

Hafler®

HA15

Solid State
Headphone Amp



User Guide

Made in Canada 🍁

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HA15 HEADPHONE AMP

USER GUIDE

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Thank you for purchasing the Hafler HA15 headphone amplifier. The HA15 was designed and produced with the same care and attention that has made Hafler one of the most respected brands of all times.

Although you will find the Hafler HA15 to be extremely easy to use, we invite you to take a few minutes to read the manual and familiarize yourself with the features, functionality and safety concerns. This will not only improve your listening enjoyment, but ensure you do not damage your hearing due to improper use.

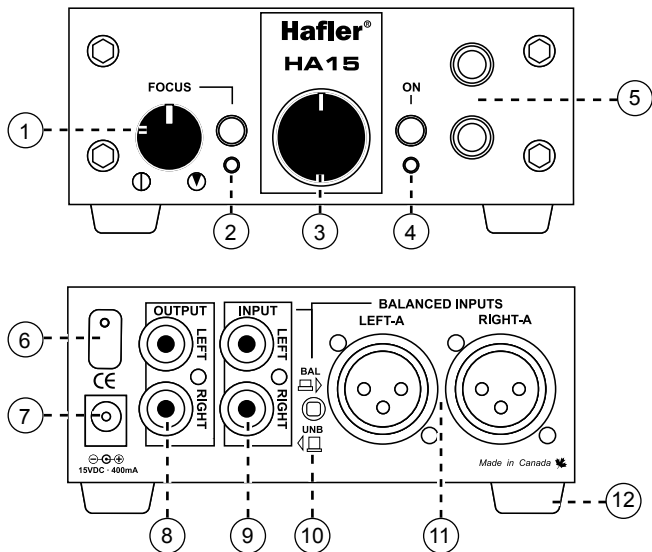
Now get set to enjoy your favorite music with greater detail and more excitement than ever before.



Headphone Safety Warning **Caution: Very Loud Amplifier**

As with all products capable of producing high Sound Pressure Levels (SPL) users must be very careful to avoid the hearing damage that may occur from prolonged exposure. This is particularly important as it applies to headphones. Prolonged listening at high SPLs will eventually cause tinnitus and can lead to partial or complete loss of hearing. Please be aware of the recommended exposure limits within your legal jurisdiction and follow them very closely. The user agrees that Hafler remains harmless from any health effects resulting from the use of this product and the user clearly understands that he or she is entirely responsible for the safe and proper use of this product. Please consult the Hafler Limited Warranty for further details.

FEATURES

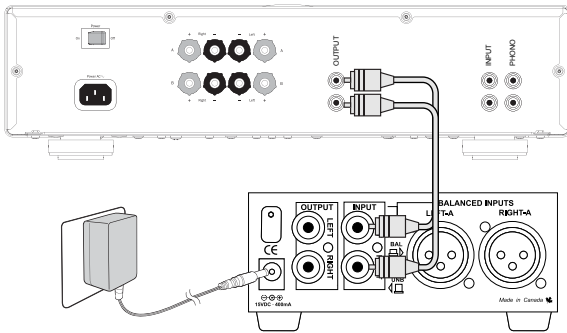


1. **FOCUS CONTROL:** Variable focus control simulates a live listening environment
2. **FOCUS ON:** Activates focus control
3. **VOLUME CONTROL:** Sets the headphone output level
4. **POWER ON:** Power switch activates the HA15
5. **HEADPHONE OUTPUT:** Two 1/4" TRS outputs for headphones - works with headphones ranging from 8Ω to 400Ω
6. **CABLE CLAMP:** Secures the power supply cable
7. **15 VDC:** Connection for external power supply (included)
8. **OUTPUT (THRU):** Sends audio to another device
9. **INPUT (RCA):** Unbalanced inputs to connect from source
10. **BAL/UNB:** Selects either XLR balanced or RCA unbalanced inputs
11. **INPUT (XLR-F):** Balanced inputs for professional use
12. **RUBBER FEET:** Surface saving feet to secure the HA15 in place

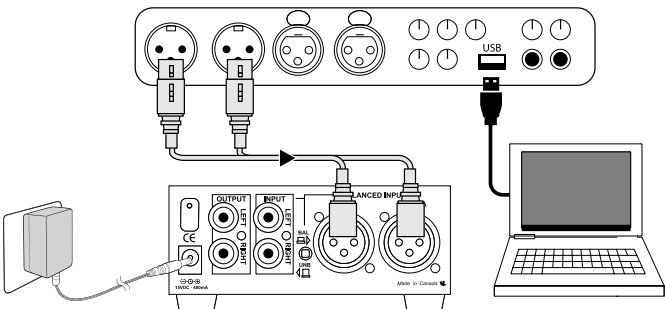
CONNECT

The Hafler HA15 has been designed to be extremely easy to use. Before you get started, make sure your audio system is turned down – volume levels set to zero or your system is turned off. This will prevent plug-in and turn-on transients from damaging more sensitive components such as tweeters.

The Hafler HA15 is equipped with both RCA and XLR female inputs. This allows traditional hi-fi setups to be done using unbalanced coaxial RCA cables or it may be integrated into professional recording systems using balanced XLR cables. We recommend keeping unbalanced cables short – under 2 meters (6') if possible - in order to reduce susceptibility to noise. Balanced cables can be run much longer distances due to the noise-cancelling benefits of the twisted pair cable design.

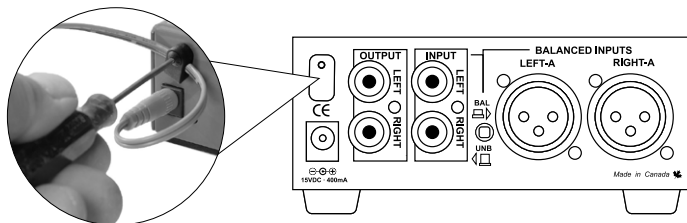


When connecting your HA15 to a hi-fi system, common audio sources include -10dB monitor or auxiliary outputs from a receiver via standard RCA outputs. For professional studio use, any +4dB balanced line level source will work such as the main or monitor outputs from a console. Make sure you maintain the left-right relationship to enjoy the stereo mix as it was recorded.



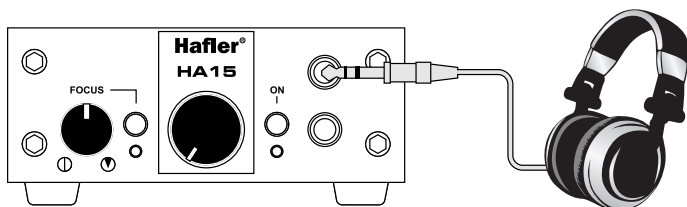
USING THE CABLE LOCK

Connect the HA15 power supply. This has a handy cable lock to prevent accidental disconnection. Simply release the lock using a hex screw wrench and pass the power supply cable through the lock to secure it in place. Turn on the HA15 by depressing the front panel power switch. The power LED will illuminate to let you know the power supply is properly seated.



VOLUME CONTROL

Set the level control fully counter-clockwise (off). Plug in your headphones. Turn on your audio system. Activate the music source. Slowly increase the volume on the HA15 until you have reached a comfortable listening level.



IMPORTANT NOTE

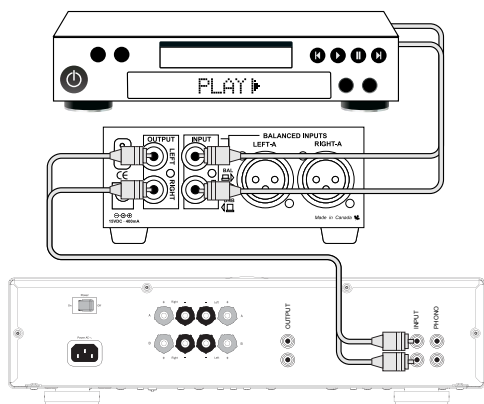
As the HA15 is designed to work with all types of headphones or varying impedances. It incorporates a powerful amplifier that is capable of damaging your hearing if you are exposed to loud music for an extended period of time. As we have no control over the impedance of the headphone you are using, it is your responsibility to ensure that listening levels are kept under control and that you follow the health and safety guidelines in your community. We do not recommend headphones be used by children unless they are carefully monitored by a parent or guardian. The use of ear-buds is not recommended.

USING THE RCA THRU-PUTS

The HA15 is equipped with a pair of RCA thru-puts that can be used to feed a secondary device such as another HA15 or the TAPE or AUX input on your receiver. This thru-put adds flexibility to your setup and will make it easier to integrate the HA15 into your system.

You could for instance connect a CD player to the HA15 and then send the output from the CD player (via the THRU) to your receiver. This would enable you to turn off the receiver or hi-fi system for quiet listening without having to re-patch.

Note that these are simple pass through connections. This means that the level or Focus controls will have no effect on the signal.

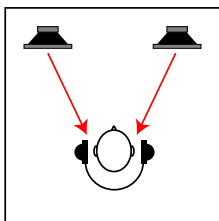


THE FOCUS CONTROL

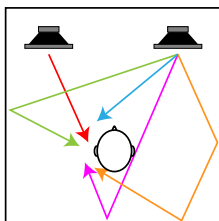
The Focus control is a very powerful feature that will enthrall as it brings a greater sense of presence to your musical listening pleasure. It is designed to simulate the effect of listening to music in a typical room using loudspeakers. To understand the significance, one merely has to think about how the music was recorded and how this differs from headphones.

In the studio, music is recorded using a combination of nearfield monitors and larger playback monitors during the final mix and mastering. Headphones are secondary. This means that when the engineer or producer was placing instruments and voice across the sound-field, they were actually making 'mix decisions' while listening to the recording as it emanated from both loudspeakers at the same time. With headphones, the sound going to each ear is completely isolated from the other. This results in a 'wider than recorded' stereo field which is not natural. The intended mix is lost and so is much of the 'energy'.

Listening with headphones

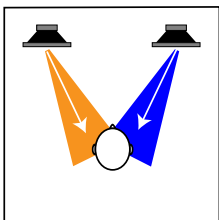


Listening with speakers

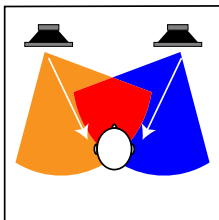


The Focus control is a carefully managed matrix that combines the discrete left and right signals with a 'left-right mix' to simulate the effect of listening to loudspeakers in a room. As you increase the effect by turning the Focus control clockwise, you can decide how much of the music from each side is mixed to the center, creating a much more realistic rendering. Once you try it, you will find yourself setting the center Focus differently as you change the music source.

Narrow field



Wide field



Start with the Focus control fully counter-clockwise. Depress the Focus switch to turn it on. You will likely hear an increase in level. This is normal as you are now multiplying the signals together in the matrix. Simply back down the HA15 volume control to compensate. Slowly turn the Focus clockwise until you find the sweet spot. Try turning off the Focus effect to compare. Listen carefully and you will notice that the stereo image is maintained. This sets the Focus apart from others that try to simulate the effect using a simple stereo-to-mono mix.

Now sit back and enjoy. You are about to hear music in your headphones with more clarity, realism and dynamics than ever before.

THREE YEAR TRANSFERABLE LIMITED WARRANTY

HAFLER (A division of Radial Engineering Ltd.) ("Hafler") warrants this product to be free from defects in material and workmanship and will remedy any such defects free of charge according to the terms of this warranty. Hafler will repair or replace (at its option) any defective component(s) of this product (excluding finish and wear and tear on components under normal use) for a period of three (3) years from the original date of purchase. In the event that a particular product is no longer available, Hafler reserves the right to replace the product with a similar product of equal or greater value. In the unlikely event that a defect is uncovered, please call 604-942-1001 or email service@hafler.com to obtain a RA number (Return Authorization number) before the 3 year warranty period expires. The product must be returned prepaid in the original shipping container (or equivalent) to Hafler or to an authorized Hafler repair centre and you must assume the risk of loss or damage. A copy of the original invoice showing date of purchase and the dealer name must accompany any request for work to be performed under this limited and transferable warranty. This warranty shall not apply if the product has been damaged due to abuse, misuse, misapplication, accident or as a result of service or modification by any other than an authorized Hafler repair center.

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