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## DS18 NXL-N4

# DS18 NXL-N4 Hydro 4-Channel Class D Amplifier Instruction Manual

Model: NXL-N4 | Brand: DS18

## 1. INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

This manual provides detailed instructions for the installation, operation, and maintenance of your DS18 NXL-N4 Hydro 4-Channel Class D Amplifier. Designed for marine and powersports applications, this amplifier delivers powerful audio performance in challenging environments. Please read this manual thoroughly before installation and use to ensure proper function and safety.



Image 1.1: The DS18 NXL-N4 Hydro 4-Channel Class D Amplifier, a compact and durable unit.

## 2. SAFETY INFORMATION

Always observe the following safety precautions to prevent injury and damage to the amplifier or vehicle:

- Disconnect the vehicle's battery negative terminal before starting any electrical work.
- Ensure all wiring is properly insulated and secured to prevent short circuits.
- Use appropriate gauge wiring for power and ground connections as specified in this manual.

- Mount the amplifier securely in a location that allows for adequate ventilation and is protected from excessive heat or direct sunlight.
- Avoid installing the amplifier in areas where it may be submerged, despite its water-resistant rating, to prolong its lifespan.
- If you are unsure about any installation steps, consult a professional audio installer.

### 3. PRODUCT FEATURES

The DS18 NXL-N4 amplifier is engineered with features to enhance your audio experience:

- **High Power Output:** Delivers up to 1800W peak power, suitable for various audio setups.
- **Durable Construction:** Features a stable 4-layer PCB layout for consistent performance.
- **Waterproof Design:** IP67 rated for water and dust resistance, ideal for marine and powersports environments.
- **Compact Size:** Small footprint allows for flexible installation in tight spaces.
- **Audio Customization:** Built-in selectable crossovers (LPF, FULL, HPF) provide precise control over your sound output.
- **Full-Range Capability:** Capable of powering a complete audio system, from deep bass to clear highs.

**IP67**  
Water Resistant

**SMALL FOOTPRINT**

This amplifier fits into tight spaces like bike saddlebags, glove boxes, or side-by-side dashes—perfect for stealthy, performance-first installs.

△▲ **FOR ALL ELEMENTS** ≡

**7.87"**  
Overall Length

**3.67"**  
Overall Width

**1.56"**  
Overall Height

Image 3.1: The compact size and IP67 water resistance of the NXL-N4 amplifier.

## 4. SPECIFICATIONS

Specification	Value
Model	NXL-N4
Number of Channels	4
Output Power (Peak)	1800 Watts
RMS Power @ 4 ohm	4 x 100W
RMS Power @ 2 ohm	4 x 150W
RMS Power @ 4 ohm Bridge	2 x 300W
Minimum Supply Voltage	12 Volts (DC)
Maximum Supply Voltage	10 Volts (DC)
Voltage	5 Volts (Operating)
IP Rating	IP67
Mounting Type	Surface Mount
Overall Length	7.87 inches
Overall Width	3.67 inches
Overall Height	1.56 inches
Manufacturer	DS18
GTIN/UPC	810005180603

## 5. SETUP AND INSTALLATION

Proper installation is crucial for optimal performance and longevity of your amplifier. Follow these general guidelines:

### 5.1. Mounting the Amplifier

Choose a mounting location that is secure, allows for adequate air circulation, and is accessible for wiring. The compact size of the NXL-N4 allows for installation in various tight spaces.



Image 5.1: Bottom view of the amplifier, illustrating the mounting points.

## 5.2. Wiring Connections

Ensure all power, ground, remote, and speaker wires are connected correctly and securely. Use the provided wiring harness and fuse.

- **Power (RED +12V):** Connect directly to the positive terminal of the vehicle's battery. Install the 25A fuse (included) as close to the battery as possible.
- **Ground (BLACK GND):** Connect to a clean, unpainted metal surface of the vehicle chassis. Ensure a solid connection.
- **Remote (BLUE REM):** Connect to the remote output of your head unit or a switched 12V source.
- **Speaker Outputs (FR+, FR-, FL+, FL-, RR+, RR-, RL+, RL-):** Connect to your speakers according to their polarity. Refer to the diagram on the amplifier for correct channel assignments.
- **RCA Audio Input:** Connect your head unit's RCA outputs to the amplifier's RCA inputs.



Image 5.2: The wiring harness and inline 25A fuse for the NXL-N4 amplifier.



Image 5.3: RCA audio input cables for connecting to a head unit.

### 5.3. Initial Power-Up

After all connections are made, reconnect the vehicle's battery. Turn on your audio system and check for proper functionality. If no sound is produced, refer to the Troubleshooting section.

Your browser does not support the video tag.

Video 5.1: An overview of the DS18 Hydro NXL-N4 amplifier, highlighting its compact design and features for various applications.

## 6. OPERATION

The NXL-N4 amplifier features adjustable controls to fine-tune your audio system.

### 6.1. Crossover Settings

The amplifier includes selectable crossovers to optimize sound output for different speaker types:

- **LPF (Low Pass Filter):** Allows only low frequencies to pass through, typically used for subwoofers.
- **HPF (High Pass Filter):** Allows only high frequencies to pass through, typically used for full-range or component speakers.

- **FULL:** Allows the full frequency range to pass through, suitable for full-range speakers without specific filtering.

Adjust the crossover switch according to your speaker configuration and desired sound profile.

## DIAL IN YOUR SYSTEM

**Built-in selectable crossovers let you tailor the amp's output to whatever speakers you're running. From crisp mids to hard-hitting low end, you're always in control.**

## X-Over

Selectable: **HPF/LPF/FULL**

## 10Ga

Wired 10Ga OFC



Image 6.1: Amplifier controls, including RCA inputs and the selectable X-Over switch.

## 6.2. Gain Control

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

## 7. MAINTENANCE

To ensure the longevity and performance of your DS18 NXL-N4 amplifier, follow these maintenance tips:

- **Cleaning:** Periodically wipe the amplifier's exterior with a soft, damp cloth. Avoid using harsh chemicals or abrasive cleaners.
- **Connections:** Regularly check all wiring connections for tightness and corrosion, especially in marine environments.

- **Ventilation:** Ensure that the amplifier's cooling fins are free from obstructions to maintain proper heat dissipation.
- **Fuse Replacement:** If the fuse blows, replace it only with a fuse of the same type and rating (25A).

## 8. TROUBLESHOOTING

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If you encounter issues with your amplifier, refer to the following common problems and solutions:

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
No Sound	No power, blown fuse, loose connections, incorrect input source.	Check power and ground connections, replace fuse, verify RCA and speaker connections, ensure head unit is on and source is selected.
Distorted Sound	Gain set too high, incorrect crossover settings, damaged speakers, poor ground connection.	Reduce gain, adjust crossover, inspect speakers, check ground wire.
Amplifier Overheats	Insufficient ventilation, impedance mismatch, prolonged high volume use.	Ensure proper airflow around amplifier, verify speaker impedance, reduce volume.
Engine Noise/Whine	Poor grounding, RCA cables too close to power wires, faulty head unit.	Improve ground connection, reroute RCA cables away from power wires, install a ground loop isolator.

If the problem persists after attempting these solutions, contact DS18 customer support or a qualified technician.

## 9. WARRANTY INFORMATION

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The DS18 NXL-N4 Hydro 4-Channel Class D Amplifier is covered by a manufacturer's warranty. Please refer to the official DS18 website or your purchase documentation for specific warranty terms and conditions, including duration and coverage details. Keep your proof of purchase for warranty claims.

## 10. SUPPORT

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For further assistance, technical support, or inquiries regarding your DS18 NXL-N4 amplifier, please visit the official DS18 website or contact their customer service department. You can find contact information and additional resources at [www.ds18.com](http://www.ds18.com).