ADVANCE PARIS

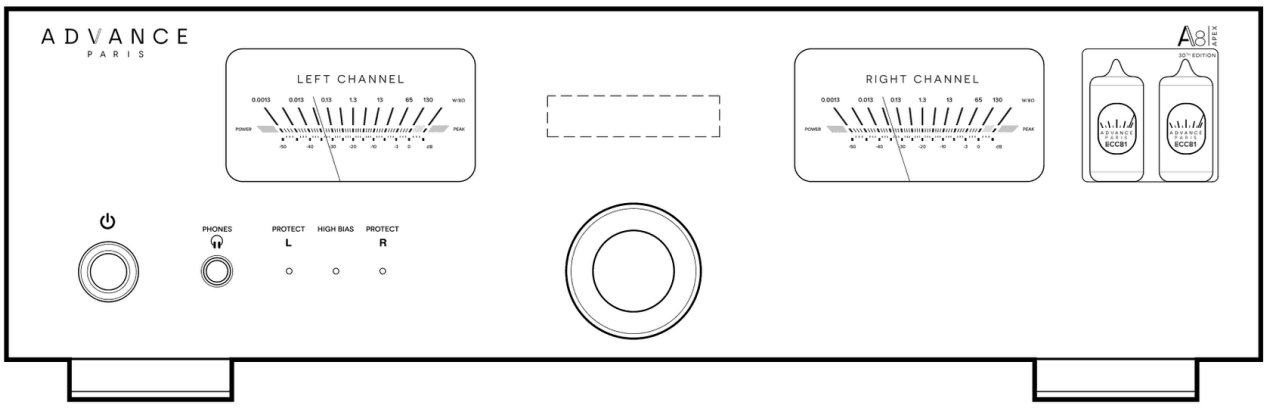
A8 APEX

30TH EDITION

HYBRID INTEGRATED AMPLIFIER

USER MANUAL

version 4 — October 2026



WWW.ADVANCEPARIS.COM

ENGLISH

User manual

The Advance Paris team warmly thanks you for choosing an A8 APEX amplifier.

The instructions in this manual apply to A8 APEX amplifiers updated with firmware version **MCU V2.01**. This update is also important for the A-BTC to work. See “Update”, page 49.

To get the most out of its performance and ensure optimal operation, please read this user manual carefully before using the product for the first time.

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Box contents

When opening the packaging, check that all the items below are present.

A8 APEX amplifier

The unit itself, 30th Edition.

REM-19 remote control

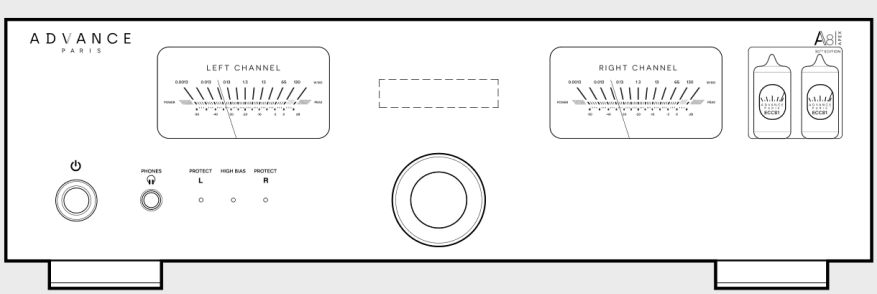
Infrared. AAA batteries not included.

Power cord

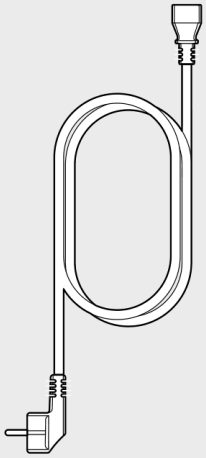
Connect after checking the voltage.

Quickstart and safety instructions

Quick start guide and safety instructions to read before use.



A8 APEX



Cordon d'alimentation



Télécommande REM-19



Quickstart

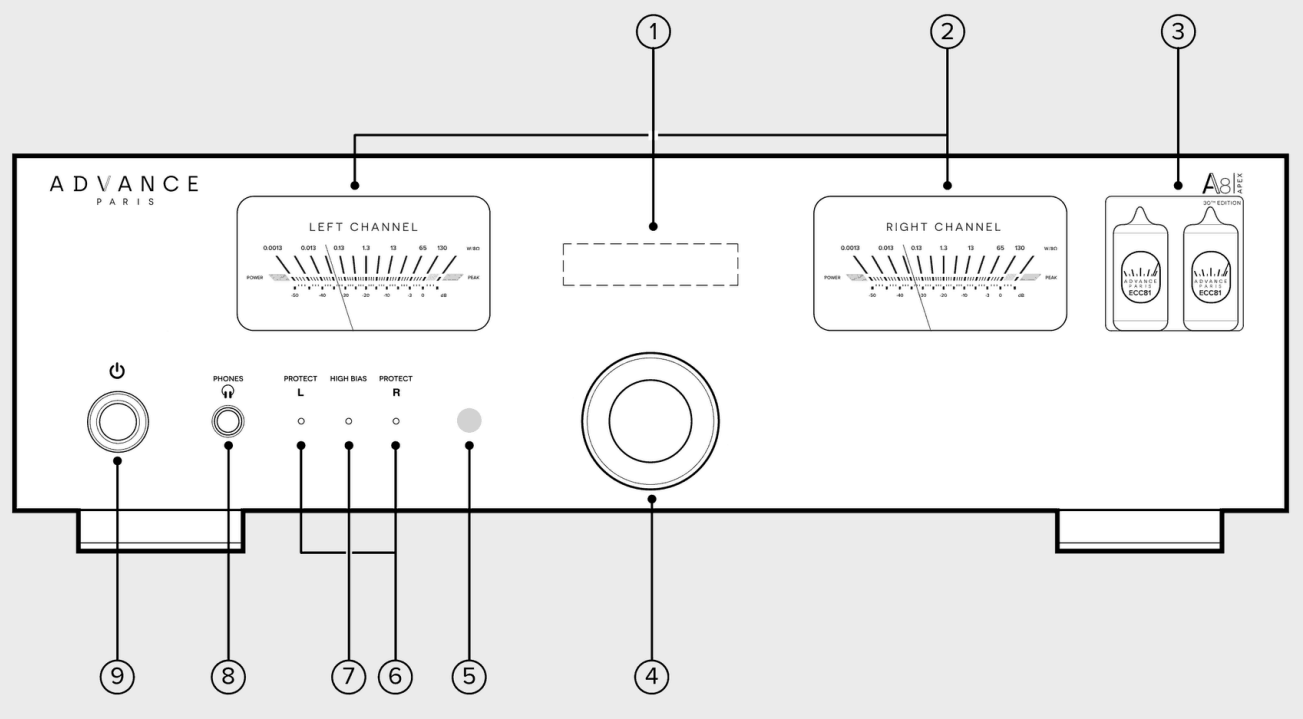


Description

Front panel 6
Rear panel 7
Remote control 8

Front panel

Always install your hi-fi system with all devices unplugged from the mains.



KEY

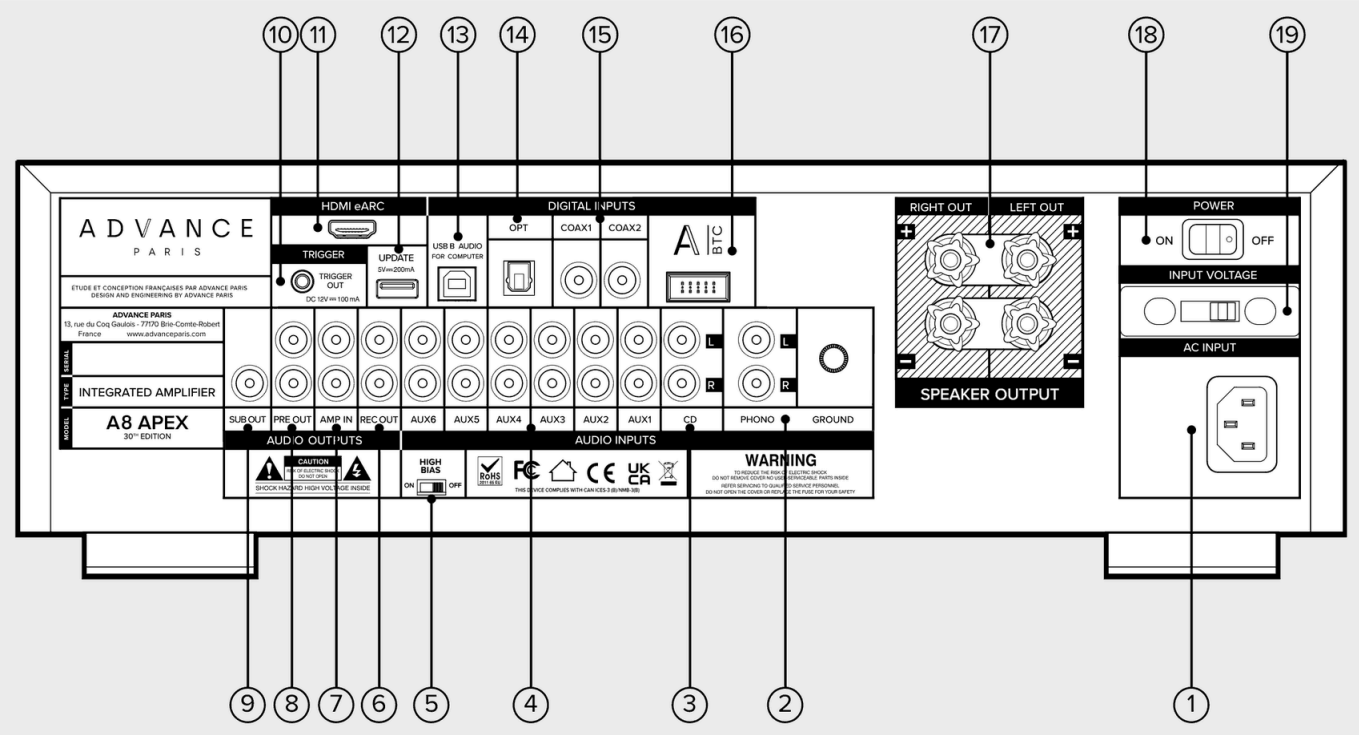
1	Display
2	VU meter
3	Tubes
4	Multifunction knob (Volume / Input selection / Settings)
5	Infrared receiver
6	Protection LEDs (Protect L and Protect R)
7	High-Bias
8	6.35 mm headphone jack
9	Standby button

Pressing the multifunction knob for more than one second gives you access to the settings menus of your APEX amplifier.

Turning the multifunction knob scrolls through the entries of the settings menu.

To enter a specific setting, press the multifunction knob briefly. To return to the previous level, press and hold.

Rear panel

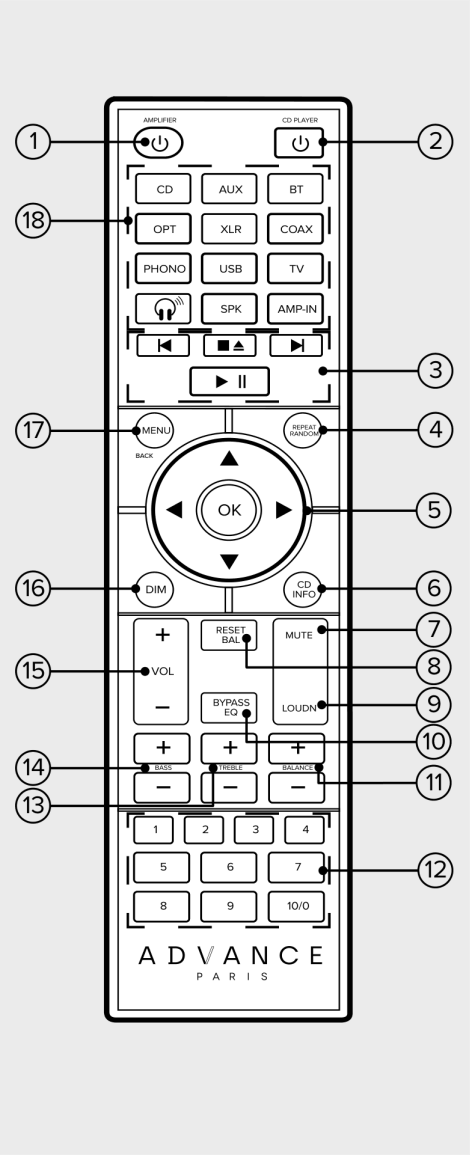


KEY

1	Mains socket
2	Phono MM input with ground
3	CD input
4	AUX inputs (×6)
5	High-Bias setting
6	REC-OUT output
7	AMP-IN input
8	PRE-OUT output
9	Subwoofer output
10	Trigger OUT
11	HDMI eARC
12	USB update port
13	USB port for computer
14	Optical digital input
15	Coaxial digital inputs (×2)
16	A-BTC input
17	Speaker terminals
18	Mains switch
19	Voltage selector (115 – 230 V)

Remote control

REM-19

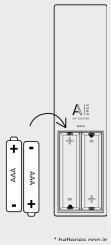


KEY

1	On / off
5	OK = select · Arrows = previous / next
7	Mute
8	Balance reset
9	Loudness
10	EQ bypass
11	Balance adjustment
13	Treble adjustment
14	Bass adjustment
15	Volume adjustment
16	Brightness adjustment
17	Menu
18	Source selection area

2 · 3 · 4 · 6 · 12 — buttons specific to the ACD APEX CD player

Range. About 6 m, within an angle of 30° on each side. The infrared receiver is located halfway between the volume knob and the display.



BATTERIES

Open the rear compartment and insert two AAA batteries, observing the polarity. Batteries are not included.

PRECAUTIONS

To avoid damaging the remote control or battery leakage, do not mix new and used batteries or different types of batteries. Remove them if the remote control will not be used for a long time. If a battery leaks, clean the compartment before inserting new ones.

Connections

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Important

READ BEFORE MAKING ANY CONNECTION

! Check that the operating voltage is correctly set on the rear panel of your amplifier and matches the mains voltage in your country.

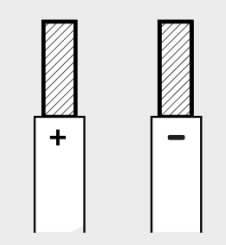
! Please connect all your sources BEFORE plugging the amplifier into the mains.

! Connecting sources while your amplifier is switched on may expose your speakers to a loud noise and cause your drivers to fail.

Speakers

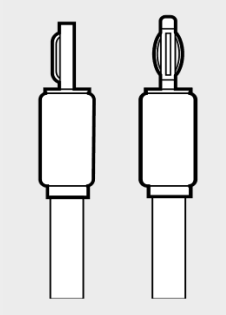
CABLE PREPARATION

The terminals of your APEX amplifier accept bare wire, spade connectors and banana plugs.



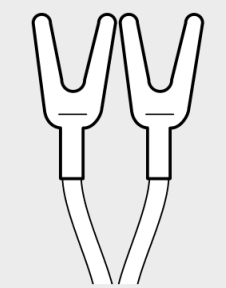
Bare wires

Strip 1 cm of insulation from the cable. Unscrew the terminals until the holes in the terminal shafts appear. Insert the bare wire and check that no copper strand touches the neighbouring terminal.



Banana plugs

Remove the red and black caps from the centre of the terminals. Then insert your speaker cables, observing the polarity (red + and black –) and the sides (Left and Right).



Spades

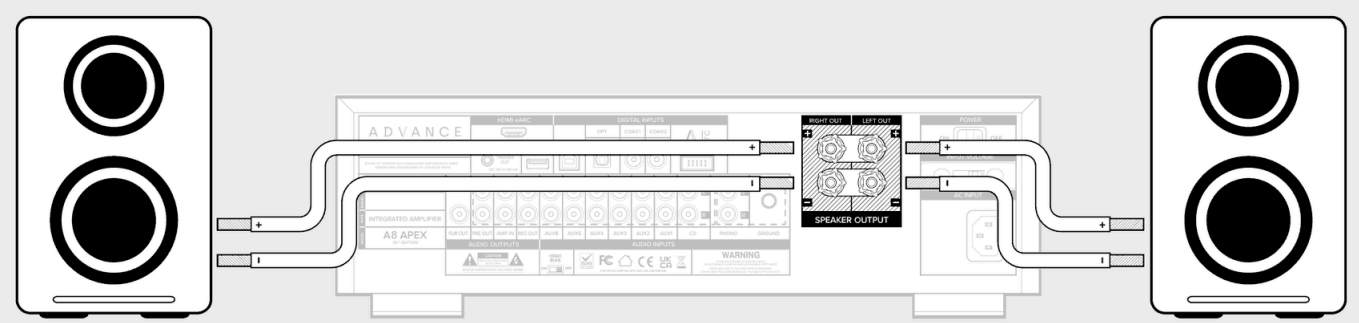
Unscrew each terminal and insert the spades. Then tighten the terminals, making sure that the spades do not touch each other.

See the speaker connection diagram, page 12.

Speakers

CONNECTION

Observe the polarity (**red +** and **black –**) and the sides (Left and Right).

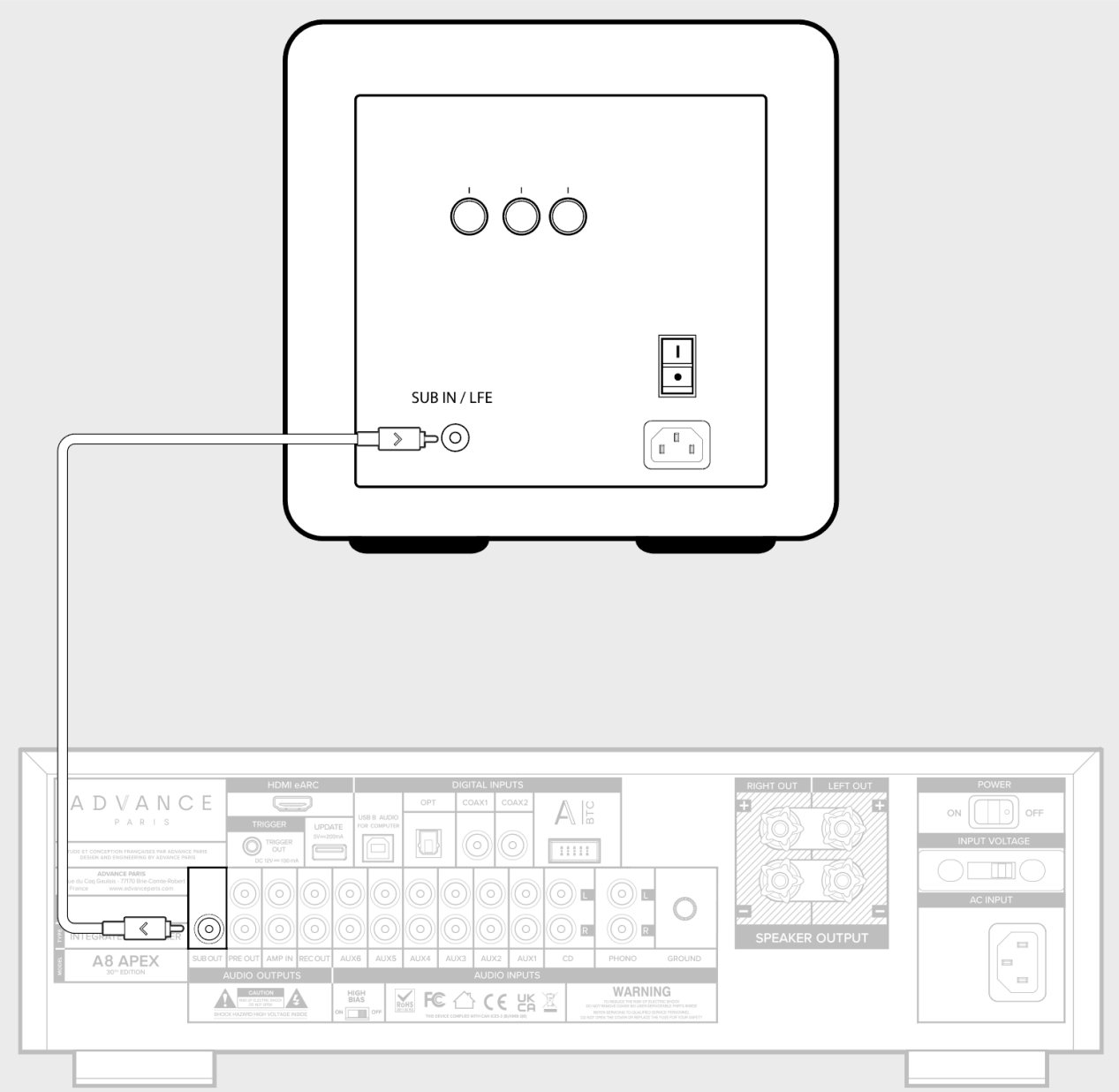


See “Preparing the cables”, page 11.

Subwoofer

SUBWOOFER OUTPUT

Connect the Subwoofer output of your APEX amplifier to the SUB IN / LFE input of your subwoofer.



See “Settings” for the subwoofer output configuration, page 38.

Television

HDMI EARC SOCKET

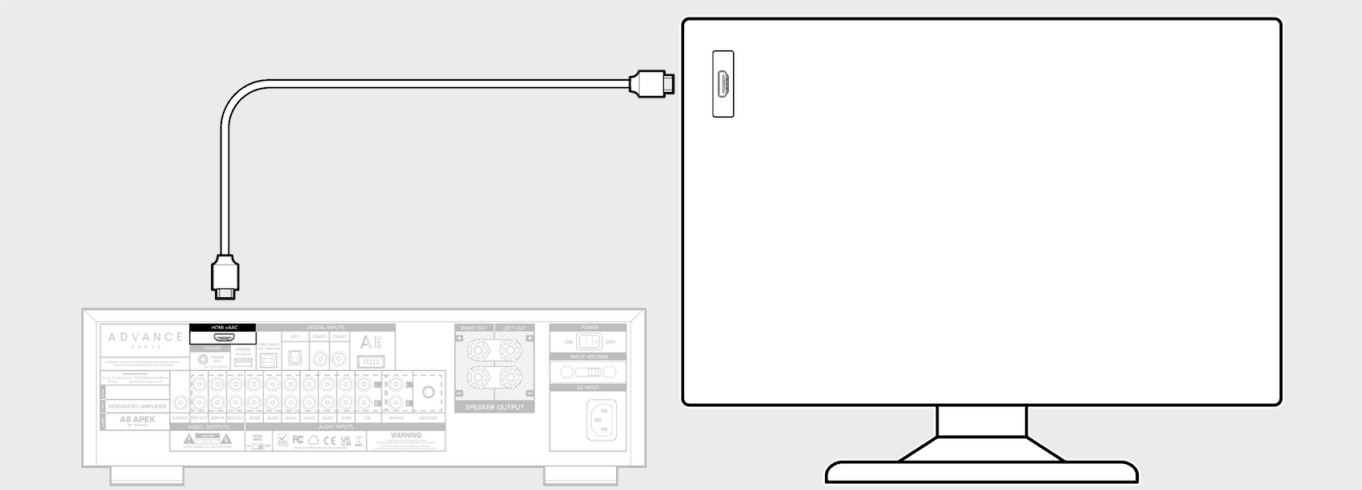
Your APEX amplifier greatly improves your listening experience by letting you use your speakers instead of your TV's built-in speakers when watching television.

To enjoy this, simply connect an HDMI cable between your APEX amplifier and the HDMI ARC (or eARC) socket of your TV.

You can also use your TV remote control alone to switch the APEX amplifier on, put it in standby and adjust its volume.

Your APEX amplifier is compatible with **stereo** signals only (not multichannel).

If you change the input on your APEX amplifier, it will no longer respond to commands sent by the TV.



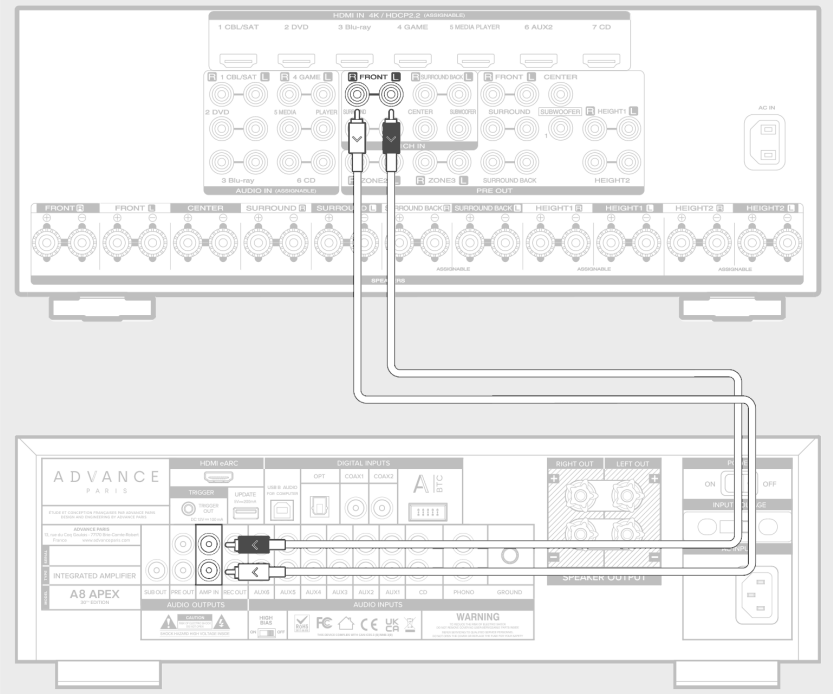
Home cinema

AMP-IN SOCKET

To use your APEX amplifier as a power amplifier with your home cinema amplifier, connect them using the AMP-IN sockets on its rear panel.

This connection lets the home cinema system take control of the amplification of the front speakers, while benefiting from the audio quality of your APEX amplifier.

Connect the front PRE-OUT outputs (Front L/R) of your home cinema amplifier to the AMP-IN inputs of the APEX amplifier using an RCA cable.



See “APEX as a power amplifier”, page 33.

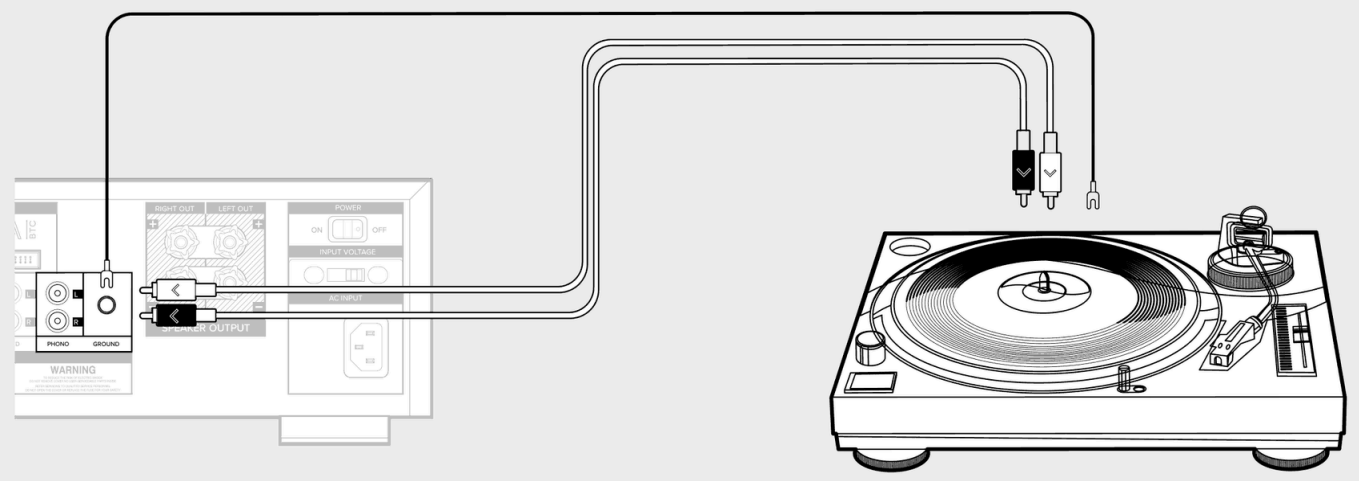
Turntable

PHONO SOCKET

To get the most out of your turntable, connect it directly to the Phono input of your APEX amplifier. This input is specially designed for moving magnet (MM) cartridges and includes the RIAA preamplifier needed to play vinyl records correctly.

Connect the ground wire of your turntable to the ground terminal of the APEX amplifier (**GROUND**) to eliminate any hum.

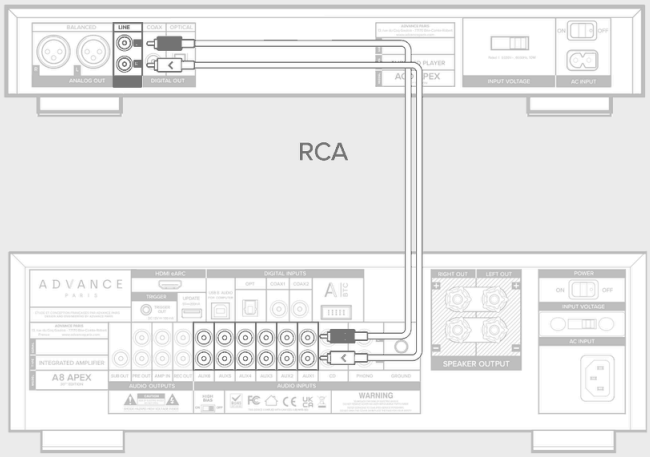
Make the connections with the amplifier switched off. Connecting sources while your amplifier is switched on may expose your speakers to a loud noise and cause your drivers to fail.



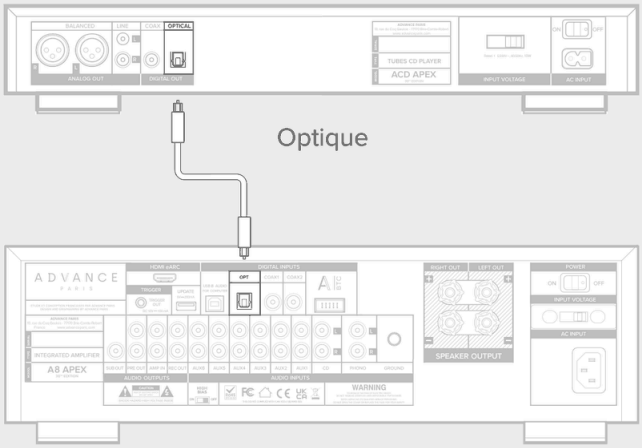
Sources

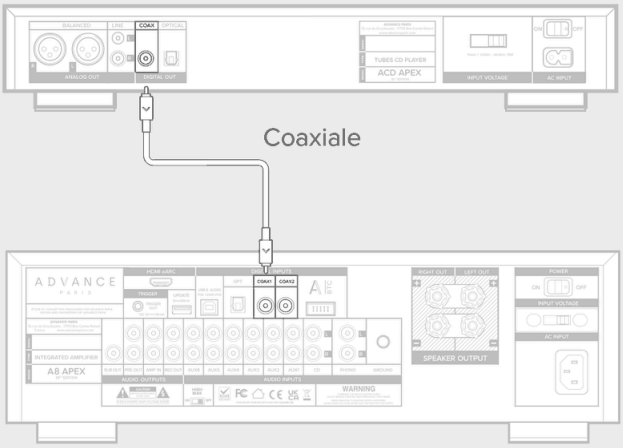
ANALOGUE AND DIGITAL INPUTS

Caution: do not connect a source to the AMP-IN input. This may cause a very high sound level on your speakers and possible damage.



ENTRÉES NUMÉRIQUES



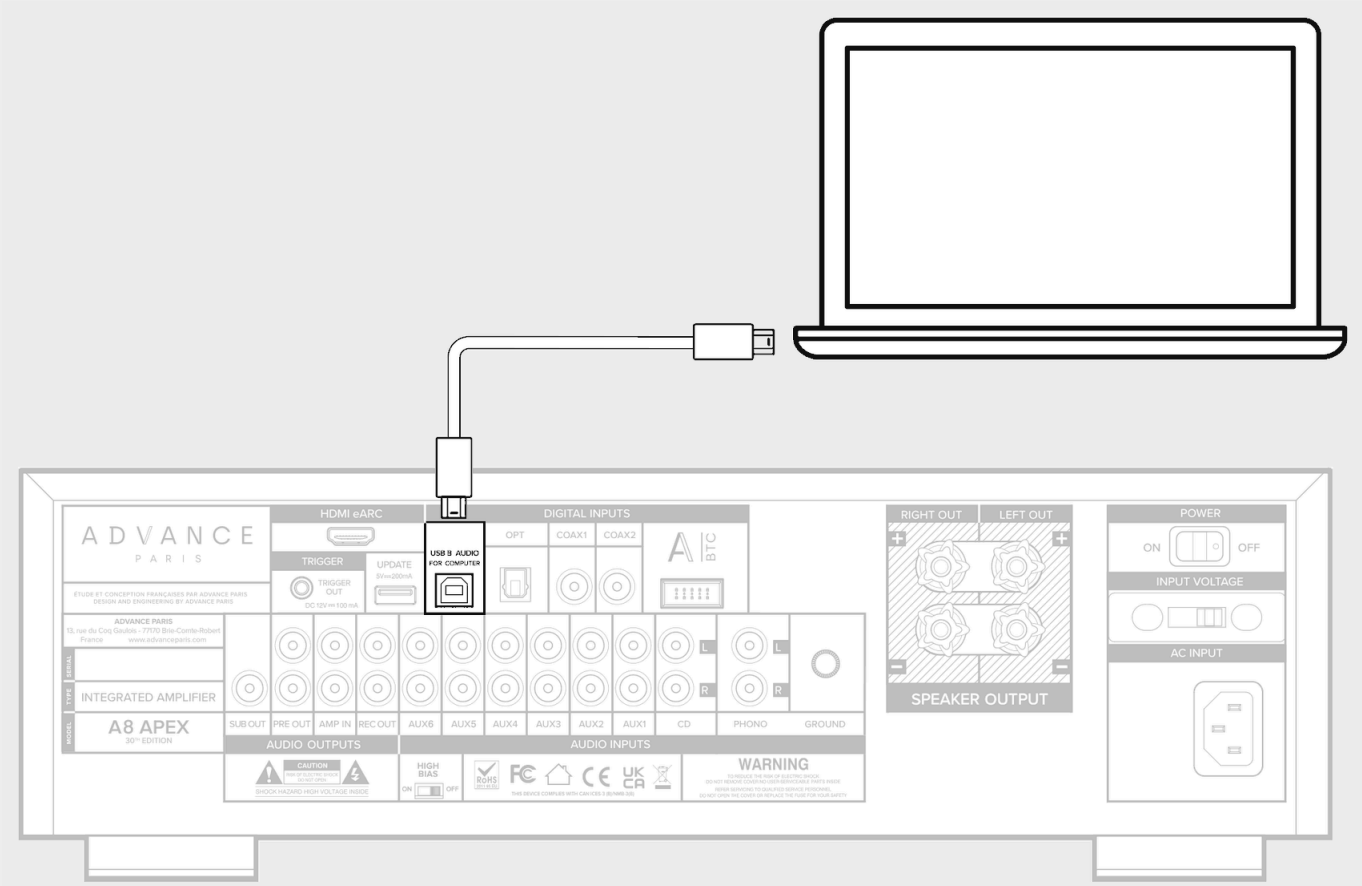


Computer

USB TYPE B INPUT

Compatible with Apple OS and Windows 10-11 with no driver to install on your computer. USB 2.0 specification up to 24 bit / 192 kHz. DSD 64 – 128 – 256 compatible.

Select the **Advance Paris** audio output on your computer, in the sound card settings.



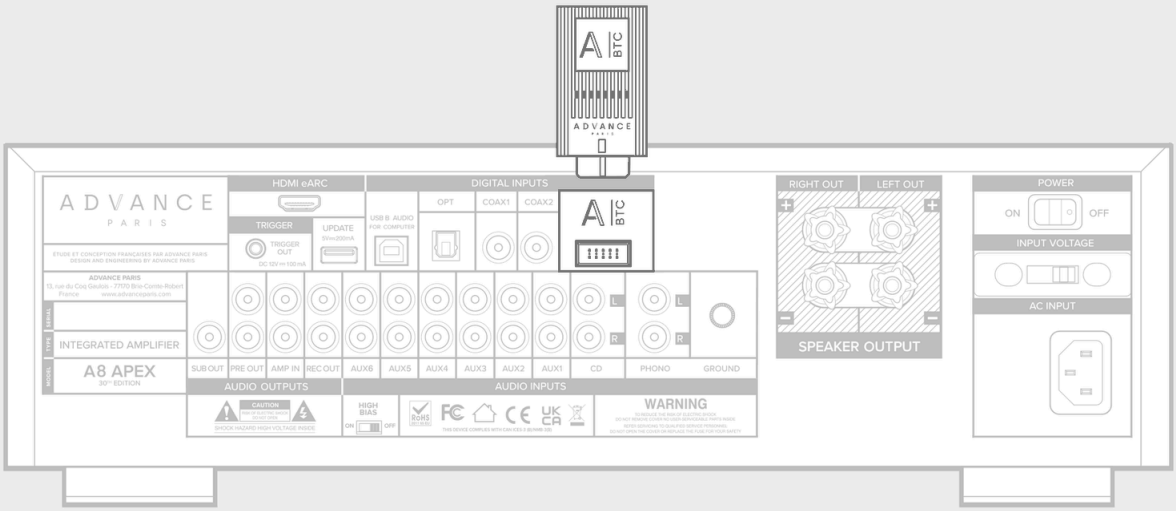
Bluetooth

A-BTC AUDIO INPUT

To connect a Bluetooth source to your APEX amplifier, you need the Advance Paris **A-BTC** (optional). The A-BTC must be inserted into the dedicated socket on the rear panel of your APEX amplifier. **Insert the A-BTC with the amplifier switched off**, mains switch set to OFF.

It is not possible to connect Bluetooth headphones to the A8 APEX via the A-BTC.

The A-BTC is LDAC compatible: the MCU V2.01 update of the A8 APEX is required for this protocol to be shown correctly on the display.

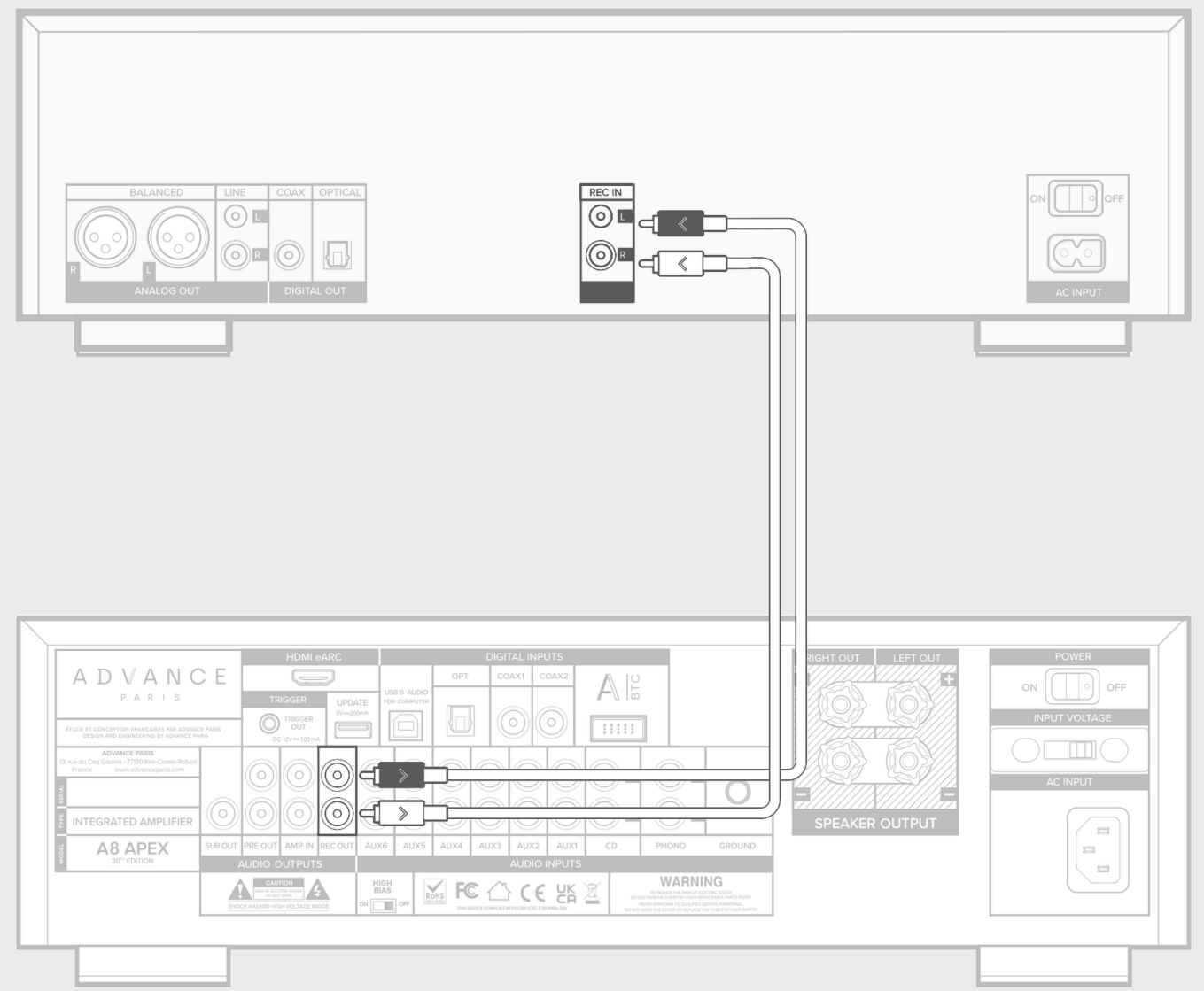


See “Use” for more details, page 31.

Recording device

REC-OUT SOCKET

You can connect a recorder to the REC-OUT socket of your APEX amplifier.

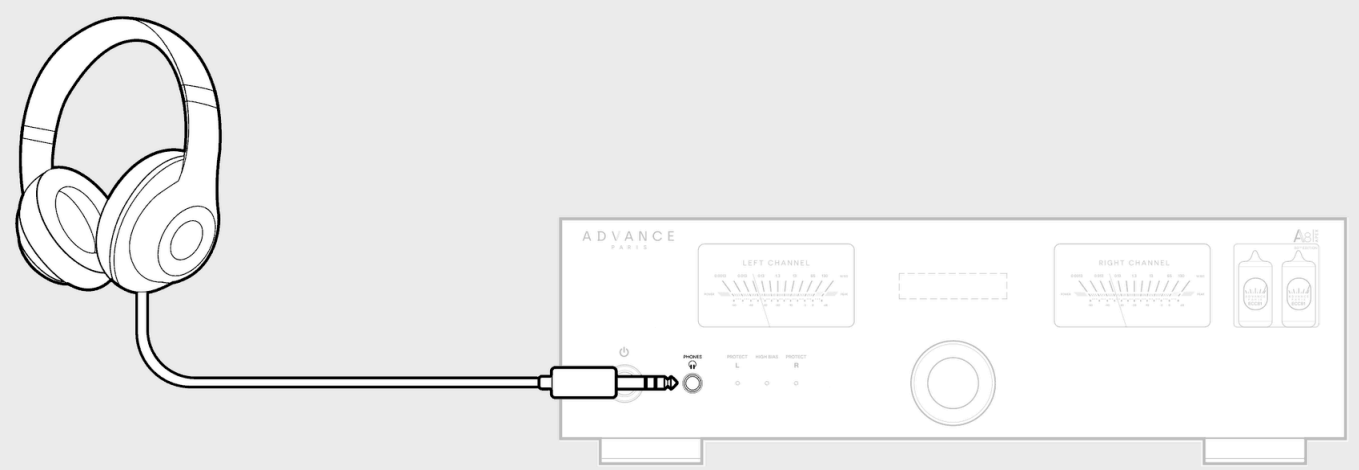


Wired headphones

6.35 MM HEADPHONE JACK

Plug your wired headphones into the 6.35 mm socket on the front of the APEX amplifier.

The speaker outputs are muted when headphones are plugged into the front panel.



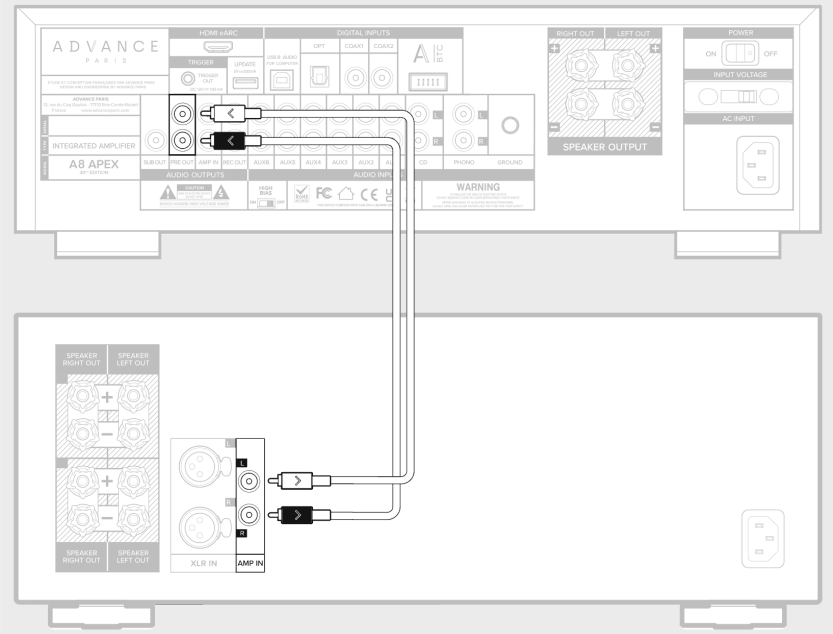
External amplifier

PRE-OUT SOCKET

You can connect a mono or stereo power amplifier to your APEX amplifier. Depending on your speakers, this can give you more power.

Connect the PRE-OUT outputs of your APEX amplifier to the inputs of your power amplifier with an RCA cable.

> Your speakers will be connected to your external power amplifier, not to your APEX amplifier.

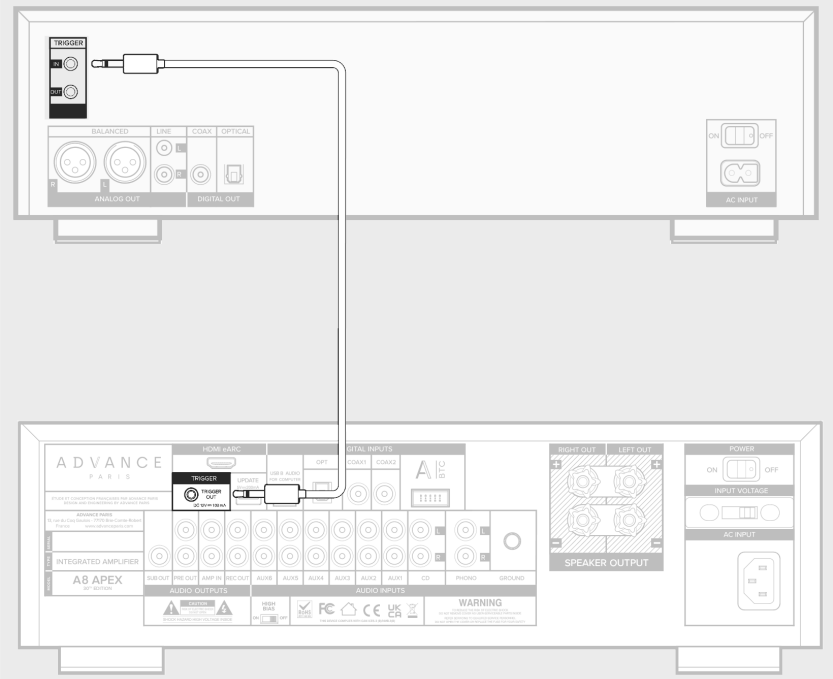


Simultaneous power-on

TRIGGER OUT SOCKET

You can switch on a third-party product when your APEX amplifier is switched on. For this, your third-party product must have a Trigger IN socket.

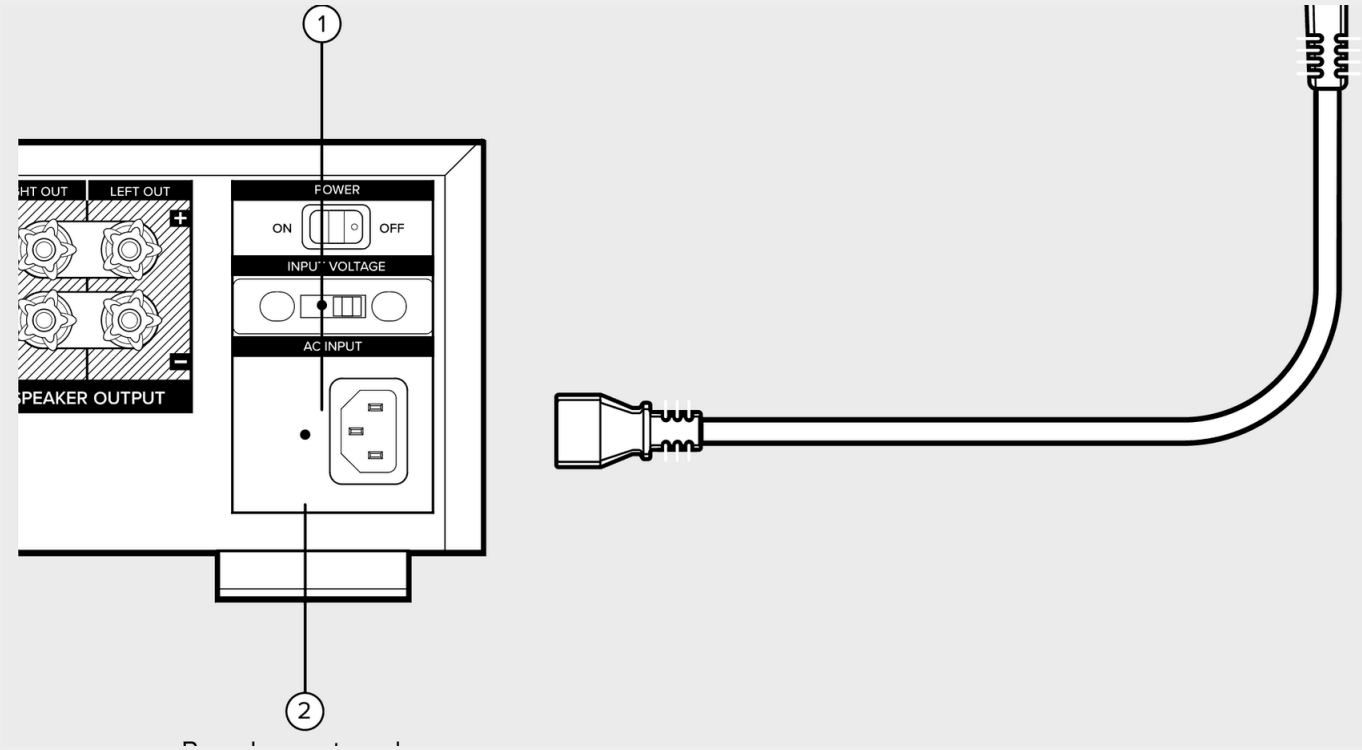
Connect a 3.5 mm mono cable (not supplied) between the Trigger OUT socket of the APEX amplifier and the Trigger IN socket of your third-party product.



Power cord

Caution. It is important to check the voltage setting (1) before connecting the power cord (2). If you do not, and you power the amplifier with an incorrect voltage, you may damage your APEX amplifier.

1. Voltage check: the 115 – 230 V selector must match the mains voltage in your country.
2. Connect the power cord to the amplifier's mains socket.



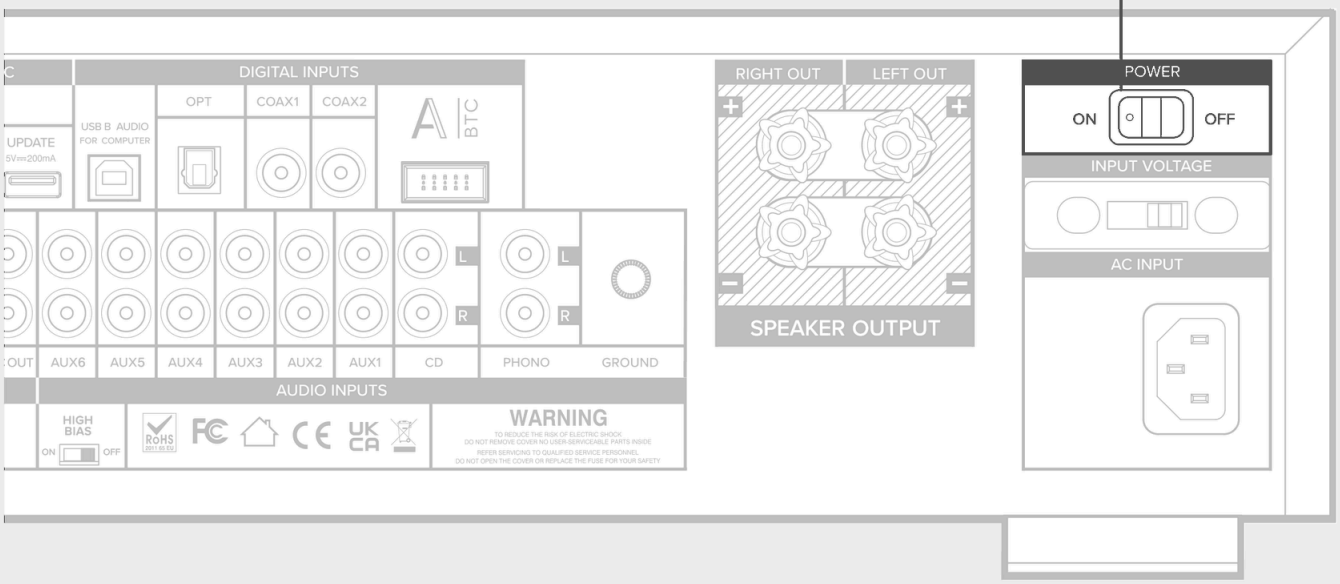
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Switching on

SWITCH ON THE REAR

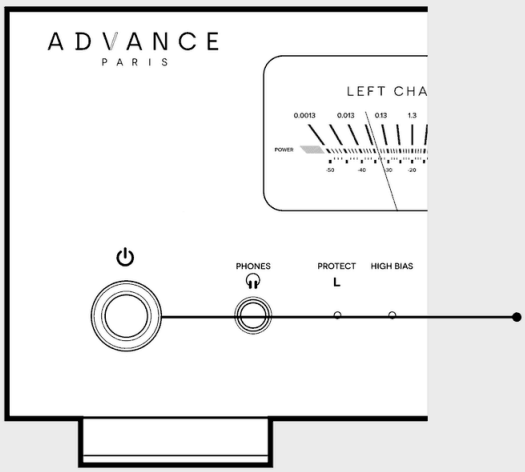
To use your APEX amplifier, you must set the mains switch on the rear panel to ON.



Start-up

FRONT BUTTON OR REMOTE CONTROL

Warm-up. Your APEX amplifier uses audio tubes. A 30-second warm-up period is required; during this time, your amplifier produces no sound.



To switch on your APEX amplifier, use the standby button on the remote control or the standby button on the front of the APEX amplifier.



Source selection

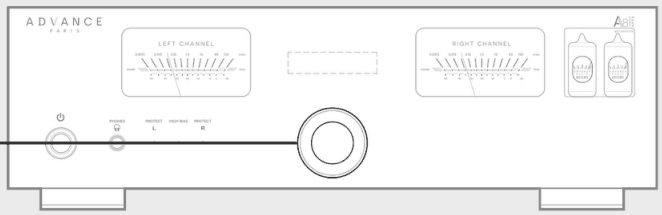
REMOTE CONTROL OR MULTIFUNCTION KNOB

Your APEX amplifier has many inputs on its rear panel.



Once your sources are connected, you can select them with the remote control.

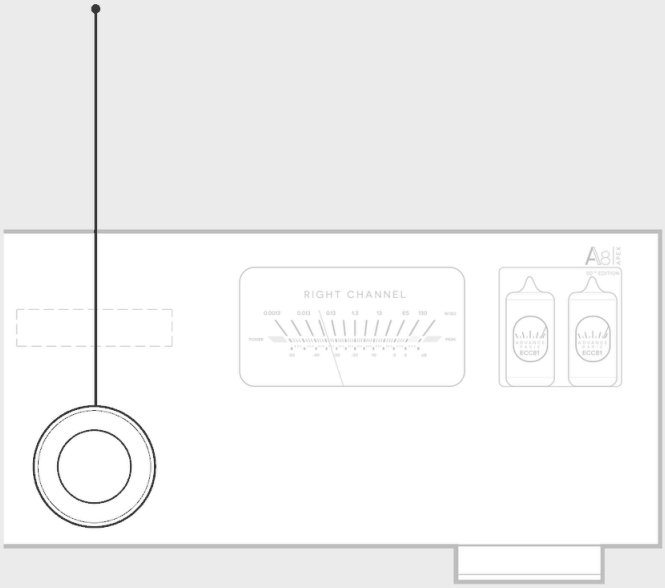
You can also use the multifunction knob. A long press displays the input choice: analogue, digital, Bluetooth, HDMI ARC (TV), USB audio. Turn the knob, then confirm with a short press.



Volume adjustment

FRONT BUTTON OR REMOTE CONTROL

You can change the volume by turning the multifunction knob on the front of your APEX amplifier. Turn clockwise to increase the volume and anticlockwise to decrease it.

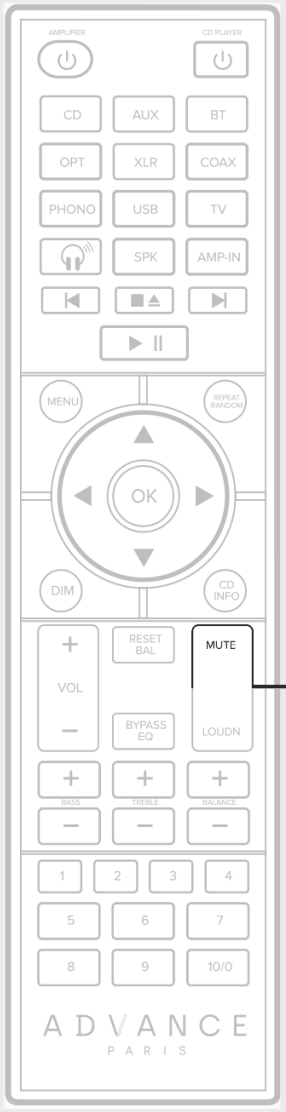


You can change the volume using the “Vol +” and “Vol –” buttons on the remote control. Holding these buttons down changes the volume quickly.



Mute

REMOTE CONTROL



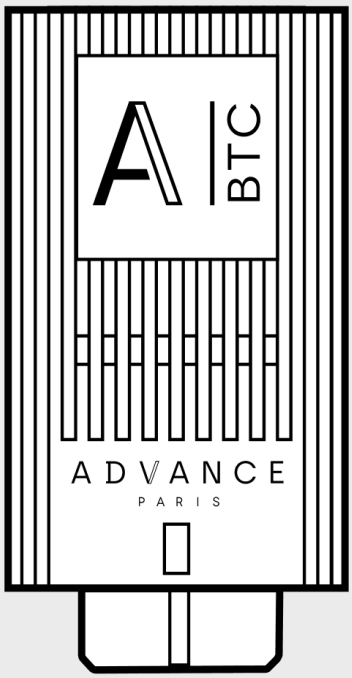
Pressing the "MUTE" button on the remote control cuts the sound completely.

Pressing the "MUTE" button again returns the sound to its original level. You can also press the "Vol +" or "Vol –" buttons to cancel the "MUTE" function.

Bluetooth devices

WITH THE A-BTC MODULE

1. Switch on your APEX amplifier and select the Bluetooth input.
2. Go to the Bluetooth settings of your source (phone, tablet, computer) and select the **A-BTC**.
3. You can now stream music to your amplifier. First check that the volume of your Bluetooth source and that of your amplifier are not set too high.

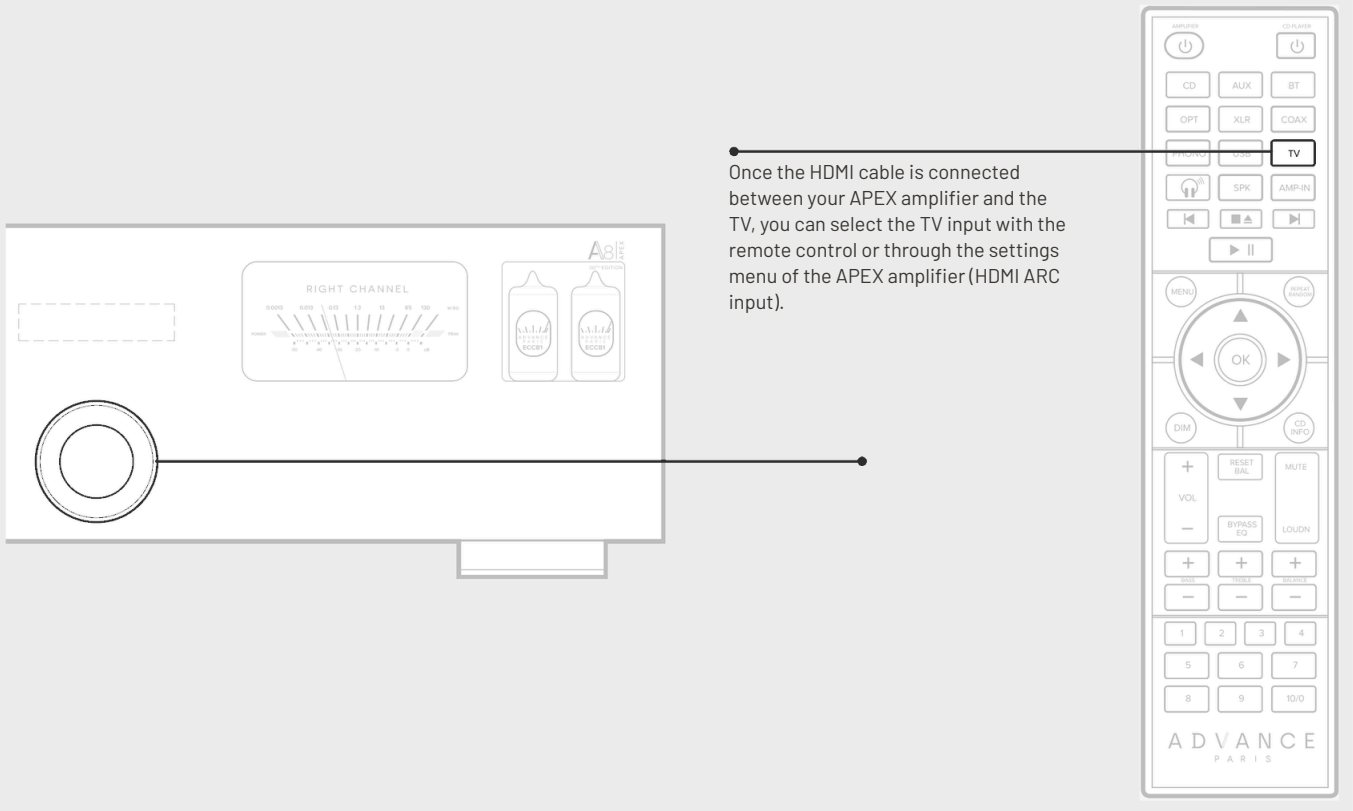


LDAC. The A-BTC is compatible with the LDAC protocol. For LDAC to be shown correctly on the A8 APEX display, your amplifier must be updated with firmware MCU V2.01. See “Update”, page 49.

See “Connections” for installing the A-BTC, page 19.

Television as a source

FRONT BUTTON OR REMOTE CONTROL



Once the HDMI cable is connected between your APEX amplifier and the TV, you can select the TV input with the remote control or through the settings menu of the APEX amplifier (HDMI ARC input).

See “Connections” for connecting the TV, page 14.

APEX as a power amplifier

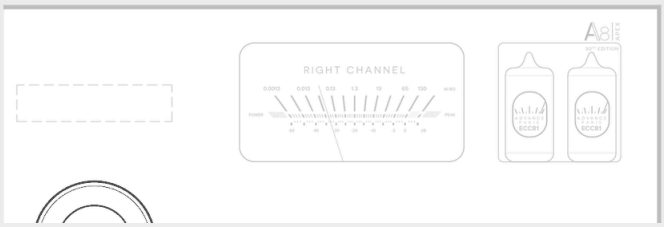
AMP-IN INPUT



Select the AMP-IN input on your stereo amplifier with the remote control.

Your home cinema amplifier will now manage the volume and sound balance of the front speakers during home cinema sessions.

Your installation is now ready. You enjoy the power and musical quality of your APEX amplifier while keeping the multichannel features of your home cinema amplifier.



AMP-IN mode can also be activated through the settings menu of your APEX amplifier:

MENU / SYSTEM SETTING / AMP IN / ON

We recommend carrying out an acoustic calibration of the complete system using the calibration procedure of your home cinema amplifier, to balance the level of all the speakers. See the manual of your home cinema amplifier.

Turntable

REMOTE CONTROL OR SETTINGS MENU



Select the Phono source on your APEX amplifier through the settings menu of the APEX amplifier or the remote control.

See “Connections” for connecting the turntable, page 16.

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Settings menu

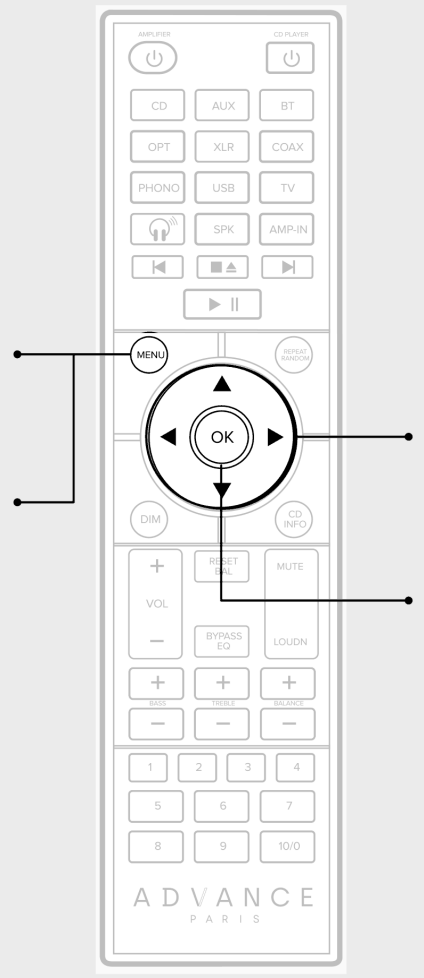
WITH THE REMOTE CONTROL

MENU

Pressing the “MENU” button on the remote control gives you access to the settings menus of your APEX amplifier.

Back

To return to the previous level, press the “MENU” button briefly.



Arrows

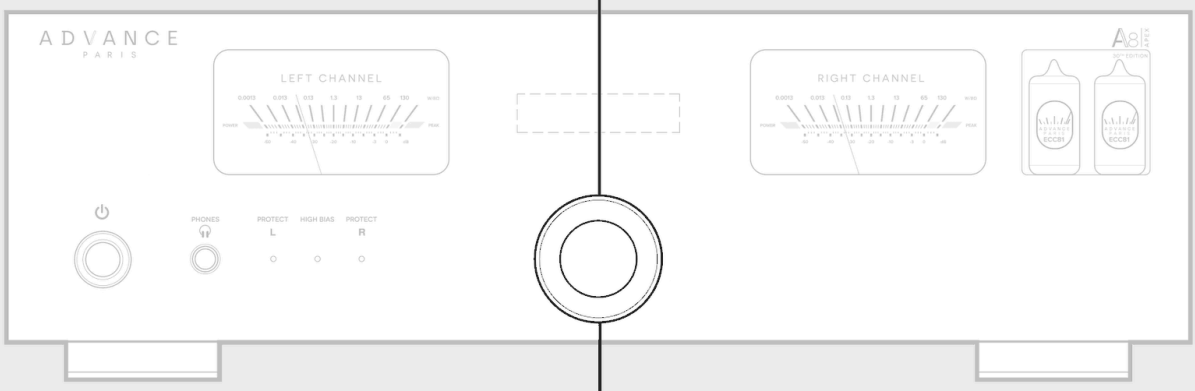
Press the direction buttons on the remote control to browse the settings menus.

OK

To enter a specific setting, press the central “OK” button briefly.

Settings menu

WITH THE MULTIFUNCTION KNOB



Pressing the multifunction knob for more than one second gives you access to the settings menus of your APEX amplifier.

Turning the multifunction knob scrolls through the entries of the settings menu.

To enter a specific setting, press the multifunction knob briefly.

To return to the previous level, press and hold the multifunction knob.

Subwoofer output

Filtering

The subwoofer output is low-pass filtered at 200 Hz, with a slope of 12 dB per octave and a Q factor of 0.7.

On the subwoofer

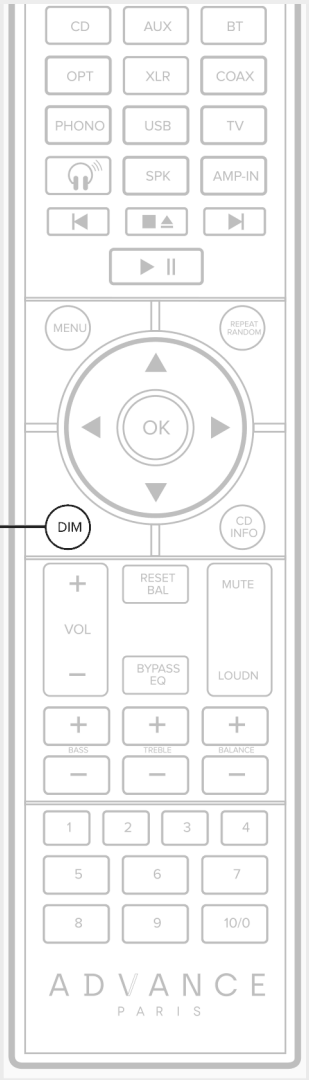
Volume and crossover frequency are adjusted on the rear panel of the subwoofer itself.

See “Connections” for connecting the subwoofer, page 13.

Display brightness

DIM BUTTON ON THE REMOTE CONTROL

You can adjust the brightness of the VU meters and the display by pressing the DIM button several times.



The brightness of the buttons cannot be adjusted.

Auto standby mode

PRODUCT DISPLAY

You can set your amplifier to switch off automatically after a certain time without a signal. Go to the following menu:

MENU / APD SET

AVAILABLE DURATIONS

OFF	5 min	10 min	20 min	30 min	60 min

When set to **OFF**, your amplifier will never switch off by itself.

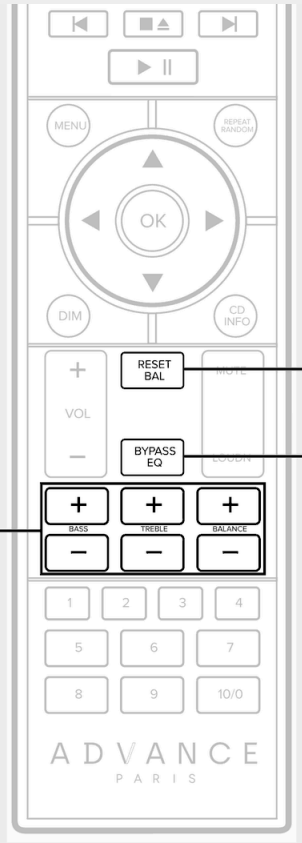
Tone and balance

REMOTE CONTROL / PRODUCT DISPLAY

You can adjust the treble, bass and balance with the remote control or directly on the unit. To adjust the tone settings on the unit, use the following menu:

MENU / TONE

The remote control gives you bass (Bass), treble (Treble) and balance (Balance) adjustments.



The **Reset Bal** button returns the balance to the centre.

The **Bypass EQ** button switches your bass and treble settings on or off.

Loudness

REMOTE CONTROL / PRODUCT DISPLAY

MENU / TONE

On the remote control, the **Loudness** button switches the Loudness function on or off.

Loudness compensates for the ear's reduced sensitivity to low and high frequencies when listening at low volume. Your amplifier dynamically corrects the low and high frequencies according to your listening volume, for the most natural sound balance possible.

Low volume

The correction is strong.

Medium volume

The correction is moderate.

High volume

There is no correction.

Power-on volume

PRODUCT DISPLAY

Enable a start-up volume

MENU / VOL SET / ON · OFF

ON

Your APEX amplifier always starts at a set volume.

OFF

Your APEX amplifier starts at the same volume as when it was put in standby.

Set the start-up volume

MENU / VOL SET / VOL DEF

You can set the start-up volume here, when the previous step is set to ON.

Standby button

PRODUCT DISPLAY

You can turn off the red light of the Standby button on the front of your amplifier. In standby mode, the Standby button will then no longer light up red. Go to the following menu:

MENU / STB LED

HDMI CEC control

PRODUCT DISPLAY

MENU / CEC CTL

ON

Your amplifier responds to commands sent by your TV to switch the APEX amplifier and the TV on or to standby together.

OFF

Your APEX amplifier does not respond to these commands.

The volume commands always remain active, whatever the CEC CONTROL setting.

High-Bias

SWITCH ON THE REAR PANEL

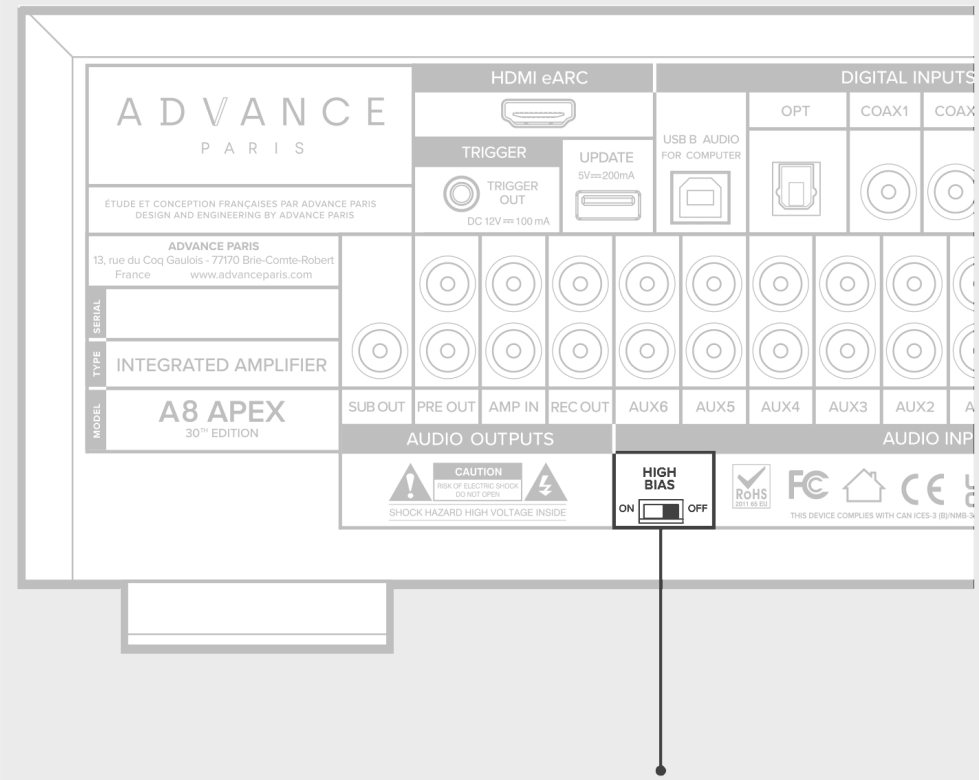
Your APEX amplifier uses class AB amplification. It therefore operates in class A at low power (below 5 W) and in class B at higher power. It has a bias setting with two positions: OFF and ON.

OFF

"Normal" setting.

ON

"High-Bias" setting, with more power in class A (about 8 to 10 W).



Factory reset

PRODUCT DISPLAY

MENU / RESET

If necessary, you can restore all the settings of the APEX amplifier to their factory configuration.

Update / FAQ

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Formatting the USB stick 50
Unzipping the file 51
Frequently asked questions 52

Update

Internal software version

To find out the internal software version of your APEX amplifier, go to the following menu:

MENU / SYS INFO

Turning the multifunction knob scrolls through the information. The internal software corresponds to the **MCU VERSION** line.

Update procedure

If an update is needed:

1. Go to www.advanceparis.com, menu **Support**, then **Manuals and Software**.
2. Choose your product range (**APEX**), then your product (**A8**).
3. Compare the version offered on the website with the **MCU VERSION** read on your amplifier. If the website version is more recent, continue the procedure; otherwise, your amplifier is up to date.
4. Download the update file (zip file).
5. On your computer, unzip the file, then copy the update file to a USB stick with a capacity of 16 GB or less, formatted to FAT. See pages 50 and 51.
6. Plug the stick into the **UPDATE** port on the rear of the APEX amplifier.
7. Start the update from the amplifier menu:

MENU / UPGRADE / MCU UPD

The amplifier starts the update and goes into Standby when the process is complete.

Updates are available on **www.advanceparis.com**, page **Support / Manuals and Software**.

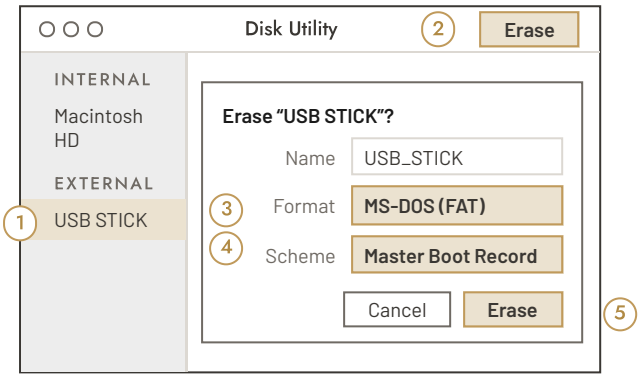
Update

FORMATTING THE USB STICK IN FAT

The amplifier only reads USB sticks formatted in FAT. If your stick uses another format, format it before copying the ".bin" file to it.

ON A MAC

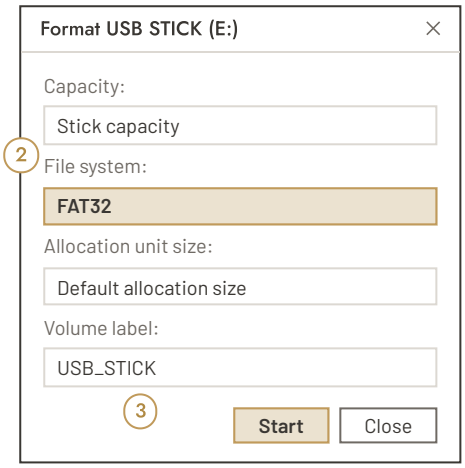
macOS — Disk Utility



1. Plug in the USB stick, then open **Disk Utility** (Applications folder, then Utilities). Select the stick in the sidebar, under **External**.
2. Click **Erase**.
3. In **Format**, choose **MS-DOS (FAT)**.
4. In **Scheme**, choose **Master Boot Record**.
5. Click **Erase**, then **Done** when the operation is complete.

ON A PC

Windows — File Explorer



1. Plug in the USB stick, then open File Explorer on **This PC**. Right-click the stick, then choose **Format...**
2. In **File system**, choose **FAT32**.
3. Click **Start**, then confirm with **OK**.

! Formatting erases the entire content of the stick. Copy any files you want to keep elsewhere before you start. We recommend using a USB stick of 16 GB or less.

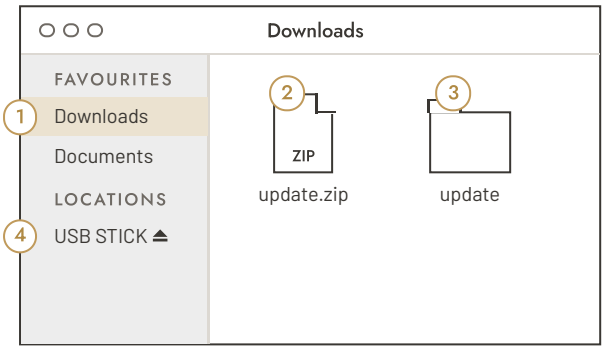
Update

UNZIPPING THE DOWNLOADED FILE

The file downloaded from the Advance Paris website is a zip file. Before copying it to the USB stick, you must unzip it to obtain the ".bin" file. The USB stick must be formatted in FAT: see "Formatting the USB stick in FAT", page 50.

ON A MAC

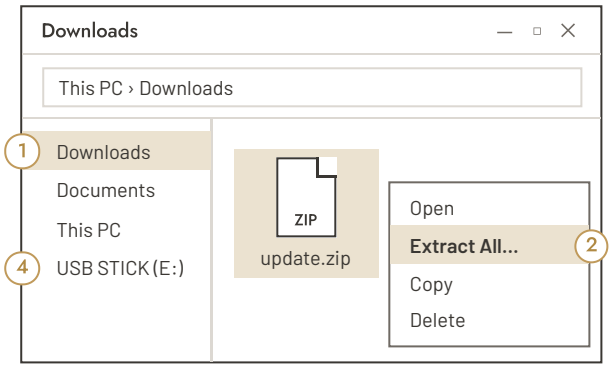
macOS — Finder



1. Open the **Downloads** folder in the Finder.
2. Double-click the zip file. macOS unzips it automatically and creates a folder with the same name next to the file.
3. Open this folder: it contains the ".bin" file.
4. Drag the ".bin" file onto the USB stick, shown in the Finder sidebar under **Locations**.
5. Eject the stick before removing it: right-click the stick, then **Eject**.

ON A PC

Windows — File Explorer



1. Open the **Downloads** folder in File Explorer.
2. Right-click the zip file, then choose **Extract All...**
3. Click **Extract**. A folder with the same name is created and opens: it contains the ".bin" file.
4. Copy the ".bin" file, then paste it onto the USB stick, shown in **This PC**.
5. Eject the stick before removing it: right-click the stick, then **Eject**.

Copy only the ".bin" file to the USB stick, not the zip file: the amplifier cannot read zip files.

Frequently asked questions

The power does not switch on or off

- Check that the mains cable is correctly connected.
- Check that the mains switch on the rear of the APEX amplifier is in the ON position.

Operations cannot be performed with the remote control

- Check or replace the remote control batteries.

No sound is produced

- Check that you have selected the input you want to listen to.
- Check that the “MUTE” function is not activated.

The desired audio is not produced

- Check that you have selected the correct input.

The sound is distorted or there is noise

- Contact your after-sales service.
- The preamplifier tubes may need replacing.

My turntable does not sound right

- Check that your turntable is correctly connected to the PHONO input of the APEX amplifier.
- Check the counterweight setting of the turntable.

No sound from a USB stick plugged into the rear

- The “UPDATE” USB-A port is not compatible with audio files: it is used only for updates, when needed.

I get no sound from my television on my speakers

- If you have used an HDMI cable between the APEX amplifier and your TV, check that the CEC / HDMI ARC (or eARC) function is enabled on your TV.
- Set the TV audio output to stereo (or PCM). See the TV manual.

Appendices

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Dimensions and weight 56
Technical specifications 57

Glossary

A — E

A-BTC	Optional Bluetooth module from Advance Paris, inserted into the dedicated socket on the rear of Advance Paris amplifiers to allow Bluetooth sources to be connected.
Display	Screen on the front of the amplifier showing information: source, volume, settings.
AMP-IN	Input that lets the APEX amplifier be used as a power amplifier, for example in a home cinema system.
Amplifier (amp)	Device that amplifies audio signals from various sources in order to drive speakers.
Terminal	Connectors on the rear of the amplifier for connecting a pair of speakers.
Bluetooth	Wireless transmission technology for connecting a compatible device via the A-BTC module.
Standby button	Button used to switch the amplifier on or put it into standby.
Speaker cables	Cables used to connect the speakers to the amplifier terminals.
Coaxial (digital input)	Digital input using a coaxial cable to transmit sound.
Mains cord	Power cable that connects the amplifier to an electrical socket.
AUX input	Stereo analogue inputs for connecting various sources.
Phono MM input	Input specially designed for turntables fitted with moving magnet (MM) cartridges.

Glossary (continued)

E — U

Optical input	Digital input using an optical cable (Toslink).
Spades	Type of speaker cable connector that fits around the terminal.
GROUND	Ground terminal that reduces interference when connecting a turntable.
HDMI ARC / eARC	HDMI connection carrying sound between the TV and the amplifier, with volume and standby control.
Infrared (IR)	Infrared transmission system allowing the remote control to communicate with the amplifier.
Mains switch	Main switch used to switch the unit fully on or off.
PRE-OUT	Output that sends the audio signal to an external power amplifier.
RCA	Red and white analogue connectors used for audio links.
REC-OUT	Output for connecting a recording device.
Subwoofer	Speaker specialised in reproducing very low frequencies (bass). It complements the main speakers to give more depth and impact in the bass.
Trigger IN / Trigger OUT	Connectors that synchronise the switching on or off of the amplifier with other devices.
USB type B	Input for connecting a computer to use the amplifier as a USB sound card.

Dimensions and weight

PRODUCT

43 × 13.2 × 36.3 cm

L × H × P

PACKAGING

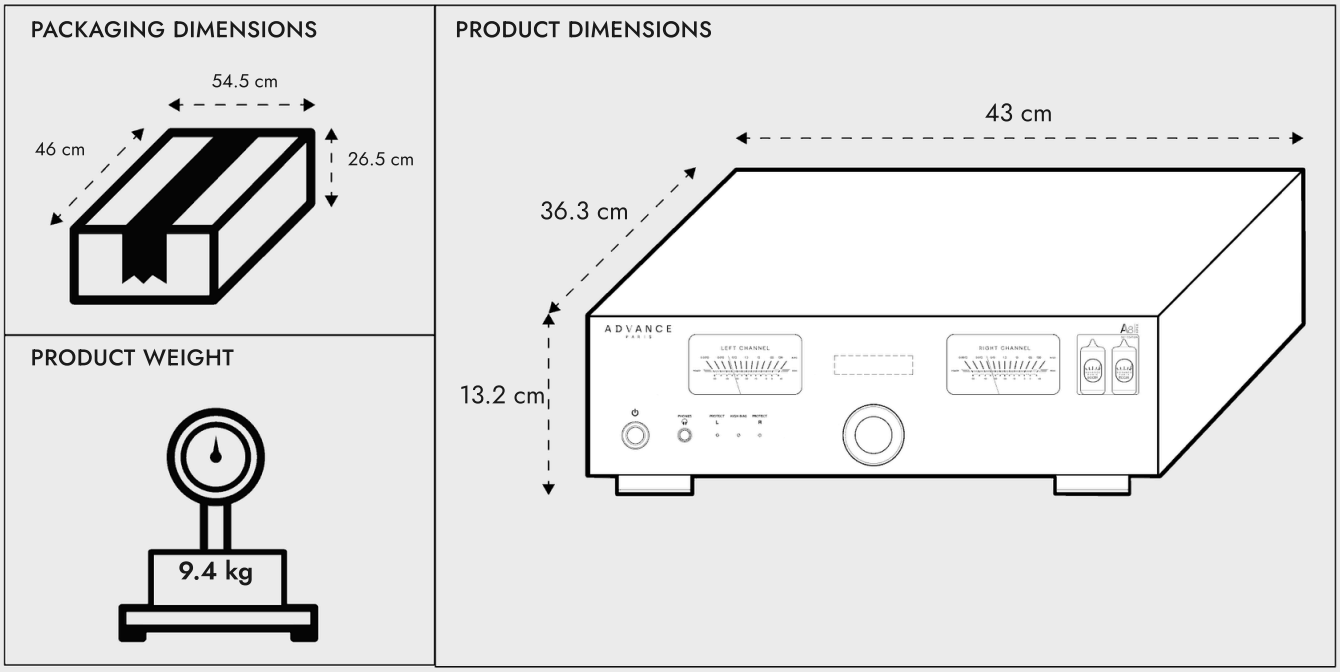
54.5 × 26.5 × 46 cm

L × H × P

WEIGHT

9.4 kg net

12.5 kg gross



Technical specifications

Output power 8 Ω	76 W (THD+N 1 %, 1 kHz, 2 channels driven)
Output power 4 Ω	110 W (THD+N 1 %, 1 kHz, 2 channels driven)
Frequency response	20 Hz – 80 kHz (±1 dB, 16 W, 8 Ω)
THD+N distortion	0.03 % (1 kHz, 52 W, 8 Ω)
Signal-to-noise ratio	100 dB (1 kHz, 52 W, 8 Ω)
AC input compatibility	115 / 230 V, 50-60 Hz, with switch
Transformer	Toroidal, 240 VA
DAC	ESS9018
Digital inputs	Optical: 24 bit / 192 kHz PCM Coaxial: 24 bit / 192 kHz PCM USB audio: 24 bit / 192 kHz PCM, DSD64, DSD128, DSD256 HDMI eARC: stereo PCM
A-BTC input	For optional A-BTC Bluetooth receiver
Analogue inputs	RCA line level (×7), Phono MM level (×1) with ground
Analogue outputs	RCA: REC-OUT (×1), PRE-OUT (×1), SUB-OUT (×1)
Headphone socket	6.35 mm jack
High-Bias	ON / OFF switch
Update	Via USB stick on the UPDATE port
Speaker terminals	Screw terminals compatible with bare wire, spade and banana
Remote control	Infrared REM-19, compatible with A8 APEX and ACD
Trigger socket	Output (×1), 12 V
Product dimensions	43 × 13.2 × 36.3 cm (W × H × D)
Packaging dimensions	54.5 × 26.5 × 46 cm (W × H × D)
Gross / net weight	12.5 kg / 9.4 kg
Model	A8 APEX 30TH EDITION
EAN code	3 760 179 292 756