

S.M.S.L VA1

SMSL VA1 Desktop Headphone Amplifier User Manual

Model: VA1

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1. INTRODUCTION

Thank you for purchasing the SMSL VA1 Desktop Headphone Amplifier. This manual provides detailed instructions for the proper setup, operation, and maintenance of your device. Please read this manual thoroughly before using the product to ensure optimal performance and safety.

The SMSL VA1 is designed to deliver high-fidelity audio to your headphones, featuring a true balanced input stage, excellent linearity, and very low distortion and noise. It supports a wide range of headphones, including high-impedance models like the Sennheiser HD600 and HD650.

2. SAFETY INFORMATION

To prevent electric shock, fire, or damage to the unit, please observe the following safety precautions:

- Do not expose this unit to rain or moisture.
- Do not place objects filled with liquids, such as vases, on the unit.
- Do not install near any heat sources such as radiators, heat registers, stoves, or other apparatus (including amplifiers) that produce heat.
- Only use attachments/accessories specified by the manufacturer.
- Refer all servicing to qualified service personnel. Servicing is required when the apparatus has been damaged in any way, such as power-supply cord or plug is damaged, liquid has been spilled or objects have fallen into the apparatus, the apparatus has been exposed to rain or moisture, does not operate normally, or has been dropped.
- Ensure proper ventilation. Do not block any ventilation openings.
- Disconnect the power cord from the wall outlet if the unit is to be left unused for a long period of time.

3. PACKAGE CONTENTS

Please check that all items are present in your package:

- SMSL VA1 Headphone Amplifier Unit x 1
- Power Cord x 1
- User Manual x 1
- 6.35mm to 3.5mm Headphone Adapter x 1

4. PRODUCT OVERVIEW

4.1 Front Panel

The front panel of the SMSL VA1 features the headphone output jack, volume control, and power indicator.

These controls allow for easy access to essential functions during operation.



Figure 1: Front Panel of the SMSL VA1 Headphone Amplifier. This image displays the sleek black chassis, the 6.35mm headphone output jack, and the main volume control knob.

4.2 Rear Panel

The rear panel provides all necessary input connections and the main power interface for the amplifier.



Figure 2: Rear Panel of the SMSL VA1 Headphone Amplifier. This image shows the various input and power connections.

R-In1 / L-In1: Balanced XLR Audio Inputs (Right and Left channels).

R-In2 / L-In2 (Audio In): Unbalanced RCA Audio Inputs (Right and Left channels).

Input Selector: Button to switch between Input 1 (XLR) and Input 2 (RCA).

HD: High Definition mode button (specific function details in operation section).

AC Power Input: Standard IEC power inlet for connecting the power cord.

Power Switch: Main power toggle switch for the unit.

5. SETUP

Follow these steps to set up your SMSL VA1 Headphone Amplifier:

1. **Placement:** Place the VA1 on a stable, flat surface with adequate ventilation. Avoid placing it near heat sources or in direct sunlight.
2. **Connect Audio Source:**
 - For balanced audio, connect your source device's XLR outputs to the **R-In1** and **L-In1** XLR inputs on the VA1 rear panel.
 - For unbalanced audio, connect your source device's RCA outputs to the **R-In2** and **L-In2** RCA inputs on the VA1 rear panel.
3. **Connect Headphones:** Plug your headphones into the 6.35mm headphone jack on the front panel. If your headphones have a 3.5mm plug, use the provided 6.35mm to 3.5mm adapter.
4. **Connect Power:** Connect the supplied power cord to the **AC Power Input** on the rear panel of the VA1, then plug the other end into a suitable AC power outlet (AC110V or 220V, depending on your region and unit version).

6. OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

1. **Power On/Off:** Flip the **Power Switch** on the rear panel to the 'ON' (I) position to power on the amplifier. Flip it to 'OFF' (O) to power off.
2. **Select Input:** Press the **Input Selector** button on the rear panel to toggle between Input 1 (XLR) and Input 2 (RCA). Ensure the correct input is selected for your connected audio source.
3. **Adjust Volume:** Turn the volume knob on the front panel clockwise to increase the volume and counter-clockwise to decrease it. Start with a low volume setting before playing audio to prevent sudden loud sounds.
4. **HD Mode:** The **HD** button on the rear panel activates a specific high-definition mode. Refer to the official SMSL website or additional documentation for detailed information on the sonic characteristics of this mode.

7. MAINTENANCE

- **Cleaning:** Use a soft, dry cloth to clean the exterior of the unit. Do not use liquid cleaners or aerosols, as they may damage the finish or internal components.
- **Ventilation:** Ensure that the ventilation openings are not obstructed to prevent overheating.
- **Storage:** If the unit will not be used for an extended period, disconnect it from the power outlet and store it in a cool, dry place.

8. TROUBLESHOOTING

If you experience issues with your SMSL VA1, please consult the following common problems and solutions:

- **No Sound:**
 - Ensure the power cord is securely connected and the unit is powered on.
 - Verify that your audio source is playing and connected correctly to the VA1.
 - Check that the correct input (XLR or RCA) is selected using the **Input Selector** button.
 - Confirm that your headphones are properly plugged into the front panel jack.
 - Increase the volume slowly using the front panel knob.
- **Distorted Sound:**
 - Reduce the volume from both the source and the amplifier.
 - Check all cable connections for looseness or damage.
 - Ensure the audio source is not outputting an excessively high signal level that could cause clipping.

• **Unit Does Not Power On:**

- Check the power cord connection to both the unit and the wall outlet.
- Ensure the wall outlet is functional by testing it with another device.
- Verify the power switch on the rear panel is in the 'ON' position.

If the problem persists, please contact SMSL customer support.

9. SPECIFICATIONS

Feature	Specification
Balanced Input Capability	+21dBu
Unbalanced Input Capability	+15dBu
Output Capability	+21dBu at 150R Load
High-Z Load Capability	50R to 600R
Low-Z Load Capability	8R to 600R
Gain	+12dB
THD+N	Typ 0.00045% at 150R Load
Frequency Response	+/-0.05dB at 20Hz to 20kHz
Linearity	Typ +/-1dB at -130dB
SNR	118dB at Un-Weight 20k Bandwidth
Crosstalk	Typ -135dB at 1kHz
Color	Black
Version	HD Machine
Dimensions (max)	245mm (W) x 190mm (D) x 48mm (H) / 7.5 x 9.6 x 1.9 inches
Net Weight	1.8 kg / 4.54 pounds
Power Voltage	AC110V or 220V
Special Feature	Noise Cancellation

10. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

The SMSL VA1 Desktop Headphone Amplifier comes with a standard manufacturer's warranty. Please refer to the warranty card included in your package or visit the official S.M.S.L website for detailed warranty terms and conditions.

For technical support, service, or inquiries, please contact your authorized S.M.S.L dealer or visit the official S.M.S.L support page. Keep your purchase receipt for warranty claims.