

Ayre VX-8

Owner's Manual



Power Amplifier

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Welcome to

Ayre

To our North American customers, please be sure to mail your warranty registration card.

Thank you for purchasing our VX-8 power amplifier. We sincerely hope you get as much joy listening through it as we did designing and building it.

Our team has been creating world-class, award-winning products since 1993. It is our goal to make the most musically accurate equipment we possibly can at any given price range. We enjoy designing, building, and talking about what we do. If you have any questions about your new Ayre product, please don't hesitate to give us a call.

Your VX-8 is the culmination of decades of audio innovation, distilling elements from Ayre's most celebrated works into one powerful piece of equipment. As always, the warmth and immediacy of a live performance are apparent from your first listening moments. Combining superb resolution and a natural, relaxed quality, your VX-8 will draw you into the music time and time again.

This level of performance has been implemented using the highest level of workmanship and materials. You can be assured the VX-8 will provide you a lifetime of musical enjoyment.

Quick Start

The information required to install, operate, and optimize your amplifier is contained in the following two chapters.

The remaining chapters cover additional information that may be read at your leisure.

To begin enjoying your VX-8, connect it to your preamplifier or another source component with a volume control.

Connect your speaker cables to the binding posts on the rear of the VX-8. You can also connect a powered subwoofer to the provided outputs on the back of the amplifier. Supply the VX-8 with power from a wall outlet and toggle the rear power switch to the ON (I) position to provide power to the unit.

Finally, press the button on the front of the VX-8 to wake the unit from sleep.

Connection and

Installation

The Ayre VX-8 is easy to set up and use. The following guidelines will ensure the installation goes smoothly.

Location

Do not stack the Ayre VX-8 directly with other components, as this may restrict the air flow or induce hum into the audio circuitry.

A good location for the VX-8 is in an open-backed cabinet or on a shelf. The amplifier section produces a moderate amount of heat during operation. Ideally you should provide three inches (75 mm) of air space above the amplifier.



An adequate supply of air flow will keep your VX-8 at its optimal operating temperature.

Break-in Period

Once installed, a break-in period of around 100 to 500 hours will allow the VX-8 to sound its best.

Due to the manufacturing processes used for the wires, capacitors, and circuit board materials, a break-in period is necessary for the amplifier to reach its full sonic potential.

Analog Inputs

A balanced connection will offer slightly higher sound quality than a single-ended connection.

Every VX-8 comes with both balanced XLR inputs and single-ended RCA inputs. Activation of these

inputs is controlled by a toggle switch on the back of the unit. Set the position of this switch according to which type of connection you will be using.

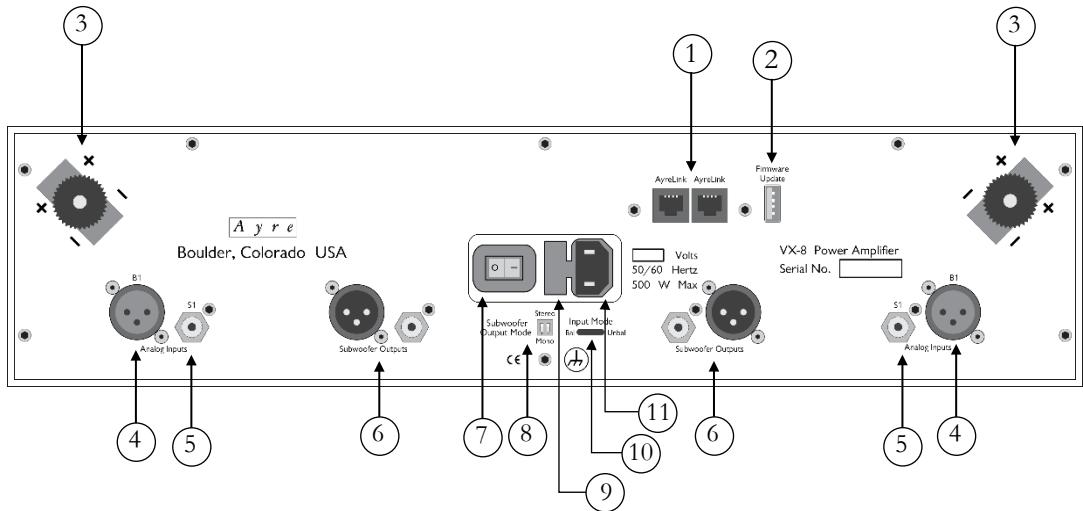
Subwoofer Outputs

The balanced XLR output signal will be +6db higher than the single ended outputs.

The balanced and single-ended subwoofer outputs on the rear panel of the VX-8 allow for the connection of separate subwoofers. Two switches on the rear panel let you configure these outputs to be either mono or stereo. Both switches must be set in the same position (up or down) for the outputs to operate as intended.



The dual outputs on the back of your VX-8 may be used to drive one or more subwoofers.



1) AyreLink Ports	7) On/Off Power Switch
2) Firmware Update Port	8) Subwoofer Output Mode
3) Loudspeaker Connections	9) AC Fuse holder
4) Balanced Analog Input	10) Input Mode Switch
5) Singled-ended Analog Inputs	11) IEC Power inlet
6) Subwoofer Outputs	



- 1) Front-panel button
- 2) Status LED

AyreLink Ports

For improved stack integration, try connecting your Ayre equipment together with our AyreLink system.

The AyreLink communication system provides a convenient way to control your audio system. There are two AyreLink ports on the rear panel of the VX-8. Each port has four contacts and contains both an input and an output. Both ports function identically and may be used interchangeably.



Be sure to use two-line telephone cords to make AyreLink connections. These can be identified by the four gold contacts on each connector.

To use AyreLink with an integrated control system, an optional RS-232 adapter box is available. Contact your Ayre dealer for details.

The linked components should be connected in daisy-chain fashion, connecting each component to another until all of the linked components have been connected. Be careful not to connect the two ends of the chain.

Closing the chain to form a loop will cause the AyreLink system not to function.

Firmware Update Port

The Firmware Update port allows you to update core Firmware with a USB flash drive. For more information, see page 12.

Controls and

Operation

In addition to the normal controls on the front panel, the Ayre VX-8 may also be controlled via other AyreLink connected components.

On/Off (1/0)

The main power for the VX-8 is controlled by a rocker switch in the center of the rear panel. This switch disconnects the unit completely from the AC power.

System-sleep Mode

System-sleep mode reduces the power consumption of the VX-8 without turning it off completely.

When first turned on, the VX-8 automatically enters System-sleep mode, indicated by a green status LED. The amplifier's output stage is disabled, reducing the amount of power it draws. To activate the unit, simply press the button on the front of the unit.

Active Mode

Active mode turns on the output stage bias and enables the system for listening.

In System-sleep mode the amplifier prevents signal from reaching its outputs.

Once in Active mode, the output stage in the unit is enabled.

Active / System-sleep

A short press of the front-panel button will switch the unit between active and system-sleep modes. A long press of the button will toggle the unit and send the same command to all AyreLink connected components.

Customization

Firmware Updates

Firmware updates will be made available for the VX-8 as new features are added or as ease of use is improved.

For detailed information about firmware updates, and to check for available updates, please visit
www.ayre.com/support



Do not turn off the VX-8 while updates are in progress.

USB Firmware Updates

The system (SYS) and signal processing (DSP) firmware can be updated using the USB Firmware Update port on the rear of the unit.

When the unit is first powered on with the On / Off rocker switch, it will automatically check for a USB flash drive in the USB Firmware Update port. If a drive is detected, it will search for available firmware files and install them.

To perform a USB firmware update, please refer to the following procedure.

- 1) If the VX-8's firmware revisions do not match the revisions available at www.ayre.com/support, you may download the

To successfully update over USB, ensure that the file placement is correct. Also note that file and folder names are case sensitive.

new files from the website to your computer by following the links on the page.

- 2) The new firmware will be in a compressed folder called “VX8boot.zip”. This compressed folder contains two program files, “vx8_p---.hex” and “vx8_x---.bin”. Place these two files into a folder called “VX8boot” in the root directory of a USB flash drive. Please note the folder and program files are case sensitive.



Both program files should be placed into the USB flash drive at the following directory location: “[Drive:]/VX8boot/”.

- 3) Turn the power switch on the back panel of the VX-8 to the OFF position and allow several seconds for the device to power down.
- 4) Insert the USB flash drive into the port labeled “Firmware Update” on the back panel.



Be sure to insert the flash drive into the Firmware Update port and not either of the USB Host ports, as these will not allow the unit to update.

- 5) Turn the power switch on the back panel of the unit into the ON position. The firmware update will commence automatically, and the screen will show “Installing Update”.
- 6) Once the update is complete, the unit will start as normal. Once in the System-sleep state, return the unit to operation mode by pressing the front-panel button.
- 7) The USB flash drive can be safely removed from the Firmware Update port.

Numbers and

Specifications

Power Output 100 watts per channel continuous into 8 ohms
170 watts per channel continuous into 4 ohms

XLR Input Polarity Pin 1 = Ground
Pin 2 = Non-inverting (Positive)
Pin 3 = Inverting (Negative)

Gain 26 dB

Frequency Response DC – 250 kHz

Input Impedance 1 MΩ – unbalanced inputs
2 MΩ – balanced inputs (1 MΩ per phase)

Power Consumption 60 watts in low-current consumption mode
120 watts in operating mode, no signal

Dimensions 17.25" W x 13.00" D x 4.5" H (44 cm x 33 cm x 11.5 cm)

Weight 24 pounds (11 kgs)

In case of

Trouble

In the event that you experience any technical difficulties with your Ayre product, the following items may help to solve the problem or track down the cause.

Fault Messages

If you have trouble clearing any of these faults, contact your local Ayre dealer.

The Status LED on the front of your VX-8 will flash as an indicator of a fault. The LED colors and flashing patterns are listed below for each fault. When connected via AyreLink to an Ayre component with a display, fault messages from the VX-8 will be displayed when a problem occurs.

Low Voltage (Flashing Green)

If the AC line voltage supplied to the unit drops below operable levels, this fault will be displayed. Once normal power is restored to the unit, press the front-panel button to resume operation. If the fault persists, try restarting the VX-8 with the back panel switch.

Fuse Blown (Flashing Red)

If either of the internal fuses in the VX-8 has blown, this fault will be displayed. The fuses will need to be replaced to clear the fault.

If the unit is unresponsive and the LED has no color, the main AC fuse in the IEC inlet may have blown.

For a list of replacement values, please visit the product support page on our website.

Amplifier Overheated (Flashing Red & Green)

If the internal temperature of the amplifier reaches a critical level, the audio circuitry will be automatically disabled to protect the internal components of the unit.

Once the temperature of the amplifier returns to its normal range, operation can be resumed by pressing the front-panel button.

DC Offset (Flashing Red & Blue)

If DC Offset is detected at either of the Loudspeaker outputs, the audio circuitry will automatically disable to prevent damage to your speakers.

Follow these instructions to trouble shoot this error:

- 1) Turn your system volume control all the way down.
- 2) Return the VX-8 to Active mode by pressing the front-panel button twice.
- 3) If the DC Offset fault does not reappear, then the problem is likely in the preamp or a source component. In this case the fault will probably return when you turn the volume back up.
- 4) If the DC Offset reappears immediately, power off the VX-8 and contact an authorized Ayre dealer.

Persistent Faults

If any fault persists, or if another issue occurs but is not displayed, please contact your Ayre dealer for further assistance.

Statement of

Warranty

North American Warranty

Your Ayre VX-8 amplifier is warranted against defects in materials and workmanship for a period of five years from the date the unit was shipped from Ayre.

Additionally, you have the option at no cost to begin the warranty from your date of purchase by returning the completed Warranty Registration Card and a photocopy of your original purchase receipt in the enclosed postage-paid envelope to Ayre within ninety days of product delivery.

During the warranty period, Ayre will repair, or at our discretion, replace a product found to be faulty. All warranty repairs or service must be conducted by an authorized Ayre agent. Please contact your Ayre dealer for any service requests.

For further information regarding Ayre's warranty policy, please refer to the Warranty Registration Card included with your product.

North American Warranty Statement

1. If any defects are found in the materials or workmanship of this Ayre product within the warranty period, the unit will be repaired or replaced by Ayre Acoustics, Inc. (Ayre) or its authorized agent.
2. Purchaser must return the product, packed in the original shipping carton, freight prepaid to:

Ayre Acoustics, Inc.
6268 Monarch Park Place, Suite B
Niwot, Colorado 80503

or to Ayre's authorized agent. The product must be accompanied by a written description of the defect and a photocopy of your original purchase receipt.

Ayre will not be responsible for any shipping damage and strongly recommends the purchase of shipping insurance.

3. Ayre reserves the right to inspect any product that is the subject of any warranty claim prior to repairing or replacing it. Final determination of warranty coverage lies solely with Ayre. Out-of-warranty claims will be billed for labor, materials, return freight, and insurance as required.

Any product for which a warranty claim is accepted will be returned to the purchaser and the cost of return shipping and insurance will be factory prepaid within the boundaries of the USA. Units to be shipped outside of the USA will be shipped freight collect only.

4. Ayre strives to manufacture the finest possible equipment, and therefore reserves the right to make improvements on its products, without necessarily assuming any obligation to retrofit such changes upon its previously manufactured models.
5. The above warranty is the sole warranty given by Ayre and is in lieu of all other warranties. All implied warranties, including warranties of merchantability or fitness for any particular purpose shall be strictly limited to the duration of the above warranty. Ayre shall have no further obligation of any kind, whether express or implied. Further, Ayre shall in no event be obligated for any incidental or consequential damages as a result of any defect or any warranty claim, whether express or implied.
6. Ayre does not authorize any third party, including any dealer or sales representative, to assume any liability of Ayre or make any warranty for Ayre. The unit must not have been altered or improperly serviced. The serial number on the unit must not have been altered or removed.
7. The remaining period of this warranty is only transferable to subsequent purchasers if the product is resold by an authorized Ayre dealer.

International Warranty

Warranty terms outside of North America may vary.
Please contact the authorized Ayre distributor in your
country of purchase for the terms of warranty and also
the service itself.

A Place for

Notes

Serial Number: _____

Purchase Date: _____

Dealer: _____

Salesperson: _____

Ayre Acoustics, Inc.
6268 Monarch Park Place Suite
B
Niwot, Colorado 80503

www.ayre.com
+1-303-442-7300