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# Nº532

DUAL-MONO POWER AMPLIFIER





mark levinson

POWER AMPLIFIER  
N° 532

standby



power





# N°532

## DUAL-MONO POWER AMPLIFIER

### POWER

Power amplification is a critical determining factor in the performance of any home entertainment system. The amplifier must be powerful and versatile enough to drive the most demanding loudspeaker loads, yet it must exercise its power with the grace and effortlessness essential to high-quality sound.

To create the optimal power-delivery system, the chassis of the N°532 is compartmentalized to protect the delicate audio circuits from interference and noise. The rear portion of the amplifier is divided into three distinct piers. Control and power circuitry reside in the center pier, while circuitry for each audio channel resides in the outer piers. Power transformers are separately housed at the front of the chassis. In addition to safely isolating the audio circuits, this unconventional design results in very short signal and power-delivery paths, and creates additional heatsink surfaces for improved cooling.

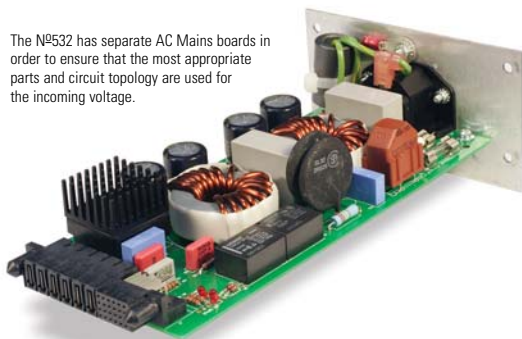
The internal layout of the N°532 is exceptionally clean. Because bus bars are used for all high-current interchanges, there's no need for point-to-point wires or ribbon cables. Special care was taken in the design and implementation of the voltage-regulator circuitry. Multiple discrete regulator circuits, with series and shunt elements custom-tailored to the audio circuits they power, are mounted on separate boards, close to their audio signal paths. This minimizes cross talk and prevents the corruption of low-level signals, resulting in higher resolution, better bass definition, greater focus and more precise control of dynamics.

The extremely low-noise toroidal power transformers used in the N°532 are custom-designed to Mark Levinson specifications. They feature an interwinding screen between the coils, which filters mains-born noise from the secondary power supply. This helps ensure that any capacitance from the windings is stepped down, preventing it from reaching the audio circuits. A separate dedicated power supply for the voltage-gain stages provides double isolation between the main audio supply and the higher current that powers the rest of the amplifier, ensuring minimal noise introduction. The power supplies are placed close to each other to maximize magnetic-field cancellation, but they are placed as far away from the audio signal path as possible, further reducing the potential for interference.

### SIGNAL PATH

The signal paths for both audio channels of the N°532 are electrically identical and contain no relays, capacitors or inductors. This helps maintain very low output impedance levels, and minimizes nonlinearity. The compact design of the circuitry, made possible by an advanced new generation of semiconductors, allows the signal path to be tighter and shorter than in previous Mark Levinson dual-mono amplifiers, reducing parasitic capacitances and minimizing propagation delay and phase shift. The result is a faster, wider bandwidth with minimal signal degradation.

The N<sup>o</sup>532 has separate AC Mains boards in order to ensure that the most appropriate parts and circuit topology are used for the incoming voltage.



## I/Os

The first non-Reference Mark Levinson amplifier to be fully differential, the N<sup>o</sup>532 provides both RCA and XLR connectors that accept balanced signals directly into the input stage of the amplifier, with no additional circuitry. Each phase of the differential input has identical electrical properties. The input and voltage-gain stages are tightly matched to maximize the rejection of common mode signals. Stopping such noise at the input stage prevents it from ever reaching the speakers. And because the amplifier is differential on both the RCA and XLR inputs, it handles signals in their “native” format, ensuring that no noise is introduced through unnecessary signal conversions.

The audio signal output path contains 24 output devices per channel, providing impressive power while minimizing crossover distortion. The output devices are arrayed on two separate output stages, which are placed close to one another for ideally balanced transfer characteristics and maximum cancellation of magnetic fields.

## CONTROL AND COMMUNICATION

As music and cinema systems continue to grow more complex, integrating individual components takes on greater importance. To address the increasing demand for more flexible control and communications capabilities, the N<sup>o</sup>532 features ML Net and Link2 functionality.

These are proprietary Mark Levinson protocols for communication between two or more similarly equipped Mark Levinson components. The N<sup>o</sup>532 can be easily integrated with and controlled by other Mark Levinson devices, with functionality that includes automatic on/standby toggling and LED synchronization. The

N<sup>o</sup>532 also provides traditional 12V input and output triggers to synchronize On/Standby status with devices that do not include ML Net or Link2 functionality. And an RS-232 port is provided for control by third-party automation systems such as those from Crestron and AMX.

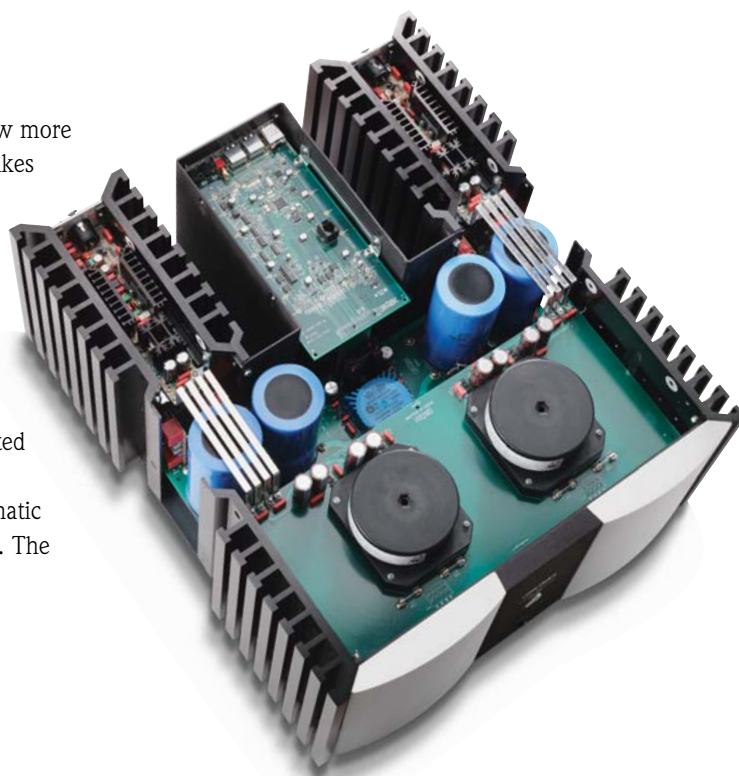
## THE N<sup>o</sup>532 EXPERIENCE

Mark Levinson power amplifiers are known – many would say renowned – for performance that actively engages critical listeners on an emotional level. They invite your total involvement in music and movies of any genre from any source, creating a wondrously deep, richly detailed soundstage that seems to extend well beyond the boundaries of your listening space.

The new N<sup>o</sup>532 dual-mono power amplifier is endowed with an expressive voice that renders the entire audio spectrum in astonishing detail with effortless authority, and it draws on a reserve of power that even the most demanding speaker load is unlikely to test.

Equally suitable in a world-class dual-mono system or a multichannel music and theater system, the N<sup>o</sup>532 combines truly impressive output and remarkable sound quality – as we’re certain even reticent audiophiles will readily acknowledge.

Located at the top of each amplifier channel, the voltage-gain (VG) board is made from Arlon 25N PCB laminate. It uses superior components, including WIMA film capacitors and Vishay Bulk Metal<sup>®</sup> foil resistors. The voltage-regulator (VR) board can be seen in one view sandwiched underneath the VG board.





## N°532 Dual-Mono Power Amplifier

<b>Input and output connectors</b>	Two balanced XLR inputs Two unbalanced RCA inputs Two "Hurricane" loudspeaker outputs with banana-plug sockets (banana-plug sockets not available on the 230V AC models)
<b>Control connectors</b>	Two Link2 ports One Ethernet port One 3.5mm mono (tip/sleeve) mini plug trigger input, 3V–12V DC One 3.5mm mono (tip/sleeve) mini plug trigger output, 3V–12V DC 3-Pin IEC standard power connector
<b>Rated output power</b>	20Hz to 20kHz at <0.5% THD, 400W per channel @ 8Ω, full output from 2.59Vrms
<b>Frequency response</b>	Within 0.1dB from 10Hz to 20kHz
<b>Signal-to-noise ratio</b>	>85dB, reference level: 2.83Vrms
<b>Input impedance</b>	100 kΩ (balanced); 50 kΩ (unbalanced)
<b>Voltage gain</b>	26.8dB
<b>Input sensitivity</b>	2.83Vrms output at 130mVrms input
<b>Output impedance</b>	<20 mΩ, 20Hz to 20kHz
<b>Power requirements</b>	100V~, 120V~, 230V~, 800W, factory-set for destination country
<b>Dimensions</b>	Height (with feet): 9-9/16" (243mm) Height (without feet): 8-3/4" (222mm) Width: 17-1/2" (445mm) Depth: 21-1/8" (536mm)
<b>Weight</b>	Net weight: 121.5 lb (55.2kg) Shipping weight: 129.5 lb (58.8kg)
<b>Operating environment</b>	Operating temperature: 0° to 35°C (32° to 95°F) Storage temperature: -30° to 75°C (-22° to 167°F) Relative humidity: 95% maximum without condensation



Each amplifier channel utilizes two current-gain (CG) boards for the balanced output drivers. The CG boards are made from Arlon 25N, which was chosen for its superior dielectric characteristics.

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Part No. ML532LIT 8/08

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