

Audiolab 9000A

Audiolab 9000A Flagship Integrated Amplifier/DAC/Phono Preamp

USER MANUAL

1. Introduction

The Audiolab 9000A is a high-performance integrated amplifier designed to be the central component of any advanced audio system. It combines a powerful amplifier, a high-resolution Digital-to-Analog Converter (DAC), and a dedicated phono preamplifier, offering extensive connectivity and advanced features for audiophiles.

This manual provides essential information for setting up, operating, and maintaining your Audiolab 9000A to ensure optimal performance and longevity.

2. Safety Information

Please read all safety instructions carefully before operating the unit. Keep this manual for future reference.

- **Power Supply:** Connect the unit only to a power supply of the type marked on the rear panel.
- **Ventilation:** Ensure adequate ventilation. Do not block ventilation openings.
- **Water and Moisture:** Do not expose the unit to rain or moisture. Do not place objects filled with liquids on the unit.
- **Heat:** Do not place the unit near heat sources such as radiators, heat registers, stoves, or other apparatus that produce heat.
- **Cleaning:** Clean only with a dry cloth. Do not use liquid cleaners or aerosol cleaners.
- **Servicing:** Do not attempt to service this unit yourself. Refer all servicing to qualified service personnel.

3. What's in the Box

Carefully unpack the contents of the box. You should find the following items:

- Audiolab 9000A Integrated Amplifier
- Power Cord
- Remote Control
- User Manual (this document)

- Antennas (for Bluetooth connectivity)

4. Product Overview

Front Panel



Figure 4.1: Front view of the Audiolab 9000A, displaying the Audiolab logo on its full-color IPS LCD screen. The front panel features three rotary controls for Select, Mode, and Volume, along with a headphone jack and power button.



Figure 4.2: Front view of the Audiolab 9000A, showcasing the full-color IPS LCD screen displaying VU meters. This visual option provides real-time audio level feedback.

The 9000A features a 4.3-inch (800 x 480mm) full-color IPS LCD screen, providing clear and informative playback, source, and file information. It also offers various display options, including two VU meter styles, allowing for visual feedback or a discreet appearance.

Rear Panel Connections



Figure 4.3: Rear panel of the Audiolab 9000A, showing a comprehensive array of input and output connections. These include analog, XLR, phono (MM), power amplifier input, SPDIF (coaxial and optical), PC USB, Bluetooth antenna, pre-amplifier output, stereo speaker terminals, and 12V trigger connections.

The rear panel provides a wide range of connectivity options, including multiple analog and digital inputs, a dedicated phono input, balanced XLR input, and various outputs for speakers and external components. Bluetooth antennas are also located here for wireless streaming.

Key Features

- **Amplification:** Discrete Class AB power amplifier delivering 100W per channel into 8 ohms (160W into 4 ohms). Features Audiolab's CFB (Complementary Feedback) topology for superior linearity.
- **Digital-to-Analog Converter (DAC):** Equipped with the ESS 9038PRO flagship 32-bit DAC chip, supporting PCM up to 32-bit/768kHz and DSD up to DSD512.
- **MQA Decoding:** Full MQA decoding capability for high-resolution streaming.
- **Phono Stage:** Dedicated high-performance, low-noise Moving Magnet (MM) phono stage with JFET-based circuitry and precise RIAA equalization.
- **Headphone Amplifier:** Dedicated current-feedback headphone amplifier with wide bandwidth and high slew rate.
- **Connectivity:** Multiple analog inputs (3 x AUX, 1 x XLR), digital inputs (2 x Coaxial, 2 x Optical, 1 x PC USB), Bluetooth 5.1 with aptX HD/AAC/LDAC support.
- **Operating Modes:** Integrated, Pre-Power, and Pre Only modes for versatile system integration.

5. Setup

5.1 Placement

Place the Audiolab 9000A on a stable, level surface away from direct sunlight, heat sources, and excessive moisture. Ensure there is adequate space around the unit for ventilation.

5.2 Connecting Speakers

1. Ensure the 9000A is powered off and unplugged from the mains.
2. Connect your loudspeakers to the speaker terminals on the rear panel (refer to Figure 4.3). Ensure correct polarity: red (+) to red (+) and black (-) to black (-).
3. Tighten the binding posts securely, but do not overtighten.

5.3 Connecting Audio Sources

The 9000A offers a variety of input options:

- **Analog Inputs (AUX1, AUX2, AUX3):** Use RCA cables to connect analog sources like CD players, tuners, or tape decks.
- **Balanced XLR Input:** For high-quality analog sources with XLR outputs.
- **Phono (MM) Input:** Connect your turntable directly to this input. Ensure your turntable has a Moving Magnet (MM) cartridge.
- **Digital Inputs (COAX1, COAX2, OPT1, OPT2):** Connect digital sources such as CD transports, media streamers, or TVs using coaxial or optical cables.
- **PC USB (USB B):** Connect your computer for high-resolution audio playback.
- **Bluetooth:** Attach the supplied antennas to the rear panel for optimal Bluetooth signal reception.

5.4 Power Connection

Once all audio connections are made, connect the supplied power cord to the IEC inlet on the rear panel and then to a suitable mains power outlet.

6. Operating Instructions

6.1 Powering On/Off

Press the power button on the front panel or the remote control to switch the unit on or off. The display will illuminate upon power-on.

6.2 Source Selection

Use the "SELECT" rotary control on the front panel or the source buttons on the remote control to cycle through the available input sources (AUX1, AUX2, AUX3, XLR, Phono, COAX1, COAX2, OPT1, OPT2, PC USB, Bluetooth).

6.3 Volume Control

Adjust the listening volume using the "VOL" rotary control on the front panel or the Volume Up/Down buttons on the remote control.

6.4 Operating Modes

The 9000A offers three distinct operating modes, selectable via the menu:

- **Integrated Mode:** This is the default mode, where the pre-amplifier and power amplifier stages are combined. Use this for connecting digital and analog sources directly to the 9000A and driving a pair of speakers.
- **Pre-Power Mode:** This mode disconnects the pre-amplifier and power amplifier stages. The 9000A can then be used solely as a power amplifier (e.g., connected to an AV processor) or to insert external signal processing between the pre-out and power-in connections.
- **Pre Only Mode:** In this mode, the 9000A functions solely as a pre-amplifier, outputting the processed signal via its pre-amplifier outputs to an external power amplifier.

6.5 Digital Filters

For digital inputs, the 9000A provides user-selectable digital filters to optimize the response to suit the source file and partnering equipment. Access these options through the unit's menu system.

6.6 Bluetooth Connectivity

1. Ensure the Bluetooth antennas are connected to the rear panel.
2. Select "Bluetooth" as the input source on the 9000A.
3. On your mobile device (smartphone, tablet, laptop), enable Bluetooth and search for available devices.
4. Select "Audiolab 9000A" from the list to pair. Once paired, audio from your device will stream wirelessly to the amplifier.
5. The 9000A supports aptX HD, AAC, and LDAC protocols for high-quality wireless audio.

6.7 Headphone Output

Connect your headphones to the 6.35mm (1/4 inch) headphone jack on the front panel. Connecting headphones will automatically mute the main speaker outputs.

7. Maintenance

- **Cleaning:** Use a soft, dry, lint-free cloth to clean the unit. Do not use abrasive cleaners, waxes, or solvents.
- **Ventilation:** Periodically check that the ventilation openings are clear of dust and debris.
- **Connections:** Ensure all cables are securely connected. Loose connections can affect sound quality.
- **Storage:** If storing the unit for an extended period, disconnect it from the power supply and store it in a cool, dry place.

8. Troubleshooting

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
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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 on unit or remote.
No sound from speakers	Incorrect input selected; Speaker cables loose or incorrectly connected; Volume too low; Mute function active; Headphone connected.	Select correct input; Check speaker connections and polarity; Increase volume; Deactivate mute; Disconnect headphones.
No sound from one channel	Speaker cable loose or faulty; Source cable faulty; Speaker faulty.	Check speaker and source cable connections; Test with another speaker or source.
Humming or buzzing noise	Ground loop; Nearby electrical interference; Faulty cable.	Ensure all components are properly grounded; Move unit away from other electronics; Try different cables.

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Bluetooth pairing issues	Antennas not connected; Device too far; Device already paired with another unit.	Connect Bluetooth antennas; Move device closer; Disconnect from other devices and try pairing again.

9. Specifications

Category	Detail
General Description	Integrated Amplifier
Rated Power Output	2 x 100W (8 ohms, THD<1%); 2 x 160W (4 ohms, THD<1%) Class AB
DAC Chip	ES9038Pro 32-bit DAC
Display	4.3" (800 x 480mm) Full View IPS LCD
MQA Decoding	Built-in Certified MQA Full Decoder (PC USB, Coax/Optical)
Bluetooth	Bluetooth 5.1 (aptX/aptX HD/AAC/LDAC) Support
Phono Stage	Dedicated High-performance, Low-noise MM Phono Stage
Headphone AMP	Dedicated Current-Feedback Headphone AMP
Operating Modes	Integrated / PRE-POWER / PRE Only Modes
USB Upgrade Support	Yes
Inputs	3 x Analogue, 1 x XLR, 1 x Phono (MM), 1 x Power Amplifier, 2 x SPDIF (Coax), 2 x SPDIF (Optical), 1 x PC USB (USB B), 1 x Bluetooth, 1 x 12V Trigger
Outputs	1 x PRE Amplifier, 1 x Stereo Speaker, 1 x Headphone, 1 x 12V Trigger
Sampling Frequency (Optical/Coaxial)	44.1kHz-192kHz
Sampling Frequency (PC USB)	44.1kHz-768kHz (PCM) / DSD64, DSD128, DSD256, DSD512
Preamplifier Gain (max.)	+6dB (Line), +53dB (Phono MM)
Preamplifier THD	<0.0004% (1kHz @ 2V, Volume = 0dB)
DAC THD	<0.001% (1kHz @ 0dBFS)
Power Amplifier THD	<0.002% (1kHz @ 50W / 8 ohms)
Headphone Amplifier THD	<0.01% (1kHz, 50mW)



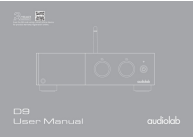


Category	Detail
Net Weight	9.4kg
Dimensions (W x H x D)	444 x 342 x 89 mm
Finish Options	Black / Silver
Power Requirements	100-120V ~ 50/60Hz

10. Warranty and Support

Audiolab products are manufactured to the highest standards and undergo rigorous quality control. This product is covered by a manufacturer's warranty, the terms of which may vary by region. Please refer to the warranty card included with your product or visit the official Audiolab website for detailed warranty information.

For technical support, service, or inquiries regarding your Audiolab 9000A, please contact your authorized Audiolab dealer or distributor. You can also find support resources, FAQs, and contact information on the official Audiolab website: www.audiolab.co.uk

Related Documents - 9000A

	<p>Audiolab D9 User Manual: High-Resolution DAC and Amplifier Guide</p> <p>Comprehensive user manual for the Audiolab D9 high-resolution DAC, detailing its features, setup, controls, connections, menu options, system operations, playback capabilities, and warranty information.</p>
	<p>Audiolab D9 User Manual: Features, Setup, and Operation</p> <p>Comprehensive user manual for the Audiolab D9 DAC, covering setup, controls, connections, menu options, system operations, playing tracks, and warranty information. Learn how to connect, configure, and operate your Audiolab D9 audio device.</p>
	<p>Audiolab D9 User Manual: High-Resolution DAC with MQA & Bluetooth</p> <p>Get the most from your Audiolab D9 high-resolution DAC. This user manual covers setup, MQA decoding, Bluetooth 5.1, connectivity, and system operations. Essential guide for audiophiles.</p>
	<p>Audiolab 6000A Integrated Amplifier User Manual and Instructions</p> <p>Comprehensive guide for the Audiolab 6000A integrated amplifier. Learn about setup, connections, operation, safety, warranty, and detailed specifications. Includes diagrams and feature explanations.</p>
	<p>Audiolab 6000A MKII Integrated Amplifier User Manual</p> <p>Comprehensive user manual for the Audiolab 6000A MKII integrated amplifier, detailing its features, connections, operation, safety guidelines, specifications, and warranty information.</p>



[Audiolab D7 User Manual](#)

User manual for the Audiolab D7 DAC, featuring MQA decoding, Bluetooth 5.1, and a range of digital and analog inputs and outputs. Includes setup, operation, menu options, and warranty information.