



7000-Series

Multi-Amp Configuration Guide

*Step-by-Step Guide to Multi-Amp Systems
using 7000-Series Amplifiers*

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Table of Contents

1	Multi-Amp Systems Using 7000 Series Amplifiers.....	4
1.1	Safety First	4
1.2	Overview	4
1.3	Multi-Amp Configuration Accessories	4
1.4	Accessory Recommendations by System Type	5
2	Multi-amp System Principles	6
2.1	One Master Amplifier for Series Systems	6
2.2	All Master Amplifiers for Parallel Systems.....	6
2.3	Use only 7000-Series Amplifiers of the same Model Number	6
2.4	Use Correct Wiring	6
2.5	When Constructing Output Wiring, Use These Basic Criteria	6
2.6	Operate with Safety in Mind	6
3	Series Systems Configuration and Wiring.....	7
3.1	Choosing Single-Ended or Differential Configuration for Two-amplifier Systems	7
3.2	Configure SIM-BNC-OPTOC Input Cards.....	7
3.3	Install SIM-BNC-OPTOC Input Cards in Amplifiers.....	8
3.4	Configure Amplifiers' Main Boards for Slave Operation	8
3.5	Remove Output Terminal Resistor.....	9
3.6	Attach Master/Slave Labels (optional)	9
3.7	Series System Wiring	10
3.8	Two in Series – Differential	10
3.9	Two or Three in Series – Single Ended	13
4	Parallel Systems Configuration, Wiring and Balancing	17
4.1	Install Ballast Resistors	17
4.2	Main Board Access	18
4.3	Disable Gain Controls (7224 amplifiers only)	18
4.4	Parallel System Balancing.....	19
4.5	Connect for Balancing	19
4.6	Verify Interlock Operation	20
4.7	Adjust DC Offset.....	20
4.8	Wire and Connect Parallel Inputs.....	20
4.9	Verify and Adjust Amplifier Gain.....	22
4.10	Amplifier Gain Matching	23
4.11	Verify Minimal Circulating Currents	24
4.12	Verify Current Sharing.....	24
Appendix A	Wire Current-Carrying Capacity.....	17
Appendix B	Critical Wire Lengths in Parallel Systems	17
Appendix C	Building Parallel System Output Cables	17
Appendix D	Building the DB-25 Interlock Cable	30
Appendix E	Returning Slave Amplifiers to Stand-Alone Use	31

List of Figures

Figure 1.1 – Maximum Continuous Output in 7000-Series Multi-amp Systems	4
Figure 3.1 – Two in Series: Single-Ended vs. Differential.....	7
Figure 3.2 – SIM-BNC-OPTOC card jumper locations	7
Figure 3.3 – 7224 Amplifier Access Panel Screw Locations	9
Figure 3.4 – Master/Slave Jumper Locations.....	9
Figure 3.5 – 7224 Output Terminal Resistor.....	9
Figure 3.6 – 7548/7796 Output Terminal Resistor.....	9
Figure 3.7 – Terminating the Amplifier Input.....	10
Figure 3.8 – Verifying DC Offset.....	11
Figure 3.9 – Verifying Amp Gain	11
Figure 3.10 – Verifying System Gain	12
Figure 3.11 – Two Amplifiers in Series – Differential Configuration	12
Figure 3.12 – Terminating the Amplifier Input.....	13
Figure 3.14 – Verifying Amp Gain	14
Figure 3.13 – Verifying DC Offset	14
Figure 3.15 – Verifying System Gain	15
Figure 3.16 – Two Amplifiers in Series – Single-Ended Configuration	15
Figure 3.17 – Three Amplifiers in Series – Single-Ended Configuration	16
Figure 4.1 – 7224 Ballast Resistor Mounting	17
Figure 4.2 – 7796 Ballast Resistor Mounting	17
Figure 4.3 – 7224 Ballast Resistor Connected to Output Terminal	17
Figure 4.4 – 7796 Ballast Resistors Connected to Output Terminal	17
Figure 4.5 – Access Panel Screw Locations	18
Figure 4.6 – Gain Control Connection on Main Board.....	18
Figure 4.7 – Gain Control Pin Settings	19
Figure 4.8 – Connecting for Balancing (Four in Parallel shown).....	19
Figure 4.9 – Terminating the Amplifier Input.....	20
Figure 4.10 – Main Board Balancing Control Locations	20
Figure 4.11 – Wiring and Test Points for DC Offset.....	21
Figure 4.12 – Wiring the Paralleled Input Wire.....	21
Figure 4.13 – Optional BNC Parallel Input Wiring (Three in Parallel shown)	21
Figure 4.14 – Wiring and Test Points for Amp Gain	22
Figure 4.15 – Wiring and Test Points for Gain Matching	23
Figure 4.16 – Two Amplifiers Paralleled	24
Figure 4.17 – Three Amplifiers Paralleled.....	25
Figure 4.18 – Four Amplifiers Paralleled.....	26
Figure A-1 – Wire Current-Carrying Capacity Chart.....	27
Figure B-1 – Critical Wire Lengths in Parallel Systems.....	28
Figure C-1 – Output Cables constructed for use in a Two-in-Parallel System	29
Figure D-1 – DB-25 Cable Wiring for a Four-in-Parallel System	30
Figure E-1 – 7224 Access Panel Screw Locations	31
Figure E-2 – Master/Slave Jumper Locations.....	31
Figure E-3 – Output Terminal Resistor	31
Figure E-4 – 7548/7796 Output Terminal Resistor.....	31
Figure E-5 – SIM-BNC-OPTOC, Factory Default Settings.....	32

1 Multi-Amp Systems Using 7000 Series Amplifiers

1.1 Safety First

Throughout these instructions special emphasis is placed on good safety practices. The **WARNING** and **CAUTION** graphics are used to highlight certain topics that require extra precaution.

1.2 Overview

A single 7000-Series amplifier can provide continuous output current or voltage only up to a certain level. If you need increased output above those levels, you can combine multiple amplifiers into a system that can provide increased voltage or current. Because the internal circuitry of a 7000-Series amplifier is not connected to chassis ground, these amplifiers are well suited for use in series or parallel with other like-model amplifiers within the Series.

Each 7000-Series amplifier added to a Series multi-amp system will increase the continuous voltage output, while each amplifier added to a Parallel multi-amp system will increase the continuous current output. See **Figure 1.1** for the approximate output levels you can expect from each multi-amp system.

While it is possible to operate a multi-amp system in either Controlled Voltage or Controlled Current modes of operation, **multi-amp operation in Controlled Current mode requires additional equipment configuration**, and so is beyond the scope of this Guide.

Please contact AE Techron Tech Support for assistance with configuring a multi-amp system for Controlled Current operation.

For assistance in determining the best 7000-Series multi-amp configuration to meet your requirements, please contact AE Techron.

This Guide will provide step-by-step instructions for setting up a Series or Parallel controlled-voltage multi-amp system using AE Techron 7000-Series amplifiers.

1.3 Multi-Amp Configuration Accessories

The following accessories are available from AE Techron. They are recommended for use in the configuration of 7000-Series multi-amp systems. For a listing of recommended accessories by multi-amp system type, please refer to **Section 1.4**.

SIM-OPTOC – Specialized input card required for all Series configurations. Includes input card and BNC connector safety cover.

Amplifier Model	Configuration	Continuous Output (100% Duty Cycle)
7224	Two amps in Series	Up to 316 Vpk
	Three amps in Series	Up to 474 Vpk
	Two amps in Parallel	Up to 90 Apk
	Three amps in Parallel	Up to 135 Apk
	Four amps in Parallel	Up to 180 Apk
7548	Two amps in Series	Up to 390 Vpk
	Three amps in Series	Up to 585 Vpk
	Two amps in Parallel	Up to 86 Apk
	Three amps in Parallel	Up to 129 Apk
	Four amps in Parallel	Up to 172 Apk
7796	Two amps in Series	Up to 318 Vpk
	Three amps in Series	Up to 477 Vpk
	Two amps in Parallel	Up to 254 Apk
	Three amps in Parallel	Up to 381 Apk
	Four amps in Parallel	Up to 508 Apk

Figure 1.1 – Maximum Continuous Output in 7000-Series Multi-amp Systems

BALLAST RESISTOR KIT (BAL RES KIT) – Three types available: 7224 BAL RES KIT, 7548 BAL RES KIT and 7796 BAL RES KIT. Ballast resistors are required for all Parallel configurations. These ballast resistor kits include one ballast resistor (two in the 7796 kit) with connection terminals and mounting hardware. The 7224 BAL RES KIT also contains the shunt required to defeat the amplifier’s external level control.

NOTE: AE Techron Ballast Resistor Kits are sold as parts kits only. Buyers are responsible for installing the Ballast Resistor Kit in a way that meets local Safety requirements.

Alternatively, ballast resistor installation, which will meet generic safety requirements, can be ordered from AE Techron at the time of purchase or is available through AE Techron Service.

DB9M CABLE – High-voltage Interlock cable required for all Series configurations.

PARALLEL WIRING KITS – Six types available: 7224 2-AMP, 7548/7796 2-AMP, 7224 3-AMP, 7548/7796 3-AMP, 7224 4-AMP, and 7548/7796 4-AMP. Parallel wiring kits include the DB-25 Interlock cable for system communication, and the output wiring for connecting system amplifiers to the load. The kits also include the wire(s) required for wiring the parallel inputs through the Removable Barrier Block (WECO) connectors, and the terminated Removable Barrier Block connectors used to terminate the amplifier inputs during system setup. Parallel wiring kits are recommended for all Parallel configurations.

BNC PARALLEL INPUT KIT – Optional kit for wiring parallel inputs through the BNC input connectors instead of the default removable barrier block connectors. Each kit contains one BNC patch cable and one BNC T-connector. **Note: Now included in parallel wiring kits.**

1.4 Accessory Recommendations by System Type

Series Systems

7224 Two in Series: (2) SIM-BNC-OPTOC input cards, (1) DB9M OPTOC cable

7224 Three in Series: (3) SIM-BNC-OPTOC input cards, (2) DB9M OPTOC cables

7548 Two in Series: (2) SIM-BNC-OPTOC input cards, (1) DB9M OPTOC cable

7548 Three in Series: (3) SIM-BNC-OPTOC input cards, (2) DB9M OPTOC cables

7796 Two in Series: (2) SIM-BNC-OPTOC input cards, (1) DB9M OPTOC cable

7796 Three in Series: (3) SIM-BNC-OPTOC input cards, (2) DB9M OPTOC cables

Parallel Systems

7224 Two in Parallel: (2) 7224 BAL RES kits, (1) 7224 2-AMP Parallel Wiring kit

7224 Three in Parallel: (3) 7224 BAL RES kits, (1) 7224 3-AMP Parallel Wiring kit

7224 Four in Parallel: (4) 7224 BAL RES kits, (1) 7224 4-AMP Parallel Wiring kit

7548 Two in Parallel: (2) 7548 BAL RES kits, (1) 7548/7796 2-AMP Parallel Wiring kit

7548 Three in Parallel: (3) 7548 BAL RES kits, (1) 7548/7796 3-AMP Parallel Wiring kit

7548 Four in Parallel: (4) 7548 BAL RES kits, (1) 7548/7796 4-AMP Parallel Wiring kit

7796 Two in Parallel: (2) 7796 BAL RES kits, (1) 7548/7796 2-AMP Parallel Wiring kit

7796 Three in Parallel: (3) 7796 BAL RES kits, (1) 7548/7796 3-AMP Parallel Wiring kit

7796 Four in Parallel: (4) 7796 BAL RES kits, (1) 7548/7796 4-AMP Parallel Wiring kit

2 Multi-amp System Principles

The following configuration and operating principles apply to 7000-Series multi-amp systems. Following these basic principles will help to ensure the safety of your equipment and personnel.

2.1 One Master Amplifier for Series Systems

Series multi-amp systems are configured with one amplifier configured as the **Master** amplifier, and all other amplifiers in the system configured as **Slave** amplifiers. DO NOT operate with more than one Master in your Series multi-amp system.

2.2 All Master Amplifiers for Parallel Systems

Parallel multi-amp systems are configured with all amplifiers configured as **Master** amplifiers. To avoid problems that might occur with signal latency, the input signal is sent through a parallel input cable that delivers the signal simultaneously to all amplifiers in the system.

2.3 Use only 7000-Series Amplifiers of the same Model Number

Use only AE Techron 7000-Series amplifiers of the same model to construct these multiple amplifier systems. You CANNOT combine different models of 7000-Series amplifiers in the same system, such as combining 7224 amplifiers with 7548 amplifiers. All amplifiers must be in good working order. Never use other model AE Techron amplifiers or amplifiers made by another manufacturer in a 7000-Series multi-amp system. Such improper connections could damage the amplifiers.

2.4 Use Correct Wiring

Never directly connect one 7000-Series amplifier's **OUTPUT** terminal (on the output terminal block) to another 7000-Series amplifier's **OUTPUT** terminal. The resulting circulating currents will waste power and may damage the amplifiers. Depending on the configuration to be used, the **OUTPUT** terminal of one amplifier should only be directly connected to the next amplifier's **COM or SAMPLED COMMON** terminal, to the **load**, or to a **ballast resistor**.

2.5 When Constructing Output Wiring, Use These Basic Criteria

In multi-amplifier systems, the quality, gauge, length and rating of the output wiring leading to the load can affect system performance. **Wire gauge** refers to the diameter of solid wire and is an important factor in the wire's current-carrying capacity. For 7000-Series Parallel system output wiring, we recommend a wire gauge from 4 AWG (7796 systems) to 10 AWG (7224 systems), and a length of 2.5 to 4 feet. Refer to the Wire Current-Carrying Capacity chart in **Appendix A** for more information.

Wire length is also an important factor. Particularly in Parallel multi-amp systems, the output wire branches to each amplifier must be carefully matched in length to within 1/4-inch to ensure system operation. To assist with output wiring requirements in Parallel systems, AE Techron offers **Parallel System Wiring Kits** that contain pre-built output wiring. See **Section 1.3** for a description of these and other multi-amp accessories. See **Appendix B** for more information on critical wire lengths in a Parallel system.

Wire rating refers to the allowable voltage handled by the wire. In configuring Series systems for increased voltage, make sure that the wire insulation on output wiring is appropriate for the expected output voltage. Wire length should also be limited to 3 to 4 feet to minimize voltage drop.

2.6 Operate with Safety in Mind

Potentially lethal voltages and currents are present within the 7000-Series amplifiers. While the amplifiers' chassis are earth grounded, all internal grounds are floating. Particularly in systems assembled for increased voltage (Series configurations), all internal grounds of Slave amplifiers could carry lethal voltage levels.

3 Series Systems Configuration and Wiring

3.1 Choosing Single-Ended or Differential Configuration for Two-amplifier Systems

Series amplifier systems can be configured with the load ground-reference (single-ended output) or floating (differential output). Refer to **Figure 3.1** and use the following guidelines to select a Single-Ended or a Differential configuration.

1. For Series configurations requiring only two amplifiers, the **Two in Series - Differential** configuration is safer and is easier to build than Single-Ended output.
2. Series configurations requiring more than two amplifiers should be wired using a **Single-Ended** configuration.
3. Regardless of the number of amplifiers in the system, if the load will ever be ground referenced, a **Single-Ended** configuration **must** be used.

3.2 Configure SIM-BNC-OPTOC Input Cards

Each amplifier in a Series multi-amp system uses a specialized input card that functions to synchronize the operation of all amps in the system and provides for optical isolation. The input card allows you to designate (via jumpers located on the card), that the input card will function as a Master (sending synchronization information), or will function as a Slave (receiving synchronization information). Other options for system configuration and operation can also be selected via jumpers located on the input card. Refer to **Figure 3.2** for the jumper locations.

Master/Slave (jumper J6 & J7):

When J6 and J7 are Open, the input card will be operating in an amplifier that will act as a Slave in a multi-amplifier system. When Shorted, the input card will be operating in an amplifier that will act as a Single amplifier, or as a Master amplifier in a multi-amplifier system. **Factory default:** Shorted for individual amplifiers and Master amplifiers sold as a part of a multi-amplifier system.

Removable Barrier Block Input Connector, Balanced/Unbalanced (jumper J4): When Open, this option lifts the ground for the Removable Barrier Block connector, allowing it to be used as an unbalanced input. When Shorted, the ground leg is enabled on the Removable Barrier Block connector. **Factory default:** Open.

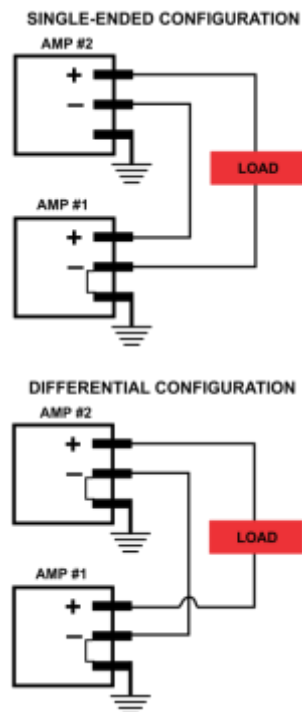


Figure 3.1 – Two in Series: Single-Ended vs. Differential

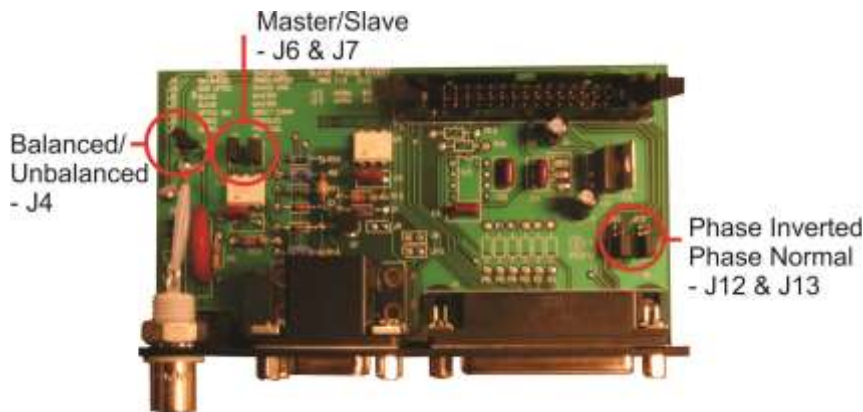


Figure 3.2 – SIM-BNC-OPTOC card jumper locations

Slave Phase Inversion (jumpers J12 & J13): When the Upper two pins are shorted, this option inverts the input signal, allowing a **Slave** amplifier to operate in the **Two in Series – Differential** configuration. When the lower two pins are shorted, the input signal is not inverted, and the amplifier can operate as a Master amplifier or as a Slave for any Series – Single Ended configuration. **Factory default:** Lower pins shorted.

3.2.1 Configure for Use in a Series – Single Ended configuration

If you will be using a Series – Single Ended configuration for your system, complete the following:

1. For all except one SIM-BNC-OPTOC input cards for your system, remove the shunts from the **Master/Slave jumpers (J6 and J7)** to configure the card to operate as a Slave. For the remaining card, verify that the shunts are in place to configure the card to operate as a Master.
2. If desired, configure the Removable Barrier Block input connector option on the Master input card to allow the connector to be used as an unbalanced input.


3.2.2 Configure for Use in a Two in Series – Differential configuration

If you will be using the Two in Series - Differential configuration for your system, complete the following:

1. For one SIM-BNC-OPTOC input card for your system, remove the shunts from the **Master/Slave jumpers (J6 and J7)** to configure the card to operate as a Slave. For the remaining card, verify that the shunts are in place to configure the card to operate as a Master.
2. On the SIM-BNC-OPTOC input card that is now configured for Slave operation, move the shunts positioned on the lower two pins of **jumpers J12 and J13** and place them on the UPPER two pins of jumpers J12 and J13. This will allow the input signal received by the Slave amplifier to be inverted.
3. If desired, configure the Removable Barrier Block input connector option on the Master input card to allow the connector to be used as an unbalanced input.

3.3 Install SIM-BNC-OPTOC Input Cards in Amplifiers


Before preparing the amplifiers, **make sure the amplifier is turned off for at least 3-5 minutes and the AC mains are disconnected.**

	CAUTION
<p>After turning the amplifier off, let the unit sit for 3-5 minutes before removing the input card or access panel. This will allow the electrical charge in the power supply capacitors to discharge.</p>	

1. Locate the standard SIM-BNC Input Card on the right side of the rear panel of each amplifier.
2. Use a #2 Phillips screwdriver to remove and retain the two (2) screws located at the edges of the input card.
3. Unplug the ribbon cable from the back of the input card; remove the card from the amplifier card bay.
4. For each amplifier, plug the ribbon cable into the ribbon connector on the SIM-BNC-OPTOC card. Reinstall the card into the card bay on the amplifier back panel and secure in place using the retained screws.
5. (optional) We recommend labeling each SIM-BNC-OPTOC card as “Master” or “Slave” to identify the configuration of the installed input card.

3.4 Configure Amplifiers' Main Boards for Slave Operation

7000-Series amplifiers are configured by default for use as stand-alone (or Master) amplifiers. When creating a Series multiple amplifier system, you must also configure each amplifier's **main board** for Slave operation on the amplifiers to be used as a Slave(s) in the system. Note that the main boards installed in the 7224, 7548 and 7796 models are identical, but the method for accessing the main board varies between models.

	WARNING
<p>Do not attempt to access the Main Board while the amplifier is running. Turn the amplifier off and disconnect the AC Mains before removing the input card or amplifier access panel.</p>	

3.4.1 Accessing the Main Board on 7224 Amplifiers

7224 amplifiers contain an Access Panel built into the top cover to allow easy access to the amplifier main board for configuration of the Master/Slave setting.

IMPORTANT: Before removing the Access Panel, make sure the amplifier is turned off for at least 3-5 minutes and the AC mains are disconnected.

1. On each Slave amplifier, locate the Access Panel as shown in **Figure 3.3**. Make sure that all 8 screws are accessible. Remove the unit from its rack, if necessary.
2. Using a #2 Phillips screwdriver, remove the 8 screws located on the top and side of the amplifier.
3. Remove the Access Panel and set it aside.



Figure 3.3 – 7224 Amplifier Access Panel Screw Locations

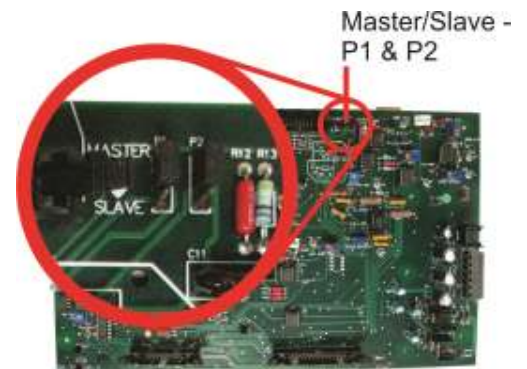


Figure 3.4 – Master/Slave Jumper Locations

3.4.2 Accessing the Main Board on 7548/7796 Amplifiers

The 7548 or 7796 amplifier Main Board can be accessed by removing the amplifier front panel.

IMPORTANT: Before removing the Front Panel, make sure the amplifier is turned off for at least 3-5 minutes and the AC mains are disconnected.

1. Turn the power to the amplifier “OFF”.
2. Remove the four hex-head screws, located along the left and right edges of the amplifier front panel.
3. Remove the front cover by pulling straight towards you.

3.4.3 Set Master/Slave Jumpers

1. On the main board, locate the jumpers P1 and P2 (Master/Slave). For Slave operation, set both jumpers to the DOWN position (lower two pins shorted). See **Figure 3.4** for jumper locations.



Figure 3.5 – 7224 Output Terminal Resistor

3.5 Remove Output Terminal Resistor

For all **Series – Single Ended Output** configurations, it is important to remove the output terminal resistor from all Slave amplifiers in the system.

1. On each Slave amplifier back panel, locate and remove the resistor connecting the terminals labeled COM (7224 amplifier) or SAMPLED COMMON (7548/7796 amplifiers) and CHASSIS GROUND on the output connector. See **Figures 3.5 and 3.6**.
2. Retain the resistor for later use.

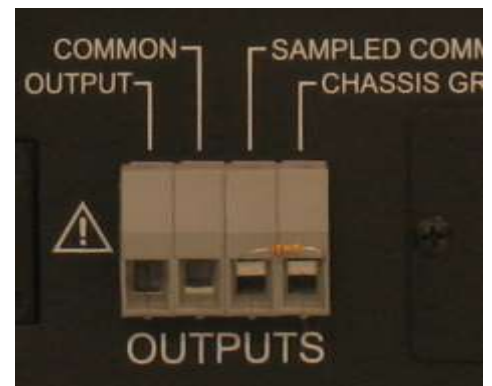


Figure 3.6 – 7548/7796 Output Terminal Resistor

3.6 Attach Master/Slave Labels (optional)

We recommended labeling each amplifier front panel as “Master” or “Slave” to identify the configuration of the amplifier.

3.7 Series System Wiring

Locate the Series configuration that you have selected to meet your application requirements: **Section 3.8** for a Two-in-Series – Differential configuration or **Section 3.9** for a Two-in-Series – Open-Ended configuration. Then follow the steps provided to wire and test your 7000-Series Multi-amp System.

3.8 Two in Series – Differential

Complete the following procedures to connect your amplifiers for **Two in Series - Differential** operation.

3.8.1 Connect and Test DC Offset and Interlock

1. Using a **DB-9 high-voltage interlock cable**, connect from the MASTER OUTPUT connector on the SIM-BNC-OPTOC card of the Master amplifier to the SLAVE INPUT connector on the SIM-BNC-OPTOC card of the Slave amplifier.
2. Using wiring appropriate for your application, load and expected output, connect from the MASTER amplifier's back-panel output connector labeled COM (7224) or SAMPLED COMMON (7548/7796) to the SLAVE amplifier's COM/SAMPLED COMMON connector.
3. On the MASTER amplifier, connect the output wiring to the back-panel output connector labeled OUTPUT. On the SLAVE amplifier, connect the output wiring to the back-panel output connector labeled OUTPUT. **IMPORTANT: DO NOT connect the load at this time.**
4. Terminate the input of the Master amplifier using the resistor-terminated barrier block connector (see **Figure 3.7**) or similar device.
5. Power up each amplifier by switching to ON the front-panel ON/OFF switch (7224 amplifiers) or moving the back-panel AC Mains Switch/Circuit Breaker to the ON (up) position (7548/7796 amplifiers). Allow the amplifiers to come to the Ready state. When Ready, the amplifier Ready and Run LEDs will be lit. Note: Some amplifiers that have been custom-configured may require that you press the Enable button to bring the amplifier to the Ready state. Let the amplifiers run for several minutes in Ready state to allow DC offsets to stabilize.
6. Using a digital voltmeter set to DC, measure across each amplifier's back-panel output connector terminals (OUTPUT to COM or SAMPLED COMMON) to verify that the DC offset of each amplifier is less than 10 mVdc. See **Figure 3.8**. NOTE: If any amplifier's DC offset is greater than 10 mVdc, the amplifier may require servicing. Contact AE Techron Technical Support.
7. On the Master amplifier only, press the Stop button to place the amplifier in Standby mode.
8. Verify that both Master and Slave amplifier enter Standby mode (Standby LED is lit).

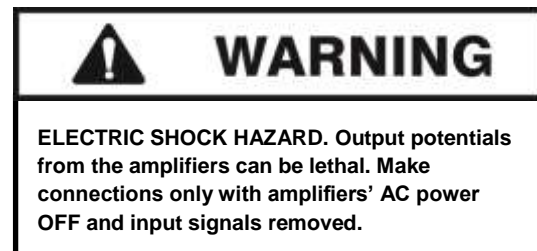


Figure 3.7 – Terminating the Amplifier Input

3.8.2 Test Amplifier Gain

1. With the amplifiers in Standby mode, remove the input signal terminator and connect a signal generator to the BNC or Removable Barrier Block connector on the SIM-BNC-OPTOC card of the MASTER amplifier ONLY.
2. Apply a sine wave of 5 Vrms at 100 Hz at the Master amplifier input. Using a voltmeter measure across each amplifier's back-panel output connector terminals (OUTPUT to COM or SAMPLED COMMON) to verify an output from each amplifier of approximately 100 Vrms (gain of 20). See **Figure 3.9**. NOTE: If any amplifier's gain varies significantly from the set gain of 20, the amplifier may require servicing. Contact AE Techron Technical Support.

3.8.3 Connect Load and Test System Output

1. Power down the amplifiers.
2. Connect the two output wires leading from the MASTER and SLAVE OUTPUT connectors to your load.
3. Power up both amplifiers and allow them to come to the Ready state.
4. Apply a sine wave of 5 Vrms at 100 Hz at the Master amplifier input. Using a voltmeter, measure across the system load to verify an output from the system of approximately 200 Vrms. See **Figure 3.10**.
5. Check the completed system diagram in **Figure 3.11** to verify proper system setup.
6. Turn input signal up to the level required for your application.

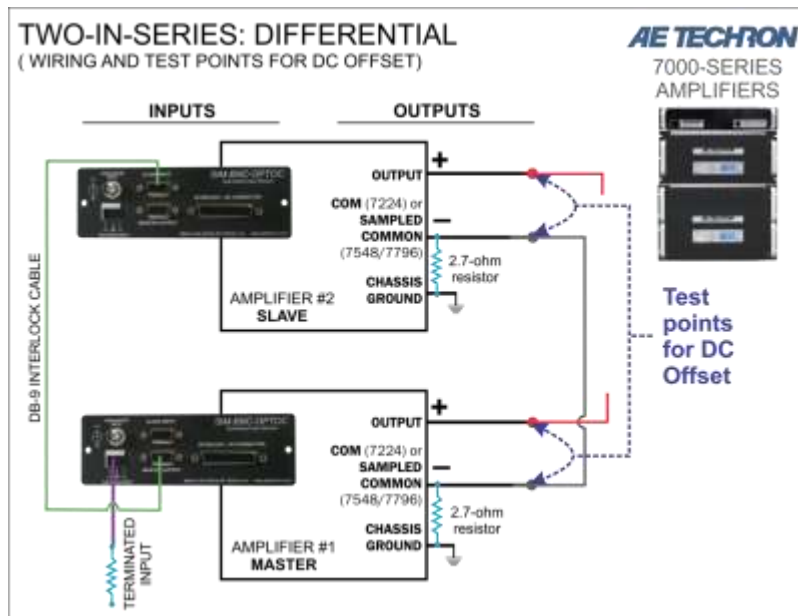


Figure 3.8 – Verifying DC Offset

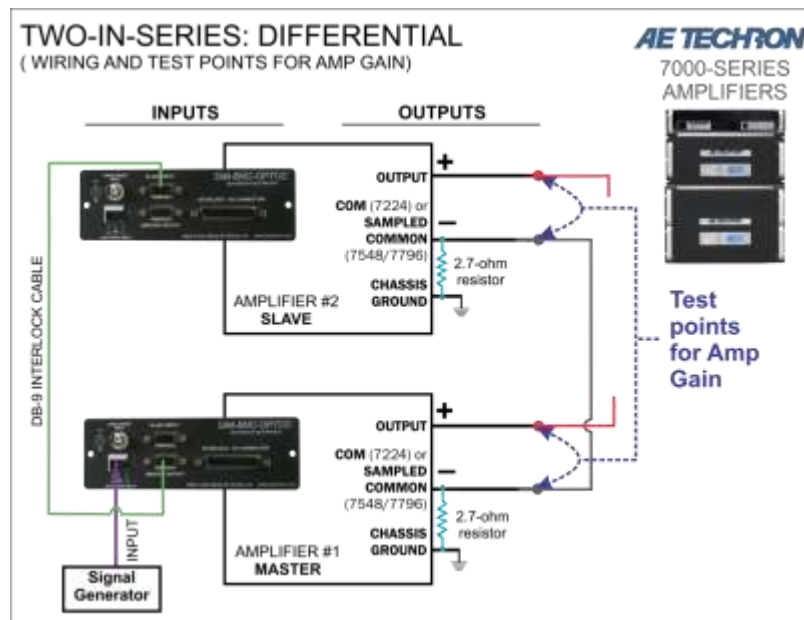


Figure 3.9 – Verifying Amp Gain

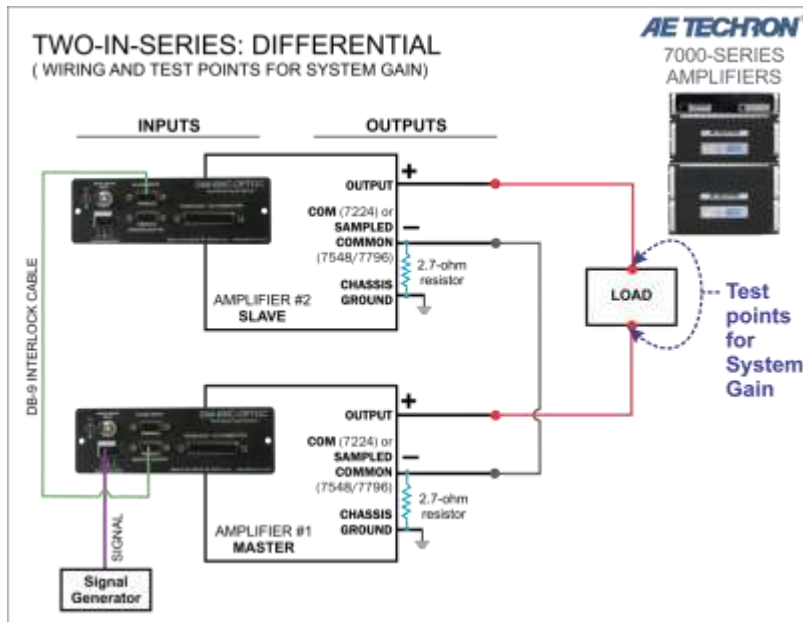


Figure 3.10 – Verifying System Gain

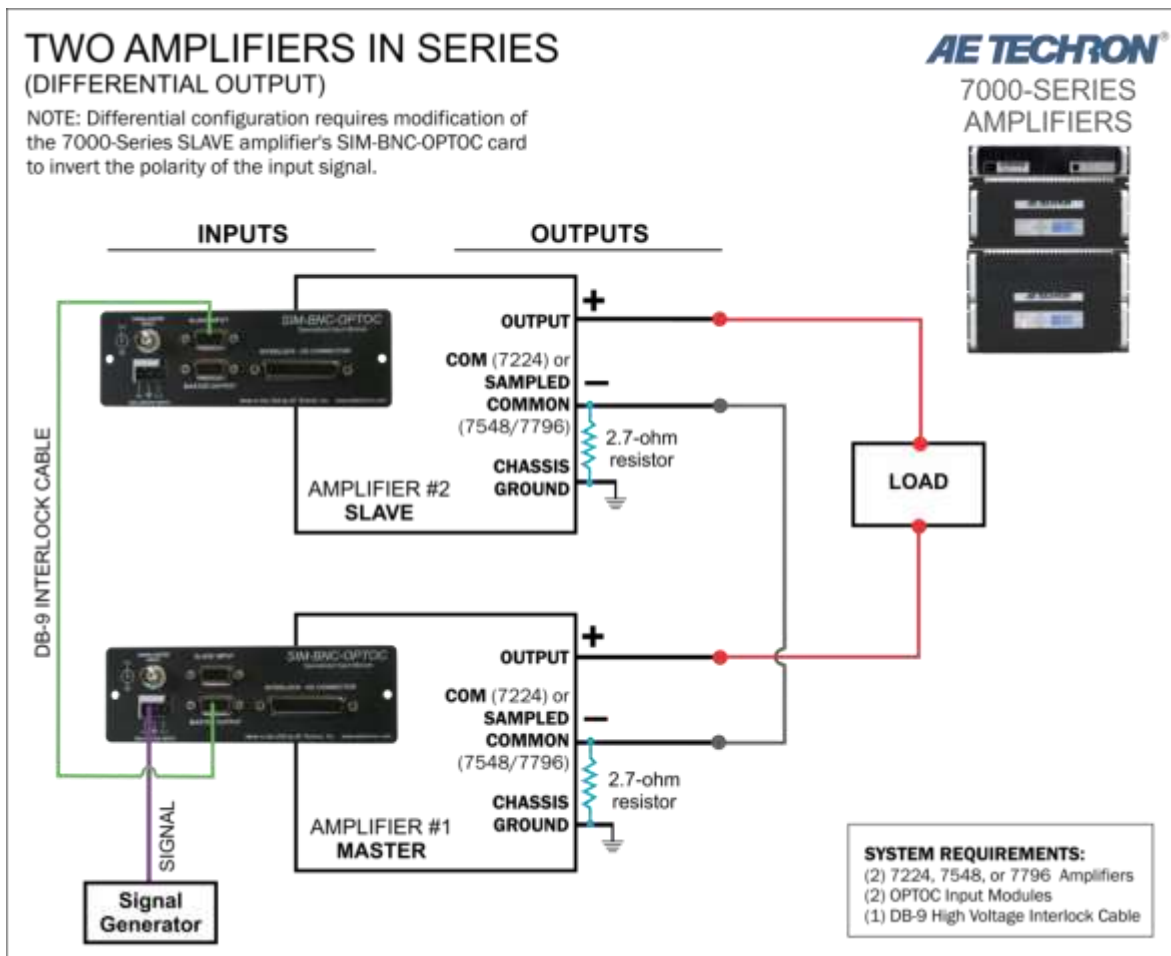


Figure 3.11 – Two Amplifiers in Series – Differential Configuration

3.9 Two or Three in Series – Single Ended

Complete the following procedures to connect your amplifiers for **Series – Single-Ended** operation.

3.9.1 Connect and Test Amplifier Interlock

1. Using a **DB-9 high-voltage interlock cable**, connect from the MASTER OUTPUT connector on the SIM-BNC-OPTOC card of the Master amplifier to the SLAVE INPUT connector on the SIM-BNC-OPTOC card of the first Slave amplifier. If configuring for a three amp system, use an additional DB-9 cable to connect from the MASTER OUTPUT of the first Slave amplifier to SLAVE INPUT on a second Slave amplifier.
2. Using wiring appropriate for your application, load and expected output, connect from the MASTER amplifier's back-panel output connector labeled OUTPUT to the first SLAVE amplifier's COM (7224) or SAMPLED COMMON (7548/7796) connector. For an additional SLAVE amplifier in the system, connect from the first SLAVE amplifier's OUTPUT connector to the second SLAVE amplifier's COM or SAMPLED COMMON connector.
3. On the MASTER amplifier, connect the output wiring to the back-panel output connector labeled COM (7224) or SAMPLED COMMON (7548/7796). On the last SLAVE amplifier, connect the output wiring to the back-panel output connector labeled OUTPUT. **IMPORTANT: DO NOT connect the load at this time.**
4. Terminate the input of the Master amplifier using a resistor-terminated barrier block connector (see **Figure 3.12**) or similar device.
5. Power up each amplifier by switching to ON the front-panel ON/OFF switch (7224 amplifiers) or moving the back-panel AC Mains Switch/Circuit Breaker to the ON (up) position (7548/7796 amplifiers). Allow the amplifiers to come to the Ready state. When Ready, the amplifier Ready and Run LEDs will be lit. Note: Some amplifiers that have been custom-configured may require that you press the Enable button to bring the amplifier to the Ready state. Let the amplifiers run for several minutes in Ready state to allow DC offsets to stabilize.
6. Using a digital voltmeter set to DC, measure across each amplifier's back-panel output connector terminals (OUTPUT to COM or SAMPLED COMMON) to verify that the DC offset of each amplifier is less than 10 mVdc. See **Figure 3.13**. NOTE: If any amplifier's DC offset is greater than 10 mVdc, the amplifier may require servicing. Contact AE Techron Technical Support.
7. On the Master amplifier only, press the Stop button to place the amplifier in Standby mode.
8. Verify that both Master and Slave amplifier enter Standby mode (Standby LED is lit).

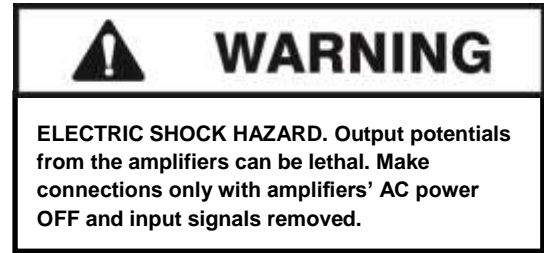


Figure 3.12 – Terminating the Amplifier Input

3.9.2 Test Amplifier Gain

1. With the amplifiers in Standby mode, remove the input signal termination and connect a signal generator to the BNC or Removable Barrier Block connector on the SIM-BNC-OPTOC card of the MASTER amplifier ONLY.
2. Apply a sine wave of 5Vrms at 100 Hz at the Master amplifier input. Using a voltmeter measure across each amplifier's back-panel output connector terminals (OUTPUT to COM or SAMPLED COMMON) to verify an output from each amplifier of approximately 100Vrms (gain of 20). See **Figure 3.14**. NOTE: If any amplifier's gain varies significantly from the set gain of 20, the amplifier may require servicing. Contact AE Techron Technical Support.

3.9.3 Connect Amplifiers and Load

1. Power down the amplifiers.
2. Connect the two output wires leading from the MASTER amplifier's COM/SAMPLED COMMON connector and last SLAVE amplifier's OUTPUT connector to your load.
3. Power up all amplifiers and allow them to come to the Ready state.
4. Apply a sine wave of 5Vrms at 100 Hz at the Master amplifier input. Using a voltmeter, measure across the system load to verify an output from the system of approximately 200Vrms. See **Figure 3.15**.
5. Check the completed system diagrams in **Figure 3.16 or 3.17** to verify proper system setup.
6. Turn input signal up to the level required for your application.

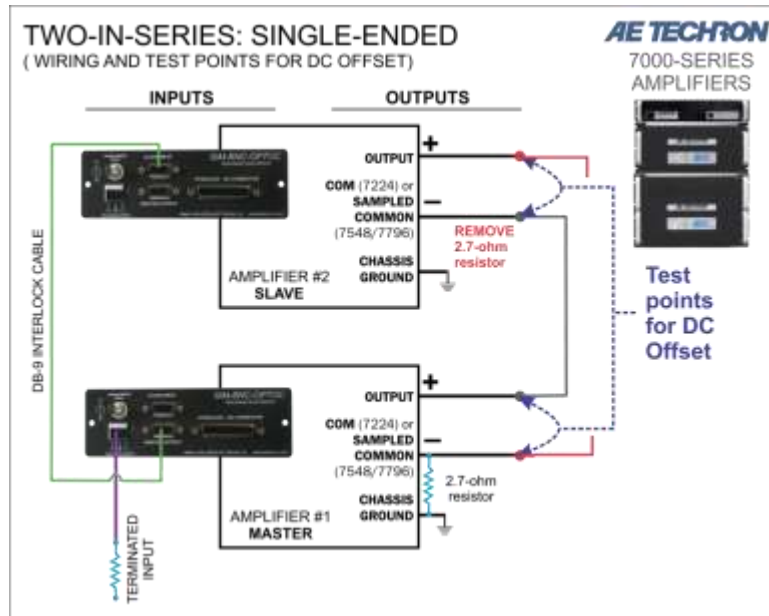


Figure 3.13 – Verifying DC Offset

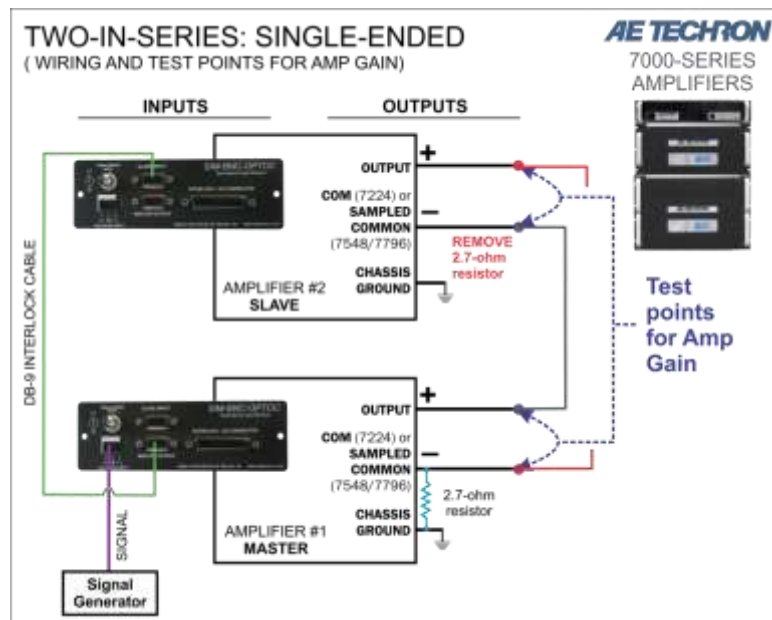


Figure 3.14 – Verifying Amp Gain

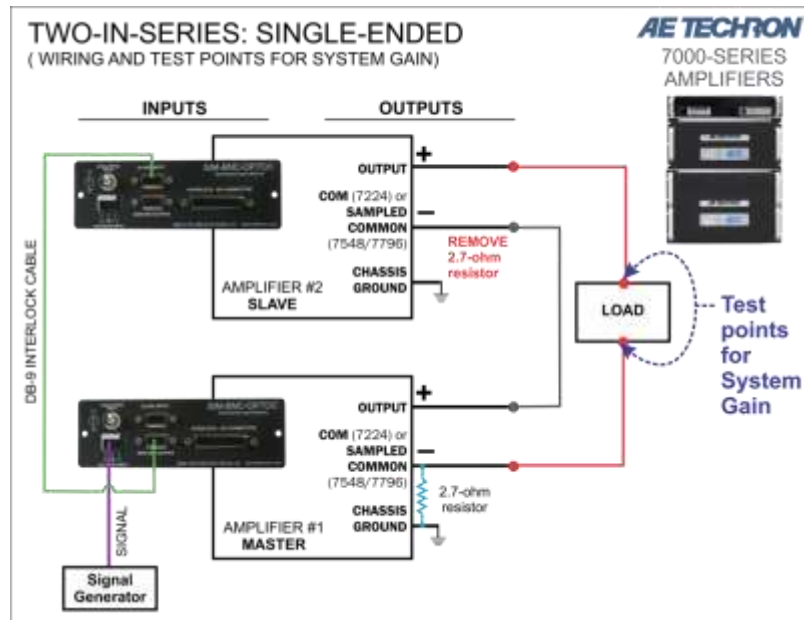


Figure 3.15 – Verifying System Gain

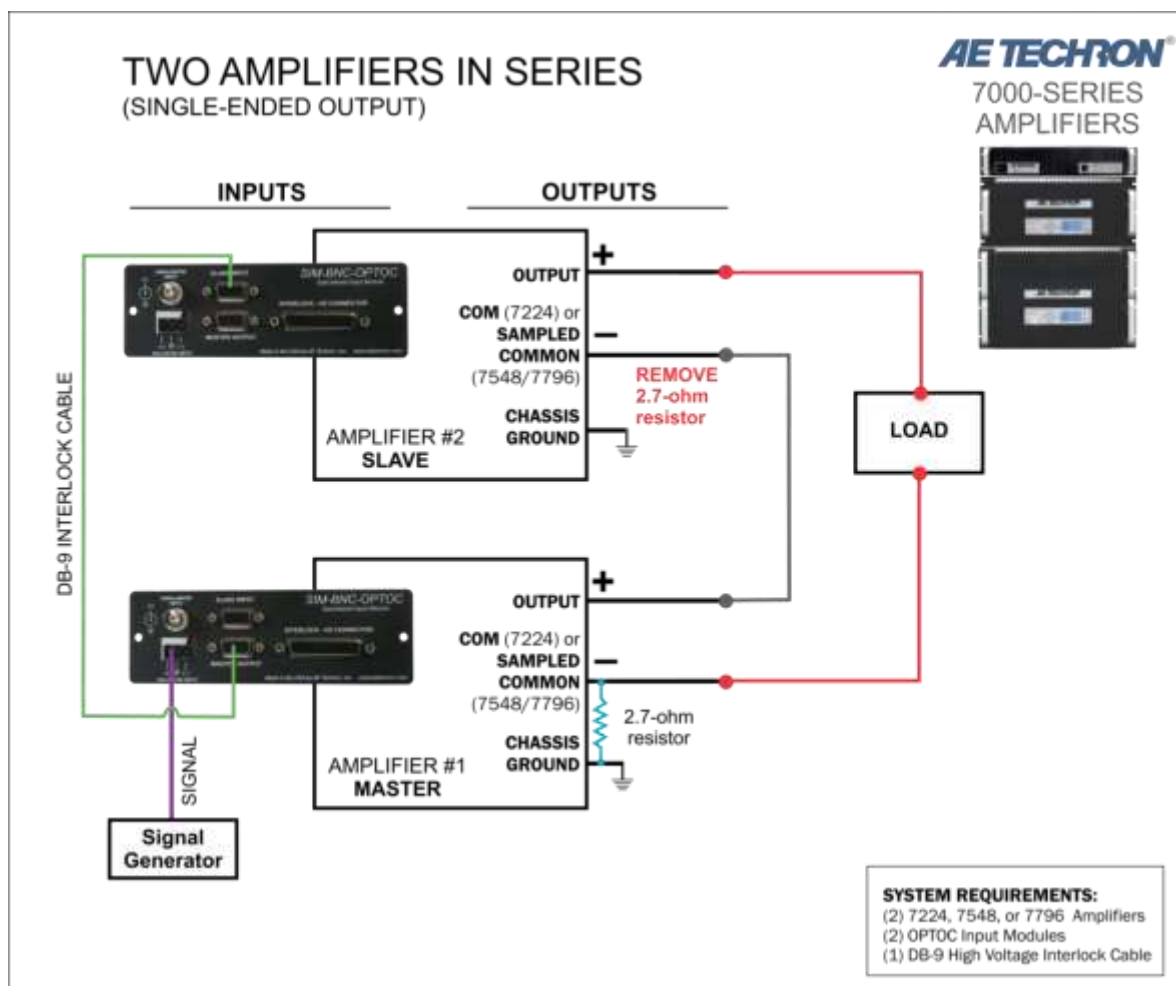


Figure 3.16 – Two Amplifiers in Series – Single-Ended Configuration

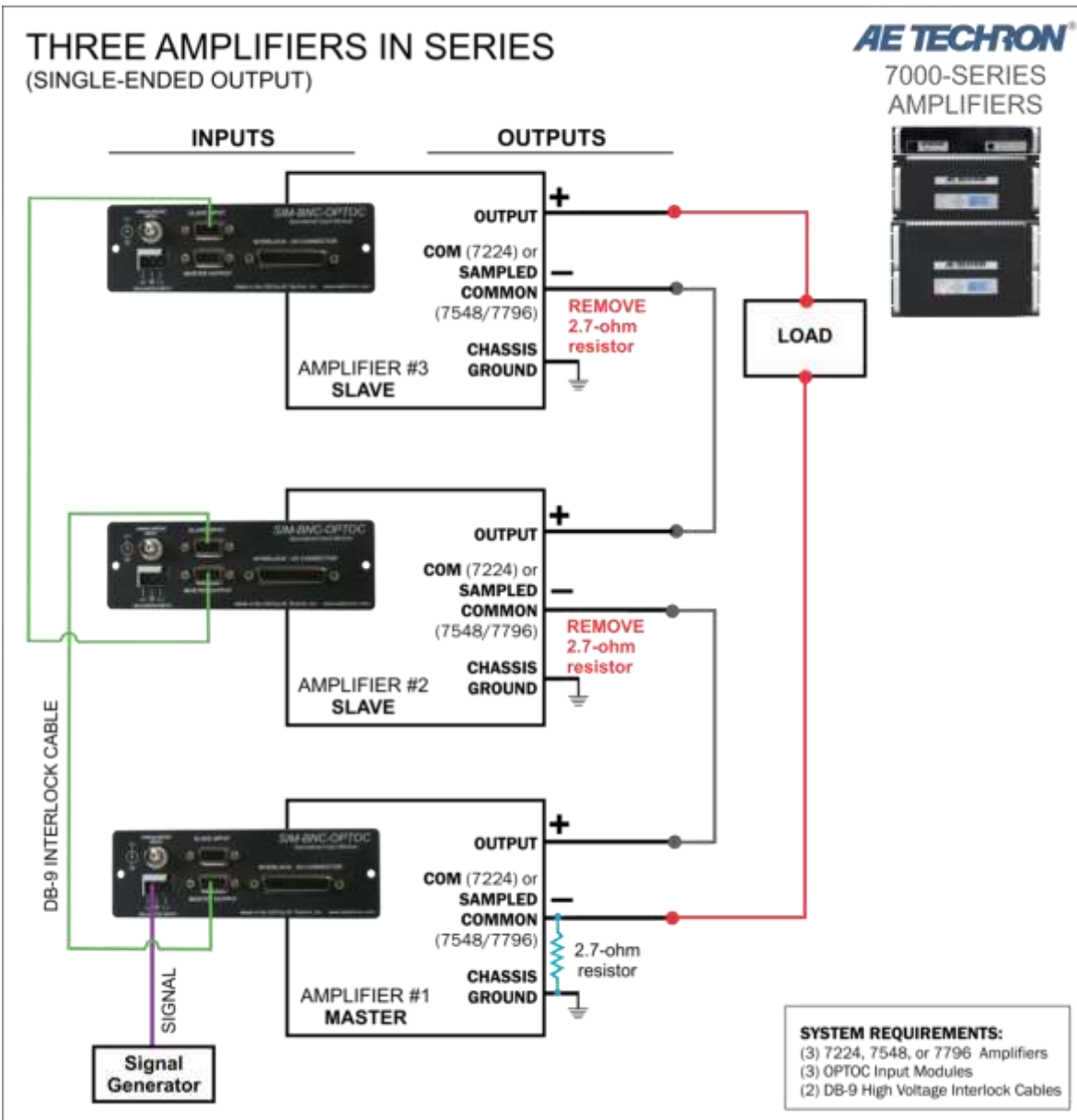


Figure 3.17 – Three Amplifiers in Series – Single-Ended Configuration

4 Parallel Systems Configuration, Wiring and Balancing

Parallel multi-amp configurations require a ballast resistor (two resistors for 7796 models) to be mounted on each amplifier's back panel and connected to the amplifier's OUTPUT connector. Complete the following steps for each amplifier in your system to install the ballast resistors for Parallel System setup.

Before preparing the amplifiers, **make sure the amplifier is turned off for at least 3-5 minutes and the AC mains are disconnected.**

4.1 Install Ballast Resistors

4.1.1 Mount and Connect Ballast Resistor

1. Locate the bracket-mounted ballast resistor(s) in the Ballast Resistor Kit. Position the bracket on the amplifier back-panel grill as shown in **Figures 4.1 and 4.2.**
2. Use the provided plastic ratchet fasteners to secure the resistor mounting bracket to the grill of the amplifier by pushing each fastener through the bracket mounting hole and into a slot on the grill.
3. Connect the resistor's terminal lead(s) to the output connector labeled OUTPUT as shown in **Figures 4.3 and 4.4.** Tighten the screw to secure.



Figure 4.1 – 7224 Ballast Resistor Mounting



Figure 4.3 – 7224 Ballast Resistor Connected to Output Terminal



Figure 4.2 – 7796 Ballast Resistor Mounting



Figure 4.4 – 7796 Ballast Resistors Connected to Output Terminal
(Note: Kits for 7548 amplifiers contain one ballast resistor)

CAUTION

Before preparing the amplifiers, make sure the amplifier is turned off and the AC mains are disconnected. Let the unit sit for 3-5 minutes to allow the electrical charge in the power supply capacitors to discharge.

WARNING

SHOCK/BURN HAZARD. DO NOT TOUCH BALLAST RESISTORS while the system is operating. The ballast resistors are not protected against electrical or heat transfer. Touching the ballast resistors during operation can result in severe shock or burn.

4.2 Main Board Access

Before operating a paralleled amplifier system, the system first must be “balanced” to ensure system stability. The balancing process seeks to calibrate the amplifiers so they operate as similar as possible. To prevent unwanted current and dissipation in the amplifiers, each amplifier must have as little offset DC as possible at no signal. In addition, the gains of the amplifiers must be as closely matched as possible to keep the outputs from driving each other when a signal is present.

Balancing of 7000-Series amplifiers requires access to the amplifier main boards. Note that the main boards installed in the 7224, 7548 and 7796 models are identical, but the method for accessing the main board varies between models.

4.2.1 Accessing the Main Board on 7224 Amplifiers

7224 amplifiers contain an Access Panel built into the top cover to allow easy access to the amplifier main board.

IMPORTANT: Before removing the Access Panel, make sure the amplifier is turned off for at least 3-5 minutes and the AC mains are disconnected.

1. On each amplifier, locate the Access Panel as shown in **Figure 4.5**. Make sure that all 8 screws are accessible. Remove the unit from its rack, if necessary.
2. Using a #2 Phillips screwdriver, remove the 8 screws located on the top and side of the amplifier.
3. Remove the Access Panel and set it aside.

4.2.2 Accessing the Main Board on 7548/7796 Amplifiers

The 7548 and 7796 amplifier's main board can be accessed by removing the amplifier front panel.

IMPORTANT: Before removing the Front Panel, make sure the amplifier is turned off for at least 3-5 minutes and the AC mains are disconnected.

1. Turn the power to the amplifier “OFF”.
2. Remove the four hex-head screws, located along the left and right edges of the amplifier front panel.
3. Remove the front cover by pulling straight towards you.

4.3 Disable Gain Controls (7224 amplifiers only)

In order to ensure the amplifiers in 7224 Parallel systems maintain a matched gain while operating, the variable gain controls located on the amplifier front panels must be disabled. Once disabled, each amplifier will have a fixed gain of 20. If preferred, the gain for each amplifier can be fixed at a lower level.

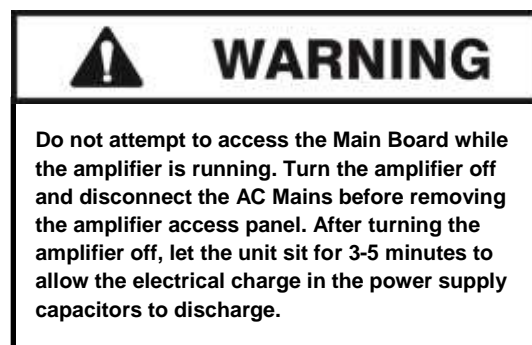


Figure 4.5 – Access Panel Screw Locations

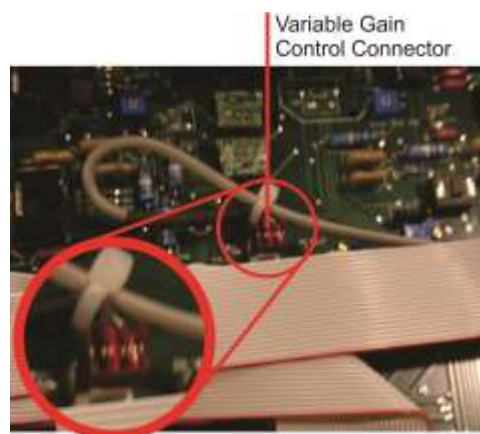
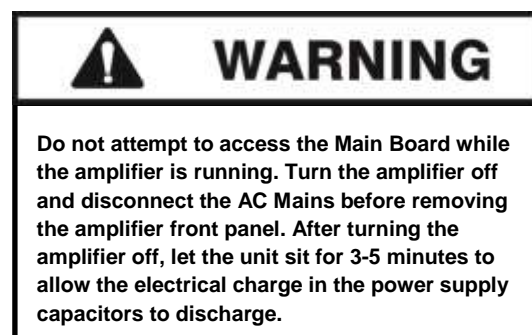


Figure 4.6 – Gain Control Connection on Main Board

1. On the amplifier main board, locate the connector that connects the external gain control to the main board by following the wire leading from the gain control (see **Figure 4.6**).
2. Pull gently upward to remove the 3-pin connector from the main board. Secure the gain-control cable within the amplifier cabinet.
3. To set a fixed gain of 20, place a shunt (supplied) across pins 1 and 2 as shown in **Figure 4.7**.
4. If preferred, a fixed gain can be set at another level; place two resistors (not supplied) across pins 1 and 2 (resistor 1) and pins 2 and 3 (resistor 2) as shown in **Figure 4.7**. Note: these resistors can be mounted to a header or soldered directly to the pins.

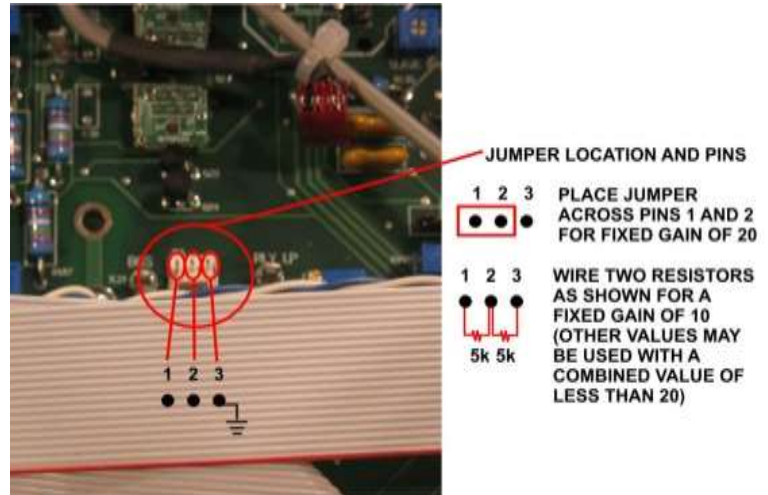
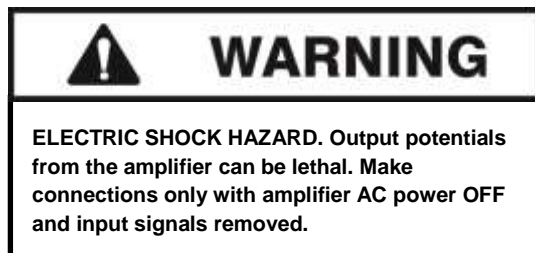


Figure 4.7 – Gain Control Pin Settings

4.4 Parallel System Balancing

Complete the following procedures to balance your parallel amplifier system.



4.5 Connect for Balancing

1. For each amplifier in your system, connect a leg of the black output cable found in the Parallel Wiring Kit to one of the amplifier's output connectors labeled COM (7224) or SAMPLED COMMON (7548/7796) on the amplifier back panel. **Important:** Do not connect this cable to the LOAD and do not connect the red cable at this time. See **Figure 4.8**.
2. Starting with either end of the DB-25 Interlock cable found in the Parallel Wiring Kit, connect the DB-25 connector to the INTERLOCK – I/O CONNECTOR on the SIM-BNC input card of the first amplifier in your system. Connect additional connectors on the DB-25 cable to the INTERLOCK – I/O CONNECTOR on the SIM-BNC input card of additional amplifiers in your system. See **Figure 4.8**.

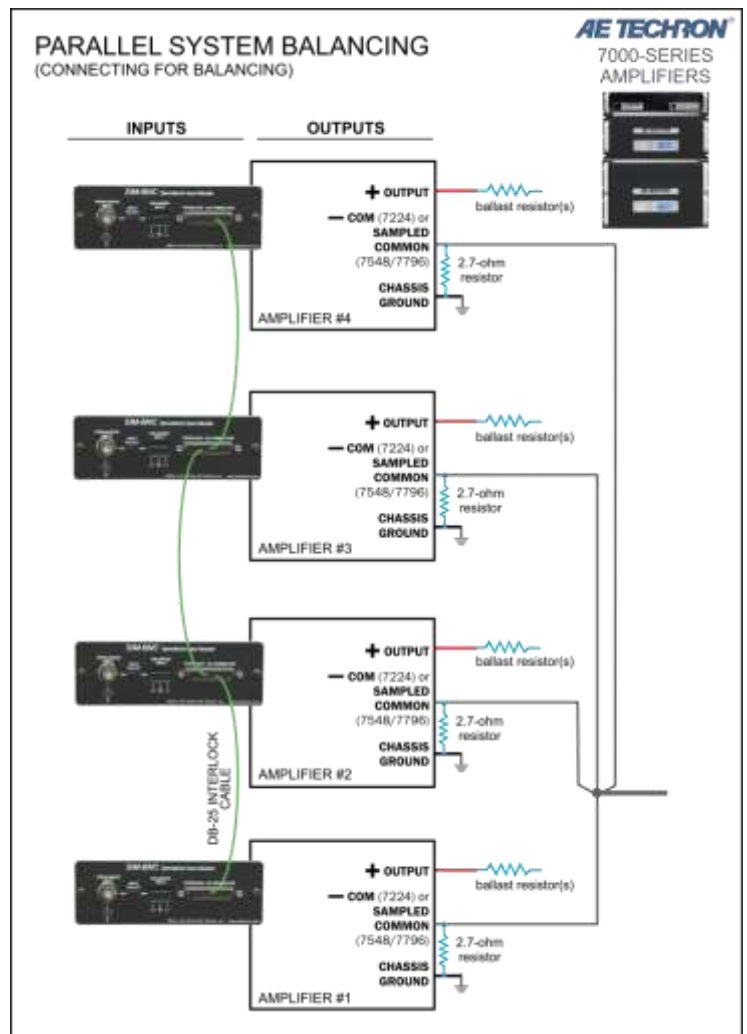


Figure 4.8 – Connecting for Balancing (Four in Parallel shown)

3. Ensure that the inputs of all of the amplifiers are terminated by using a resistor-terminated barrier block connector (see **Figure 4.9**) or similar device.

4.6 Verify Interlock Operation

1. Power up each amplifier by switching to ON the front-panel ON/OFF switch (7224) or the back-panel AC Mains Switch/Circuit Breaker to the ON (up) position (7548/7796 amplifiers).
2. Allow each amplifier to power up and come to Ready state. When Ready, the amplifier Ready and Run LEDs will be lit. Note: Some amplifiers that have been custom-configured may require that you press the Enable button to bring the amplifier to the Ready state.
3. On the first amplifier only, press the Stop button to place the amplifier in Standby mode.
4. Verify that all amplifiers in the system enter Standby mode (Standby LED is lit).



Figure 4.9 – Terminating the Amplifier Input

4.7 Adjust DC Offset

1. Power down all amplifiers.
2. Remove the amplifiers' Access Panels (7224) or front panel (7548/7796) to access the main board for each amplifier (see **Sections 4.2.1 and 4.2.2**).
3. On each amplifier main board, locate the Amp Offset (R65) (see **Figure 4.10**).
4. Power up all amplifiers in the system and run the amplifiers for several minutes in Ready state to allow DC offsets to stabilize.
5. Using a digital voltmeter set to DC, measure across the amplifier's back-panel output connector terminals (OUTPUT to COM or SAMPLED COMMON) to verify that the DC offset of each amplifier is less than 5 mVdc. See **Figure 4.11**.
6. If the DC offset for any amplifier is greater than 5 mVdc, adjust each amplifier using the Amp Offset (R65) on the amplifier main board. Adjust each amplifier's DC offset to read as closely as possible to zero.



Figure 4.10 – Main Board Balancing Control Locations

4.8 Wire and Connect Parallel Inputs

IMPORTANT FOR 7224 PARALLEL SYSTEMS: In order to ensure the amplifiers used in a 7224 Parallel system maintain a matched gain while operating, the variable gain controls located on each amplifier's front panel must be disabled. Refer to **Section 4.3** to complete this process before connecting the inputs to your system.

1. Power down the amplifiers.
2. Remove all amplifier input terminations.
3. Use the jump wires included in the Parallel Wiring Kit and the Removable Barrier Block connectors that ship with each amplifier to create a paralleled input signal wire as shown in **Figure 4.12**. Wire one input connector for each amplifier in your system.
4. You can use balanced wiring (shown), or you can build the wire for unbalanced input. If using unbalanced wiring, switch the INPUT SELECT switch located on the SIM-BNC input card on each amplifier to the LEFT position (unbalanced setting).
5. Alternately, you can connect an unbalanced input signal to the SIM-BNC's BNC input connector using the optional BNC PARALLEL INPUT KIT as shown in **Figure 4.13**. Set the INPUT SELECT switch located on the SIM-BNC input card on each amplifier to the LEFT position (unbalanced setting).
6. Connect the input wire to a signal generator and to each amplifier in your system.

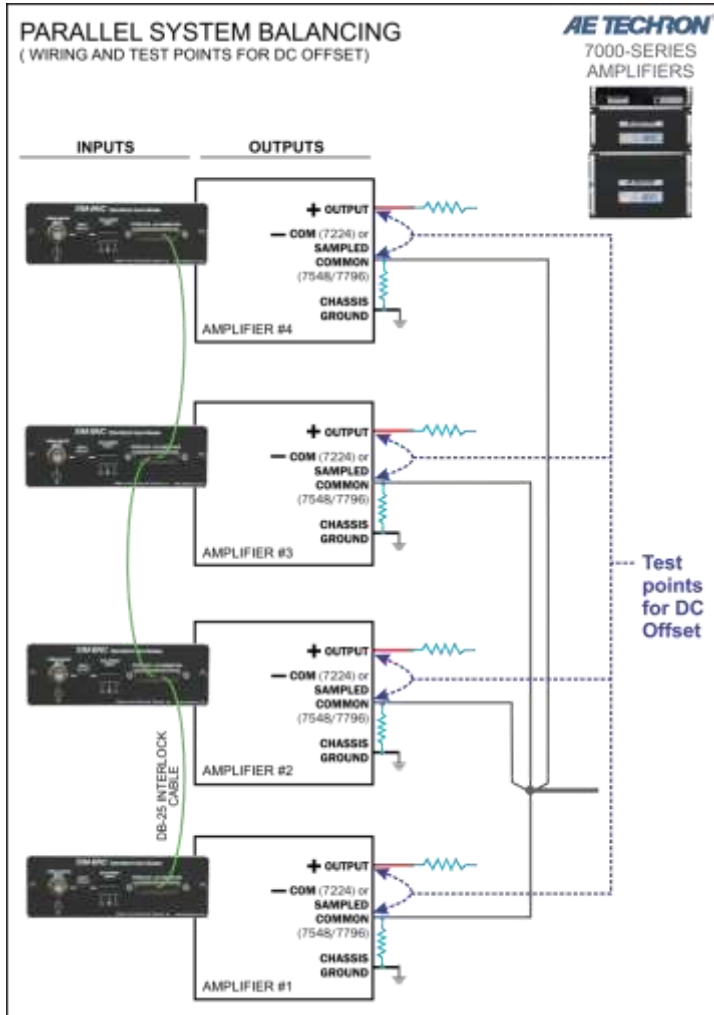


Figure 4.11 – Wiring and Test Points for DC Offset

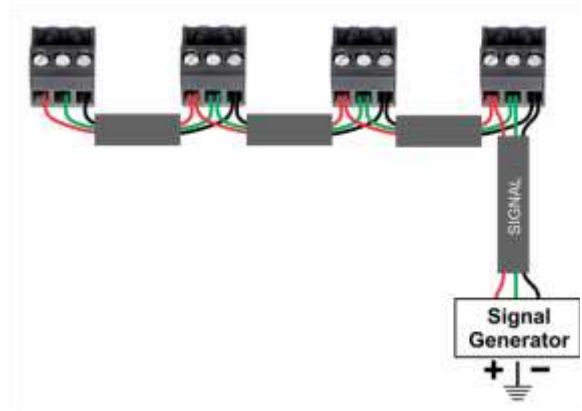


Figure 4.12 – Wiring the Paralleled Input Wire



Figure 4.13 – Optional BNC Parallel Input Wiring
(Three in Parallel shown)

4.9 Verify and Adjust Amplifier Gain

1. On the main board of each amplifier, locate the Amp Gain Trim (R210) (see **Figure 4.10**).
2. Connect a digital voltmeter set to AC volts between the OUTPUT and COM terminals of the first amplifier. See **Figure 4.14**.
3. Power up the first amplifier.
4. Apply a sine wave to the amplifier input of approximately 5Vrms (100-500 Hz). This should result in about 100Vrms output from the amplifier (assuming a fixed gain of 20).
5. If voltmeter indicates an output greater or lesser than 100 Vrms, adjust Amp Gain Trim (R210) to correct.
6. Power up and repeat this procedure for the second amplifier and all other amplifiers in your system.

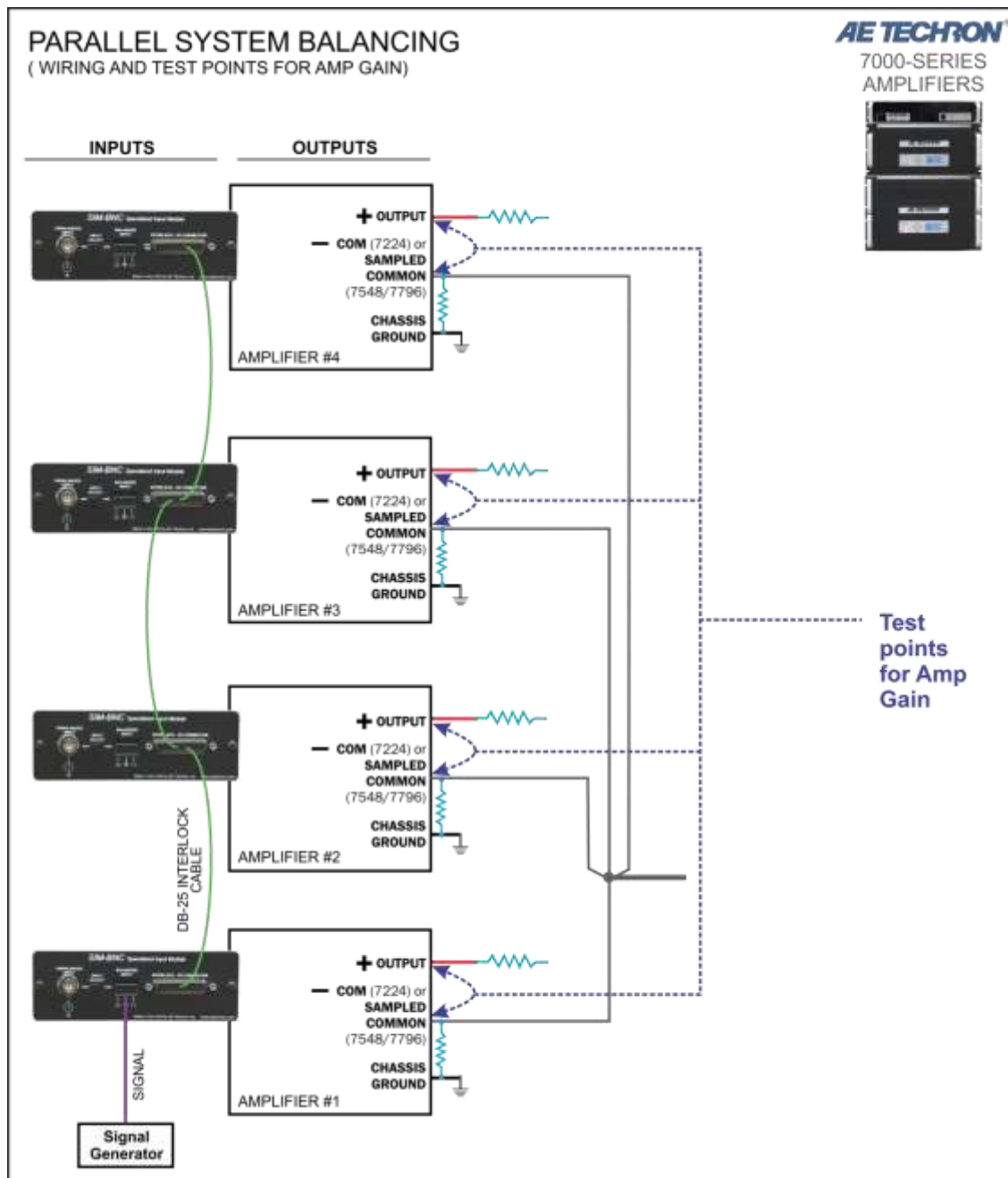


Figure 4.14– Wiring and Test Points for Amp Gain

4.10 Amplifier Gain Matching

1. Connect a digital voltmeter set to AC volts between the positive outputs of the first and the second amplifier (see **Figure 4.15**).
2. Adjust Amp Gain Trim (R210) on the second amplifier for minimum AC voltage (millivolts).
3. Repeat the process of checking gain between the first amplifier and any additional amplifiers in your system.
4. Continue checking and adjusting until the gain of all amplifiers in the system is matching to within millivolts.

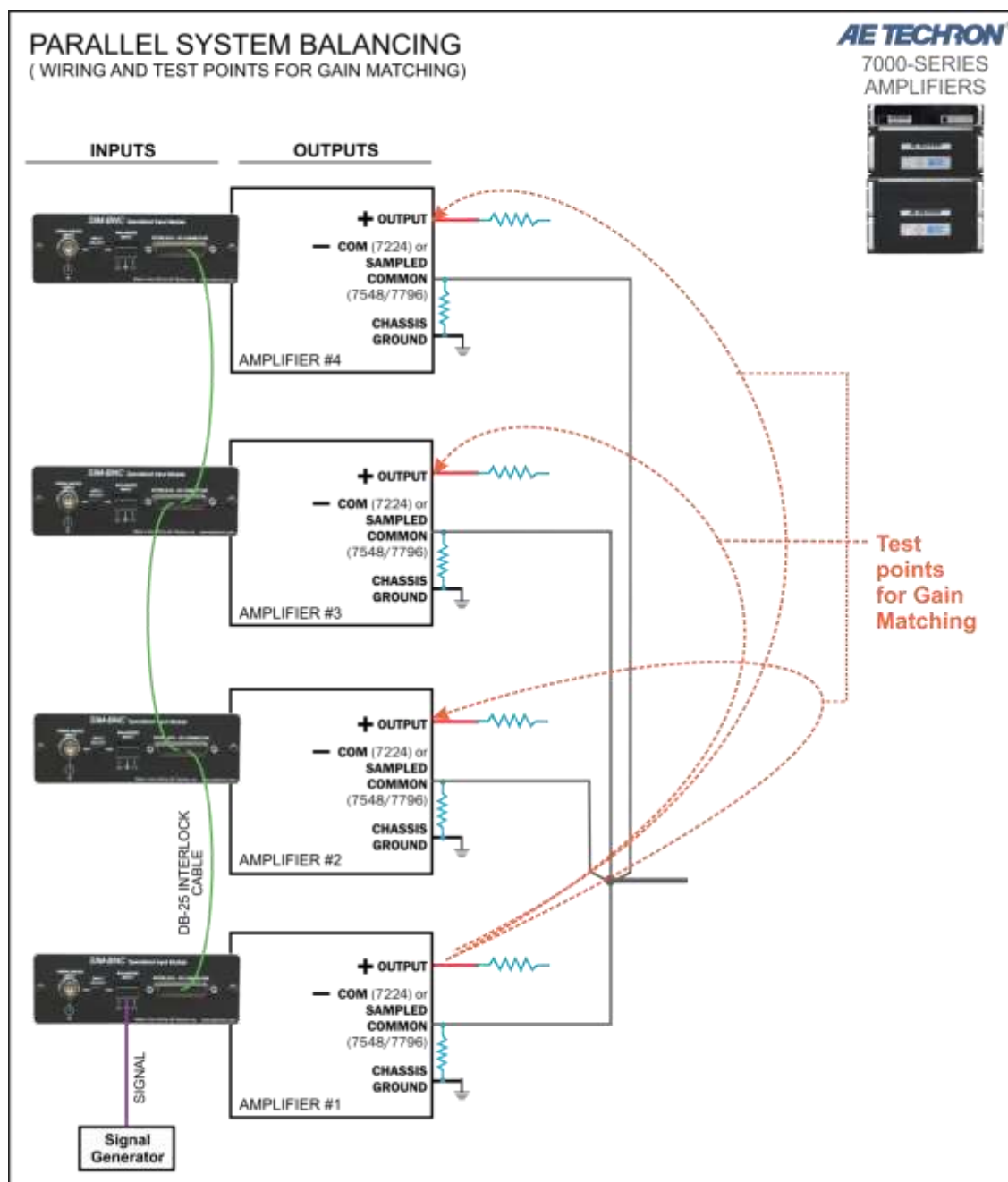


Figure 4.15– Wiring and Test Points for Gain Matching

4.11 Verify Minimal Circulating Currents

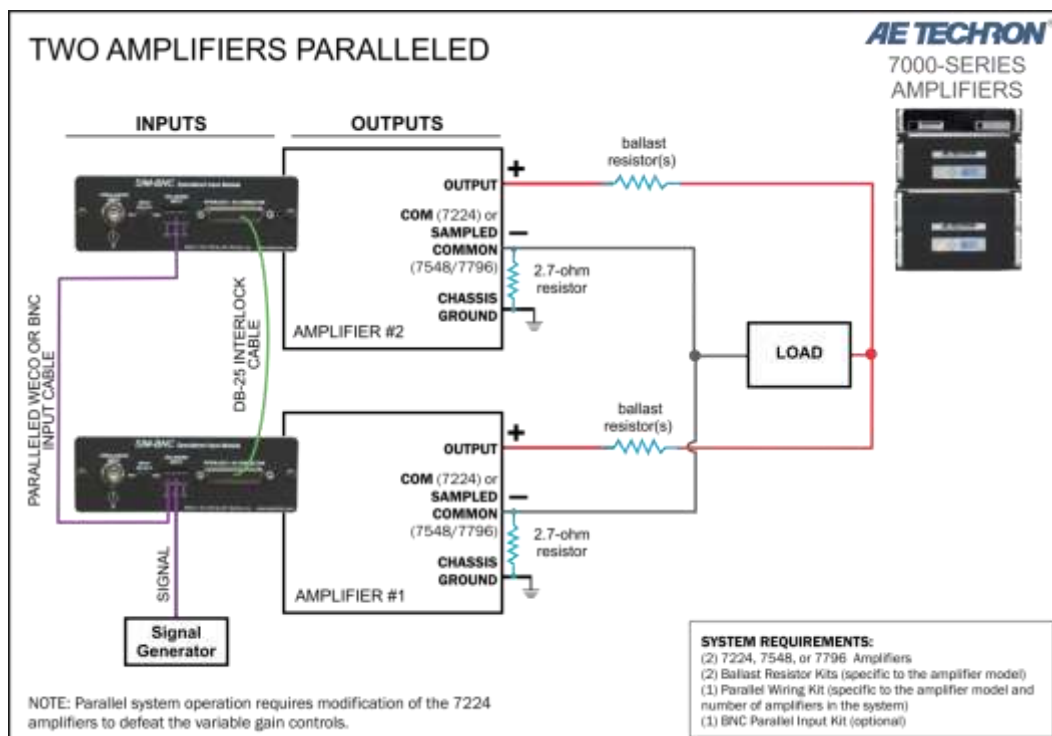
1. Power down the amplifiers.
2. On each amplifier, connect one ring terminal end of your RED output cable to the ballast resistor on each amplifier back panel. **Note: Do not connect the LOAD at this time.**
3. Using a digital voltmeter set to AC volts, connect between the positive outputs of the first and second amplifier (OUTPUT to OUTPUT). Verify a meter reading of less than 0.2 mV. Check any additional amplifiers in your system.
4. Continue to monitor the DVM readings while turning signal input level up to the level required for your application.

**WARNING**

ELECTRIC SHOCK HAZARD. Output potentials from the amplifiers can be lethal. Make connections only with amplifiers' AC power OFF and input signals removed.

4.12 Verify Current Sharing

1. Power down the amplifiers.
2. Connect your load to the two output cables. Connect the positive terminal of your load to the red cable connected to the amplifier ballast resistors. Connect the negative terminal of your load to the black cable connected to the amplifier COM terminals.
3. Check to ensure that all system wiring has been correctly installed as shown in the following system diagrams (see **Figure 4.16, 4.170 or 4.18**).
4. Starting with a signal input approximately 10% of the typical input required for your application, power up the amplifiers.
5. Using a digital voltmeter set to AC volts, connect between the positive outputs of the amplifiers (Amplifier #1 OUTPUT to Amplifier #2 OUTPUT). Verify a meter reading of less than 200 mV. Check additional amplifiers in your system.
6. Continue to monitor the DVM readings while turning signal input level up to the level required for your application.

**Figure 4.16 – Two Amplifiers Paralleled**

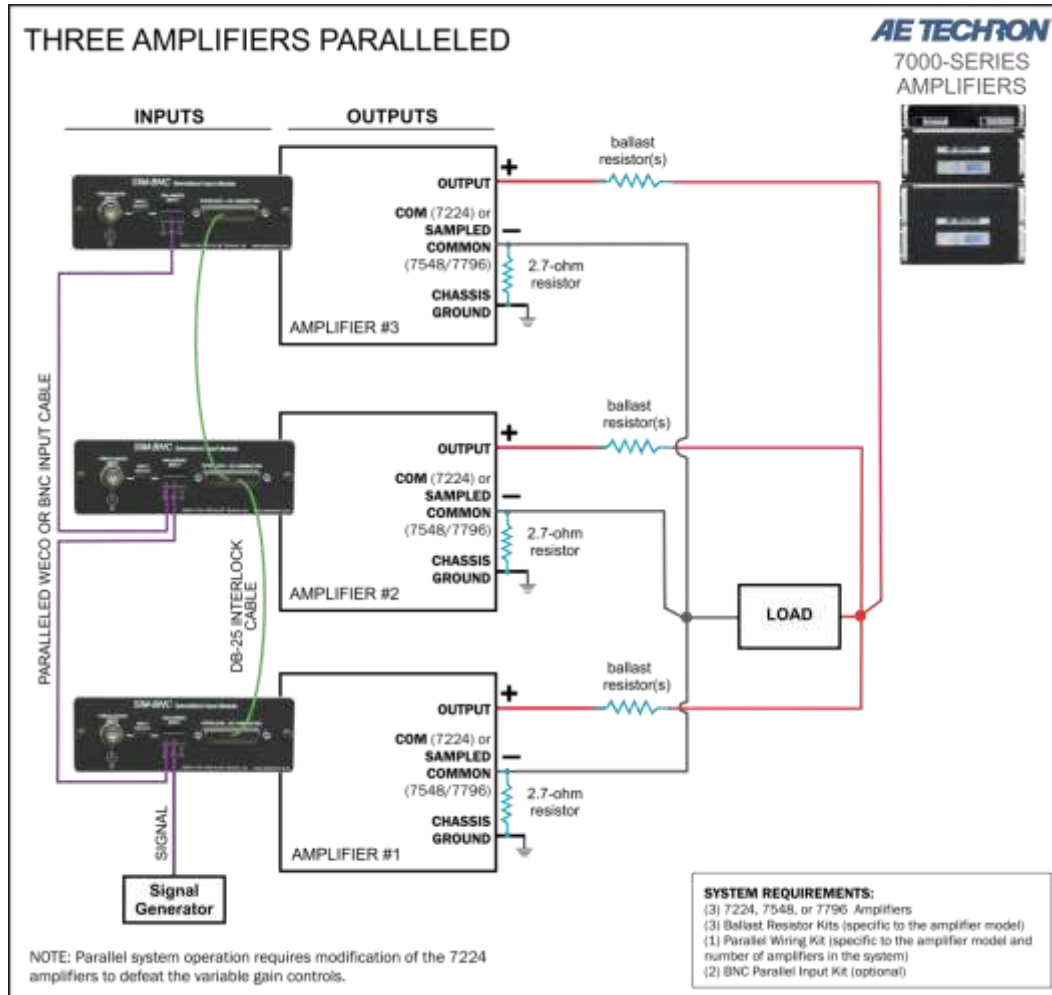


Figure 4.17 – Three Amplifiers Paralleled

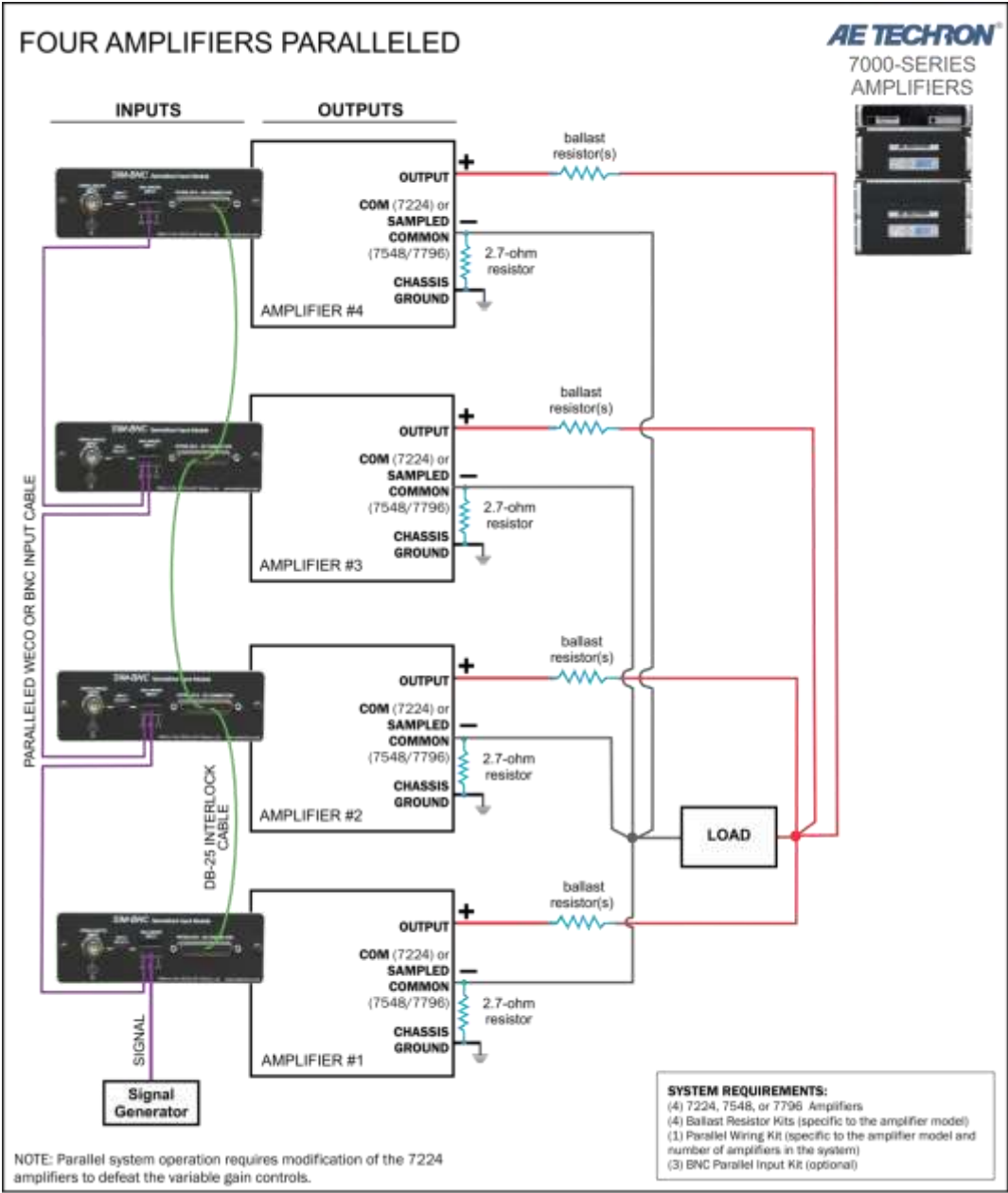


Figure 4.18 – Four Amplifiers Paralleled

Appendix A: Wire Current-Carrying Capacity

Wire size or gauge should be selected to exceed the expected current it will carry. The chart below shows the minimum matching requirements of wire gauge and continuous duty amperage limits.

Continuous Duty Current* (Amperes)	American Wire Gauge (AWG)	Diameter (mm)	Diameter Mils (.001 in)
200	000	10.40	410
175	00	9.27	365
150	0	8.25	325
125	1	7.35	289
100	2	6.54	258
80	4	5.19	204
60	6	4.12	162
46	8	3.26	128
33	10	2.59	102
23	12	2.05	81
17	14	1.63	64
13	16	1.29	51
10	18	1.02	40

**Minimum value for insulated wire in free air (i.e. not bundled).*

Figure A-1 – Wire Current-Carrying Capacity Chart

Appendix B: Critical Wire Lengths in Parallel Systems

In **Parallel** applications, the output wiring branches to each amplifier should match within $\pm 1/4$ inch.

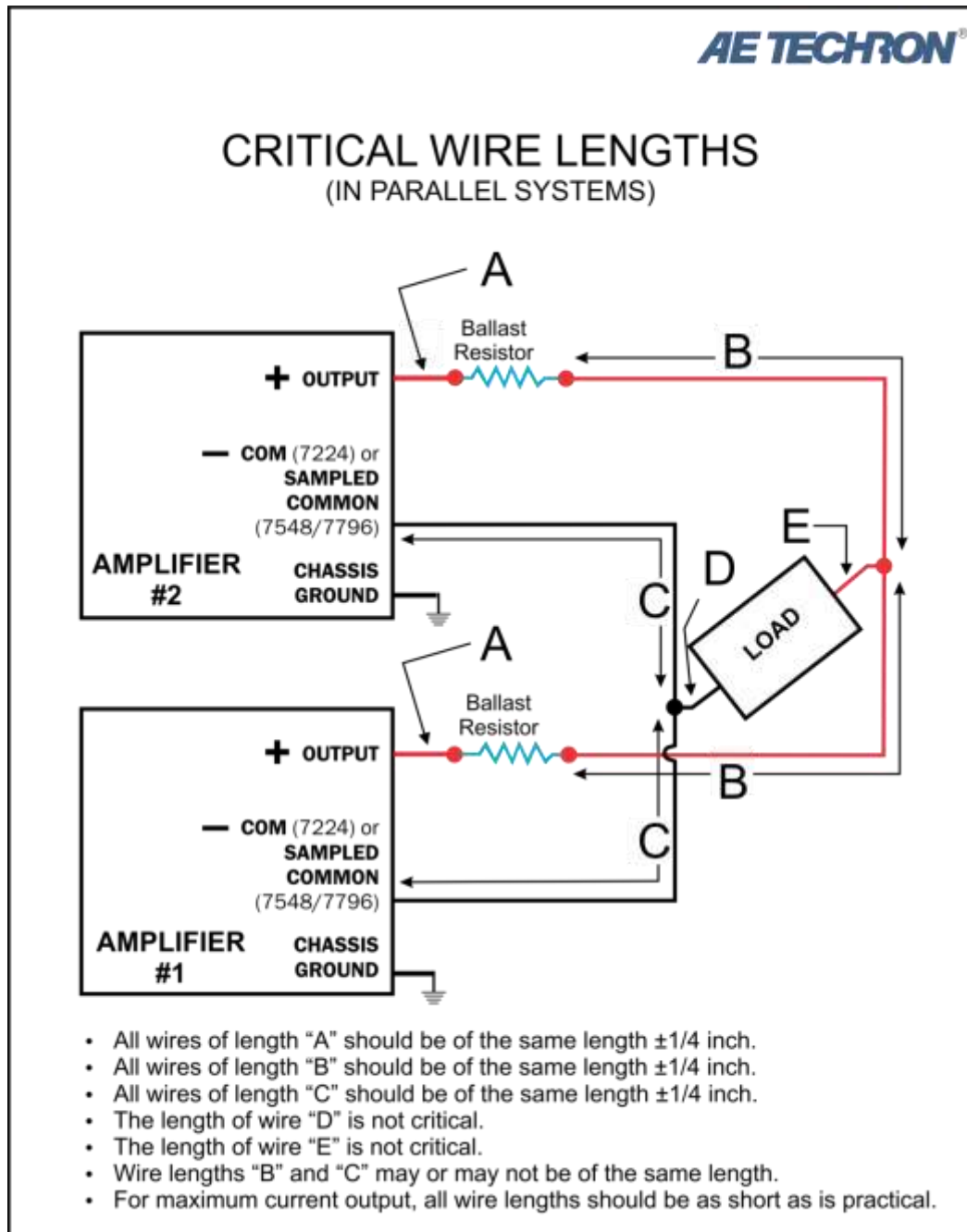


Figure B-1 – Critical Wire Lengths in Parallel Systems

Appendix C: Building Parallel System Output Cables

The Parallel Wiring Kits available through AE Techron include pre-built cables to be used for Output connections. This section describes how to build your own output cables, if you so choose.

Select wire appropriate for your application, load and expected output. For **7224** Parallel systems, 10 AWG wire will be suitable for most applications. For **7548** Parallel systems, 8 AWG wire will typically be required. **7796** Parallel systems with a high-impedance load and continuous output at less than 60 Arms can typically be wired with 6 AWG wire. However for 7796 systems running high-current, continuous-duty applications, #4 welding wire may be necessary.

If a jump wire is used to connect from the parallel output cables to the load, it should be capable of carrying the expected total current output of the system. See **Appendix A: Wire Current-Carrying Capacity** for assistance in determining the requirements for your system.

IMPORTANT: In a paralleled system, it is important to control the lengths of output cables. Output cables should be between 2.5 and 4.0 feet in length, and the lengths of each leg of the output cables should match within $\pm 1/4$ -inch. See **Appendix B: Critical Wire Lengths**, for information on critical cable lengths for paralleled systems.

1. Build two cables for output wiring. Each cable should contain one leg for each amplifier in your system. Color-code the cables using RED for the cable to connect to the positive terminal of the load; use BLACK for the cable to connect to the ground terminal of the load.
2. The wires should be terminated at one end into a spade lug, ring terminal or other terminal suitable for the system output and adaptable to the connectors on the load.
3. Terminate each of the legs of the RED cable with ring terminal ends to facilitate connection to each ballast resistor.
4. The legs of the BLACK cable should be un-terminated to facilitate connection into the amplifier's barrier block COM connector.

See **Figure C-1** for sample output cables (used for a two-in-parallel system).

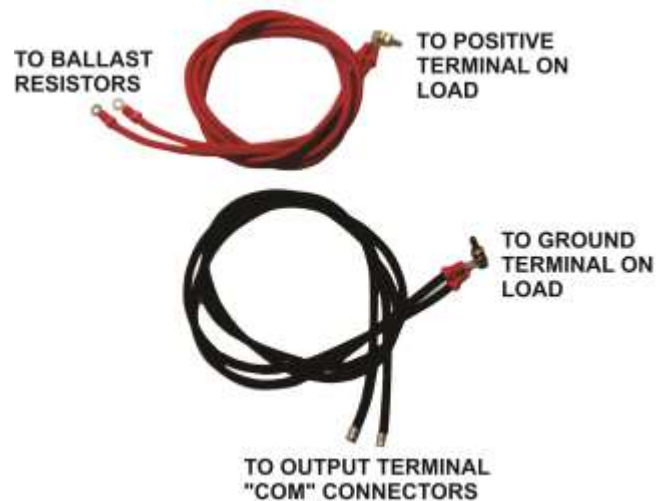


Figure C-1 – Output Cables constructed for use in a Two-in-Parallel System

Appendix D: Building the DB-25 Interlock Cable

Parallel Wiring Kits are available through AE Techron that include a pre-built cable to be used for the Interlock connections. This section describes how to build your own DB-25 cable, if you so choose.

1. Using DB-25 connectors and light-gauge, single-conductor, shielded wire, build a cable as shown in **Figure D-1**.
2. On each connector, connect to Pin 4.
3. On one of the end DB-25 connectors, attach the shield to Pin 17. Label this connector for use on Amplifier #1 in the system.

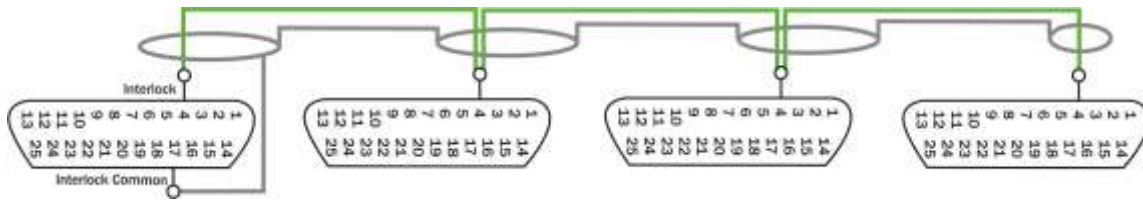


Figure D-1 – DB-25 Cable Wiring for a Four-in-Parallel System

Appendix E: Returning Slave Amplifiers to Stand-Alone Use

The configuration settings required for Series system operation must be returned to the factory-default settings before a Slave amplifier can be used as a stand-alone amplifier. To reconfigure your Slave amplifiers for stand-alone use, complete the following.

Amplifier Main Board Settings

IMPORTANT: Before accessing the Main Board, make sure the amplifier is turned off for at least 3-5 minutes and the AC mains are disconnected.

Accessing the 7224 Amplifier Main Board

7224 amplifiers contain an Access Panel built into the top cover to allow easy access to the amplifier main board for configuration of the Master/Slave setting.

1. On each 7224 amplifier that has been configured for Slave operation, locate the Access Panel as shown in Figure E-1. Make sure that all 8 screws are accessible. Remove the unit from its rack, if necessary.
2. Using a #2 Phillips screwdriver, remove the 8 screws located on the top and side of the amplifier.
3. Remove the Access Panel and set it aside.

Accessing the Main Board on 7548/7796 Amplifiers

The 7548 or 7796 amplifier Main Board can be accessed by removing the amplifier front panel.

1. Turn the power to the amplifier "OFF".
2. Remove the four hex-head screws, located along the left and right edges of the amplifier front panel.
3. Remove the front cover by pulling straight towards you.

Set Master/Slave Jumpers

On the main board, locate the jumpers P1 and P2 (Master/Slave). For Master operation, set both jumpers to the UP position (upper two pins shorted). See **Figure E-2** for jumper locations.

Re-install Output Terminal Resistor

For each Slave amplifier that has been configured for Series – Single Ended Output configurations, it is important to re-install the output terminal resistor.

On each Slave amplifier back panel, re-install the resistor connecting the terminals labeled COM (7224 amplifiers) or SAMPLED COMMON (7548 and 7796 amplifiers) and CHASSIS GROUND on the output connector. See **Figures E-3 and E-4**.



Figure E-1 – 7224 Access Panel Screw Locations

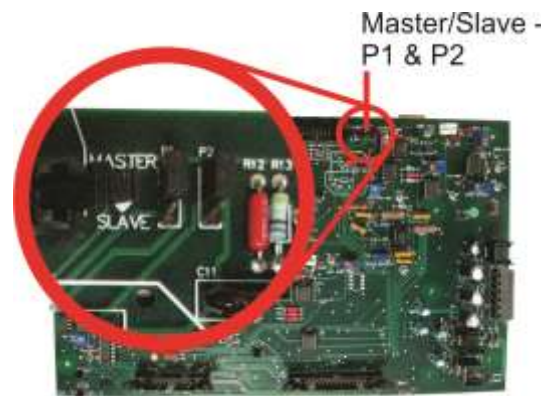


Figure E-2 – Master/Slave Jumper Locations

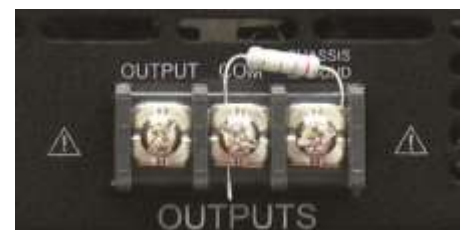


Figure E-3 – 7224 Output Terminal Resistor

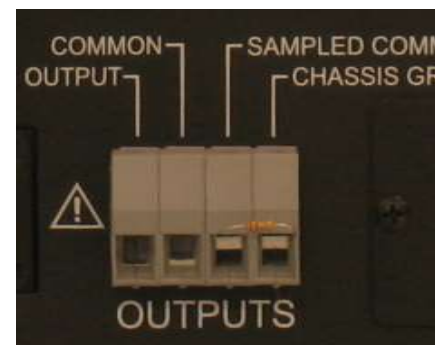


Figure E-4 – 7548/7796 Output Terminal Resistor

Remove Slave Labels (optional)

We recommended removing any “Slave” amplifier labels to avoid later confusion or errors.

Reconfigure SIM-BNC-OPTOC Cards.

Refer to Figure E-5 for SIM-BNC-OPTOC factory-default settings. Note that for normal stand-alone operation, jumpers J6 and J7 (Master/Slave) should be returned to the factory defaults. Stand-alone amplifiers can operate with jumpers J4 (Balanced/Unbalanced) and J5 (Ground Lifted/Chassis Ground) set to either selection, depending on the user’s preference. Jumpers J12 and J13 (Slave Phase Inversion) are not active when a SIM-BNC-OPTOC card is configured for stand-alone/master use, so the setting of this jumpers will not affect stand-alone operation.

7000-Series amplifiers can operate as stand-alone amplifiers using the SIM-BNC-OPTOC as the input card. Or, if you prefer, the SIM-BNC-OPTOC card can be removed and the standard SIM-BNC input card re-installed for stand-alone use.

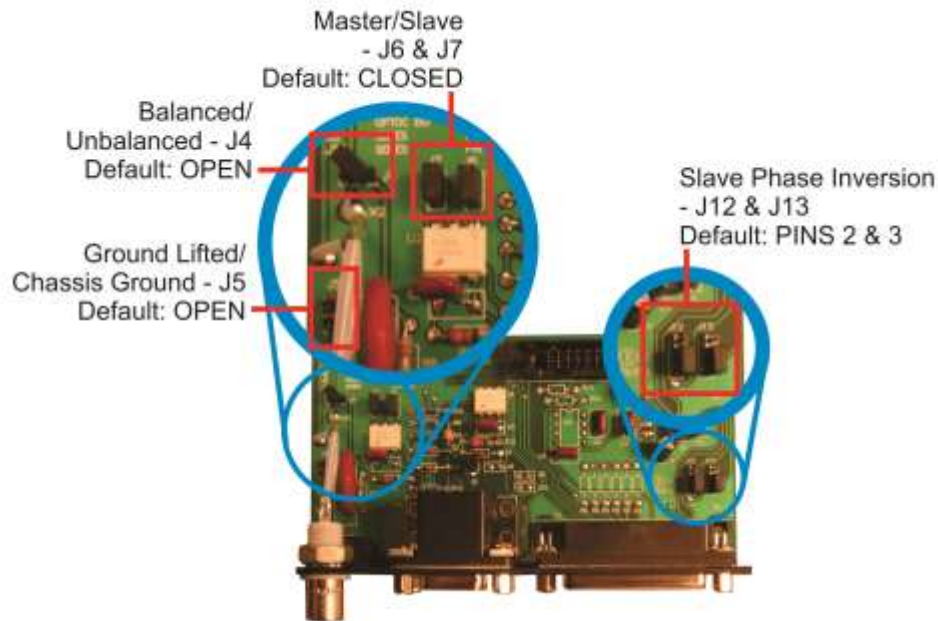


Figure E-5 – SIM-BNC-OPTOC, Factory Default Settings