

Cary Audio CAD-300SEI

Cary Audio CAD-300SEI Integrated Amplifier User Manual

Model: CAD-300SEI

1. INTRODUCTION

Thank you for purchasing the Cary Audio CAD-300SEI Integrated Amplifier. This high-fidelity audio component is designed to deliver exceptional sound quality for both speakers and headphones, featuring a single-ended triode, Class A circuit design. This manual provides essential information for the safe and optimal operation of your amplifier. Please read it thoroughly before installation and use.

The CAD-300SEI offers 15 watts per channel, three RCA inputs, and a dedicated headphone section, making it a versatile centerpiece for your home audio system.

2. IMPORTANT SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

- **Read Instructions:** Read all safety and operating instructions before operating the appliance.
- **Retain Instructions:** Keep the safety and operating instructions for future reference.
- **Heed Warnings:** Adhere to all warnings on the appliance and in the operating instructions.
- **Follow Instructions:** Follow all operating and use instructions.
- **Water and Moisture:** Do not use this apparatus near water.
- **Cleaning:** Clean only with a dry cloth.
- **Ventilation:** Do not block any ventilation openings. Install in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Ensure adequate space around the unit for proper airflow.
- **Heat:** Do not install near any heat sources such as radiators, heat registers, stoves, or other apparatus (including amplifiers) that produce heat.
- **Power Cord Protection:** Protect the power cord from being walked on or pinched, particularly at plugs, convenience receptacles, and the point where they exit from the apparatus.
- **Unplug During Storms:** Unplug this apparatus during lightning storms or when unused for long periods.
- **Servicing:** 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.

- **Object and Liquid Entry:** Never push objects of any kind into this product through openings as they may touch dangerous voltage points or short-out parts that could result in a fire or electric shock.

3. UNPACKING AND CONTENTS

Carefully remove the CAD-300SEI amplifier from its packaging. Inspect the unit for any signs of damage during transit. Retain all packaging materials for future transport or servicing needs.

The package should contain the following items:

- Cary Audio CAD-300SEI Integrated Amplifier
- Power Cable
- Remote Control
- Owner's Manual (this document)
- Warranty Card
- 300B triode output vacuum tubes (2)
- 6SN7 input vacuum tube (1)
- 6SN7 driver tube (2)



Figure 1: Front view of the Cary Audio CAD-300SEI Integrated Amplifier. This image shows the amplifier's chassis, control knobs, and input/output jacks.

4. SETUP

4.1 Placement

Place the CAD-300SEI on a stable, level surface away from direct sunlight, heat sources, and excessive moisture. Ensure there is ample ventilation around the unit, especially above the vacuum tubes, to prevent overheating. Do not place the amplifier in an enclosed cabinet without proper airflow.

4.2 Tube Installation (if not pre-installed)

If the vacuum tubes are not pre-installed, carefully insert them into their respective sockets. The 300B output tubes are larger and typically go into the rear sockets, while the 6SN7 input and driver tubes go into the front sockets. Ensure correct orientation and gently push each tube firmly into its socket until seated. Avoid touching the glass of the tubes with bare hands, as oils can shorten their lifespan.

4.3 Connecting Audio Sources

The CAD-300SEI features three RCA stereo inputs. Connect your audio source components (e.g., CD player, streamer, phono preamplifier) to the desired RCA input jacks on the rear panel using high-quality RCA cables. Ensure left and right channels are correctly matched.

- **Input 1:** For primary source.
- **Input 2:** For secondary source.
- **Input 3:** For tertiary source.

4.4 Connecting Speakers

Connect your loudspeakers to the speaker binding posts on the rear panel. Ensure proper polarity: connect the positive (+) terminal of the amplifier to the positive (+) terminal of the speaker, and the negative (-) terminal of the amplifier to the negative (-) terminal of the speaker. Use high-quality speaker cables. The CAD-300SEI is designed for moderate to high efficiency speakers.

4.5 Power Connection

Before connecting the power cable, ensure all other connections are secure and the amplifier's volume control is set to minimum. Connect the supplied power cable to the AC inlet on the rear panel of the amplifier, then plug the other end into a suitable AC wall outlet. It is recommended to use a dedicated power line or a high-quality power conditioner for optimal performance.

5. OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

5.1 Powering On/Off

1. Ensure all connections are correct and the volume knob is at its minimum setting.
2. Press the power switch located on the front panel. The indicator light will illuminate.
3. Allow approximately 30-60 seconds for the vacuum tubes to warm up before increasing the volume.
4. To power off, simply press the power switch again.

5.2 Input Selection

Use the input selector knob on the front panel or the remote control to choose between Input 1, Input 2, and Input 3, corresponding to your connected audio sources.

5.3 Volume Control

Adjust the volume using the large knob on the front panel or the volume buttons on the remote control. Always start with a low volume setting and gradually increase it to a comfortable listening level to prevent sudden loud sounds that could damage your speakers or hearing.

5.4 Headphone Usage

The CAD-300SEI features a high-quality headphone output. To use headphones, plug your headphones into the 1/4-inch (6.35mm) headphone jack on the front panel. Connecting headphones will typically mute the speaker outputs automatically. Adjust the volume carefully when using headphones, as the output can be powerful.

6. MAINTENANCE

6.1 Cleaning

Dust the amplifier regularly with a soft, dry, lint-free cloth. For stubborn marks, lightly dampen the cloth with water or

a mild, non-abrasive cleaner. **Do not use harsh chemicals or abrasive materials.** Ensure the unit is powered off and unplugged before cleaning.

6.2 Vacuum Tube Care and Replacement

Vacuum tubes have a finite lifespan and will eventually need replacement. The lifespan varies depending on usage. Signs of tube wear include reduced sound quality, increased noise, or channel imbalance. When replacing tubes, always use high-quality replacements specified by Cary Audio. Consult your dealer or Cary Audio support for recommended replacement tubes and procedures. Always ensure the amplifier is unplugged and cooled down before handling tubes.

7. TROUBLESHOOTING

If you experience issues with your CAD-300SEI, please refer to the following common problems and solutions before contacting service personnel.

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
No power	Power cable not connected; Wall outlet not active; Power switch off	Ensure power cable is securely connected; Check wall outlet with another device; Press power switch to ON position.
No sound from speakers	Incorrect input selected; Speaker cables loose or incorrect polarity; Volume too low; Headphones connected	Select correct input; Check speaker cable connections and polarity; Increase volume; Disconnect headphones.
No sound from headphones	Headphones not fully plugged in; Volume too low	Ensure headphones are fully inserted; Increase volume.
Distorted or poor sound quality	Poor source quality; Loose audio cables; Worn vacuum tubes; Improper speaker impedance match	Test with a different audio source; Check all RCA cable connections; Consider replacing vacuum tubes; Ensure speakers are compatible.
Humming or buzzing noise	Ground loop; Nearby electrical interference; Faulty cables	Try plugging components into the same outlet; Move amplifier away from other electronics; Replace audio cables.

8. SPECIFICATIONS

The following specifications are typical for the Cary Audio CAD-300SEI Integrated Amplifier:

- **Output Power:** 15 watts per channel
- **Circuit Design:** Single-ended triode, Class A
- **Inputs:** 3 x RCA stereo pairs
- **Outputs:** Speaker binding posts, 1/4-inch (6.35mm) headphone jack
- **Vacuum Tubes:** 2 x 300B (output), 1 x 6SN7 (input), 2 x 6SN7 (driver)
- **Product Dimensions:** 14 x 4 x 8 inches (approximate)
- **Item Weight:** 49.3 pounds (approximate)
- **Manufacturer:** Cary Audio

- **Model Number:** CAD-300SEI

9. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

Cary Audio products are designed for reliability and performance. Please refer to the included Warranty Card for detailed information regarding your product's warranty coverage, terms, and conditions. Retain your proof of purchase for warranty claims.

For technical support, service, or inquiries about replacement parts (such as vacuum tubes), please contact your authorized Cary Audio dealer or visit the official Cary Audio website for contact information.

Cary Audio Official Website: www.caryaudio.com