



OWNER'S MANUAL
and
INSTALLATION GUIDE



CONGRATULATIONS!

You now own the **Limited Edition Tarantula Amplifier**, the product of an uncompromising design and engineering philosophy. Your Soundstream **Tarantula** will outperform any other amplifier in the world.

To maximize the performance of your system, we recommend that you thoroughly acquaint yourself with its capabilities and features. Please retain this manual and your sales receipt for future reference.

Soundstream amplifiers are the result of American innovation and the highest quality control standards. When properly installed, they will provide you with many years of listening pleasure. Should your amplifier ever need service or replacement due to theft, please record the following information which will help protect your investment.

Serial # _____

Dealer's Name _____

Date of Purchase _____

Installation Shop _____

Installation Date _____

CAUTION!

Prolonged listening at extremely high levels may result in hearing loss. Even though your new Soundstream Tarantula amplifier sounds better than anything you've ever heard, exercise caution to prevent hearing damage.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Features.. ..	p 4-5
<i>Tarantula</i> Diagram	p 6-7
Balanced/Unbalanced Inputs	p 8
Wiring	p 9
Installation and Mounting	p 10
Crossover Adjustments	p 11
Hawkins Bass Control™ Theory and Use	p 12-13
Level Setting	p 14
Large Mouth Bass	p 15
Power Supply Programming.....	p 16
Troubleshooting Chart	p 16
Sample System.....	p 17
Protection Circuitry.....	p 18
Very Serious Warnings	p 18
Service	p 18
Specifications	p 19

FEATURES

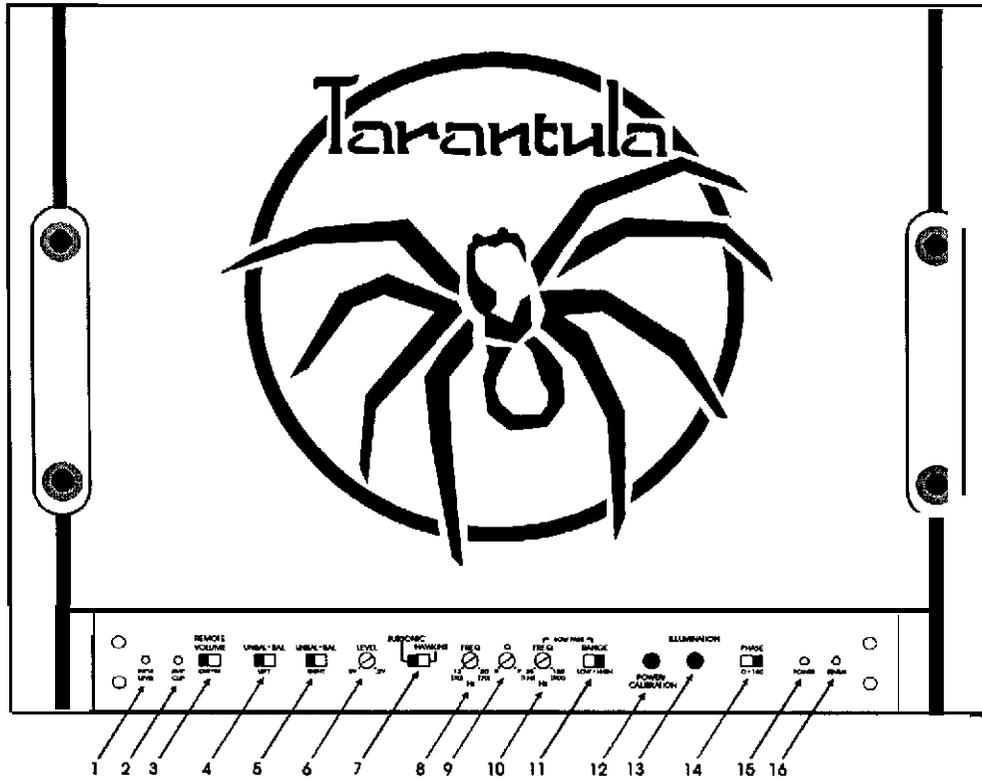
- **RUBI™** (Rapid-Use Branched Impulse) This new proprietary power supply topology eliminates “power sags” during low frequency reproduction by rapidly increasing the duty cycle, stabilizing the power supply and allowing it to deliver the power required when reproducing low frequencies. Also, greater reserve gate power is stored for low voltage conditions that occur during extreme conditions.
- **STACT™** (Stabilized Apex Current Topology) Reduces power supply stress by 50%. In the STACT design, inversion is done at the power amplifier drive stage. Since the fully symmetrical power amplifier produces no even-harmonic distortion itself and all preamplifier circuitry is run completely **inphase**, no even harmonic distortion phase reversal occurs and power is **better distributed** throughout the amplifier.
- Advanced **Trident™** Protection Topology Protects against potential harm/damage in the following situations:
 1. Output Protection against short circuits or improper loads.
 2. Voltage Inconsistencies protects against ground fault (speaker shorts to vehicle chassis) and an under/over voltage condition on the battery input.
 3. Thermal Protection puts the amplifier into thermal rollback or shuts the amplifier down in extreme thermal conditions.
- Tone Sweep Calibration Routine Automatically configures and optimizes the power supply to the connected speaker load.
- Hawkins Bass Control Provides a focused parametric subwoofer boost (0 to **+9 dB** between 13-70 Hz) and routes otherwise wasted amplifier power back to the audible bandwidth.
- Continuously Variable Crossover Networks **24 dB/octave** low pass crossovers variable from 35 Hz to 500 Hz with a range selection switch.
- Input Level Indicator A three colored LED that provides visual confirmation of the amplifier’s input level sensitivity setting.
- ◆ Output Clipping Indicators Indicates clipping on the output stage of the amplifier. Monitoring the clipping indicators allows the user to achieve maximum SPL without clipping the amplifier.
- ◆ Large Mouth Bass Remote subwoofer volume control built into the amplifier.

FEATURES

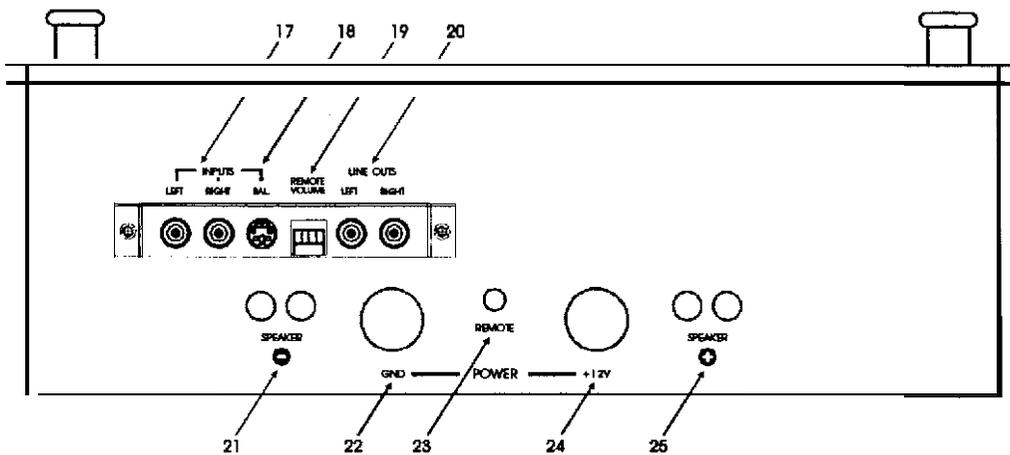
- ◆ Output Phase Switch 0-180 degree phase control switch.
- ◆ Blue Neon Back lighting with four different selectable modes of operation, including an audio response mode.
- ◆ Fan Cooling With thermally sensitive speed control.
- ◆ Differentially Balanced RCA Input Eliminates ground loop related noise in the audio signal.
- ◆ Fully Balanced 6-pin DIN Input For professional quality performance and noise cancellation. The 6-pin DIN plug carries (\pm) signal information for left and right channels, audio ground, and $\pm 15\text{Vdc}$ to operate the Soundstream BLT / BLT4 Balanced Line Transmitters and Balanced X.0 crossover.
- ◆ RCA Line Output Provides a full range signal output to drive other amplifiers.
- ◆ Wire Connections Power and ground connections accept 10 gauge cable, while the speaker connections utilize dual 4 gauge connections.
- ◆ Harmonic Bass **Alignment**[™] The 2nd and 3rd order harmonic peaks are critically aligned to fundamental peaks at low frequencies. This produces tighter, more accurate bass reproduction.
- ◆ Symmetrical Discrete Balanced Class A Drive Boards Auto-adjust for linear performance while driving low impedance loads.
- ◆ Drive Delay **II**[™] Amplifier section powers up 2 to 3 seconds after the power supply, eliminating turn-on pops. Turn off process is reversed; amplifier section turns off first, followed by the power supply.
- ◆ **Chassisink**[™] All transistors are ideally located and sandwiched between the circuit board and the heatsink to provide cool efficient amplifier operation.
- ◆ Dynamically Optimized Power Grid[™] Power grid is evenly distributed between primary and secondary power supplies, providing greater dynamics and improved RF filtering.

TARANTULA DIAGRAM

Top View



Side View



KEY TO CALL OUTS

1. **input Level LED** -Warns of the onset of clipping.
2. **Amplifier Clip LED** - Indicates clipped amplifier output.
3. **Remote Volume Switch** - Select "IN" when the LMB is used and "OUT" when not in use.
4. **Left Channel Balanced/Unbalanced Input Switch** -Select "Balanced" to use the 6-pin balanced signal input. Select "Unbalanced" to use the RCA signal inputs.
5. **Right Channel Balanced/Unbalanced Input Switch** - Select "Balanced" to use the 6-pin balanced signal input. Select "Unbalanced" to use the RCA signal inputs.
6. **Input Level** - Input level control.
7. **Hawkins Bass Control/Subsonic Switch** - Select "SUBSONIC" to engage the Subsonic filter between 13 Hz and 30 Hz with no boost. Select "Hawkins Bass Control" to engage the Subsonic filter between 30 Hz and 70 Hz with an adjustable boost determined with the Q boost control.
8. **Hawkins/Subsonic Frequency Adjustment** - Frequency adjustment control for the Hawkins Bass Control or the Subsonic filter.
9. **Hawkins Bass Control Boost Adjustment** - Varies from 0 to +9 dB of boost when the Hawkins Bass Control circuit is engaged.
19. **Low Pass Filter Adjustment** - Frequency adjustment for the low pass filter.
11. **Low Pass Filter Range Switch** - Frequency range selection for the low pass filter.
12. **Power/Calibration Switch** - Push button switch that selects power level or when pushed and held for a short time, then released, the amplifier auto-adjust to the speaker load.
13. **Illumination Switch** - Push button switch that allows the user to adjust the light (OFF, ON, MUSIC or BLINK).
14. **Phase Switch** -Adjusts the speaker phase to either 0 or 180 degrees.
15. **Power LED** - Indicates amplifier power (see chart on page 16).
16. **Status LED** - Indicates amplifier status; thermal, short circuit, etc...
17. **RCA Inputs** - Right and Left channel RCA inputs.
18. **Balanced Signal Input Connector** - 6-pin balanced input connector for use with the Soundstream BLT/BLT4 Balanced Line Transmitter.
19. **Large Mouth Bass Connector** - Accepts the three prong plug that connects the LMB remote volume control to the amplifier.
20. **RCA Line Outputs** - Right and Left channel RCA fullrange outputs.
21. **Negative Speaker Terminals** - Negative 4 gauge speaker connection.
22. **GND** - Main ground connection. Bolt to a clean chassis point in the vehicle.
23. **Remote** - Remote turn-on input from the head unit. Accepts +12V.
24. **+12V** - Connect to a fuse or circuit breaker, then to the battery's positive terminal.
25. **Positive Speaker Terminals** - Positive 4 gauge speaker connection.

BALANCED/UNBALANCED INPUTS

The **Tarantula** has the ability to accept either a standard unbalanced RCA signal input, or a balanced “Pro Audio” style input signals with the use of the Soundstream BLT Balanced Line Transmitter or some other balanced line audio source. Before installing your system, you should decide upon which signal type you wish to run.

The **Tarantula’s** signal input accepts a wide range of input level: from 300mV to 5.0V for both balanced and unbalanced inputs. For the best S/N Ratio, we recommend that the input level control be set as far down as possible (rotated counterclockwise), while maintaining an acceptable level of output.

Using the “Unbalanced” RCA Input

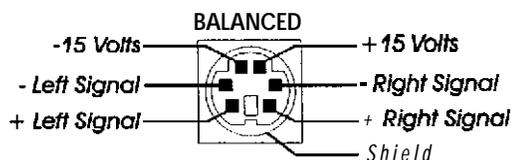
When using the unbalanced RCA input, the **RIGHT** channel input signal switch **MUST** be in the “UNBAL” position. Also, when first installing the amplifier using this input configuration, we suggest that the left channel input signal switch be in the “UNBAL” position as well. **If you experience alternator whine or other installation noise with both switches in the “UNBAL” position, try moving the **LEFT** channel input signal switch to the “BAL” position.** This should remove any system noise due to the installation.

Using the “Balanced” Input

When using the balanced B-pin DIN audio input, the switches **MUST** be in the “BAL” position. Also, we recommend that when using this input configuration, the input level control be set to the “minimum” position (rotated counterclockwise). The system gain should then be adjusted on the BLT Balanced Line Transmitter or other balanced line audio source.

Advantages of using ‘Balanced’ Inputs

1. Improved Signal to Noise Ratio (SIN Ratio).
2. Excellent noise cancellation characteristics.
3. Immune to noise radiated in the car audio environment.



NOTE: The pin configuration shown in the diagram is the view looking into the Balanced input jack on the amplifier.

WIRING

Power and Ground

To ensure maximum output from your **Tarantula** amplifier, use high quality, low-loss power and ground cables and connections. The **Tarantula** amplifier will accept up to 1/0 gauge power and ground cables.

Circuit Breakers and Fuses

External

Like all audio components, the **Tarantula** amplifier must be fused near the battery. A 300 amp fuse or circuit breaker must be located within 18" of the battery. This will prevent a fire in the event of a shorted cable.

Internal

The **Tarantula** amplifier is fused with a 300 amp blade-type (ANC) fuse. In the event of a blown power supply fuse, replace with the correct value fuse. **Never replace the fuse with a higher value than what is supplied. This may result in amplifier damage and will void the warranty!**

Remote Turn-On

Connect the turn-on lead from the source unit to the "Remote" input on the amplifier. When +12 volts is received, the amplifier will turn on.

Signal Cable

Depending on your application, you may use either the DIN audio balanced signal cable or standard RCA cables to drive your **Tarantula** amplifier.

Speaker Cable

The **Tarantula** will accept up to a 4 gauge speaker cable. Use high quality, flexible, multi-strand cable for best performance and longevity.

INSTALLATION AND MOUNTING

Amplifier Location

The **Tarantula** amplifier employs highly efficient circuitry, a custom-engineered heat sink, and a unique Chassisink™ construction to maintain lower operating temperatures. Additional cooling may be required if the amplifier is located in a tightly confined area or when driving especially low impedance loads at extremely high levels.

When mounting the amplifier, it should be securely mounted to a panel in the vehicle or an amp board or rack that is securely mounted to the vehicle. The mounting location should be either in the passenger compartment or in the trunk of the vehicle, away from moisture, stray or moving objects, and major electrical components. *To provide adequate ventilation, mount the amplifier so that there are at least four inches of freely circulating air above it and at the intake vents on each side of the amplifier.*

Mounting The Amplifier

- a. Using the amplifier as a template, mark the cut out on the mounting surface.
- b. Remove the amplifier and cut out the hole to mount the amplifier.
- c. Secure the amplifier to the mounting surface using the supplied hardware.

Wiring

- a. Run and connect the audio signal and remote turn-on cables to the amplifier from the source unit.
- b. Carefully' run the positive cable from the amplifier to a fuse or circuit breaker within 18" of the battery.
- c. Connect the fuse or circuit breaker lead to the battery. Leave the circuit breaker off or the fuse out until everything is bolted down.
- d. Secure the ground cable to a solid chassis ground on the vehicle. It may be necessary to sand paint down to raw metal for a good connection.
- e. Double check each and every connection!
- f. Reconnect the fuse or circuit breaker.

Power Up

Power up the system, there may be a 2-3 second delay from the time the source unit is turned on to the time that the amplifier turns on, which is normal. Once the amplifier LED is on and the source unit is playing, you should have sound coming from the speakers.

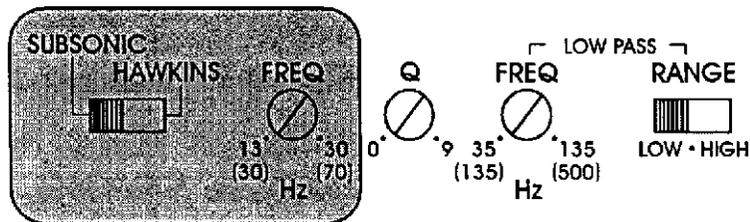
CROSSOVER ADJUSTMENTS

The **Tarantula** amplifier incorporates two separate electronic crossovers. A 12 dB/octave Subsonic filter and an on-board 24 dB/octave electronic low pass crossover, with full range RCA outputs to drive an external amplifier. No external electronic crossover is required when operating this amplifier.

Subsonic

The Subsonic filter allows the amplifier to focus all of its energy where it is needed most. Adjust the filter to the tuning frequency of a ported box and increases in output will be noticed immediately. The Subsonic filter is variable from 13 to 30 Hz.

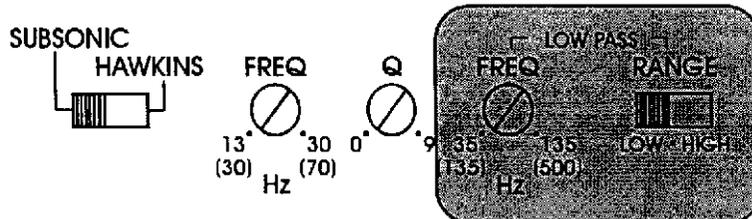
The shaded area below shows the frequency and range adjustments as they appear on the control panel of the amplifier.



Low Pass

The Low Pass filter is variable from 35 to 500 Hz, which is divided into two separate ranges: "Low" and "High". The "Low" range will yield a frequency range from 35 to 135 Hz, while the "High" is from 135 to 500 Hz.

The shaded area below shows the frequency and range adjustments as they appear on the control panel of the amplifier.



HAWKINS BASS CONTROL™ THEORY AND USE

Hawkins Bass Control (parametric) is a unique subwoofer control circuit included with the *Tarantula* amplifier. It is capable of removing subsonic energy in program material while boosting subwoofer frequencies. The circuit consists of two controls. One adjusts the frequency of operation and the other adjusts the range of boost. With both controls adjusted fully counterclockwise, no boost is applied and the amplifier is flat in response down to 20 Hz.

The frequency control (Hz) adjusts the starting point of the subsonic filter. On the *Tarantula*, the high pass filter has two frequency ranges. When the bass control switch is set to "SUBSONIC", the high pass filter frequency can be adjusted from 13 Hz up to a maximum of 30 Hz. In this setting, no boost "Q" control is available. This control is useful for **setting the** lowest frequency that your subwoofer will see. When the bass control switch is set to "HAWKINS BASS CONTROL", the high pass filter frequency can be adjusted from 30 Hz to a maximum of 70 Hz. In this setting, there is an available boost control of 0 to +9 dB.

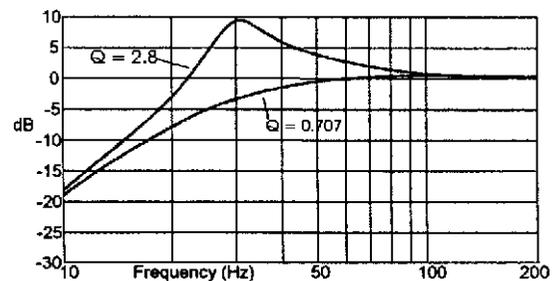


Fig.1 Variable "Q"

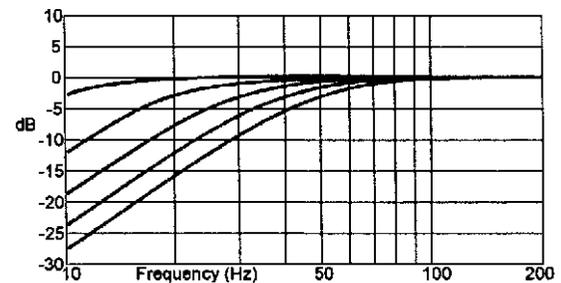


Fig.2 Variable High Pass

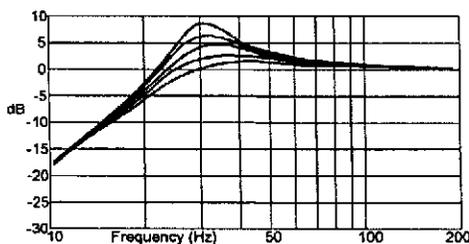


Fig.3 Variable Boost

The Boost control adjusts the level applied at the set frequency. This is adjustable from flat 0 dB to +9 dB (See figure 1).

When the "Boost" is set to 0, Hawkins acts as a subsonic filter only (See figure 2). The simple act of removing potentially harmful low frequencies can improve system output by as much as 3 dB (See figure 3).

Application

Subwoofers in general have excellent power handling characteristics over their operational bandwidth. This bandwidth is determined by many factors, including driver design, and enclosure type. It is possible to overdrive any subwoofer by sending powerful signals outside of its operational bandwidth. These potentially damaging signals can be removed by adding a subsonic filter. Figure 4 shows the effectiveness of the Hawkins Bass Control on woofer excursion in a vented enclosure. The woofer travels 7.5 mm at 10 Hz. With Hawkins Bass Control properly adjusted, this excursion can be reduced to less than 1 mm. This is of great benefit to lowering woofer distortion and increasing output.

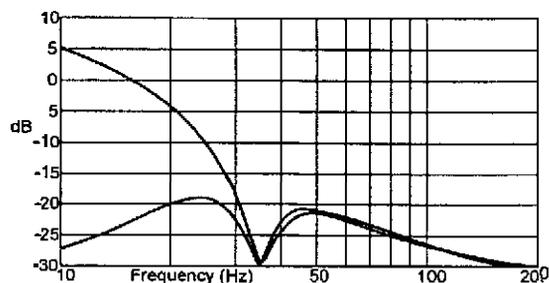


Fig.4 Limited Excursion

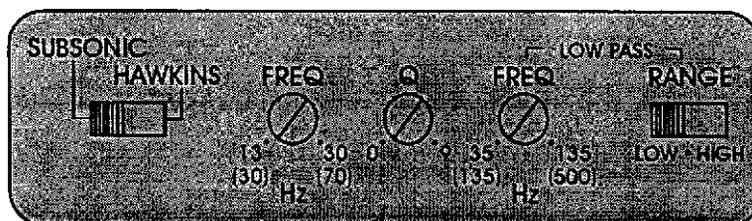
Adjustment

An easy method of optimizing your existing subwoofer enclosure with Hawkins “Hz” control is as follows (assuming the audio system is already turned on).

1. Adjust frequency and boost control to full counterclockwise position.
2. Set the bass control switch to “HAWKINS BASS CONTROL”.
3. While listening to music with strong bass content at a moderate level, slowly adjust frequency control clockwise. Listen for a reduction of bass response. Now, rotate frequency control slightly backwards. This serves the purpose of removing the “subsonic” bass energy.

With Soundstream’s Hawkins Bass Control, the boost and frequency control can provide virtually any combination of boost and cut to suit your designs. So, Hawkins Bass Control can provide the “tailoring” needed for any type of “assisted” design and any woofer in any type of installation.

The shaded area below shows the Hawkins Bass Control adjustments, crossover range switch and frequency as they appear on the control panel of the amplifier.



LEVEL SETTING

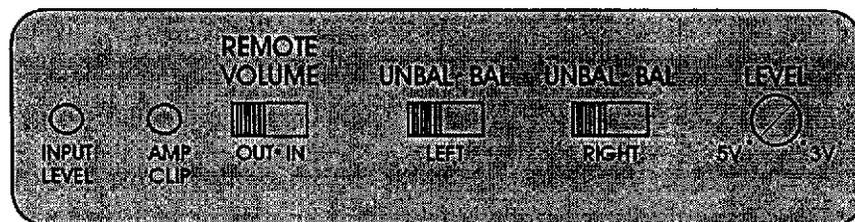
The input level is adjusted by means of the input level control located on the control panel of the amplifier. This is a unique dual-stage circuit that adjusts both level and gain. This topology maintains better S/N Ratio even when using sources with minimal output.

In the ideal situation, all components in the audio system reach maximum undistorted output at the same time. If you send a distorted signal to an amplifier, it is simply going to amplify distorted information. The same holds true if an outboard processor or crossover begins to distort before you have maximum output from the amplifier. By setting all components to reach clipping at the same time, you can maximize the output of your system. For the Tarantula, follow these steps for setting the input levels:

1. Turn the amplifier's input level to minimum position (counterclockwise).
2. Set the source unit volume to approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of full volume.
3. While playing dynamic source material, slowly increase the amplifier's input level until a near maximum undistorted level is heard in the system. This can be visually verified by the input level indicator. The input level light has three levels of indication; Green (normal), Amber (1 0dB below clipping), Red (near clipping).

The clipping indicator on the top of the amplifier will let you know when the output of the amplifier is reaching its maximum level, and has begun to clip.

The shaded area below shows the input and output clip indicators, Large Mouth Bass switch and input level as they appear on the control panel of the amplifier.

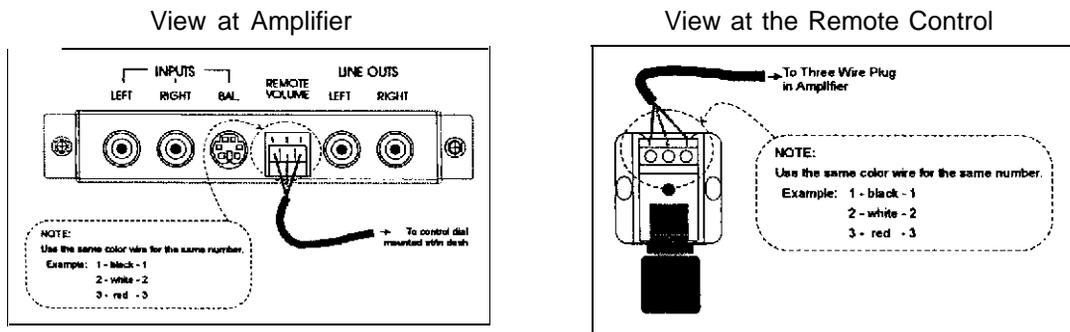


LARGE MOUTH BASS

Your **Tarantula** amplifier comes equipped with a Large Mouth Bass (LMB) remote volume control. The LMB allows you to adjust the volume of your subwoofers from the front of the vehicle (or wherever you choose to install it), while not effecting the volume of the rest of the system.

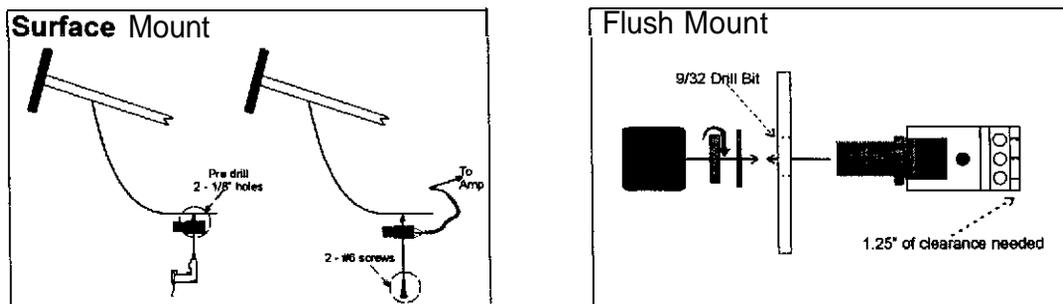
Wiring

Wiring the LMB is a very easy task. The unit comes with a 20' cable that has a red, a white and a black wire inside. As shown below, hook the wires up so that the numbers and colors are the same on the amplifier and the remote control.



Remote Volume Control Knob Installation

The recommended methods for installing the volume control knob are to either surface or flush mount the unit. After finding an appropriate location in the vehicle, use the diagrams below to help with the LMB control knob installation.



POWER SUPPLY PROGRAMMING

Push Buttons	Power / Calibration	Illumination
<p>Momentary Press (less than half second)</p>	<p>Go to next speaker load power level. 4 OHM (Red) 2 OHM (Amber) 1 OHM (Green)</p>	<p>Change to next light mode. OFF-ON-MUSIC-BLINK</p>
<p>Hold and Release (more than half second)</p>	<p>Automatically set the power level by running the speaker load calibration routine.</p>	<p>While light is in BLINK mode change to next BLINK rate (8 different rates). While light is in OFF ON MUSIC mode run a polarity check demo.</p>

TROUBLESHOOTING CHART

Condition	Power LED	Status LED
Normal	Red (4 ohm) Amber (2 ohm) Green (1 ohm)	Off
Thermal Rollback	Red (4 ohm) Amber (2 ohm) Green 11 ohm)	Blip (On: 0.1 sec., Off: 1.9 sec.)
Under Over Battery Input voltage	Off	Fast Blink (On: 0.05 sec., Off: 0.1 sec.)
Short Circuit / Overload	Off	Medium Blink (On: 0.23 sec., Off: 0.1 sec.)
Over Temperature, Ground Fault, Turn On / Off	Off	On

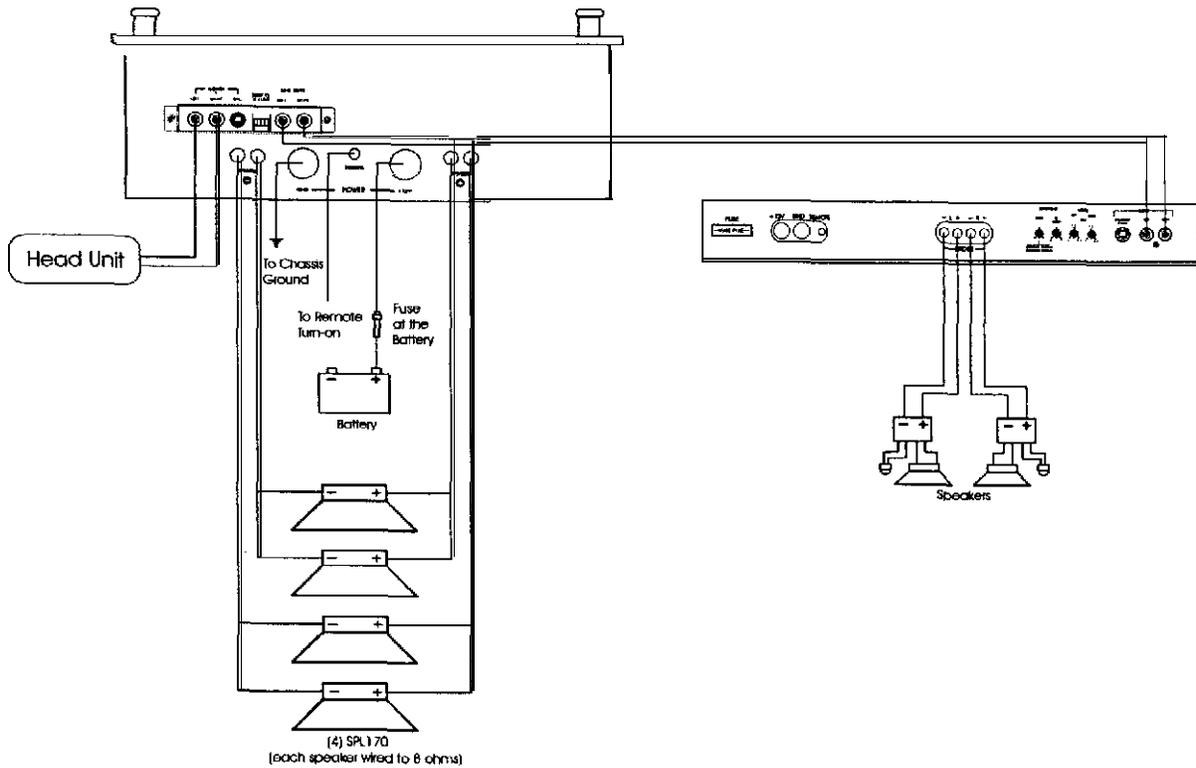
NOTE:

- At low signal levels the INPUT LEVEL LED is variable green in color.
- **With** greater signal level the INPUT LEVEL LED begins to appear amber approximately 10dB below amplifier output clip.
- With extreme signal levels the INPUT LEVEL LED snaps red within 0.5dB of amp output clip.
- Amplifier output clipping can be identified by a solid red AMP CLIP LED.
- The 1 ohm power level is not a recommended set up for full power output; at times of reduced volume the 1 ohm power level can be used with actual 2 or 4 ohm speaker loads to save energy draw from the vehicle's electrical system (i.e. extend battery life).

SAMPLE SYSTEM

2 channels of full range input into the *Tarantula*
1 channel of output to 4 dual voice coil SPL170s

Full range output to an external amplifier driving satellite speakers



PROTECTION CIRCUITRY

Your *Tarantula* is protected against both overheating and short circuits by means of a main power fuse and the following circuits:

- ◆ Under/Over battery input voltage (between 8.5Vdc and 17.0Vdc)
- ◆ Speaker Output Protection
- ◆ Ground Fault Differential
- ◆ Variable speed fan cooling with smart power supply thermal rollback
- ◆ Temporary over temperature shutdown with high speed fan cooling

SERIOUS WARNINGS

IMPORTANT (VERY)!!!

If you experience blown main power supply fuses, it is likely that the amplifier is seeing a dead short, either in the speaker wire or in the speaker itself. Rectify the problem before blowing multiple fuses. DO NOT increase values beyond the original fuse value! Doing so will void your warranty and may damage your amplifier.

IMPORTANT (VERY VERY)!!!

When the signal is being greatly amplified, care must be taken while handling the speaker leads which may present potentially lethal voltages (possibly exceeding 100Vrms at clip).

SERVICE

Your Soundstream *Tarantula* is protected by a limited warranty. If an authorized dealer installs the amplifier, it's under warranty for a period of three years, a consumer installed unit is warrantied for a period of one year. Please read the enclosed warranty card for more details and be sure to send it in.

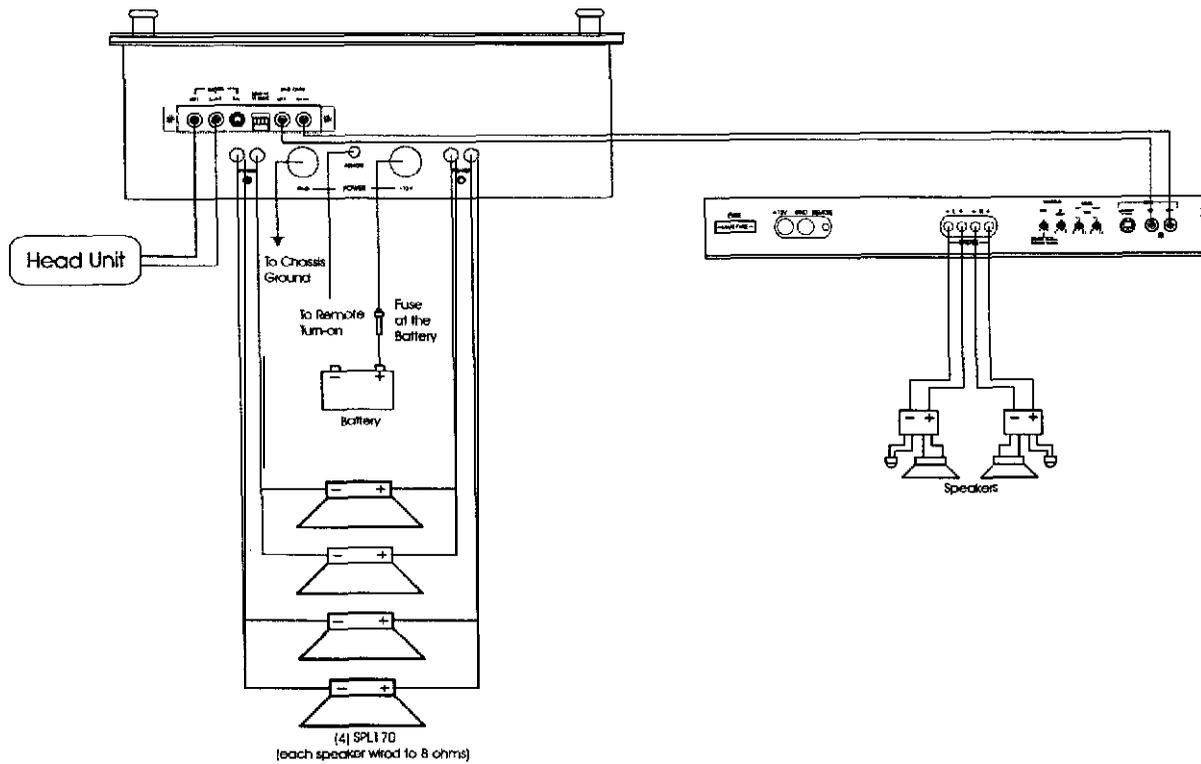
****NOTE ABOUT THE LIMITED WARRANTY****

If the handles on the top of the amplifier are removed for any reason, the warranty will be void. There are no user serviceable parts in the amplifier, this eliminates the need to ever open the top of the unit.

SAMPLE SYSTEM

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Full range output to an external amplifier driving satellite speakers



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SPECIFICATIONS

<i>P O W & R</i>	4 Ohm Mono <i>(12.6 Vdc)</i>	4 Ohm Mono <i>(14.4 Vdc)</i>	2 Ohm Mono <i>(14.4 Vdc)</i>	Maximum Rated Output
<i>Tarantula</i>	2000W x 1	2000W x 1	2000W x 1	2000 Watts

THD	<0.3%
Signal to Noise Ratio	>90 dB
Frequency Response	20 Hz (±0.5 dB) to 500 Hz (-3 dB)
Damping	>200
input Sensitivity	300mV to 5.0V
Input Impedance	10k Ohms

Crossover Specifications

24 dB/octave Low Pass filter adjustable from 35 to 135 Hz (lower setting)
24 dB/octave Low Pass filter adjustable from 135 to 500 Hz (higher setting)

Subsonic Filter

No boost; 12 dB/octave High Pass filter from 13 to 30 Hz.

Hawkins Bass Control

0 to +9 dB boost; Boost and Subsonic filter variable from 30 to 70 Hz.

Dimensions (W x D x H)

Tarantula: 19.0" X 14" X 5.5"