

Thanks for choosing **The SoundEffects Director** Dolby® Pro Logic surround processor for your home. Depending upon the other components you now have or plan to add to your home theater, you can use it in a variety of ways to get the most out of Dolby Surround programming. This guide will help you get started.



One SoundEffects Director Dolby Pro Logic Surround Processor

Dolby Pro Logic Basics.

Dolby Surround recordings. Thousands of Dolby Surround encoded movies are available today on videotape and laser disc as well as on television broadcasts. Beyond movies, an increasing number of sports, dramas, talk shows, and even commercials are being produced for television in Dolby Surround. There are even Surround CDs; music performances that have been mixed for playback through Dolby Pro Logic Surround systems.

Encoding/decoding. Dolby Surround is an audio production format that encodes four sound channels during the recording process. Dolby Pro Logic Surround circuitry in The SoundEffects Director decodes all four in your

home just like the director intended you to hear them. Besides the stereo channels (your left and right front speakers), Dolby Surround adds a center channel (primarily for movie dialog) and a rear "surround" channel that reproduces movie sound effects. The center speaker localizes voices with characters on the screen. Surrounds give movies a sense of spaciousness and ambience. (Note: Both the left rear and right rear speakers receive identical signals; so, while there are only four channels, there are typically five speakers in a Dolby Pro Logic Surround system.)

Center channel sound. Up to two-thirds of all sound on a Dolby Surround encoded movie soundtrack

For specific questions not answered here, refer to guides accompanying related SoundEffects products, contact your JBL SoundEffects dealer or call us at 800-336-4JBL.

is reproduced by the center channel speaker. So it is important that it not be underpowered. If you have a power source for your surround channel other than The SoundEffects Director (perhaps you are using SoundEffects "magic" components in a wireless surround application), you can operate The SoundEffects Director in "bridged" mode, where it directs all available power from both amplifiers to the center channel.

It is equally important that the center be matched to the stereo speakers with which it shares the stage. This "common voicing" ensures that sounds moving across the front of the room pass seamlessly between all speakers. SoundEffects stereo satellites and center channel speakers present identical voicing.

Surround channel sound. The Surround channels are recorded in mono, which means both speakers reproduce the same sounds. In order to achieve their desired effect, these speakers don't require nearly as much amplification as other speakers in your home theater system. The 25 watts provided by The SoundEffects Director is sufficient for home theater applications.

Amplification requirements. Because all four Dolby Pro Logic Surround channels require amplification, a traditional stereo amplifier (often combined with an AM/FM radio tuner in a single component called a receiver), which only amplifies the two stereo channels, cannot power a complete home theater

system. The SoundEffects Director provides the two additional channels of amplification you need.

Amplification options. If you intend to use your home theater for both stereo music and movie (or television) sound you will need a stereo amplifier or AM/FM receiver equipped to switch conveniently between sound sources. Your existing stereo receiver or amplifier will typically work fine. If you intend to configure your home theater exclusively for movie sound, the SoundEffects Power50 amplifier is

an ideal power source for your stereo channels. Because of its auto on/off feature your entire surround sound system can now be turned on automatically whenever you turn on your TV.

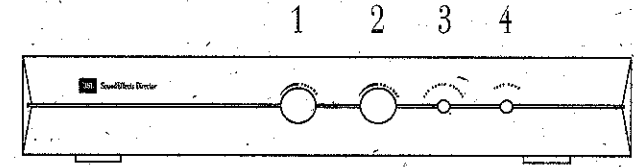
The Power20, another SoundEffects amplifier, is a versatile power choice for surrounds speakers—particularly when used as part of a SoundEffects "magic" wireless system.



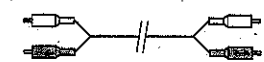
First.

Check the contents to see that everything that should be in the box is in the box.

One SoundEffects Director



One RCA male-to-male cable (1-meter)



Warranty Terms

Special Features

Auto-on/off. The SoundEffects Director has no on/off button. Once it has been plugged into an active AC outlet (or into a switched outlet on the back of another component) it will turn on automatically whenever it senses a line level signal from an audio source.

Bridgeable amplifiers. The SoundEffects Director has an integrated two-channel amplifier that can be configured to provide 25 watts each to the center and surround channels or 50 watts to the center channel only, depending upon the amplification requirements for your system.

"Magic" compatible. The SoundEffects Director anticipates use with SoundEffects "magic" wireless electronics system components. "Magic" can equip your system to create wireless surround, wireless subwoofers and wireless stereo music everywhere in your home. Because SoundEffects wireless surround systems include power for the rear channel, The SoundEffects Director includes a "bridgeable" amplifier, so you can redirect surround channel power to the center speaker in wireless applications.

1

Master volume control. This single, convenient adjustment on the front of The SoundEffects Director can be used to raise and lower the volume of all five speakers in the home theater at the same time.

2

Balance control. Use this adjustment to balance the volume levels between center and surround speakers. Use this control in conjunction with the controls on the amplifier powering your front left and front right channels to balance all five speakers.

3

Pro Logic Bypass mode. You can use this selector to engage center and surround speakers on Dolby Surround encoded material (button out), or bypass it when the source is just stereo (button in). While television stations and cable channels may show movies or other events that are Dolby Surround encoded, they may not broadcast them in stereo surround sound. Bypass mode will improve the sound quality of this type of programming by eliminating the center and rear channels.

4

Test Tone mode. Because surround sound information in most soundtracks is intermittent, it is difficult to adjust surround sound volume during a feature. The SoundEffects Director includes a test tone you can use to check that all the speakers in your home theater system are working and properly balanced.

Next.

Position The SoundEffects Director in your room and connect all speaker wires.

Placement suggestions.

The SoundEffects Director fits comfortably stacked with your other audio and video components. Where you put it in your home theater may be determined by the Path you select below, but you may want to consider the following suggestions.

If you are using The SoundEffects Director in a configuration where you can control system volume from a TV remote, you may want to conceal The SoundEffects Director in a cabinet with other components.

If The SoundEffects Director is connected directly to your VCR, laser disc player or other source in a dedicated home theater application

(Path B below), you may want to stack it with that component or on top of the television (behind your center channel speaker), or with other video components.

If you are using The SoundEffects Director along with an AM/FM receiver (or integrated amplifier other than the Power50) you will

want to position it where you can easily change the master volume on The SoundEffects Director when you move between movie sound and stereo music.

Connection tips.

Before attaching any wires make sure that The SoundEffects Director and all other amplifiers in the system are turned off.

Before cutting any speaker wires to match paths described below, or

stripping and connecting them to your speakers, refer to the owner's guides accompanying any SoundEffects speaker for specific tips about managing wires and making secure connections.

Then.

Review your system audio and video configuration options. And select a connection path.

The SoundEffects Director can be used in a variety of ways with other SoundEffects products or with other products in your system. While you may already have a specific application in mind, it's good to know that it is capable of playing other roles as your system evolves. Here are some examples of possible applications for The SoundEffects Director.

Connection options.

Your answers to these three questions will help determine how you connect your SoundEffects Director in your home theater and how you will operate the system once it is installed. Review all of them before proceeding.

1 Do you want the option to switch between movie sound and music sources?

If YES.

You will need an AM/FM receiver (or a stereo amplifier) that provides switching capability. If you already have a stereo music system, it probably includes an amplifier or receiver that will work fine. However, while The SoundEffects Director's amplifier turns on and off automatically, this amplifier will need to be turned on and off manually.

If NO.

A simple stereo amplifier will provide the power capabilities you require. The SoundEffects Power50, which features the same auto on/off as The SoundEffects Director, is an ideal stereo power supply to use as a complement to the two-channel amplifier in The SoundEffects Director.

2 Does your television provide two RCA jacks labeled "audio out"?

If YES. (Path A)

You can connect your television directly to The SoundEffects Director. Refer to Path A in the following instructions.

If NO. (Path B)

You will need to connect the audio signal from your video source to The SoundEffects Director. Refer to Path B in the following instructions.

3 Do you intend to use a SoundEffects wireless system to install surround speakers without speaker wires?

If YES. (Path C)

You will need to purchase one of the SoundEffects "magic" products that provide this capability. For connecting a wireless surround system, refer to Path C in the following instructions.

If NO. (Path D)

You will simply wire The SoundEffects Director directly to your surround sound speakers. Refer to Path D in the following instructions.

Path A (input)

For connecting The SoundEffects Director to televisions with Audio Out capabilities.

Connect the video output terminal of your Hi-Fi VCR (or laser disc player) to your television set.

1 Plug one end of the RCA male-to-male video cable (included with your VCR) into the RCA terminal labeled Video Output on the back of your VCR.

2 Plug the other end of this cable into the terminal labeled Video Input on the back of your television.

Many new television sets have multiple input connections and switching capabilities. If you have this, you can connect all your sources to your TV directly and switch between them using your TV remote.

Connect the audio output terminals of your Hi-Fi VCR (or laser disc player) to your television set.

1 Plug one end of a stereo RCA male-to-male cable (included with your VCR) into the RCA terminals labeled Audio Output on the back of your VCR.

2 Plug the other end of this cable into the terminals labeled Audio Input on the back of your television.

Connect Audio Output terminals of your television to The SoundEffects Director.

1 Plug one end of a stereo RCA male-to-male cable (included with your SoundEffects Director) into the RCA terminals labeled Audio Output on the back of your television set.

2 Plug the other end of this stereo cable into the terminals labeled Line Input on the back of The SoundEffects Director.

There are two types of audio line outputs: Variable Audio Output and Line Output. Most new television sets sold today have Variable Audio Output terminals. (They may not be labeled this way. Check your TV owner's guide to be sure.) If you have this feature, you can use your TV remote to control the volume of all speakers in your home theater at once.

The "test drive" section below will also help you determine which system you have and how it works.

Path B (input)

For connecting The SoundEffects Director to televisions that do not provide Audio Out capability.

Connect the video output terminal of your Hi-Fi VCR (or laser disc player) to your television set.

1 Plug one end of the RF male-to-male video cable (included with your VCR) into the RF terminal labeled RF Output (or antenna) on the back of your VCR.

2 Plug the other end of this cable into the terminal labeled antenna on the back of your television.

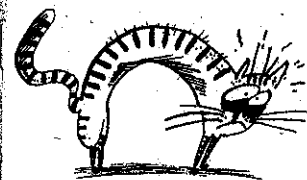
Connect the audio output terminals of your Hi-Fi VCR (or laser disc player) to The SoundEffects Director.

1 Plug one end of a stereo RCA male-to-male cable (included with your VCR) into the RCA terminals labeled Audio Output on the back of your VCR.

2 Plug the other end of this stereo cable into the terminals labeled Line Input on the back of The SoundEffects Director.

When fixed line level output terminals connect directly to The SoundEffects Director, speaker volume settings will be controlled by the master volume on The SoundEffects Director.

The "test drive" section below explains volume control for this system in more detail.



Path C (output)

For connecting speakers to The SoundEffects Director where surround speakers are wireless.

Connect The SoundEffects Director to the SoundEffects wireless Receiver.

1 Plug one end of a stereo RCA male-to-male cable (included with The SoundEffects Director) into the RCA terminals labeled Surrounds on the back of The SoundEffects Director.

2 Plug the other end into one set of the RCA Line Input terminals on the back of a SoundEffects Transmitter. (See the guides accompanying your Take2 or MagicLink for more specific connection information).

3 Set the Center Only/Center-Surrounds button on the back of The SoundEffects Director to direct all available power to the center channel (selector button in).

Connect the output of The SoundEffects Director to the SoundEffects Power50 amplifier (AM/FM receiver or other stereo amplifier).

1 Plug one end of a stereo RCA male-to-male cable (included with The SoundEffects Director) into the RCA terminals labeled Line Output on the back of The SoundEffects Director.

2 Plug the other end of this cable into the terminals labeled "Line Input" on the back of the SoundEffects Power50 amplifier. Make sure that the Mode Selector button is set to "stereo mode" (selector button "out").

3 If you are using an amplifier/receiver other than the SoundEffects Power50, plug the cable into one of the available RCA inputs (aux., video, etc.). Then set the selector on the front of the amplifier/receiver to that input.

Connect The SoundEffects Director to the center channel speaker.

1 Connect one end of a length of speaker wire (available from your dealer) to the speaker terminal marked "center" on the back of The SoundEffects Director.

2 Connect the other end to the terminal on the back of your center channel speaker.

3 If you are using a power source for your surround speakers other than that provided by The SoundEffects Director, use the Center Only/Center-Surrounds button on the back of The SoundEffects Director to direct all available power to the center channel (button in).

Path D (output)

For connecting speakers to The SoundEffects Director when surround speakers are wired.

Connect The SoundEffects Director to the surround speakers.

1 Connect one end of a length of speaker wire (available at most audio, electronics or department store) to the terminal labeled "Left Surround" and one to the terminal labeled "Right Surround" on the back of The SoundEffects Director.

2 Connect the other end of each of those speaker wires to the terminals on the back of the corresponding left rear and right rear surround speakers.

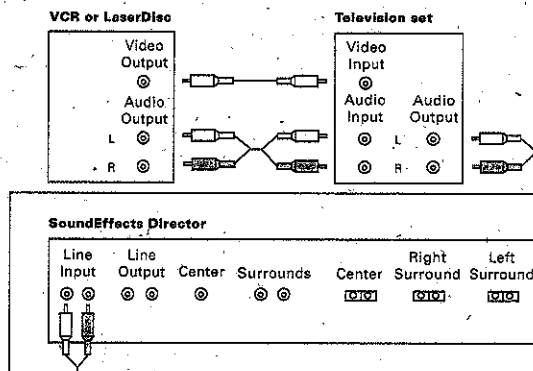
Connect The SoundEffects Director to the SoundEffects Power50 amplifier (AM/FM receiver or other stereo amplifier).

(Refer to the instructions for this connection accompanying Path C)

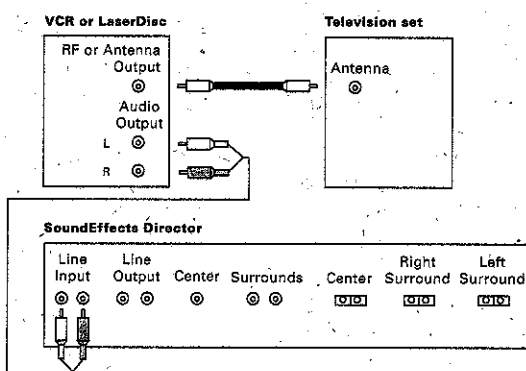
Connect The SoundEffects Director to the center channel speaker.

(Refer to the instructions for this connection accompanying Path C)

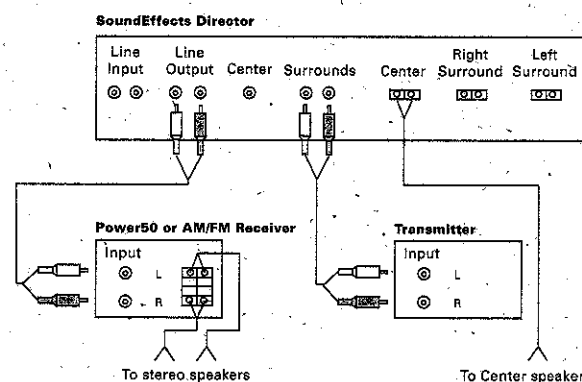
Path A



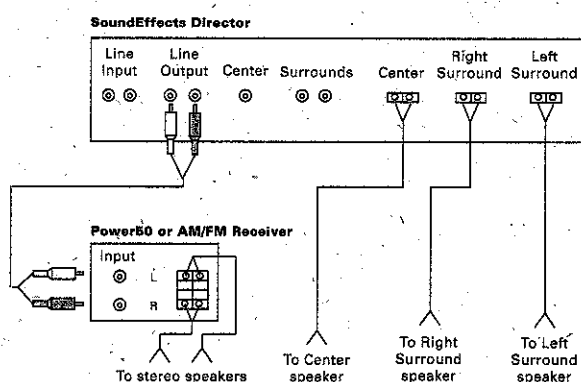
Path B



Path C



Path D



Finally.

Balance the system and take it for a "test drive."

The SoundEffects Director test tone (found in any Dolby Pro Logic Surround decoder) is designed to make it simple to balance all the speakers in a home theater system. Trying to balance volume levels with a movie or other source material isn't nearly as accurate, because volume levels vary dramatically at any point in time between the speakers.

Use the test tone to balance the system.

1 Make sure all components in the system are off, including the TV.

2 Plug The SoundEffects Director into an active wall outlet. Turn its master volume down all the way.

3 Turn on your TV and your VCR or laser disc player. Make sure it is playing a source with audio. The SoundEffects Director will turn on automatically when it receives an audio signal. (Look for the LED on the left side of its front panel to light.)

At this time, make sure the source powering your stereo speakers is off. If you are using a SoundEffects Power50 as a stereo amplifier, it will have turned on automatically when it sensed a signal and its LED should be on. Keep its volume turned all the way down until Step 10.

4 Check that the Pro Logic Bypass button is in the out position. (Its LED should not be lit.)

5 Check that the Center/Center-Surround button on the back of The SoundEffects Director is in the appropriate position for your system configuration (button in to direct all the power to the center channel, button out to divide the amplification evenly between the center and surround channels).

6 Turn up the volume control on The SoundEffects Director about half way.

7 Press the Test Tone button on the front of The SoundEffects Director in. The LED alongside the test tone button will also light.

You should now hear the test tone. This hissing noise should only be heard from the center and surround speakers since your stereo amplifier is not yet on. The tone will alternate between the center and surround speakers but will not be heard from both channels at once. It will last for a few seconds in each channel and will continue to repeat this sequence until you push the Test Tone button again. (There will be a few seconds of silence between each tone duration.)

8 Use the Balance control on The SoundEffects Director to adjust the volume of the test tone between the center and surround channels. When set correctly, you should hear the hiss at the same volume from both the center and surround channel speakers when seated in the primary listening area.

9 Turn on your stereo speaker power source. (If you are using a Power50,

it will already be on.) If it has a balance control, set it to a centered position.

If you are using an AM/FM receiver or a stereo amplifier other than the Power50, make sure that it is set to the audio source to which you have connected The SoundEffects Director.

The test tone will now play for a few seconds from each speaker moving clockwise around the room (left front, center, right front, surrounds and back to the left front).

10 Gently turn the volume control on the stereo amplifier up until the hiss from the left front and right front speakers is equal to that of the center and surrounds. If your amplifier has a balance control, you may want to use it to help fine-tune these volume levels so that all four channels sound the same from a seated position in the primary listening area.

11 Once all levels are set equally, press the Test Tone button again to stop the signal and return to TV sound.

Then, take a "test drive."

Controlling system volume.

1 If your system is connected according to Path A, you can check now to confirm whether or not your TV has Variable Audio Output. If it does you should be able to control the volume of all speakers in the system from your TV remote.

Turn the volume control on The SoundEffects Director up about one-third of the way and then turn on your TV. Depending upon what type of broadcast is on, you should at least hear sound from the two stereo speakers.

If you can mute the speaker(s) in your TV you should do that now as well. How you mute or disable the TV speaker(s) will vary by TV. Some TV's mute the Line Output along with the speakers. Check the TV instructions for more details on how to mute or disable TV speakers.

2 Try using the TV remote to raise and lower the volume of the TV audio coming through your stereo speakers.

3 If you can control the volume with the remote, turn the volume control on The SoundEffects Director up about two-thirds of the way, then use the TV remote to turn the overall volume down to the level you prefer.

If you can not control the volume from the TV remote, or are unable to disconnect (or mute) the TV speaker, turn the volume down or mute the TV, then use the volume control on The SoundEffects Director to raise and lower the volume of all speakers in the system at once.

Switching between movies sound and stereo sources.

If your stereo speakers are connected through an AM/FM receiver or a stereo amplifier with input switching capability, try switching between audio sources:

1 Turn off your TV, VCR and laser disc player.

2 Reset the input selector on the front of the receiver/amplifier to CD (or other stereo music source).

3 Load a CD and press play.

4 Use the volume control on your stereo amplifier to adjust the music to the preferred listening level. (Note: Be sure to make a note of your original volume setting on your stereo amplifier for movies so you can return it there without rebalancing your entire system.)

Troubleshooting.

The LED on the front of The SoundEffects Director does not light.

• The SoundEffects Director may not be receiving power. If it is plugged into an AC outlet controlled by a wall switch, make sure that switch is "on." If it is plugged into a switched outlet on another component, make sure that component is "on."

• The SoundEffects Director may not be sensing an audio signal. Check all connections in the path from the audio source to The SoundEffects Director Line Input terminals.

• The audio source may not be in play mode. Start the videotape or laser disc.

• The mute button on your TV may have shut off the audio line outputs. Disengage the mute control.

The LED on The SoundEffects Director lights, but there is no sound from one or more speakers in the system.

• You may have selected a movie that is not Dolby Surround encoded. Check the videotape's or laser disc sleeve for a Dolby Surround designation.

• The SoundEffects Director may be improperly connected to the source. Check The SoundEffects Director Line Input connections and the Line Output connections of your source.

• The volume control on The SoundEffects Director may not be properly set. Use the test tone to confirm that the speakers are connected and that the volume is up.

• The balance control on The SoundEffects Director or the AM/FM receiver (or integrated stereo amplifier) may be turned all the way to one side or the other. Turn it up about halfway, then use the test tone to fine-tune the volume levels between the front and back of the room or the left and right stereo speakers.

The LED on The SoundEffects Director lights, and there is sound from the left front and right front speakers, but there is no sound from the center and/or the rear speakers.

• The SoundEffects Director amplifier may not be set correctly for the speakers you intend to amplify. Check the position of the Center Only/Center-Surrounds amplification button on the back of The SoundEffects Director.

• The bypass button on The SoundEffects Director may be pressed in. Release button.

For more ideas about uses for these and other SoundEffects products in your home, see the SoundEffects brochure. Need an additional copy? Call JBL.

• Your AM/FM Receiver or integrated amplifier may not be turned on or its volume may not be properly adjusted.

• One of the speaker wire connections between The SoundEffects Director and the speakers it is powering may have become disconnected. Check connections.

• If you are using a SoundEffects wireless system to transmit a wireless signal to the surround speakers, there may be a problem with one of the wireless components. Refer to the guides accompanying those products (Take2, Take1 or MagicLink) for additional troubleshooting assistance.

The LED on The SoundEffects Director lights, and there is sound from the center and/or the rear speakers, but no sound from the left front and right front speakers.

• There may be a bad connection on the Line Output terminals on The SoundEffects Director or the Line Input connections on the stereo amplifier (or AM/FM receiver). Check connections.

• The input selector on the AM/FM receiver or integrated amplifier may not be set to the correct position. Check selection.

The sound from the center channel is louder than the other channels.

• The speaker in your TV may still be activated. Mute it.

• The amplifier in The SoundEffects Director may be set to "bridged" mode when it should not be. Check the position of the Center/Center-Surround button.

If you're still having problems, and are using The SoundEffects Director in conjunction with other SoundEffects speakers, amplifiers or wireless electronics products, be sure to refer to the guides they provide for other possible problems. If you're using The SoundEffects Director with non-SoundEffects products, check their guides for other things to explore.

SoundEffects products were made for each other. No matter what SoundEffects components you start with, it's easy to add on complementary products that will increase the performance and value of your home audio system. The **Power50, Movies1, Movies2, Magic2, Sat2, and Center** products can help you get even more value from The SoundEffects Director. For information about these and other SoundEffects products, visit your JBL SoundEffects dealer or call 800-336-4JBL.

Frequency Response

Front channels (bypass)
10 Hz - 85 kHz (-1dB)

Front channels
20 Hz - 30 kHz (-3 dB)

Total Harmonic Distortion

Front channels
.25% (20 Hz - 20 kHz)

Surround channel
.25% (across full range)

Signal to Noise Ratio (A-weighted)

Front channels
-75 dB at 1V RMS
-80 dB from peak level

Dolby® Surround
-65 dB at 1V RMS
-70 dB from peak level

Separation any channel

25 dB

Delay

20 milliseconds

Output Terminals/effects

1 audio center
2 audio surround

Input Impedance/audio

47 kilo-ohms

Output Impedance (line out)

200 ohms

Power Requirements

120VAC/60Hz or
220VAC/50Hz

Rated Power Consumption

80W

Output Power

25W x 2 into 6 ohms
50W continuous in bridged
mode 6 ohms

Frequency Response (amp)
10Hz - 85 kHz (-1dB)

H x W x D

Inches 3 1/8 x 17 x 10

Millimeters 79 x 432 x 254

Weight 10 lbs. / 4.5 kg.

Refinements may be made on occasion to existing products without notice, but will always meet or exceed original specifications unless otherwise stated.

• 25W per channel through two channels, bridgeable to 50W mono

• Auto on/off and LED light that confirms the power is "on"

• Master volume controls all five speakers

• Center/rear balance control

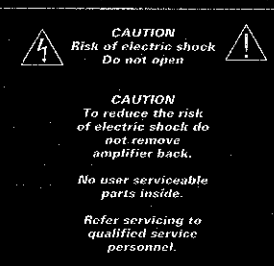
• Pro Logic Bypass mode

• Dolby Pro Logic test tone

• RCA terminal and speaker terminal connectors for line level or speaker level output.

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WARNING: To reduce the risk of fire or electric shock, do not expose this appliance to rain or moisture.

CAUTION: To prevent electric shock do not use this (polarized) plug with an extension cord, receptacle or other outlet unless the blade can be fully inserted to prevent blade exposure.

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.