

NAD C 388

NAD C 388 Hybrid Digital DAC Amplifier

User Manual

1. INTRODUCTION

The NAD C 388 is a high-performance Hybrid Digital DAC Amplifier designed to deliver exceptional audio fidelity and versatile connectivity. Featuring NAD's innovative Modular Design Construction (MDC), the C 388 allows for future upgrades and customization, ensuring your amplifier remains at the forefront of audio technology. This manual provides essential information for setting up, operating, and maintaining your NAD C 388.

2. IMPORTANT SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

- Read these instructions carefully before operating the unit.
- Keep these instructions for future reference.
- Heed all warnings on the product and in the operating instructions.
- Follow all instructions.
- Do not use this apparatus near water.
- Clean only with a dry cloth.
- Do not block any ventilation openings. Install in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- Do not install near any heat sources such as radiators, heat registers, stoves, or other apparatus (including amplifiers) that produce heat.
- Protect the power cord from being walked on or pinched, particularly at plugs, convenience receptacles, and the point where they exit from the apparatus.
- Only use attachments/accessories specified by the manufacturer.
- Unplug this apparatus during lightning storms or when unused for long periods of time.
- 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.

3. PACKAGE CONTENTS

Please check that the following items are included in your NAD C 388 package:

- NAD C 388 Hybrid Digital DAC Amplifier
- Power Cord
- Remote Control (with batteries)
- Quick Setup Guide
- Bluetooth Antenna

4. CONTROLS AND CONNECTIONS

4.1 Front Panel Overview



Figure 4.1: Front Panel of the NAD C 388. This image displays the amplifier's front, featuring a central display screen, a large volume knob on the right, source selection buttons, and a headphone output jack on the left.

1. **Power Button:** Turns the unit on or off.
2. **Headphone Jack:** For connecting headphones.
3. **Display Screen:** Shows current source, volume level, and menu options.
4. **Source Selection Buttons:** Navigate through available input sources.
5. **Volume Knob:** Adjusts the master volume level.

4.2 Rear Panel Overview



Figure 4.2: Rear Panel of the NAD C 388. This image illustrates the comprehensive connectivity options on the amplifier's rear, including

speaker terminals, analog RCA inputs, digital optical and coaxial inputs, a USB port, and slots for Modular Design Construction (MDC) upgrades.

1. **Speaker Terminals (A & B):** Connect your loudspeakers. Supports bi-wiring.
2. **Analog Inputs (LINE IN 1-2, PHONO IN):** For connecting analog audio sources like CD players, turntables (MM/MC).
3. **Digital Inputs (OPTICAL 1-2, COAXIAL 1-2):** For connecting digital audio sources like TVs, Blu-ray players, or media streamers.
4. **USB Port:** For service or connecting compatible USB devices.
5. **BT Antenna:** For Bluetooth connectivity.
6. **MDC Slots:** Two slots for optional Modular Design Construction modules (e.g., BluOS, HDMI).
7. **12V TRIGGER OUT:** For controlling other components with 12V trigger input.
8. **GROUND:** Ground terminal for turntables.
9. **AC Mains Input:** Connect the supplied power cord here.

5. SETUP

5.1 Placement

Place the NAD C 388 on a firm, level surface away from direct sunlight, heat sources, or excessive moisture. Ensure adequate ventilation around the unit, leaving at least 10 cm (4 inches) of clear space above and around the amplifier for proper airflow.

5.2 Connecting Speakers

Connect your loudspeakers to the speaker terminals on the rear panel. Ensure correct polarity: positive (+) terminal on the amplifier to the positive (+) terminal on the speaker, and negative (-) to negative (-). The C 388 supports two pairs of speakers (A and B) and bi-wiring configurations.

- For a single pair of speakers, connect to either Speaker A or Speaker B terminals.
- For bi-wiring, remove the jumpers on your speakers (if present) and connect separate speaker cables from the C 388's terminals to the high-frequency and low-frequency inputs on your speakers.
- Ensure all connections are secure to prevent short circuits.

5.3 Connecting Audio Sources

Connect your audio components to the appropriate inputs on the rear panel:

- **Analog Sources (CD Player, Tuner):** Use RCA cables to connect to LINE IN 1 or LINE IN 2.
- **Turntable:** Connect to the PHONO IN (MM/MC) input. Ensure your turntable's ground wire is connected to the C 388's GROUND terminal.
- **Digital Sources (TV, Game Console, Blu-ray Player):** Use optical cables for OPTICAL 1 or OPTICAL 2, or coaxial cables for COAXIAL 1 or COAXIAL 2.
- **Bluetooth Devices:** Ensure the Bluetooth antenna is connected. Pair your device via the amplifier's menu or remote control.

5.4 Power Connection

Once all audio connections are made, connect the supplied power cord to the AC Mains Input on the rear panel of the C 388, and then plug the other end into a suitable wall outlet.

6. OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

6.1 Powering On/Off

Press the Power button on the front panel or the remote control to turn the C 388 on or off. The display will illuminate when the unit is powered on.

6.2 Source Selection

Use the Source selection buttons on the front panel or the remote control to cycle through the connected input sources (e.g., Optical 1, Line In 1, Phono). The selected source will be displayed on the front panel screen.

6.3 Volume Control

Rotate the large Volume knob on the front panel clockwise to increase volume and counter-clockwise to decrease it. You can also use the Volume Up/Down buttons on the remote control. Adjust the volume to a comfortable listening level.

6.4 Display Navigation and Settings

The front panel display provides access to various settings and information. Use the navigation buttons (if present, or refer to remote control instructions) to browse menus for settings such as tone controls, balance, input renaming, and MDC module configurations (e.g., BluOS setup if module is installed).

7. MAINTENANCE

- **Cleaning:** Disconnect the power cord before cleaning. Use a soft, dry cloth to wipe the exterior surfaces. Do not use abrasive cleaners, waxes, or solvents.
- **Ventilation:** Ensure that the ventilation openings are not blocked by dust or debris. Periodically check and clean if necessary.
- **Storage:** If storing the unit for an extended period, disconnect it from the power outlet and store it in a cool, dry place.

8. TROUBLESHOOTING

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
No power	Power cord not connected; Power outlet faulty; Unit in standby mode.	Check power cord connection; Try a different outlet; Press power button to turn on.
No sound	Incorrect source selected; Volume too low; Speakers not connected properly; Mute function active.	Select correct input source; Increase volume; Check speaker connections and polarity; Deactivate mute.
Distorted sound	Input signal too strong; Speaker impedance mismatch; Damaged speaker cables.	Reduce source volume; Ensure speakers match amplifier impedance (4 Ohm minimum); Check/replace speaker cables.
Remote control not working	Batteries depleted; Obstruction between remote and unit; Remote sensor blocked.	Replace batteries; Remove obstructions; Ensure remote sensor on unit is clear.

9. SPECIFICATIONS



Feature	Detail
Power Output (RMS per channel, 4 Ohm)	150 W
Total Harmonic Distortion (THD)	0.009%
Signal-to-Noise Ratio (SNR)	113 dB
Power Consumption (Standby)	0.5 W
Dimensions (Width x Height x Depth)	435 mm x 120 mm x 390 mm (17.1 x 4.7 x 15.4 inches)
Weight	13.6 kg (29.9 lbs)
Connectivity	RCA (Analog), Optical, Coaxial (Digital), USB, Bluetooth
Special Features	Modular Design Construction (MDC), Amplifier Functionality





10. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

NAD Electronics provides a limited warranty for this product. Please refer to the warranty card included with your product or visit the official NAD website for detailed warranty terms and conditions specific to your region. For technical support, service, or inquiries about replacement parts, please contact your authorized NAD dealer or visit the NAD support section on their official website.

Official NAD Website: www.nadelectronics.com

Related Documents - C 388

	<p>NAD C 368 Hybrid Digital DAC Amplifier Owner's Manual</p> <p>Comprehensive owner's manual for the NAD C 368 Hybrid Digital DAC Amplifier, detailing safety instructions, control identification, operation, specifications, and setup procedures.</p>
	<p>NAD AMP 1 Hybrid Digital DAC Amplifier Owner's Manual</p> <p>Comprehensive owner's manual for the NAD AMP 1 Hybrid Digital DAC Amplifier. This guide provides essential safety instructions, setup procedures, details on controls and connections, feature explanations, and technical specifications for the NAD AMP 1.</p>

 <p>The image shows the cover of the NAD C389 Hybrid Digital DAC Amplifier Owner's Manual. It features the NAD logo, the model number C389, and a small image of the amplifier's front panel.</p>	<p>NAD C 389 Hybrid Digital DAC Amplifier Owner's Manual</p> <p>Comprehensive owner's manual for the NAD C 389 Hybrid Digital DAC Amplifier, covering safety instructions, setup, control identification, operation, and technical specifications. Includes details on front panel, rear panel, and remote control functions, as well as system settings and performance specifications.</p>
 <p>The image shows the cover of the NAD C388 Hybrid Digital DAC Amplifier Owner's Manual. It features the NAD logo, the model number C388, and a small image of the amplifier's front panel.</p>	<p>NAD C 388 Hybrid Digital DAC Amplifier Owner's Manual</p> <p>Comprehensive owner's manual for the NAD C 388 Hybrid Digital DAC Amplifier, detailing safety instructions, control identification, operation procedures, settings, and technical specifications.</p>
 <p>The image shows the cover of the NAD C368 Hybrid Digital DAC Amplifier Owner's Manual. It features the NAD logo, the model number C368, and a small image of the amplifier's front panel.</p>	<p>NAD C368 Hybrid Digital DAC Amplifier Owner's Manual</p> <p>Comprehensive owner's manual for the NAD C368 Hybrid Digital DAC Amplifier, covering safety instructions, setup, operation, controls, specifications, and troubleshooting. Learn how to connect, configure, and use your amplifier for optimal audio performance.</p>
 <p>The image shows the cover of the NAD C399 Hybrid Digital DAC Amplifier Owner's Manual. It features the NAD logo, the model number C399, and a small image of the amplifier's front panel.</p>	<p>NAD C 399 Hybrid Digital DAC Amplifier Owner's Manual</p> <p>Comprehensive owner's manual for the NAD C 399 Hybrid Digital DAC Amplifier, covering safety instructions, front and rear panel controls, remote operation, setup, and specifications.</p>