Sony TAZH1ES

Sony Signature Series Audio Component Amplifier TA-ZH1ES User Manual

Model: TA-ZH1ES

1. INTRODUCTION

Thank you for purchasing the Sony Signature Series Audio Component Amplifier TA-ZH1ES. This high-resolution headphone amplifier is designed to deliver exceptional audio quality, featuring advanced technologies such as Sony's enhanced S-Master HX digital amplifier and DSD Remastering Engine. This manual provides essential information for the proper setup, operation, and maintenance of your device.

2. SAFETY INFORMATION

Please read all safety instructions carefully before using the amplifier. Keep this manual for future reference.

- **Power Source:** Connect the unit only to the AC power outlet specified in the specifications.
- **Ventilation:** Ensure adequate ventilation around the unit to prevent overheating. Do not block ventilation openings.
- **Moisture:** Do not expose the unit to rain or moisture to reduce the risk of fire or electric shock.
- **Foreign Objects:** Do not insert any objects into the unit's openings.
- **Servicing:** Refer all servicing to qualified service personnel. Do not attempt to open or repair the unit yourself.
- **Placement:** Place the unit on a stable, level surface away from direct sunlight, heat sources, and excessive dust or vibrations.

3. PRODUCT OVERVIEW

3.1 Front Panel

The front panel provides various headphone output connections and essential controls for operation.

Figure 3.1: Front Panel Layout

This image displays the front panel of the TA-ZH1ES amplifier, highlighting the various headphone output jacks and the volume control knob. From left to right, you can see the XLR4 balanced output, multiple 4.4mm and 3.5mm balanced outputs, and 6.3mm and 3.5mm unbalanced outputs. The large rotary knob on the right is for volume control, and a Walkman/Xperia USB input is also visible.

- **Power Button:** Turns the unit on or off.
- **Input Selector:** Cycles through available input sources.
- **Output Selector:** Selects the desired output mode.
- **Display:** Shows current settings and status.
- **Menu/Back Button:** Navigates menu options or returns to the previous screen.
- **Enter Button:** Confirms selections.
- **Gain Button:** Adjusts the output gain for different headphone impedances.
- **Volume Knob:** Controls the output volume.
- **Headphone Outputs:**

    - Balanced Connections: 4.4mm, 3.5mm x 2, XLR4
    - Unbalanced Connections: 6.3mm, 3.5mm

- **Walkman/Xperia USB Input:** For connecting compatible portable devices.

3.2 Rear Panel

The rear panel houses various input and output terminals for connecting to other audio components and the power supply.

Figure 3.2: Rear Panel Layout

This image illustrates the rear panel of the TA-ZH1ES amplifier, detailing the various connectivity options. Visible ports include RCA Line In (L/R), RCA Pre Out (L/R), USB-B input, Coaxial input, Optical input, and the AC power inlet. Each port is clearly labeled for easy identification.

- **LINE IN (RCA L/R):** Analog audio input for connecting external devices.
- **PRE OUT (RCA L/R):** Analog audio output for connecting to a power amplifier or active speakers.
- **USB-B Input:** For connecting to a computer or other digital audio sources.
- **COAX IN:** Coaxial digital audio input.
- **OPT IN:** Optical digital audio input.
- **~AC IN:** Power input for the AC power cord.

4. SETUP

Follow these steps to set up your TA-ZH1ES amplifier.

4.1 Placement

Place the amplifier on a flat, stable surface with adequate space for ventilation. Avoid placing it near heat sources or in direct sunlight.

Figure 4.1: Amplifier Placement

This image shows the Sony TA-ZH1ES amplifier positioned on a flat surface, demonstrating a typical setup environment. Ensure the unit has sufficient space around it for proper airflow.

4.2 Connecting Audio Sources

Connect your audio sources to the appropriate input terminals on the rear panel.

1. **Digital Sources (Computer, CD Player, etc.):**

   - For a computer, connect a USB-B cable from your computer to the **USB-B Input**.
   - For a CD player or other digital audio device, use a coaxial cable for the **COAX IN** or an optical cable for the **OPT IN**.

2. **Analog Sources (Turntable with pre-amp, etc.):** Connect RCA cables from your analog source to the **LINE IN (RCA L/R)** terminals.

3. **Portable Devices (Walkman/Xperia):** Connect compatible portable devices to the **Walkman/Xperia USB Input** on the front panel. This input also supports charging for Walkman devices.

4.3 Connecting Headphones or External Amplifier

1. **Headphones:** Connect your headphones to the appropriate balanced (4.4mm, 3.5mm x 2, XLR4) or unbalanced (6.3mm, 3.5mm) output jacks on the front panel.
2. **External Power Amplifier/Active Speakers:** If using the TA-ZH1ES as a DAC or pre-amplifier, connect RCA cables from the **PRE OUT (RCA L/R)** terminals on the rear panel to your power amplifier or active speakers.

4.4 Power Connection

Connect the supplied AC power cord to the ~**AC IN** terminal on the rear panel, then plug the other end into a wall outlet.

5. OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

5.1 Basic Operation

1. **Power On:** Press the Power button on the front panel.
2. **Select Input:** Use the Input Selector button to choose the desired audio source (e.g., USB-B, COAX, OPT, LINE IN).
3. **Connect Headphones:** Plug your headphones into the appropriate jack.
4. **Adjust Volume:** Slowly turn the Volume knob clockwise to increase the volume to a comfortable listening level.

Figure 5.1: Top Panel Controls

This image provides a top-down view of the TA-ZH1ES amplifier, clearly showing the power button, input/output selectors, display screen, menu navigation buttons (Menu/Back, Enter), and the Gain button. These controls are used for basic operation and feature adjustments.

5.2 DSD Remastering Engine

The DSD Remastering Engine converts all PCM audio sources to DSD 11.2MHz, aiming to provide a more natural and analog-like sound experience. This feature can be enabled or disabled through the unit's menu settings.

5.3 DSEE HX

DSEE HX (Digital Sound Enhancement Engine HX) upscales compressed audio files to near high-resolution quality. This feature is particularly effective for improving the sound of lower-resolution files, such as those from streaming services or older recordings. Access DSEE HX settings via the unit's menu.

5.4 Gain Settings

The amplifier features adjustable gain settings to optimize performance with various headphone impedances. Press the **Gain** button on the front panel to cycle through available gain levels (e.g., Low, Mid, High). Select the setting that provides sufficient volume without distortion for your specific headphones.

6. MAINTENANCE

Proper care ensures the longevity and optimal performance of your amplifier.

- **Cleaning:** Wipe the unit with a soft, dry cloth. Do not use abrasive pads, scouring powder, or solvents such as alcohol or benzene.
- **Ventilation:** Periodically check that the ventilation openings are free from dust and obstructions.
- **Storage:** If storing the unit for an extended period, disconnect it from the power outlet and store it in a clean, dry place.

7. TROUBLESHOOTING

If you experience issues with your amplifier, refer to the following common problems and solutions.

Problem	Possible Cause / Solution
No power	Ensure the AC power cord is securely connected to both the unit and the wall outlet. Check if the power outlet is functional.
No sound	- Verify that the correct input source is selected. - Check headphone connections and ensure they are fully inserted. - Increase the volume level. - Ensure headphones are not faulty. - If using PRE OUT, confirm the external amplifier/active speakers are powered on and correctly configured.
Distorted sound	- Reduce the volume level. - Check the gain setting; it might be too high for your headphones. - Ensure audio cables are securely connected and not damaged. - Verify the audio source is not distorted.
Unit becomes hot	Ensure adequate ventilation around the unit. Do not block the ventilation openings. If overheating persists, discontinue use and contact service.

If the problem persists after trying these solutions, please contact Sony customer support.

8. SPECIFICATIONS

Feature	Detail
Model Number	TA-ZH1ES
Product Dimensions (W x H x D)	2.56 x 12.36 x 8.27 inches (approx. 65 x 314 x 210 mm)
Item Weight	1 pounds (approx. 0.45 kg)
Headphone Impedance	12-600 ohms
Headphone Outputs	Balanced: 4.4mm, 3.5mm x 2, XLR4 Unbalanced: 6.3mm, 3.5mm
Digital Inputs	USB-B, Coaxial, Optical, Walkman/Xperia USB
Analog Inputs	RCA Line In (L/R)
Analog Outputs	RCA Pre Out (L/R)
Manufacturer	Sony
Date First Available	September 1, 2016

Note: Specifications are subject to change without notice.

9. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

For detailed warranty information, please refer to the warranty card included with your product or visit the official Sony support website for your region. For technical assistance, product registration, or service inquiries, please contact Sony customer support.

Sony Support Website: https://www.sony.com/electronics/support