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› Cambridge Audio CXA81 Integrated Stereo Amplifier User Manual

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Model: CXA81

INTRODUCTION

This manual provides essential information for the safe and efficient operation of your Cambridge Audio CXA81 Integrated Stereo Amplifier. Please read these instructions carefully before use and retain them for future reference. The CXA81 is designed to deliver high-fidelity audio performance with versatile connectivity options.



Front view of the Cambridge Audio CXA81 amplifier, showcasing its minimalist design and central display.

WHAT'S IN THE BOX

Upon unpacking your Cambridge Audio CXA81, please ensure all the following items are present:

- Power Cable
- 3 x AAA Batteries (for remote control)
- Remote Control
- Control Bus Cable
- Bluetooth Antenna

SETUP

Placement

Place the CXA81 on a stable, level surface away from direct sunlight, heat sources, and excessive moisture. Ensure adequate ventilation around the unit to prevent overheating. Do not block any ventilation openings.

Connections

Follow these steps to connect your amplifier to other audio components:

1. **Power Connection:** Connect the supplied power cable to the CXA81's power inlet and then to a suitable mains outlet.
2. **Speaker Connections:** Connect your passive speakers to the Speaker A/B terminals on the rear panel. Ensure correct polarity (red to red / + to + and black to black / - to -) for optimal sound. The CXA81 supports two sets of speakers (A and B).
3. **Digital Inputs:** Connect digital audio sources such as CD players, network streamers, or televisions using TOSLINK optical or Coaxial cables. For computer audio, use a USB Type-B cable to connect to the dedicated USB Audio input.
4. **Analog Inputs:** Connect analog audio sources (e.g., a turntable with a built-in or external pre-amplifier, tape deck, or other line-level devices) to the RCA line-level inputs (A1, A2, A3, A4). For high-end audio sources, utilize the balanced XLR input for reduced interference.
5. **Bluetooth Antenna:** Screw the provided Bluetooth antenna onto the designated connector on the rear panel for stable wireless connectivity.
6. **Subwoofer Output:** If using an active subwoofer, connect it to the 'Sub Out' RCA connector.
7. **Pre-out:** The 'Pre Out' RCA connectors allow you to connect the CXA81 to a separate power amplifier if desired.

 CAMBRIDGE

MUSICALE SENZA SFORZO

L'AMPLIFICAZIONE IN CLASSE AB OFFRE UN SUONO
CRISTALLINO E UN IMPATTO EMOTIVO



Hands connecting various audio cables to the rear panel of the Cambridge Audio CXA81 amplifier, illustrating the connection process.

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

Power On/Off

Press the power button on the front panel or the remote control to turn the unit on or off. The power indicator will illuminate when the unit is active.

Source Selection

Use the input selector buttons on the front panel or the remote control to cycle through and choose your desired audio source (e.g., USB, Bluetooth, Optical 1, Optical 2, Coaxial, A1, A2, A3, A4, XLR).

Volume Control

Adjust the audio output level using the large rotary volume knob on the front panel or the volume up/down buttons on the remote control. Rotate clockwise to increase volume, counter-clockwise to decrease.

Bluetooth Pairing

To pair a Bluetooth device, select the Bluetooth input on the CXA81. The amplifier will automatically enter pairing mode. On your mobile device, search for 'Cambridge Audio CXA81' in the Bluetooth settings and connect. The CXA81 supports aptX HD for high-quality wireless audio streaming.

DAC Functionality

When using any of the digital inputs (USB, Optical, Coaxial), the integrated ESS Sabre ES9016K2M Digital-to-Analog Converter (DAC) will process the audio signal, ensuring high-resolution sound reproduction.

Speaker A/B Selection

If you have connected two sets of speakers, use the Speaker A/B selector button on the front panel to choose which set is active, or to play through both simultaneously.

Headphone Output

Connect headphones to the 3.5mm jack on the front panel. Connecting headphones will mute the main speaker outputs.



MAINTENANCE

Proper maintenance ensures the longevity and optimal performance of your CXA81 amplifier.

- **Cleaning:** Disconnect the unit from the mains power supply before cleaning. Wipe the exterior surfaces with a soft, dry, lint-free cloth. Do not use abrasive cleaners, waxes, or solvents, as these can damage the finish.
- **Ventilation:** Regularly check that the ventilation openings on the top and sides of the unit are clear of dust and obstructions. Adequate airflow is crucial to prevent overheating.
- **Power Disconnection:** If the unit will be left unused for an extended period, disconnect it from the mains power supply.

TROUBLESHOOTING

If you encounter issues with your CXA81, refer to the following common problems and solutions:

Problem	Possible Cause / Solution
No power	• Check that the power cable is securely connected to both the amplifier and the mains outlet. • Ensure the power button on the front panel is pressed. • Test the mains outlet with another device to confirm it is functional.
No sound output	• Verify that speakers are correctly connected and polarity is observed. • Ensure the correct input source is selected. • Check the volume level and confirm the unit is not muted. • Test with a different audio source to isolate the problem.
Distorted sound	• Check all cable connections for looseness or damage. • Ensure the audio source is not overdriven or of poor quality. • Reduce the volume level if distortion occurs at high volumes. • Verify speaker impedance matches the amplifier's specifications.
Bluetooth connection issues	• Ensure the Bluetooth antenna is securely attached. • Move the Bluetooth device closer to the amplifier. • Unpair and re-pair the device from your source device's Bluetooth settings. • Check for interference from other wireless devices.
Remote control not working	• Check and replace the AAA batteries in the remote control. • Ensure there are no obstructions between the remote control and the amplifier's IR sensor. • Confirm the remote is pointed directly at the amplifier.

SPECIFICATIONS

Detailed technical specifications for the Cambridge Audio CXA81 Integrated Stereo Amplifier:

- **Output Power:** 80 Watts RMS per channel into 8 Ohms (Class AB)
- **Channels:** 2
- **DAC:** ESS Sabre ES9016K2M (supports up to 32-bit/384kHz PCM and DSD 256)
- **Digital Inputs:** 1 x S/PDIF Coaxial, 2 x TOSLINK Optical, 1 x USB Audio (Type-B)
- **Analog Inputs:** 4 x RCA (line-level), 1 x Balanced XLR
- **Wireless Connectivity:** Bluetooth aptX HD (integrated)
- **Outputs:** Speaker A/B terminals, 3.5mm Headphone, Pre-out (RCA), Subwoofer output (RCA)
- **Dimensions (LxWxH):** 34.1 x 43 x 11.5 cm (13.4 x 16.9 x 4.5 inches)
- **Weight:** Approximately 8.7 kg (19.2 lbs)
- **Components Included:** Power Cable, 3 x AAA batteries, Remote Control, Control Bus Cable, Bluetooth antenna
- **Country of Origin:** China
- **Certifications:** CE, TUV



Front view of the Cambridge Audio CXA81 amplifier, with icons indicating USB, Bluetooth aptX HD, ESS Sabre DAC, and A/B speaker

zones.

WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

For detailed warranty information, technical support, and service inquiries, please refer to the official Cambridge Audio website or contact your authorized local dealer. You can find more information and support resources at the [Cambridge Audio Store](#).

ASK A QUESTION ABOUT THIS MANUAL

Ask about setup, troubleshooting, compatibility, parts, safety, or missing instructions. Manuals+ will review the question and use this page's manual context to help answer it.

Name

Anonymous

Email

you@example.com

After a successful submission, we securely hash the supplied account or form email before sending it to Microsoft Advertising for conversion attribution. [Privacy details](#).

Question

Example: How do I reset this device or fix this error?

Details

Model number, symptoms, what you tried, or the section of the manual you are using.

Submit question