

2.1 Multichannel Amplifier
Owner's Manual

SIGNATURE
series





harman/kardon

Owner's Manual

Signature 2.1 Multichannel Amplifier

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	CAUTION RISK OF ELECTRIC SHOCK DO NOT OPEN	
CAUTION: TO REDUCE THE RISK OF ELECTRIC SHOCK, DO NOT REMOVE COVER (OR BACK). NO USER-SERVICEABLE PARTS INSIDE. REFER SERVICING TO QUALIFIED SERVICE PERSONNEL.		
 The lightning flash with arrowhead symbol, within an equilateral triangle, is intended to alert the user to the presence of uninsulated "dangerous voltage" within the product's enclosure that may be of sufficient magnitude to constitute a risk of electric shock to persons.	 The exclamation point within an equilateral triangle is intended to alert the user to the presence of important operating and maintenance (servicing) instructions in the literature accompanying the appliance.	
WARNING: TO REDUCE THE RISK OF FIRE OR ELECTRIC SHOCK, DO NOT EXPOSE THIS APPLIANCE TO RAIN OR MOISTURE.		
CAUTION: TO PREVENT ELECTRIC SHOCK, MATCH WIDE BLADE OF PLUG TO WIDE SLOT, FULLY INSERT. ATTENTION: POUR EVITER LES CHOCS ELECTRIQUES, INTRODUIRE LA LAME LA PLUS LARGE DE LA FICHE DANS LA BORNE CORRESPONDANTE DE LA PRISE ET POUSSER JUSQU'AU FOND.		

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Signature 2.1

Congratulations! As the owner of a Harman Kardon Signature Series 2.1 Power Amplifier, you have at your command a unique product. The 2.1 has been carefully designed to deliver the best possible sonic performance, along with outstanding industrial design that matches other Harman Kardon Signature Series products and complements any interior design.

In order to fully enjoy the performance of your amplifier, please take a few minutes to read this owner's manual. It contains important information that will help you to make certain that the amplifier is properly connected to the rest of the equipment in your system.

If you have any questions about this product or its installation and operation, please contact your retailer or custom installer. They are your best sources of product information.

You may also contact Harman Kardon via the World Wide Web at www.harmankardon.com

Welcome to the Harman Kardon family. We wish you many years of listening pleasure!

Description and Features

The Signature Series 2.1 is a flexible, state-of-the-art audio power amplifier designed to deliver high performance for use in home theater or music reproduction applications. The following are among its many features:

- Designed and made in the United States
- High-current output capability
- Ultrawide bandwidth design
- Low negative feedback
- Low harmonic and intermodulation distortion
- Massive heat sinks for quiet convection cooling
- High-current power supply
- Remote turn-on/turn-off circuitry with select Signature Series and Harman Kardon products or through optional accessories



Important Safety Information

Verify Line Voltage Before Use

Your new Signature Series 2.1 amplifier has been factory-configured for use with 120-volt AC line current.

Connecting the amplifier to a line voltage other than that for which it is intended can create a safety and fire hazard, and may damage the amplifier.

If you have any questions about the voltage requirements for your specific model, or about the line voltage in your area, contact your selling dealer before plugging the unit into a wall outlet.

Verify AC Circuit Capacity Before Use

High-power output of your amplifier may require heavy current draw under full-load conditions. To ensure proper performance and avoid potential safety hazards, we recommend that it be connected to a circuit with 20-amp capacity. Connecting multiple amplifiers to the same circuit, or connecting the amplifier to a circuit used by other heavy-power devices, such as high-wattage lights, may cause circuit breakers to trip. It is always a good idea to avoid using any audio equipment on the same AC circuit as equipment with motors, such as air conditioners or refrigerators. This will lessen the possibility of power variation and electrical start-up noise affecting your sound system.

Do Not Use Extension Cords

To avoid safety hazards, use only the power cord supplied with your unit. If a replacement cord is used, make certain that it is of a similar gauge. We do not recommend using extension cords with this product. As with all electrical devices, do not run power cords under rugs or carpets or place heavy objects on power cords. Damaged power cords should be replaced immediately with cords meeting factory specifications.

Handle the AC Power Cord Gently

When disconnecting the power cord from an AC outlet, always pull the plug, never pull the cord. If you do not intend to use the amplifier for a considerable length of time, disconnect the plug from the AC outlet.

Do Not Open the Cabinet

There are no user-serviceable components inside this product. Opening the cabinet may present a shock hazard, and any modification to the product will void your guarantee. If water enters the unit, or any metal object such as a paper clip, wire or staple accidentally falls inside the cabinet, disconnect the unit from the AC power source immediately and consult an authorized warranty station.

Installation Location

- To ensure proper operation and to avoid the potential for safety hazards, place the unit on a firm and level surface. When placing the unit on a shelf, be certain that the shelf and any mounting hardware can support the amplifier's weight.
- Make certain that proper space is provided both above and below the unit for ventilation. If the amplifier will be installed in a cabinet or other enclosed area, make certain that there is sufficient air movement within the cabinet. Consult with your dealer or installer for more information.
- Do not place the unit directly on a carpeted surface.
- Avoid installation in extremely hot or cold locations, in an area that is exposed to direct sunlight or near heating equipment.
- Avoid moist or humid locations.
- Do not obstruct the ventilation slots on the top of the unit or place objects directly over them. Remember, power amplifiers generate heat, and the heat sink fins and ventilation slots that form part of the cabinet are specially designed to remove this heat. Placing other electronic equipment near these heat-dissipation systems may possibly affect the long-term reliability of both your amplifier and the objects placed above it.

Cleaning

When the unit gets dirty, wipe it with a clean, soft and dry cloth. If necessary, first wipe the surface with a soft cloth slightly dampened with mild soapy water, followed by a fresh cloth with clean water. Wipe immediately with a dry cloth. Never use benzene, thinner, alcohol or any other volatile cleaning agent. Do not use abrasive cleaners, as they may damage the finish of metal parts. Avoid spraying insecticide near the unit.

Moving the Unit

Before moving the unit, be certain to disconnect any interconnection cords with other components, and make certain that you disconnect the unit from the AC outlet.

Unpacking and Installation

The carton and shipping materials used in protecting your new amplifier were specially designed to cushion it from the shocks and vibration of shipping. We suggest that you save the carton and packing materials for use in shipping if you move or if the unit ever needs repair.

To minimize the size of the carton in storage, you may wish to flatten it. Carefully remove any staples used to close carton seams; carefully slit the tape on the bottom and collapse the carton. Other cardboard inserts may be stored in the same manner. Packing materials that cannot be collapsed should be saved along with the carton in a plastic bag.

When positioning the amplifier in its final location, make certain that it has adequate ventilation on all sides, as well as on the top and bottom. Do not place CDs, record jackets, owner's manuals or other paper on top of, or beneath the unit, or in between multiple amplifiers in a stack. This will block the air flow, causing degraded performance and a possible fire hazard. If the unit is to be enclosed in a cabinet or rack, make certain that there is adequate air circulation, with means provided for hot air to exit and for cool air to be brought in.

Typographic Conventions

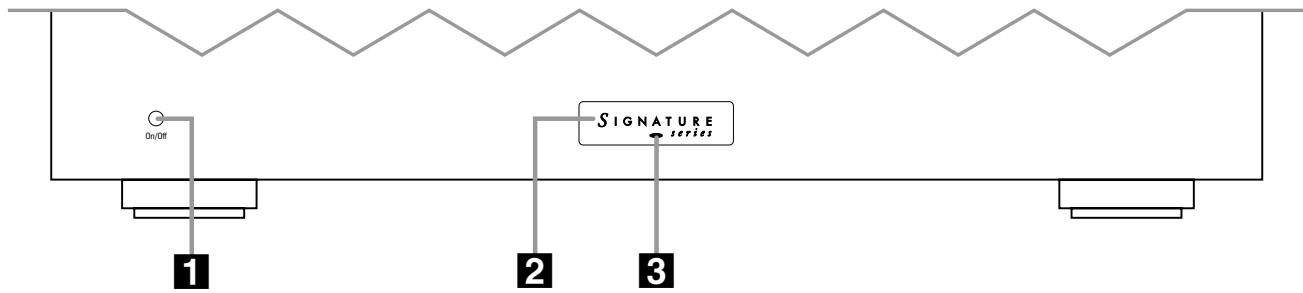
In order to help you use this manual with the front panel controls and rear panel connections, certain conventions have been used.

EXAMPLE – (bold type) indicates a specific front panel control or rear panel connection

1 – (number in a square) indicates a specific front panel control

① – (number in a circle) indicates a rear panel connection

Front Panel Controls

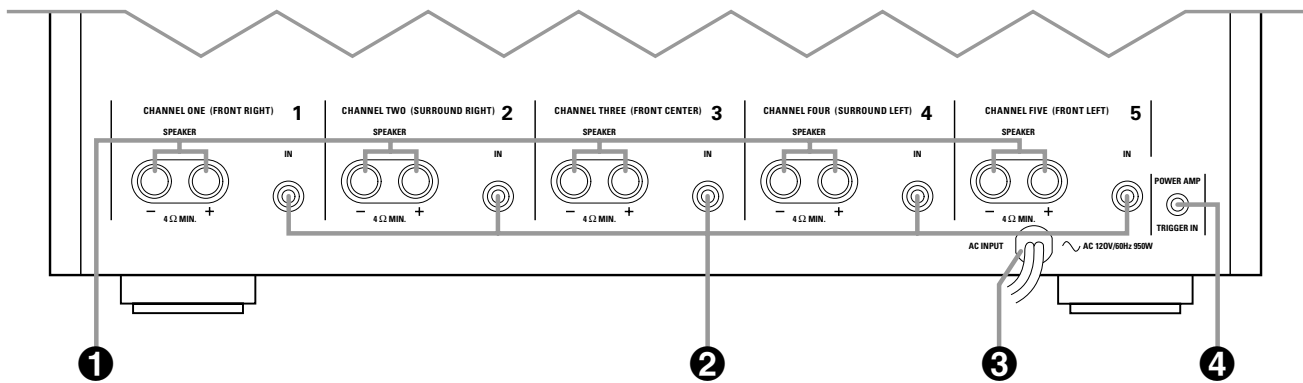


1 Power Switch: Press this switch to turn the 2.1 on for manual operation, or to place it in the Standby mode for automatic/remote turn-on when the 2.1 is connected to a device with a compatible trigger circuit.

2 Power On Indicator: When the word SIGNATURE is illuminated in blue, the 2.1 is in a normal operating condition.

3 LED Indicator: The color of this indicator varies with the status of the 2.1. It is red when the unit is off and in manual operation, amber in the standby mode, and flashing green during warm-up. If the indicator flashes and alternates between red and amber, the 2.1 is in the protect mode, indicating a problem in the unit or connections to the speakers.

Rear Panel Connections



1 Speaker Outputs: Connections from these terminals should be made to the appropriate speakers in your system.

2 Audio Inputs: Connect the outputs of the Signature 2.0, or other surround processor, preamplifier or decoder to these jacks.

3 AC Power Cord: Connect this plug to a wall-mounted AC outlet. Due to the current draw of the Signature 2.1, it is NOT recommended that the accessory outlets on the back of the audio/video components be used to power this product.

4 Power Amp Trigger In: Connect this jack to the matching trigger output on a Signature 2.0 or other compatible device to have the 2.1 automatically turn on when the device is activated. See page 5 for additional details.

Note: When making any connections between source components, processors or preamplifiers and the 2.1, or when making any connections to speakers, be certain that both the input device and the 2.1 are turned off. To ensure that there will be no unwanted signal transients that can damage equipment or speakers, it is always best to unplug all equipment from AC power outlets before making any connections. Modern electronic products often have a “standby” mode that may be activated even though the product may appear to be turned off.

Power Control Connections

The Signature Series 2.1 amplifier features a built-in remote turn-on system that will automatically turn on the amplifier when another device in the system is switched on. To activate this system, this amplifier must be used in conjunction with a Signature Series 2.0, other compatible Harman Kardon products or other approved devices.

Note: Before making any connections to remote trigger outlets, it is critical that both the 2.1 and the triggering device be turned off. For additional safety, it is best that these connections be made while both products are unplugged from AC power sources.

Remote Turn-On with the Signature Series 2.0 and Compatible Harman Kardon Products

Connect one end of the accessory cable supplied with the 2.0 to the **Power Amp Trigger In** jack ❹ on the rear of the 2.1. Connect the other end to the jack on the 2.0 that carries the same identification.

Remote Turn-On Using an External AC-to-DC Converter

If the 2.1 is not used with a compatible Harman Kardon product, it is still possible to activate the unit for automatic turn-on.

To control the amplifier in this manner you will need a small UL/CSA approved class 2 AC-to-DC power converter capable of delivering a 6- to 12-volt DC signal. The DC voltage should terminate in a standard 3.5 mm mono miniplug, with the tip of the plug “positive” (+). This type of converter may be obtained as a “Power Adapter” from many electronics retailers. Consult your dealer for further information.

Plug the AC adapter into a switched outlet that will be activated when you wish to have the amplifier turn on. This may be the switched outlet at the rear of an AV receiver or other audio equipment, an AC outlet that is part of a current sensing control unit activated by a pre-amp or surround processor or a switched AC wall outlet.

Connect the 3.5 mm miniplug from the power converter to the **Power Amp Trigger In** jack ❹ on the rear of the 2.1.

Audio System Connections

As a general rule, avoid running any input signal or speaker wire connections next to or parallel with AC power cords. This may cause undesired hum or other interference that will greatly degrade signal performance.

When making connections with RCA-type plugs on interconnect cables, make certain to gently but firmly insert the plugs into the jacks on the rear of the 2.1. Loose connections can cause intermittent sound and may damage your speakers.

Connect the outputs of the 2.0 or your surround processor to the **Audio Inputs** ❷ of the 2.1. To simplify installation, it is best to follow the markings on the rear panel by connecting the Front Right output of the 2.0 to the Front Right input on the 2.1, following the same pattern for each channel.

Important Note: The 2.1 is not designed for use in Bridged configuration. Do not connect the same input or speaker to more than one channel.

To ensure that the high-quality signals produced by the 2.1 are carried to your speakers without loss of clarity or resolution, we recommend that you use high-quality speaker cable. Many brands of cable are available, and the choice of cable may be influenced by the distance between your speakers and the amplifier, the type of speakers you use, personal preferences and other factors. Your dealer or installer is a valuable resource to consult in selecting a proper cable for connections between your amplifier and speakers.

Regardless of the brand or type of cable selected, we recommend that you use a cable constructed of high strand count copper with a gauge of 14 or smaller. When specifying cable, remember that the smaller the number, the thicker the cable.

Cable with a gauge of 16 may be used for short runs of less than ten feet. We do not recommend the use of cables with an AWG equivalent of 18 or higher due to the power loss and degradation in performance that will occur.

Cables run inside walls should have the appropriate markings to indicate listing with UL ("CL-2/CL-3"), CSA ("FT-4") or appropriate safety agency standards that may be required in your area. Questions about running cables inside walls should be referred to your installer or a licensed electrical contractor who is familiar with the NEC and/or the applicable building or electrical codes in your area.

Connections to Speakers

The final step of the installation process is to connect the amplifier to your speakers using high-quality cable. A pair of binding posts is provided for each channel output. These posts will accept bare wire or banana-type plugs.

Note that one conductor of the speaker cable will have no markings or an indication of "–" for negative polarity, and the other will have a red line, brand-name markings, a colored thread or some other positive-polarity indication.

The wire with the positive indication should be connected to the red terminals on both the 2.1 and your speakers. The negative wire should be connected to the black terminal on the 2.1 and the speakers.

If bare wire is used for connections, strip approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ " (20 mm) of insulation from the end of each wire and carefully twist the strands of each conductor together. Be careful not to cut the individual strands or twist them off; for optimal performance, all strands must be used.

Next, loosen the knobs of the speaker output terminals far enough so that the cap moves back on its threads past the holes at the rear of the terminal. Making certain that you observe polarity by connecting the negative (–) wire to the black terminal and the positive (+) wire to the red terminal, pass the exposed wire through the hole until the wire is visible from the bottom end. Holding the wire in place, twist the cap back so that the connection is secured. Do not overtighten or use tools, as this may damage the plastic terminal cap or break the delicate wire strands and decrease system performance.

Important Note: When making speaker wire connections, be certain that none of the strands from one lead touch any other lead. This will cause a short circuit and may damage your amplifier or speakers. Damage from short circuits caused in this manner is not covered by the product warranty.

Connections may also be made using spade lugs or standard 4 mm OD banana plugs. Before using a banana-type jack, make certain that the plastic screw caps on the 2.1 are firmly tightened by turning them clockwise until they are snug against the chassis. This will ensure that the maximum surface area of the plug is in contact with the jack. Once the wire has been attached to the banana plug following the plug manufacturer's instructions, simply insert the banana plug into the hole provided on the rear of the colored screw caps on the terminal posts. Be certain to observe proper polarity.

Finally, run the cables to the speaker locations. It is highly recommended that the length of cable connecting any pair of speakers be identical. For example, make certain that the cable length connecting left and right front or left and right rear (surround) speakers is identical, even though one speaker may be physically closer to the amplifier than the other. Do not coil any excess cable, as this may become an inductor that creates frequency response variations in your system.

Connect the wires to the speakers, again being certain to observe proper polarity. Remember to connect the negative or black wire to the matching terminal on the speaker. Similarly, the positive or red wire should be connected to the like terminal on the speaker.

Note: While most speaker manufacturers adhere to an industry standard of using black terminals for negative and red ones for positive, some manufacturers may not adhere to this configuration. To ensure properly phased connections and optimal performance, consult the identification plate on your speaker terminals, or the speaker's manual to verify polarity. If you do not know the polarity of your speaker, ask your dealer or installer for advice before proceeding, or consult the speaker's manufacturer.

Signature 2.1

The Signature 2.1 may be operated in either a manual or automatic mode. If the unit is being used in standalone operation you should follow the instructions below for Manual Operation. When the 2.1 is connected to another Signature Series product or to another compatible device, follow the instructions for Automatic Operation.

Operation of the Signature Series 2.1 is simple. There are no controls to adjust once the installation is complete.

Manual Operation

For conventional, standalone operation, first make all connections to speakers and input sources as outlined on the previous pages. Make certain that the front panel **Power Switch 1** is in the fully extended “off” position and then connect the **AC Power Cord 3** to a wall-mounted AC outlet with sufficient current capacity. Note that the **LED Indicator 3** will glow red.

Turn the unit on, press the front panel **Power Switch 1** until it is flush with the front panel. Once the switch is turned on, the 2.1 will go into a brief warm-up mode, as indicated by the **LED Indicator 3** flashing green. This is normal, and it protects your speakers from damage as the amplifier stabilizes.

When the 2.1 is fully ready for operation the LED Indicator will go out and the **Power On Indicator 2** will glow blue behind the word SIGNATURE. At this point you will begin to hear audio from the speakers connected to the 2.1.

You are now ready to enjoy the finest sonic performance available. No further adjustments are needed, as all volume controls and/or level adjustments are made at your preamp controller or surround processor.

To turn the 2.1 off, press the **Power Switch 1** until it protrudes from the front panel. The unit is in the “off” position when the LED Indicator returns to a red color.

Automatic Operation

Before proceeding, make certain that the connection between the 2.1 and 2.0 processor/tuner or other trigger source has been properly made as outlined previously. At this point the triggering unit should be turned off.

With the **Power Switch 1** in the fully extended “off” position, plug the **AC Power Cord 3** into a wall-mounted AC outlet with sufficient current capacity. The **LED Indicator 3** will light up in a red color.

Press the **Power Switch 1** so that it is in the “on” position and flush with the front panel. At this point the **LED Indicator 3** will turn amber, indicating that the 2.1 is in a Standby mode and ready to turn on when it receives a signal from the Signature 2.0 or other device.

To activate the 2.1, turn on the Signature 2.0 or the other device that is connected to the **Power Amp Trigger In 4**. Once the trigger signal is received the 2.1 will go into a brief warm-up mode, as indicated by the **LED Indicator 3** flashing green. This is normal, and it protects your speakers from damage as the amplifier stabilizes.

When the 2.1 is fully ready for operation the LED Indicator will go out and the **Power On Indicator 2** will glow blue behind the word SIGNATURE. At this point you will begin to hear audio from the speakers connected to the 2.1.

Once your system is turned on, you are ready to enjoy the finest sonic performance available. There are no controls to adjust. All volume and level adjustments are made by your preamp, controller or surround processor.

At the conclusion of your listening session, there is no need to manually turn off the 2.1. When the 2.0 or other triggering device is turned off, the 2.1 will return to the Standby mode and the **LED Indicator 3** will turn amber.

Note: Always turn on the source components and processor in your system first, and turn on your amplifier last. This avoids the possibility of any turn-on pops or transients from other equipment being amplified and sent to your speakers, where they may cause damage. Always start with a low volume level on your controller or preamp to avoid damage to your speakers.

Important Note: If you will not be using your audio system for an extended period of time, such as during a vacation, it is always a good idea to turn the unit off using the power switch. This will prevent the automatic turn-on circuits from accidentally turning the system on during your absence.

If your installation has followed the procedures in this manual, you should enjoy many years of trouble-free operation and high-quality listening enjoyment. The 2.1 does not contain any user-serviceable parts. If you suspect a problem that may require service assistance, contact your dealer, installer or an authorized Harman Kardon service depot.

You may also contact Harman Kardon via the World Wide Web at www.harmankardon.com

It is important that any repairs be carried out only by an authorized Harman Kardon service agent to ensure proper service and preserve the protection of your Limited Warranty. It is a good idea to keep your sales slip or receipt in a safe place (along with this manual) so that it will be available to verify the purchase date for warranty claims.

Input/Output Protection

Under some conditions, such as a shorted speaker wire, DC voltage on an input connection or thermal overload, the amplifier will place itself in a “protect” mode to prevent damage to the amplifier. When this happens, the LED Power Indicator will flash and alternate between red and amber.

When this occurs, IMMEDIATELY turn off the unit using the power switch and correct the problem. Then turn the unit back on. If the unit continues to go into a protect mode, contact your dealer or installer for assistance.

Troubleshooting Chart

The items listed below are a brief guide to minor problems that may arise with audio equipment such as the 2.1. Before taking a unit in for service, you should check to see if any of these hints solve the problem. If these solutions do not rectify the problem or if the problem recurs, contact your dealer or an authorized Harman Kardon service depot for assistance.

PROBLEM	DIAGNOSIS	TROUBLESHOOTING HINTS
Amplifier will not turn on.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Power Switch turned off. (No Power Light LED) • Remote trigger cable not properly connected. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turn on Power Switch. • Verify connection of trigger cable at both ends.
Amplifier turns on, but no audio from one or more channels.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inputs not connected to proper jack. • Speakers not connected properly. • Improper settings or output levels from processor or controller. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check input connections. • Check speaker connections. • Check the settings on your preamp, processor or controller.
Audio plays, then cuts off.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amplifier shorted (LED flashes amber and red). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check speaker connections for short circuit.

Signature 2.1 Multichannel Amplifier Specifications

Power Output:	5 x 100 watts @ 8 ohms 20Hz – 20kHz, <0.03% THD, All Channels Driven 5 x 150 watts @ 4 ohms 20Hz – 20kHz, <0.03% THD, All Channels Driven
High-Current Capability:	± 100 Amps
Frequency Response:	<1Hz – 170kHz ± 3dB
Power Bandwidth:	<1Hz – >100kHz
THD/IMD:	<0.03% at rated output
Crosstalk	< -87dB between any two channels at maximum output
Negative Feedback:	<25dB
Input Impedance:	33K ohms
Input Sensitivity:	1 volt for rated output
Remote Trigger Voltage:	6 – 12 volts DC (tip of plug must be “positive” (+))
Remote Trigger Impedance:	20K ohms
Dimensions (H x W x D):	17¼ x 7½ x 15¼ inches 438 x 191 x 387 mm
Weight:	47 lbs/21 kg
Power Requirements:	120VAC, 50Hz / 60Hz 950 watts, maximum

All features and specifications are subject to change without notice.

