

Sennheiser HDV 820

Sennheiser HDV 820 Reference Headphone Amplifier DAC User Manual

Model: HDV 820

1. INTRODUCTION

The Sennheiser HDV 820 is a high-end headphone amplifier and digital-to-analog converter (DAC) designed to deliver exceptional audio quality for reference-class headphones. This manual provides essential information for setting up, operating, and maintaining your device to ensure optimal performance.

2. SAFETY INFORMATION

- Read this instruction manual carefully and completely before using the product.
- Always keep the product dry and do not expose it to extreme temperatures.
- Use only the power supply unit provided with the product.
- Do not attempt to open or repair the product yourself. Refer all servicing to qualified service personnel.
- This product contains chemicals known to the State of California to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm (Proposition 65 warning).

3. WHAT'S IN THE BOX

- 1x HDV 820 Unit
- 1x AC Cable
- 1x USB Driver (on storage media or download instructions)
- 1x Owner's Manual

4. PRODUCT OVERVIEW

4.1. Front Panel



Image: Front view of the Sennheiser HDV 820 connected to headphones. The front panel features various headphone outputs and a large volume knob.

1. **Power Button:** Turns the unit on/off.
2. **Headphone Outputs:** Multiple options for connecting headphones, including balanced and unbalanced connections.
3. **Input Selector:** Cycles through available audio inputs.
4. **Volume Control:** Large rotary knob for precise volume adjustment.

5. **Status Indicators:** LEDs to show active input and operational status.

4.2. Rear Panel



Image: Rear view of the Sennheiser HDV 820, showing the power input, analog inputs, digital inputs (Optical, Coaxial, USB), and balanced/unbalanced analog outputs.

1. **Power Input:** Connects to the AC power cable.
2. **Analog Inputs (BAL/UNBAL):** For connecting analog audio sources.
3. **Digital Inputs (OPT/USB/COAX):** For connecting digital audio sources.
4. **Analog Outputs (BAL):** Balanced outputs for connecting to other audio equipment.
5. **Gain Control:** Small knob for adjusting input gain.

5. SETUP

5.1. Connecting Power

1. Ensure the HDV 820 is placed on a stable, level surface.
2. Connect the supplied AC cable to the power input on the rear panel of the HDV 820.
3. Plug the other end of the AC cable into a suitable wall outlet.

5.2. Connecting Audio Sources

The HDV 820 supports various audio input types:

- **USB:** Connect your computer (Desktop, Laptop) or compatible device (Smartphone, Tablet) using a USB cable to the USB input.
- **Optical (OPT):** Use an optical cable to connect digital audio sources.
- **Coaxial (COAX):** Use a coaxial cable for digital audio connections.
- **Analog In (BAL/UNBAL):** Use XLR or RCA cables to connect analog audio sources.

5.3. Connecting Headphones

Connect your headphones to the appropriate output on the front panel:

- **Balanced Headphones:** Use the 4-pin XLR or dual 3-pin XLR outputs for balanced headphone connections.
- **Unbalanced Headphones:** Use the 6.35mm (1/4 inch) TRS output for unbalanced headphone connections.

5.4. Driver Installation

For optimal performance with a computer via USB, it may be necessary to install the dedicated USB driver. Refer to the included USB driver media or Sennheiser's official website for download and installation instructions.

6. OPERATING THE HDV 820

6.1. Power On/Off

Press the power button on the front panel to turn the unit on or off. Status indicators will illuminate upon power-on.

6.2. Input Selection

Use the input selector button on the front panel to cycle through the connected audio sources (USB, Optical, Coaxial, Analog In). The active input will typically be indicated by an LED.

6.3. Volume Control

Adjust the large rotary volume knob on the front panel to set the desired listening level for your headphones. Start with a low volume and gradually increase it to a comfortable level.

6.4. Gain Settings

The HDV 820 features adjustable gain settings to match the sensitivity of your headphones. Use the gain control knob on the rear panel to optimize the signal level and prevent distortion. Consult your headphone specifications for recommended gain levels.

6.5. Supported Audio Formats

The integrated ESS SABRE32 DAC supports high-resolution audio up to 32 bits and a sampling rate of up to 384 kHz. The amplifier is also capable of playing DSD256 files up to 12.3 MHz.

7. KEY FEATURES

- **Exceptional Sound Quality:** Designed to reveal the full potential of reference-class headphones, delivering nuanced audio reproduction.
- **Advanced DAC Technology:** Features a formidable ESS SABRE32 DAC (digital-to-analog converter) with 32-bit resolution and up to 384 kHz sampling rate, supporting DSD256 files.
- **Premium Design:** An anodized black finish with white LED lights complements high-end audio setups.
- **Broad Compatibility:** Offers multiple input and output options (USB, Optical, Coaxial, Analog, Balanced XLR, Unbalanced TRS) for seamless integration with various audio devices.
- **Robust Construction:** Built with high-quality aluminum for durability and optimal performance.

8. SPECIFICATIONS

Feature	Detail
Brand	Sennheiser
Model Name	HDV 820
Mounting Type	Tabletop Mount
Material	Aluminum
Color	Black

Feature	Detail
Product Dimensions	12"D x 8.8"W x 1.7"H
Item Weight	5 Pounds
Special Feature	High-end Headphone Amp / DAC with Balanced Operation
Recommended Uses	Music
Compatible Devices	Smartphone, Tablet, Desktop, Laptop
Signal-to-Noise Ratio	115 dB
Speaker Maximum Output Power	115 Watts
Frequency Response	100000 Hz
Connectivity Technology	Wired
Audio Output Mode	Stereo
DAC	ESS SABRE32 (32-bit, up to 384 kHz, DSD256)

9. TROUBLESHOOTING

- **No Sound:**
 - Check all cable connections (power, audio source, headphones).
 - Ensure the correct input source is selected on the HDV 820.
 - Verify headphone volume and gain settings.
 - If using USB, ensure the correct audio driver is installed and selected as the output device on your computer.
- **Distorted Sound:**
 - Reduce the volume on the HDV 820 or the audio source.
 - Adjust the gain setting on the rear panel to match your headphones' impedance.
 - Ensure audio cables are not damaged or improperly connected.
- **Connection Issues with Windows:**
 - Some users have reported issues with USB driver recognition on Windows 10. Ensure you have the latest drivers from Sennheiser's website.
 - Consider alternative digital inputs like Optical or Coaxial if USB issues persist.
- **Noisy Volume Knob:**
 - If the volume knob produces noise when adjusted, this may indicate a mechanical issue. Contact customer support for assistance.

10. MAINTENANCE

- Clean the unit regularly with a soft, dry cloth. Do not use liquid cleaners or solvents.
- Keep the ventilation openings clear to prevent overheating.

- Store the unit in a cool, dry place away from direct sunlight and dust when not in use.

11. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

The Sennheiser HDV 820 comes with a **Limited Warranty**. For detailed warranty terms and conditions, please refer to the warranty card included in your product packaging or visit the official Sennheiser website.

For technical support, service, or further inquiries, please contact Sennheiser Customer Service through their official website or the contact information provided in your product documentation.

Manufacturer: Sennheiser

Visit the Sennheiser Store: [Sennheiser Store on Amazon](#)