



[Manuals.plus](#) /

› [Soundstream](#) /

› Soundstream AR4.1200 Arachnid 4-Channel Car Audio Amplifier User Manual

## Soundstream AR4.1200

# Soundstream AR4.1200 Arachnid 4-Channel Car Audio Amplifier

User Manual

## INTRODUCTION

---

Thank you for choosing the Soundstream AR4.1200 Arachnid 4-Channel Car Audio Amplifier. This amplifier is designed to deliver powerful and clear audio performance for your vehicle's sound system. This manual provides essential information for proper installation, operation, and maintenance to ensure optimal performance and longevity of your amplifier.



Image: The Soundstream AR4.1200 amplifier shown alongside the complete amplifier wiring kit, including power cables, ground cables, RCA cables, speaker wire, and fuse holder.

## SAFETY INFORMATION

Always observe the following safety precautions when installing or operating your amplifier:

- **Professional Installation Recommended:** Installation of car audio equipment can be complex. If you are unsure about any step, seek assistance from a qualified professional installer.

- **Disconnect Battery:** Before beginning any wiring, always disconnect the vehicle's negative battery terminal to prevent electrical shorts and damage.
- **Proper Fusing:** Ensure the amplifier is properly fused at the battery and at the amplifier itself to protect against overcurrent.
- **Ventilation:** Mount the amplifier in a location that allows for adequate air circulation to prevent overheating.
- **Avoid Moisture:** Do not expose the amplifier to moisture or extreme temperatures.
- **Secure Mounting:** Securely mount the amplifier to prevent it from becoming a projectile in the event of a sudden stop or collision.

## SETUP AND INSTALLATION

Careful installation is crucial for optimal performance. Follow these steps for proper setup:

### 1. Pre-Installation Checks

- Plan your wiring path to avoid interference with vehicle systems.
- Ensure all necessary tools and wiring materials are available. The product typically includes a wiring kit.



Image: Various components of a typical amplifier wiring kit, including power wire, ground wire, remote turn-on wire, RCA cables, speaker wire, fuse holder, and terminals.

### 2. Mounting the Amplifier

Choose a mounting location that is dry, well-ventilated, and secure. Common locations include under seats, in the trunk, or behind rear seats. Ensure the amplifier is mounted firmly to a solid surface using appropriate screws.

### 3. Wiring Connections

Refer to the image below for a visual guide to the amplifier's rear connections. Ensure all connections are secure and properly insulated.



Image: The rear panel of the Soundstream AR4.1200 amplifier, showing the power, ground, remote, fuse, and speaker output terminals.

### Power Connections:

- **+12V (Battery):** Connect a heavy-gauge power cable (typically 4-gauge for this amplifier) directly from the positive terminal of your vehicle's battery to this terminal. Install an in-line fuse holder within 18 inches of the battery.
- **GND (Ground):** Connect a heavy-gauge ground cable of the same size as the power cable to a clean, unpainted metal surface on the vehicle's chassis. Ensure a solid, low-resistance connection.
- **REM (Remote):** Connect a remote turn-on wire from your head unit's remote output to this terminal. This wire signals the amplifier to turn on when the head unit is active.

### Speaker Output Connections:

- Connect your speakers to the designated speaker output terminals (CH1, CH2, CH3, CH4). Observe correct polarity (+ to + and - to -).
- This amplifier supports 4-channel stereo operation or 2-channel bridged operation for higher power output to subwoofers. Refer to your head unit and speaker impedance for proper configuration.

### Input Connections:

- Connect RCA cables from your head unit's pre-amp outputs to the amplifier's RCA input jacks. Ensure left and right channels are correctly matched.

### Fusing:

- The amplifier features two 20A fuses. Ensure these are correctly installed before powering on the unit.

## OPERATING THE AMPLIFIER

---

Once installed, the amplifier will power on automatically with your head unit. Adjustments can be made to optimize sound quality.



Image: Top view of the Soundstream AR4.1200 amplifier, displaying the brand logo and model number.

### Gain Control:

The gain control (often labeled 'Level' or 'Input Level') matches the amplifier's input sensitivity to the output voltage of your head unit. Start with the gain set to minimum and slowly increase it until you achieve a clear, undistorted sound at your desired maximum volume level from the head unit. Avoid setting the gain too high, as this can lead to distortion and potential speaker damage.

### Crossover Settings:

The AR4.1200 features built-in crossovers to direct specific frequency ranges to your speakers. Adjust the High-Pass Filter (HPF) for full-range speakers to prevent low frequencies from distorting them, and the Low-Pass Filter (LPF) if using bridged channels for subwoofers to ensure only bass frequencies are sent. Consult your speaker specifications for recommended crossover points.

### Bass Boost:

The amplifier may include a bass boost feature. Use this sparingly and with caution, as excessive bass boost can lead to distortion and potential damage to speakers, especially at high volumes.

## MAINTENANCE

Proper maintenance ensures the longevity and performance of your amplifier.

- **Cleaning:** Periodically wipe the amplifier's exterior with a soft, dry cloth. Do not use harsh chemicals or abrasive cleaners.

- **Ventilation:** Ensure that the amplifier's cooling fins are free from dust and debris. Blocked fins can lead to overheating.
- **Connection Checks:** Annually inspect all wiring connections for tightness and corrosion. Loose connections can cause poor performance or damage.
- **Fuse Replacement:** If a fuse blows, replace it only with a fuse of the exact same type and rating (20A ATC fuse). Never use a higher-rated fuse or bypass a fuse.

## TROUBLESHOOTING

If you experience issues with your amplifier, consult the following common troubleshooting steps before seeking professional service.

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
No Power / Amplifier Not Turning On	Blown fuse; Loose power/ground/remote wire; No remote signal from head unit.	Check and replace fuses; Verify all power, ground, and remote connections are secure; Test remote wire for 12V when head unit is on.
No Sound Output	RCA cables disconnected/damaged; Speaker wires disconnected/shorted; Amplifier in protect mode; Head unit volume too low.	Check RCA connections; Inspect speaker wires for shorts or disconnections; Check amplifier's protection indicator; Increase head unit volume.
Distorted Sound	Gain set too high; Speaker impedance mismatch; Damaged speakers; Poor ground connection.	Reduce gain setting; Verify speaker impedance is compatible (2-ohm stable); Inspect speakers for damage; Improve ground connection.
Amplifier Overheating	Insufficient ventilation; Speaker impedance too low; Gain set too high.	Relocate amplifier for better airflow; Check speaker impedance; Reduce gain setting.

## SPECIFICATIONS

Key technical specifications for the Soundstream AR4.1200 Arachnid Amplifier:

- **Model Number:** AR4.1200
- **Maximum Power Output:** 1200 Watts (Peak)
- **Channels:** 4-Channel
- **Class:** Class A/B
- **Minimum Stable Impedance:** 2 Ohms (Stereo)
- **Voltage:** 16 Volts (DC)
- **Minimum Supply Voltage:** 9 Volts
- **Mounting Type:** Surface Mount
- **Fuses:** 2 x 20A ATC Fuses
- **Package Dimensions:** 17.5 x 11 x 3.75 inches
- **Weight:** Approximately 17.5 Pounds

## WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

Soundstream products are designed for reliability and performance. This amplifier is covered by a manufacturer's warranty against defects in materials and workmanship. For specific warranty terms, duration, and claim procedures, please refer to the warranty card included with your product or visit the official Soundstream website. For technical support, troubleshooting assistance beyond

this manual, or service inquiries, please contact Soundstream customer service through their official channels.

© 2024 Soundstream. All rights reserved.