Model BL1
Balanced Line Driver

Improved sonic performance through balanced operation

With the advent of the new fully-balanced "V" series power amplifiers from Audio Research, it was apparent that some accommodation was necessary for those music lovers who lacked balanced-output preamplifiers, and yet who didn't want to change that part of their system. There are also those who haven't yet been able to take full advantage of balanced-input operation of the D240 MK II or D400 amplifiers. The answer is now available to all Audio Research owners.

The BL1 Balanced Line Driver is a highly sophisticated, active phase inverter with its own internal power supply. Its design gave top priority to superb transparency, natural musical dynamics and accurate preservation of phase and time relationships to assure the vivid, three-dimensional soundstaging that the "V" series amps are so capable of. Normally, it will be used between any single-ended-output preamp and a "V" amplifier, but other applications are possible as well.

Physically, the BL1 is a black anodized, vented aluminum outboard box 13" W x 7" D x 3" H, mounted on four rubber feet. It can be neatly tucked away on a shelf or on the floor next to a "V" amp. The front has a single green LED to indicate power on; the power switch itself is located on the back. Drawing less than 15 watts of AC power, the all-solid-state BL1 can be left on continuously. Input impedance is 1.5 megohms, while output impedance at each XLR is 60 ohms. L and R "RCA" inputs are located on the back, with an adjoining L and R XLR connector for the desired balanced output.

Sonically, the BL1 is nothing short of amazing. The amount of improvement you will hear from any single-ended preamp in terms of lower noise, precision of soundstaging and improved dynamics is simply remarkable. Systems requiring long interconnect lengths are especially enhanced over single-ended operation - relevant to both studio and other commercial applications.

Because of its almost ideal impedance characteristics (easy load and solid source), you will find that the BL1 significantly improves almost any single-ended source - such as a CD player or digital converter - when used to provide the input to the balanced-input LS2-B. This application represents a whole new method of putting new life into existing components.

The BL1 is handcrafted to the same exacting standards as every other Audio Research product, and is covered by a Three-Year Limited Warranty. See your nearest authorized Audio Research retailer for more information.

BL1 SPECIFICATIONS
FREQUENCY RESPONSE: dc to 500 KHz (-3dB point)
DISTORTION: Less than .01% at 2V RMS output. (Typically less than .002% at 1kHz)
GAIN: 6dB.
INPUT IMPEDANCE: 1.5 Meg ohms.
OUTPUT IMPEDANCE: 60 ohms balanced.
OUTPUT DC OFFSET: Less than 2mV dc.
OUTPUT BEFORE CLIP: 18V RMS out balanced (9V RMS input) 16V RMS out into 600 ohm balanced load.
NOISE: Less than 18 uV RMS balanced IHF weighted.

POWER REQUIREMENTS: 100-135 VAC 60Hz (200-270 VAC 50/60 Hz) 15 watts max.
DIMENSIONS: 13" W x 3" H x 7" D.
WEIGHT: 4.4 lbs. (2.0 kg) net: 7.0 lb. (3.0 kg) Shipping.

Three-Year Limited Warranty
All Audio Research products are backed by a Three-Year Limited Warranty. For one year from date of purchase, Audio Research pays round-trip freight charges on any equipment requiring warranty service at the factory. See your authorized Audio Research dealer for details.

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