.



Figure 2: Rear panel of the Harman Kardon AVR 355, showing various audio, video, and speaker terminals.

1. **HDMI Connections:** Connect your HDMI-enabled devices (Blu-ray player, game console, cable box) to the HDMI IN ports. Connect your TV or projector to the HDMI OUT port.
2. **Audio Connections:** Use optical or coaxial digital audio inputs for devices without HDMI. Analog audio inputs are available for legacy components.
3. **Speaker Connections:** Connect your speakers to the corresponding speaker terminals (Front L/R, Center, Surround L/R, Surround Back L/R). Ensure correct polarity (+ to + and - to -).
4. **Power Connection:** Once all audio/video and speaker connections are made, connect the supplied power cord to the AVR 355 and then to a wall outlet.

3.3. Initial Configuration with EzSet/EQ

The EzSet/EQ system automates the calibration process for optimal sound. Follow these steps:

1. Connect the EzSet/EQ microphone (not pictured, but typically included) to the dedicated input on the front panel.
2. Place the microphone at your primary listening position.

3. Access the EzSet/EQ function through the on-screen menu or dedicated button on the remote control.
4. Follow the on-screen prompts. The system will emit test tones to measure speaker levels, distances, and room acoustics, then automatically adjust settings for balanced sound.

4. OPERATING YOUR RECEIVER

4.1. Front Panel Controls

The front panel provides essential controls for basic operation.



Figure 3: Close-up of the Harman Kardon AVR 355 front panel, highlighting the display and control buttons.

- **Power Button:** Turns the unit on or off.
- **Volume Knob:** Adjusts the master volume level.
- **Input Selectors:** Buttons or a knob to switch between different audio/video sources (e.g., HDMI 1, CD, Tuner).
- **Display:** Shows current input, volume level, audio format, and menu information.

4.2. Using the Remote Control

The programmable remote control provides full access to all receiver functions, including menu navigation, sound modes, and multiroom control.



Figure 4: The programmable remote control for the Harman Kardon AVR 355.

- **Power (AVR/Device):** Separate buttons to power the receiver and other programmed devices.
- **Source Buttons:** Dedicated buttons for direct input selection (e.g., DVD, CBL/SAT, GAME).

- **Navigation Pad (OK, Arrows):** Used to navigate on-screen menus and confirm selections.
- **Volume Up/Down:** Adjusts the master volume.
- **Sound Mode Buttons:** Select various surround sound modes (e.g., Dolby TrueHD, DTS-HD, Logic 7).
- **OSD/Menu Button:** Activates the on-screen display for advanced settings and configuration.

4.3. On-Screen Display (OSD) Navigation

The full-color graphical OSD simplifies system configuration. Use the remote control's navigation pad to browse menus for:

- Speaker Setup (manual adjustments)
- Audio Settings (tone control, lip sync, night mode)
- Video Settings (input assignments, video processing options)
- System Settings (display brightness, remote codes)
- Multiroom Control (Zone 2 settings)

5. MAINTENANCE

Proper maintenance ensures the longevity and optimal performance of your AVR 355 receiver.

- **Cleaning:** Use a soft, dry cloth to clean the exterior. For stubborn marks, slightly dampen the cloth with water. Avoid abrasive cleaners or solvents.
- **Ventilation:** Ensure that the ventilation openings on the top and sides of the receiver are not blocked. Adequate airflow is crucial to prevent overheating.
- **Power Cord:** Regularly check the power cord for any signs of damage. If damaged, replace it immediately with an approved cord.
- **Environmental Conditions:** Avoid exposing the receiver to extreme temperatures, humidity, or direct sunlight.

6. TROUBLESHOOTING

This section addresses common issues you might encounter with your AVR 355.

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
No power	Power cord disconnected; power outlet not active; internal fuse blown.	Check power cord connection; test outlet with another device; contact service if fuse is suspected.
No sound	Incorrect input selected; speakers not connected properly; volume too low; mute activated; incorrect audio settings.	Select correct input; check speaker wiring; increase volume; deactivate mute; verify audio settings in OSD.
No video	Incorrect video input selected; HDMI cable loose or faulty; TV/projector input not selected correctly.	Select correct video input; check HDMI cable connections; ensure TV/projector is on correct input.
Remote control not working	Batteries dead or inserted incorrectly; line of sight blocked; remote not programmed correctly.	Replace batteries; ensure clear path to receiver's IR sensor; reprogram remote if necessary.

If the problem persists after trying these solutions, please refer to the support information or contact Harman Kardon customer service.

7. SPECIFICATIONS

Feature	Specification
Model	AVR 355 / avr 355/230
Channels	7.1
Power Output	7 x 65 Watts (per channel, 8 ohms, 20Hz – 20kHz, <0.07% THD)
HDMI Inputs	3 (HDMI 1.3a compatible)
HDMI Output	1
Video Upscaling	Up to 1080p with Faroudja DCDi Cinema™
Audio Decoding	Dolby TrueHD, DTS-HD Master Audio, Dolby Digital, DTS, Logic 7
Automatic Calibration	EzSet/EQ
Multiroom Capability	Zone II, A-BUS® Ready
Dimensions (W x H x D)	Approx. 440 x 165 x 382 mm (17.3 x 6.5 x 15 inches)
Weight	14.4 kg (31.75 lbs)
Power Consumption	65 watts (typical operation) / 225 watts (output wattage)

Note: Specifications are subject to change without notice. For the most accurate and up-to-date information, please refer to the official Harman Kardon product documentation.

8. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

8.1. Warranty Information

The Harman Kardon AVR 355 comes with a **24-month warranty** from the date of purchase. This warranty covers manufacturing defects and ensures the product meets its specified performance standards under normal use. Please retain your proof of purchase for warranty claims.

The warranty does not cover damage caused by misuse, accidents, unauthorized modifications, or improper installation. For full warranty terms and conditions, please refer to the warranty card included with your product or visit the official Harman Kardon website.

8.2. Customer Support

For technical assistance, troubleshooting beyond this manual, or warranty service, please contact Harman Kardon customer support. You can typically find contact information (phone numbers, email, or support portals) on the official Harman Kardon website or in the product's packaging.

When contacting support, please have your product model number (AVR 355 / avr 355/230) and serial number (if applicable) ready, along with a detailed description of the issue.

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This manual is for informational purposes only. Specifications are subject to change.