№536 MONAURAL AMPLIFIER
№534 DUAL-MONAURAL AMPLIFIER

mark levinson®

Since 1972, Mark Levinson has been dedicated to the uncompromising art of sound, with the guiding principle of musical purity above all else.
To achieve that goal like never before, Mark Levinson engineers scoured company archives, ultimately developing a circuit-design philosophy called Pure Path. On a conceptual level, its hallmark principles include a discrete, direct-coupled, fully balanced, dual-monaural signal path that delivers unrestricted, uncompromised sonic purity.

Far from merely arranging high quality components in an intelligent manner, Pure Path is the meeting of science and art: Mark Levinson engineers are tasked to create the best possible.

PRECISION.
POWER.
PURITY.

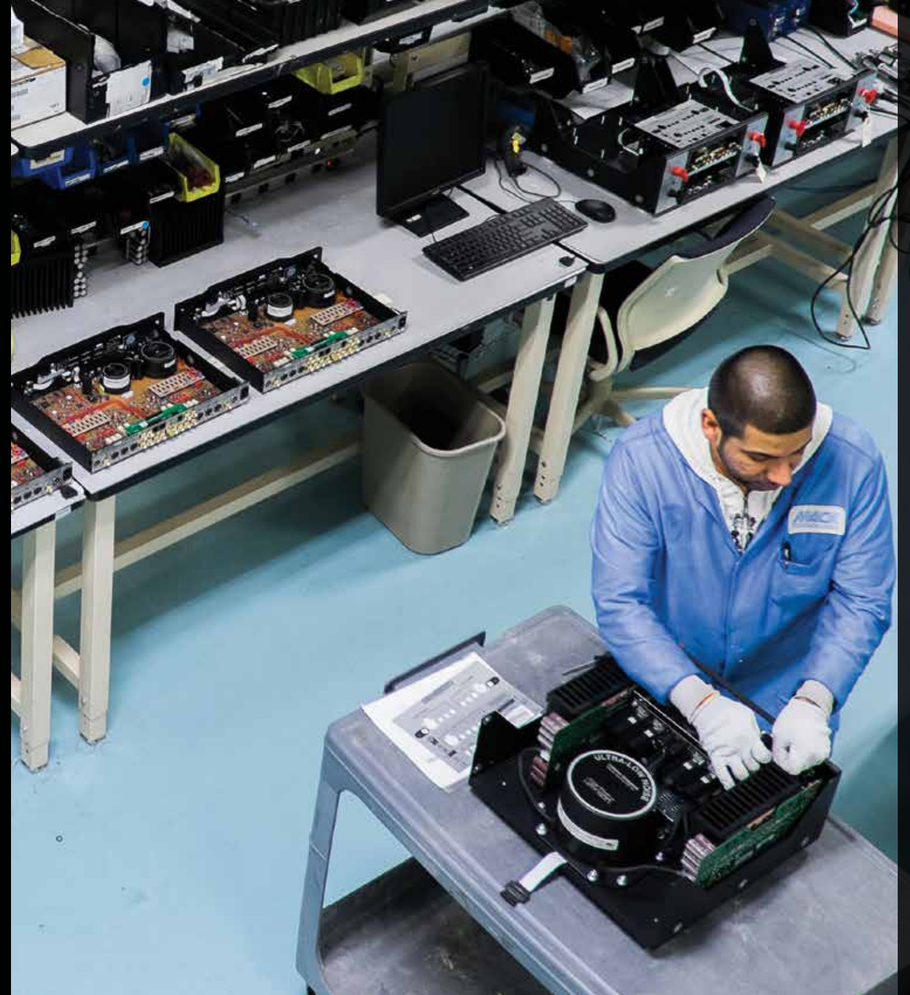
The pursuit of perfect amplification is a well-known theme in high-end audio. New technologies present new approaches, while looking to the past provides inspiration for the future. It was in that spirit that the Nº536 and Nº534 amplifiers were developed: advised by classic Mark Levinson amplifier designs such as the Nº33 and ML-2, and with a specific target sound: a deep, expansive soundstage, accurate image placement, extended low bass response with good pitch definition, and detailed high frequencies free from "etching."

These fully differential, fully discrete, monaural and dual-monaural Pure Path amplifiers drive virtually any loudspeaker effortlessly in class A for most listening conditions for impeccable imaging, musicality, and openness. A direct-coupled signal path; a highly linear, low-feedback design; and voltage gain and drive stages operating entirely in class A, are joined by the modern system integration capabilities provided by Ethernet, RS-232, and USB for monitoring and network control.

DESIGN PHILOSOPHY

The №536 and №534's core design principles are their very high open-loop linearity and extremely high bias current. Because the amplifier circuitry was designed to have such intrinsically high performance, it requires very little feedback to achieve impeccably low distortion and enormously wide bandwidth. Employing unusually high bias current enables superb linearity with wide bandwidth: nearly immune to the effects of parasitic capacitances, the amplifiers are able to change voltage with unreserved agility.

These design principles create the hallmarks of Mark Levinson amplification: effortlessness, openness, and unadulterated smoothness throughout the entire frequency range, regardless of load or listening level.



MADE IN THE USA

All Mark Levinson equipment employs electronic components carefully chosen for their specific task. Tantalum nitride thin-film resistors in critical gain-setting and feedback locations make the sound revealing and effortless, free of the low-level nonlinearities caused by lesser resistive materials. An extremely costly material, tantalum nitride typically finds use in sensitive military equipment because it is unusually stable with respect to temperature, exhibits very low noise, and is unaffected by magnetic fields. Similarly, film-type capacitors in critical filtering locations perform extremely consistently, regardless of temperature and frequency.

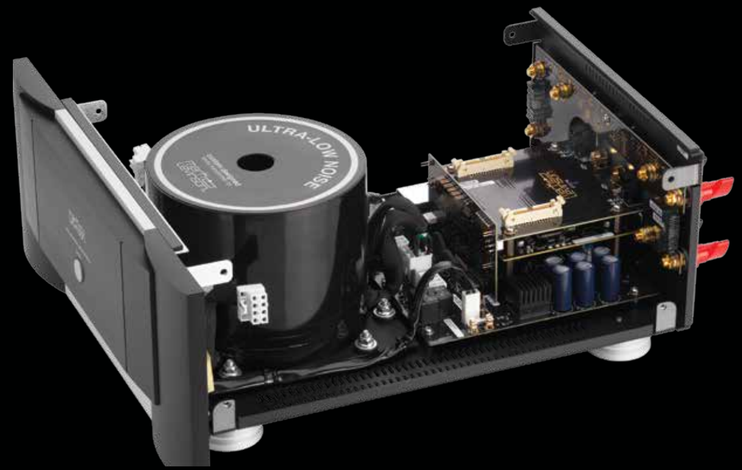
Housed in an aircraft-grade 6000-series extruded and machined aluminum chassis, the №536 and №534 feature extremely high build precision, to exceedingly low tolerances. Attention to detail is evident even in individual components, each of which is carefully selected and precisely placed for ultimate sonic purity and visual composition.

Mark Levinson equipment is designed at the HARMAN Engineering Center of Excellence in Shelton, CT, prototyped in-house, and handcrafted exclusively at an ISO9001 facility in Massachusetts under strict Mark Levinson engineering and quality supervision.

ART MEETS SCIENCE

Mark Levinson takes pride in both the art and science of engineering. To that end, components are selected based not only on their technical merits, but also on their sonic capabilities.

The amplifiers each contain 24 discrete 15A, 260V, 200W TO-264 bipolar output transistors and 24 discrete 230V, 70MHz TO-220 bipolar driver transistors. Power supplies contain 16 discrete, high speed, 40A, 250V TO-220 Schottky rectifiers and 36 filter capacitors for a grand total of 169,200 microfarads in the №536 and 118,800 microfarads in the №534 of storage capacitance.



The amplifiers also feature custom-designed, low noise toroidal transformers, rated for 1,800VA and 1,900VA total continuous power, respectively, with separate secondary windings for each output stage. The output stage and power supply components are over-specified to offer unsurpassed performance and reliability.

The input stages contain matched-pair, low-noise, high-gain, dual JFET input transistors, which in turn are connected in a double cascode configuration to bipolar transistors; the combination of devices offers inherently low distortion and wide bandwidth, as well as the ability to effortlessly swing large signal voltages. This circuit operates in a fully balanced, differential configuration and uses discrete TO-126 bipolar pre-driver transistors to accurately drive the massive output stages.

IN SUMMARY

- Class AB design, operating in class A for most listening conditions
- №536 rated at 400W into 8 ohms and 800W into 4 ohms, stable into 2 ohms
- №534 rated at 250W into 8 ohms and 500W into 4 ohms, stable into 2 ohms
- Fully discrete and differential signal path, input to output
- High linearity, low-feedback design for low distortion and wide bandwidth
- Voltage gain and driver stages operate in class A
- Direct coupled: no capacitors in the signal path

- Custom-designed, low-noise 1,800VA and 1,900VA toroidal transformers
- High-current linear power supplies employing low-noise, high-speed discrete Schottky rectifiers and multiple paralleled filter capacitors
- Mirror-image symmetrical design
- Four and eight binding posts with Hurricane terminals for standard and bi-wired loudspeaker connections
- System controls: Ethernet, RS-232, IR input, 12V trigger input and output, USB

№534 SPECIFICATIONS

CONNECTIVITY
- INPUT CONNECTORS: one pair Balanced, one pair single-ended
- SPEAKER CONNECTORS: four pairs of Hurricane loudspeaker outputs banana-plug sockets per channel, except on 230 VAC version

CONTROL I/O
- Ethernet, RS-232, Trigger In and Out, USB-A, Mini USB

RATED OUTPUT POWER
- 250 wpc RMS @ 8Ω, 20Hz to 20kHz @ <0.3% THD, full output from 2.83VRMS

AUDIO PERFORMANCE
- FREQUENCY RESPONSE: 10Hz to 20kHz ±0.2dB
- SIGNAL-TO-NOISE RATIO: >85dB, reference level: 2.83VRMS
- INPUT IMPEDANCE: 60 kΩ balanced; 30 kΩ unbalanced
- VOLTAGE GAIN: 26dB
- INPUT SENSITIVITY: 2.83VRMS output at 142mVRMS input

A/C POWER REQUIREMENTS
- 100V~, 120V~, 230V~, factory set for destination country, 1500W

DIMENSIONS
- Height (with feet): 7.75" (19.7cm)
- Height (without feet): 7" (17.8cm)
- Width: 17.75" (45.1cm)
- Depth: 20" (50.8cm)

WEIGHT
- Net weight: 107 lbs (48.5kg)
- Shipping weight: 124 lbs (56.3kg)

For more information, visit www.marklevinson.com

№536 SPECIFICATIONS

CONNECTIVITY
- INPUT CONNECTORS: one Balanced, one single-ended
- SPEAKER CONNECTORS: two pairs of Hurricane loudspeaker outputs banana-plug sockets per channel, except on 230 VAC version

CONTROL I/O
- Ethernet, RS-232, Trigger In and Out, USB-A, Mini USB

RATED OUTPUT POWER
- 400 wpc RMS @ 8Ω, 20Hz to 20kHz @ <0.3% THD, full output from 2.83VRMS

AUDIO PERFORMANCE
- FREQUENCY RESPONSE: 10Hz to 20kHz ±0.2dB
- SIGNAL-TO-NOISE RATIO: >85dB, reference level: 2.83VRMS
- INPUT IMPEDANCE: 60 kΩ balanced; 30 kΩ unbalanced
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A/C POWER REQUIREMENTS
- 100V~, 120V~, 230V~, factory set for destination country, 1500W

DIMENSIONS
- Height (with feet): 7.75" (19.7cm)
- Height (without feet): 7" (17.8cm)
- Width: 17.75" (45.1cm)
- Depth: 20" (50.8cm)

WEIGHT
- Net weight: 100 lbs (45.4kg)
- Shipping weight: 114 lbs (51.7kg)

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