



**5-Series Class A Power Amplifier
Owner's Manual**

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S5 / M5 (chassis 1)

S/N# _____ - _____

M5 (chassis 2)

S/N# _____ - _____

Notes: _____

Introduction

I am very pleased that through a sea of quality audio equipment you have chosen a BSC product. All the devices we make come from a deep yearning to provide a perfect vehicle for the creation of a meaningful listening experience. When you purchase a BSC product you also acquire a piece of my soul, inspiration, and DNA. My dream has always been to create products that not only bring the listener great pleasure but to that end grant a deeper understanding and insight into the artist's vision. For the first time in my professional career I was unburdened by another's vision and finally able to translate decades of experience into a line of products that are truly inspired.

BSC hand builds all of its products in small quantities to maintain the very highest quality control standards. Units are subjected to rigorous test standards and leave our factory a beacon of quality.

In a world of corporate consolidation, it is hard to know who actually is responsible for designing the products we buy, and where they come from. At BSC not only do you have a product designed to a singular vision but you also have access to the designer himself at virtually anytime.

Thank you for your purchase,

Bret D'Agostino

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bret D'Agostino', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Unpacking and Placement

NOTICE: BSC amplifiers are extremely heavy, it is recommended that two people aid in the unpacking and installation of our products.

Unpacking

1. Place the amplifier box on a firm level surface with plenty of room to move around it.
2. Cut the tape from the top of the box carefully, do not stick sharp cutting devices too deep into the cardboard as you may damage something located at the surface of the package.
3. Remove the Top White Cap from the Outside box. The amplifier is now exposed, covered by a special vinyl cling wrap.
4. Facing the front of the amplifier (curved portion) there are handles located on the left and right side of the unit attached to a special cardboard carrier. With a person on each side reach down and grab the handles, each person pulling the amplifier upward and free from the bottom carton, then walking forward or backward to a free space.
5. The amplifier is now free to move to it's final location. Remove the vinyl wrap from the unit before you apply power.

Contents:

- 5-Series Power Amplifier
- 20A C19 style 6' power cord
- 1/2" Nut driver for Binding Posts
- Owners Manual
- Warranty Card
- Extra AC Line Fuse

Placement

Ventilation: BSC 5-Series amplifiers are class A designs and can get very hot over the top cover vents. Because of this they should be placed in an area where adequate ventilation is available. At least 8-10 inches of space over the top cover and 2 inches on either side is recommended. There should be no obstruction above or below the amplifier allowing cool air to circulate from the bottom upward through the amplifier chassis and out of the top cover vents.

NOTICE: The top cover vents should never be covered or obstructed.

Location: 5-Series amplifiers can be placed on a floor or inside of an open cabinet. For additional cooling and vibration reduction an amplifier stand can be utilized. Please verify the furniture will be suitable based on the heat and weight requirements of the amplifier. It is recommended the amplifier be placed as close to the loudspeaker location as possible. This with the use of minimum length speaker cable will maximize the power transfer to the loudspeaker and ensure best performance.

CAUTION: Never place the amplifier in or around open or running water sources.

AC Power

BSC 5-Series amplifiers are designed to plug directly into any AC outlet and perform as Designed. Good, clean, and constant power is always a benefit to a high performance audio system. In most cases existing AC power is adequate for installation. When available a dedicated 15A or 20A line for the amplifier is an excellent improvement.

There are several companies that offer products designed to regenerate AC power or Filter AC power. 5-Series amplifiers have excellent noise filtering and ultra quiet power supply circuitry. They do not require additional noise filtering or AC Line conditioning. In the event that additional AC Line conditioning/ Filtering is utilized these simple guidelines will insure proper amplifier operation.

AC line conditioning / Regeneration: Many products on the market today are designed to regenerate and filter incoming AC power, and some products even utilize battery technology to this end. In the event that the product of choice utilizes an internal power transformer or supply reservoir to be placed in Series or in-line with the power amplifier it is important to make sure the internal power capacity I.E. transformer/supply/battery size is greater than TWO times the 5-Series amplifier power supply size.

EXAMPLE: An S5 amplifier utilizes a 1.4KVA power transformer and is capable of outputting over 1350 Watts of continuous power. It is recommended that an AC Line conditioner as described above be capable of at least 2,800 watts of continuous output power.

AC line Filtering: Most of the AC filtering devices on the market today are used in parallel to the AC power line. Make sure any components utilized are of high quality and adhere to UL/CE Standards and are not current limiting in any way.

After Market Power Cords: Utilizing an after-market AC power cord is not required for a 5-series product. However, power cords can change the sound in an audio system and even improve certain qualities you personally listen for. Make sure Power cords utilized are of high quality and adhere to UL/CE Standards, shielded and are not limiting in any way.

Associated Equipment

The BSC 5-Series amplifiers are extremely high performance and designed to enhance the listening experience. It is recommended that associated components be chosen that can best take advantage of the 5-Series amplifier capabilities. Care should be taken in choosing source components, loudspeakers and cabling. Although all BSC components are designed to be flexible, practical limitations exist for all components and choosing associated components wisely protects your investment and maximizes the system performance abilities. If there are any questions or concerns in regards to associated equipment please contact your local dealer/distributor or BSC directly.

Input Connections

Cabling: The 5-Series amplifiers are equipped to accept either a Standard XLR type balanced input cable or a Single-Ended cables via Standard RCA connectors.

Balanced: A balanced cable has three conductors for signal transfer and (typically) a shield:

- Pin 1 - Ground
- Pin 2 - Non-Inverting (Positive)
- Pin 3 - Inverting (Negative)

Balanced cables offer exceptional noise rejection characteristics particularly for long cable runs but also for short and are the recommended termination for BSC products. 5-Series products utilize standard locking XLR connectors.

NOTICE: A truly balanced cable has three signal conductors, a cable that only has two conductors (Hot) and (Ground) is a single ended connection even if XLR connectors are utilized on one or both sides.

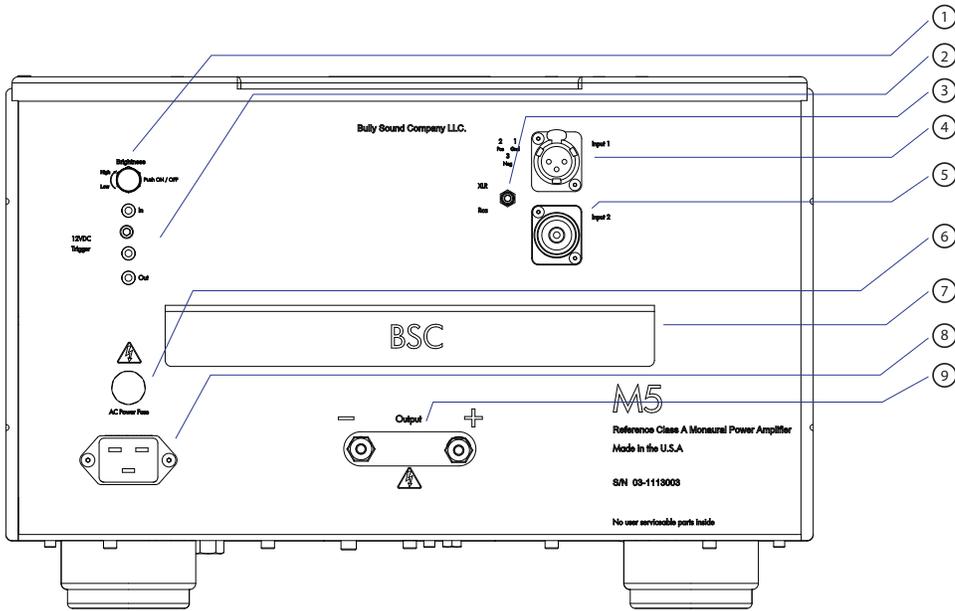
Single-Ended: A Single-ended cable has two conductors for signal transfer and (typically) a shield:

- Center Pin - Non-Inverting (Positive)
- Outer Ring - Ground

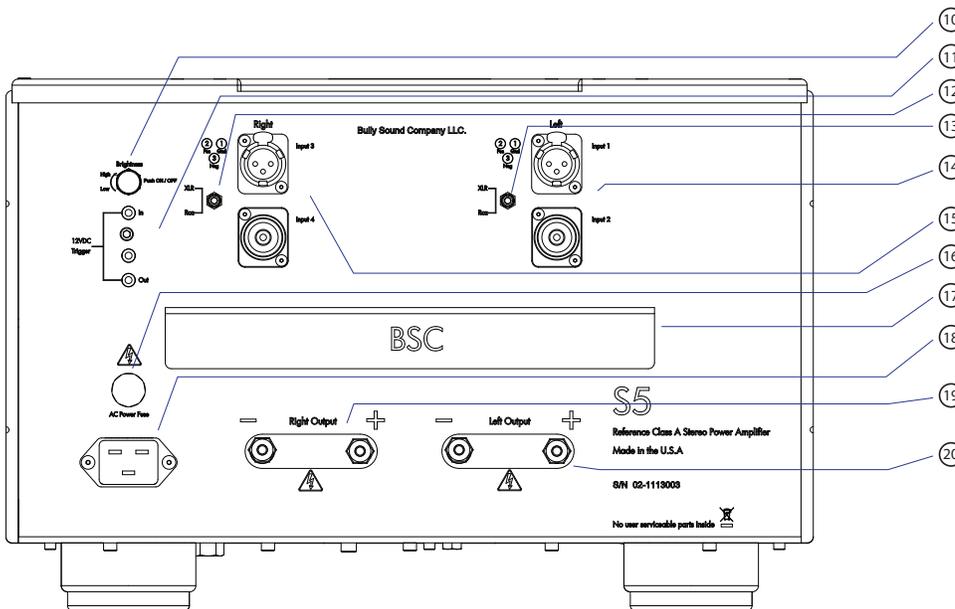
Single-ended cables were the industry standard for audio connection since the beginning and are typically the most widely utilized. 5-Series products utilize standard locking RCA connectors.

NOTICE: To minimize noise contamination when using Single-ended inputs, The 5-Series amplifiers provide a switch on the back panel labeled XLR / RCA. When using A single-ended input cable move the switch down to the RCA position. When using Balanced cables make sure the switch is in the up of XLR position.

Back Panel Description



- 1 Led Display Dimmer & On/Off Switch
- 2 12v Trigger (1) Input and (2) Outputs
- 3 Balanced / Single-Ended Selection Switch
- 4 Differential (Balanced) Input
- 5 Single- Ended Input
- 6 AC Power Fuse
- 7 Courtesy Handle
- 8 AC Power cord Receptacle
- 9 Output Terminals



- 10 Led Display Dimmer & On/Off Switch
- 11 12v Trigger (1) Input and (2) Outputs
- 12 (Right) Balanced / Single-Ended Selection Switch
- 13 (Left) Balanced / Single-Ended Selection Switch
- 14 (Left) Balanced / Single-Ended Inputs
- 15 (Right) Balanced / Single-Ended Inputs
- 16 AC Power Fuse
- 17 Courtesy Handle
- 18 AC Power cord Receptacle
- 19 (Right) Output Terminals
- 20 (Left) Output Terminals

Output Connections

Speaker Cables have a special relationship with amplifiers in that they are the last electrical connection in the playback chain before the loudspeaker. They are responsible for the final transmission of the delicate audio signal but also provide the power and control conduit that brings the musical event alive. Cable selection is very important to the overall sonic presentation of an audio system. It can be considered the last level of system refinement after all of the major components and room set-up has been completed. BSC recommends you take a system approach to cable purchasing as this will have the best overall tonal balance although it is perfectly acceptable to mix and match different manufacturer products.

Speaker Cabling: The 5-Series amplifiers are equipped to accept either a Standard Banana type termination or a 1/4" spaced spade lug.

Spade Lugs: Spade Lugs (or forked lugs) offer excellent surface area and superior clamping abilities. They are the recommended Speaker cable termination for BSC products. 5-Series Binding posts are gold plated, and if gold plated lugs are available on your choice of speaker cable, they will make the best electrical connection despite this other materials can work extremely well.

Banana Plugs: Banana Plugs are extremely useful when swapping of speaker cables is frequent. When using banana plugs look for the locking (expanding) types as they make the best electrical connection which is even better if gold plated.

Polarity: BSC amplifiers do not Invert polarity, Absolute phase is maintained from Pin 2 (hot) through all circuitry to the Positive output (+) Make sure Speaker terminations are correctly connected with the Positive (+) going to the (+) Plus side of the speaker.

Grounding: 5-Series amplifiers utilize a single point grounding configuration where all ground terminations are connected to the same place electrically. The chassis and (-) output are also directly connected to ground.

12 Volt Triggers

12 Volt triggers are designed to remote turn On/Off your power amplifier and other components equipped with 12 volt triggers.

12VDC input: Applying a steady 12 volts DC to the 12VDC Input will effectively bypass the front panel power switch and turn the amplifier ON. When the 12 volts DC is removed the amplifier will shut off. There is one 12VDC Trigger Input, it has a Pink ring and is located at the top.

NOTICE: 12VDC triggers are terminated with standard 1/8" Mono Jacks.
The tip is 12v Hot (+) and the Sleeve is Ground (-).

12VDC Output: When the power amplifier is turned ON there is a steady 12 volts DC output provided as a convenience to remote turn on another component like another amplifier or Sub-woofer when the power amp is turned on. When the amplifier is turned off, the 12VDC will end and the connected component will shut off. There are two 12VDC Trigger outputs.

Operation

When the AC Power cord is connected to the amplifier and plugged into an active AC power inlet, the amplifier is in Standby Mode. No signal can be passed through the amplifier, only the RED Power LED indicator is lit. In this state it can take a command by pressing the POWER button or it can receive a 12 Volt DC trigger from another component, both of which will turn ON the amplifier.

Power Button: After pressing the power button there will be a soft click and the RED Power LED indicator will switch to BLUE. After approximately 10 seconds a second click will sound indicating the amplifier is powered ON and ready to play music.

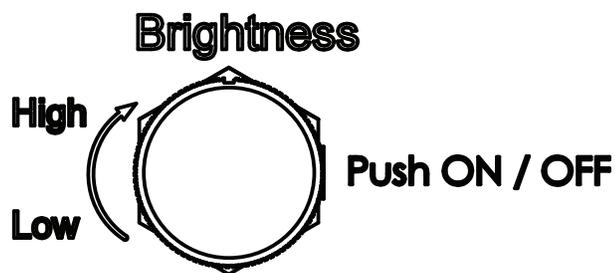
CAUTION: Make sure the Volume control on the preamplifier or other source Component is off or all the way down before you turn ON the amplifier. Because of the extreme power of this product, in some cases, if a full volume signal were active upon turn-on it could damage the amplifier or severely damage the loudspeaker.

Push the Power button again to turn OFF the amplifier.

Brightness Logo Display Control: The Blue illuminated BSC logo is a bold statement that complements the 5-Series Product design. However, it may not suited to everyones taste. To that end, there is a Brightness control knob on the back of the amplifier chassis provided to dim or turn on/off the BSC logo as well as the Bias Control indicator LED.

Logo Display Power On/Off - Push the Silver Brightness knob IN until it clicks to Power ON and again to Power OFF the BSC Logo and the Bias Control LED.

Logo Display Dim - Turning the Silver Brightness knob Counter-Clockwise will dim the BSC logo and bias level LED, turning the Silver Brightness knob Clockwise will increase brightness of the BSC logo and bias level LED.



Operation - Continued

Class A Control: Class A amplifiers draw a considerable amount of power from the wall and additionally generate a lot of heat. Music is frequently played in the background or during social interactions where focused listening isn't the main objective. In those cases a lot of extra power is wasted in unwanted heat generated by classic class A designs. Energy usage being of major concern to our future at large, and wanting to maximize the ownership experience facilitated the addition of a Class A Bias level adjustment switch. The bias switch allows "on the fly" reduction of class A bias on the output stage by 50% and eventually to approximately 98% or what we call ECO mode. Use of the bias control switch reduces energy and heat used during a particular listening session without changing the maximum power output capabilities.

Class A levels - There are 3 levels of Class A bias selectable from the front panel control on the 5-series amplifiers.

100% - Represents Full Class A bias for rated power. In this Mode the amplifier is maximized for the very best performance, this is how the amplifier was intended to be measured and heard.

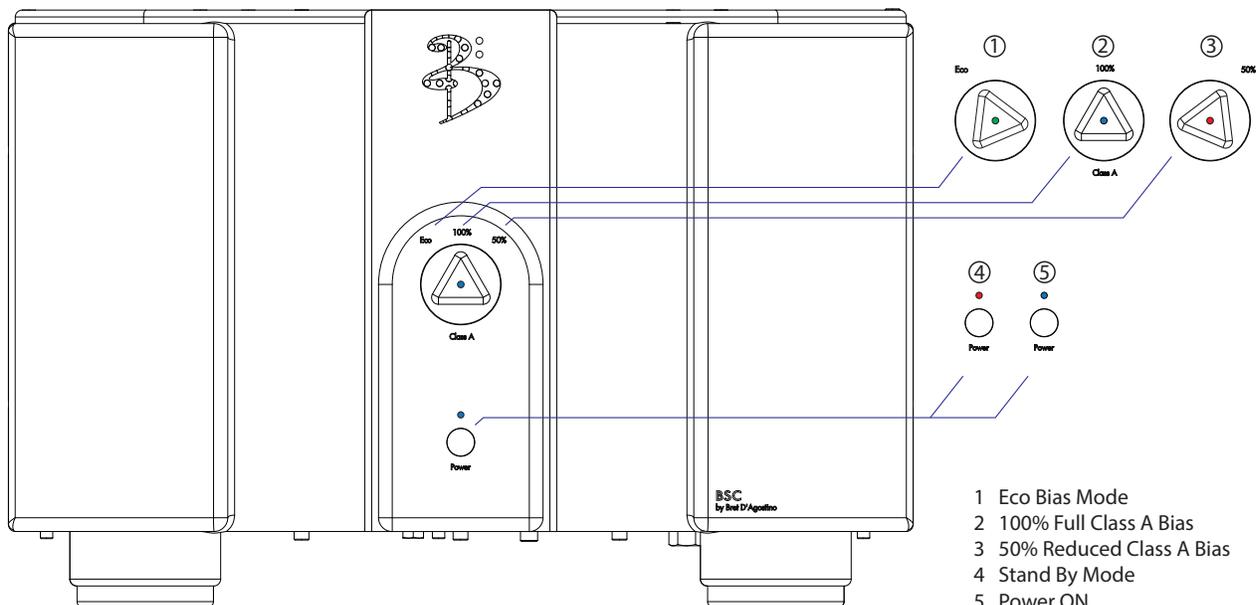
The Knob is in the UP position and the Center LED illuminates Blue.

50% - Represents approximately 1/2 Class A Bias for rated power. In this mode the amplifier effectively becomes a high bias Class A/B amplifier. Overall sonic performance is reduced but power output has not changed. This mode is particularly good for casual listening, extreme climates, and for a more detailed yet cooler operating home theater experience.

The Knob is in the RIGHT position and the Center LED illuminates Red.

ECO - Represents approximately 1/8th Class A Bias for rated power. In this mode the amplifier effectively becomes a very cool operating low bias class A/B amplifier. The listening performance will be reduced yet again as compared to 50% or 100% mode but power output has not changed. This mode is great for background listening while working or entertaining, extreme climates, ,and for a more detailed, yet cooler operating, home theater experience.

The Knob is in the LEFT position and the Center LED illuminates Green.



Protection

The 18th century philosopher Voltaire said it best: "With great power comes great responsibility." Although the sentiment may be a bit of a stretch for this manual, the point is spot on. BSC makes extremely fast and powerful amplifiers that can drive low impedances with ease. We have gone to great lengths to make sure the amplifier is protected as well as the associated equipment.

The 5-Series amplifiers are protected from the following fault conditions:

Short Circuit / Excessive Current draw: In the event the amplifier is shorted while a signal is passed through it one or more of these protection mechanisms will react.

AC Main Fuse - This can be accessed and replaced on the rear panel. Consult with BSC, authorized BSC dealer, or distributor for appropriate value information.

Positive or Negative Rail Fuse - These parts can **only** be replaced by BSC, Authorized BSC dealer, or distributor

Fuse replacement - The AC main fuse is the only accessible fuse for the end user. The main AC power fuse is a 3AG 250V 20A FST Blo.

There are several internal fuses that are not to be tampered with unless done so by an Authorized service technician. Preferably one recognized by BSC.

CAUTION: There are no user servicable parts in BSC 5-Series Amplifiers. Any tampering with the internal contents of the amplifier by non-BSC authorized Technical personal can void warranty.

After Market fuses - There are several companies that offer special audiophile grade fuses that claim to improve performance. At this time BSC can not confirm nor deny the results using these fuses, as long as they mimic the ones used in the unit than there is no reason for concern.

Excessive DC offset voltage: If there is excessive DC voltage detected at the input of the amplifier or anywhere in the circuit before the speaker terminals the output relays will open and not allow signal to pass until the fault condition is cleared.

Output protection circuit - The protection circuit is an active device that monitors the amplifier. If the circuit senses DC offset above the specified allowable limit, the output relay will open and no signal can pass to the loud speaker. Once the DC source is cleared for approximately a 10 second period the output relay will engage and music can be played as before. If this persists it is recommended that you disconnect the Input cable(s) from the amplifier and listen to hear whether the output relays re-engage. If reconnecting the input cable to the amplifier causes the protection to shut off again then the problem is being caused before the amplifier input. Have the preamplifier and other source components checked to make sure they are performing correctly.

Protection - Continued

If the output relays do not turn ON after approximately 10 seconds with no cables connected then there is an internal issue causing the fault. Contact BSC, an authorized BSC dealer, or distributor to arrange for service.

Excessive Temperature: The 5-series amplifiers are designed to run hot, but in the event the internal temperature is raised above the acceptable set level, the AC power will disconnect from the power supply circuit. This will prevent any possibility of damage and initiate cooling the fastest. During this state the front POWER LED will be Blue even when the main supply is off. At this point press the POWER button to switch the amplifier to stand-by.

Thermal protection: is initialized when the amplifiers internal temperature reaches a point higher in temperature than designed. The biggest cause of a thermal shut down will be blockage of airflow from the bottom of the chassis through to the top of the chassis. Typical causes for such a failure are:

- Blockage of the top cover vents
- Blockage of the bottom vents
- Space amplifier is encased in does not allow enough air circulation and hot air can not escape at a fast enough rate.
- Bad cable terminations.
- Internal failure

NOTICE: The top cover vents should never be covered or obstructed.

In the event an amplifier shuts down thermally, some time must be spent waiting for the unit to naturally cool off, 10-15 minutes will typically suffice. During the time waiting for the unit to cool off, check to make sure there are no obvious obstructions to airflow at the top or bottom of the chassis.

EXAMPLE: The amplifier has ample height clearance to be placed on most carpeted surfaces. Sometimes even a heavy shag rug can cause restricted air flow, in this case it would be best to lift the amplifier up with an amplifier base or cone feet, allowing the bottom vents to be free, are popular solutions.

Also check that cable connections are secure, not frayed/ damaged or excessively loose. After the cooling off period, switch the power amplifier back on. If thermal shut down is a consistent problem please consult BSC, an authorized BSC dealer, or distributor to discuss the fault.

After Care

BSC products are designed for a lifetime of effortless performance. All of the internal designs are supported by the very best components available today, over built and over specified for the job they are designated to do. Components manufactured outside are of BSC design and built to the same exacting standards.

All of the external surfaces utilize the highest quality finishes available to maintain color and luster for years to come. The Outer cosmetic surfaces are painted with an automotive quality paint process, the Grills, Sub-chassis, and Back panel are finished industrial powder-coat. All of the remaining finishes are clear anodized. All Assembly fasteners and hardware stainless steel.

BSC products are all Hand Assembled in the USA, manufactured in small batches to ensure the highest level of quality control.

Cleaning: The 5 series amplifiers should require very little cleaning maintenance, with the exception of dust or fingerprints. It is perfectly safe to use a feather duster or similar to rid the surface of dust and dirt. Mild non-abrasive solvents and household cleaners are safe for the finish. Top cover vents should be free of excessive dust or pet hair to maximize air flow.

NOTICE: Cleaning is best done with the unit in stand-by and best if actually unplugged.

Service

BSC takes service very seriously, we realize that the purchase of one of our products represents an investment in your personal enjoyment, time, and money. To this end we have designed products to be robust in every facet of their development. Even with the safeguards we have provided in our designs, the need for service will occasionally arise. We recommend you contact BSC directly or your Authorized BSC Dealer or Distributor the moment a product acts differently or in some way fails. The BSC dealers and distributors are instructed to contact us immediately when a service issue arises. We will discuss the problem with you and verify to the best of our ability the best course of action. We will provide a case number to keep a record of all correspondence in regards to your service transaction. If a product requires repair we prioritize this in our facility and make sure the problem is verified and repaired as quickly as we can make it happen. Typically a unit will be verified and the process started the day it arrives with our goal to return your product working perfectly as fast and with as little disturbance as possible.

NOTICE: All service in the USA and Canada is done in our facility. Some types of service may be handled at the Dealer level at BSC's discretion. Distributors will perform the service in their respective territories under the guidance and documentation provided by BSC.

CAUTION: Do not send a unit to our facility without first obtaining a case number or an Authorization to return your product. We want to provide the best possible service and can not schedule properly if components arrive with no documentation effecting overall service time.

Warranty

This BSC product has a limited warranty of five years parts and labor on all internal circuitry. Should this product fail to perform as designed during the warranty period, BSC will repair it at no cost to the owner, except as set forth in this warranty. The warranty does not apply to damage caused by acts of nature. BSC will work with you to find the best solution.

The warranty on this page shall be in lieu of any other warranty, expressed or implied, including, but not limited to, any implied warranty of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose. There are no warranties that extend beyond those described in this document. If this product does not perform as warranted herein, the owner's sole remedy shall be repair. In no instance will BSC be liable for incidental or consequential damages arising from purchase, use, or inability to use this product, even if BSC has been advised of the possibility of such damages.

Proof of purchase in the form of a sales receipt, bill of sale or receipted invoice verifying the unit is within the five year warranty period must be presented to obtain warranty service. The warranty begins on the date of retail purchase, as noted on the sales receipt, bill of sale, or receipted invoice from an authorized BSC dealer or distributor.

The warranty for BSC products is valid only in the country to which they were originally shipped, through the authorized BSC distributor for that country, and at the BSC factory. There may be restrictions on or changes to BSC's warranty because of regulations within a specific country. Please check with your distributor for the BSC warranty terms in your country.

If a product is being returned to BSC for service the freight to the BSC factory is your responsibility. Return freight within the U.S.A. is included in the warranty period. If you have purchased your BSC product outside the U.S.A and wish to have it serviced at the BSC factory, all freight and associated charges to BSC are your responsibility. BSC is not responsible for any damage incurred in transit. The sender is responsible for filing claims for shipping damages during the return shipment to BSC should they occur.

BSC does not supply replacement parts or sub-assemblies to the end user, only to the Authorized BSC distributor performing service on the unit on an exchange basis only. All parts or sub-assemblies returned to BSC for exchange become the property of BSC.

No expressed or implied warranty is made for any BSC product damaged by accident, abuse, misuse, natural or personal disaster, or unauthorized modification. Any unauthorized voltage conversions, disassembly, component replacement, perforation of chassis, updates, or modifications performed to the unit will at BSC's discretion void the warranty. If BSC receives a product for warranty service that has been modified in anyway without BSC's authorization, all warranties on that product can be voided at BSC's discretion. The product will be returned to original specifications at the owner's expense before it is repaired. All repairs required after the product has been returned to original factory specifications will be charged to the customer, at current part and labor rates. Return freight would also be the sender's responsibility.

The operating voltage of this unit is determined by BSC at time of sale and can only be changed by an authorized BSC distributor or at the BSC factory. There are no internal wiring solutions to change the operating voltage of a BSC product. Should a voltage conversion be required, it can only be performed in the country of destination at an authorized BSC Distributor. Voltage conversions in the USA will not be performed unless the unit is registered in the country of destination. Associated Fees will apply for any voltage conversion.

**To register your product for warranty visit <http://www.bscaudio.com/warranty.html>
Complete the Online form within 30 days of purchase.**

Specifications

M5 Specifications

Description	150 Watt Reference Monaural Class A Power Amplifier
Output power	150 Watts into 8 ohms, 300 watts into 4 ohms, 600 watts into 2 ohms, 1200 watts into 1 ohm **
Output Impedance	< 0.125 ohms at 10 Hz to 30 kHz
Gain	25.75 dB
Input Impedance	48K Balanced via XLR connector, 20K single ended via RCA connector
Input sensitivity	1.8V rms Balanced or Single ended
Frequency response	10 Hz to 30 kHz +/- .25 dB
Total Harmonic Distortion	< 0.040% at 10Hz to 1kHz, < 0.60% at 10K, < 0.75% at 20K at 150 Watt output 8 ohms
Signal-to-noise	< -107.5 dB, unweighted, < -116.5dB, "A" weighted, 150 W, 8 Ohms referenced to 2.83v
Power consumption	Stand by Mode < 2 Watts, Idle: 700 W, Maximum: 1400 W
Inputs	1 single-ended via RCA connector, 1 balanced via XLR connector
Outputs	1 pair custom designed gold plated binding posts .25", 6.4 Mm spade terminal width
Dimensions	16.5 In. W x 10.90 In. H x 20.75 In. D 419.10 Mm W x 276.86 Mm H x 527.05 Mm D
Weight	In shipping carton: 120.5 Lb, 54.66 Kg Unit Only 104 Lb, 47.17 Kg

S5 Specifications

Description	75 Watt Reference Stereo Class A Power Amplifier
Output power	75 Watts into 8 ohms, 150 watts into 4 ohms, 300 watts into 2 ohms, 600 watts into 1 ohm**
Output Impedance	< .17 ohms at 10 Hz to 30 kHz
Gain	25.04 dB
Input Impedance	48K Balanced via XLR connector, 20K single ended via RCA connector
Input sensitivity	1.37V rms Balanced or Single ended
Frequency response	10 Hz to 30 kHz +/- .25 dB
Total Harmonic Distortion	< 0.06% at 20Hz to 1kHz, < 0.8% at 10K, < 0.0% at 20K at 75 Watt output 8 ohms
Signal-to-noise	< -104.5 dB, unweighted, < -110.5 dB, "A" weighted, 75 W, 8 Ohms referenced to 2.83v
Power consumption	Stand by Mode < 2 Watts, Idle: 500 W, Maximum: 1400 W
Inputs	2 single-ended via RCA connector, 2 balanced via XLR connector
Outputs	2 pair custom designed gold plated binding posts .25", 6.4 Mm spade terminal width
Dimensions	16.5 In. W x 10.90 In. H x 20.75 In. D 419.10 Mm W x 276.86 Mm H x 527.05 Mm D
Weight	In shipping carton: 121.5 Lb, 55.11 Kg Unit Only 105 Lb, 47.63 Kg

All operational features, functions, specifications and policies are subject to change without notice.

**under ideal power conditions

