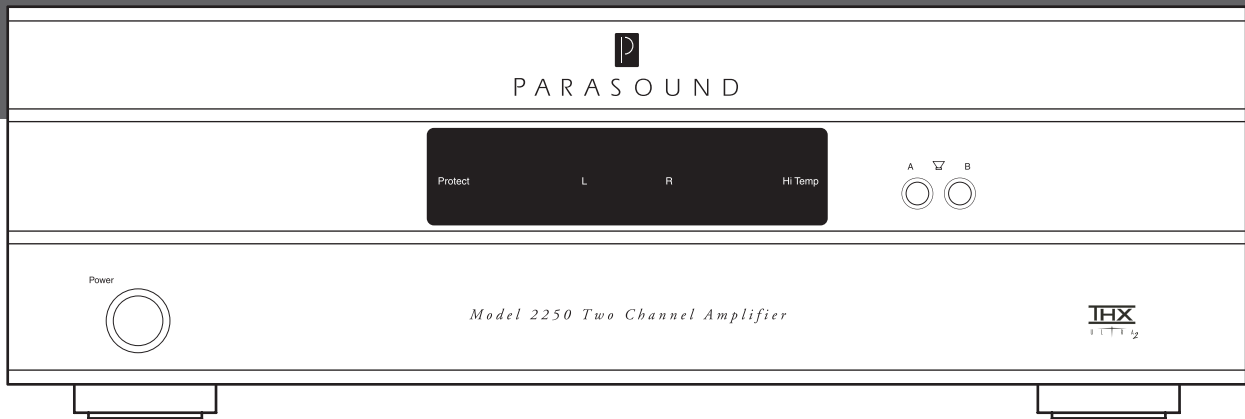




PARASOUND  
NEW CLASSIC



# Model 2250

## Two Channel Power Amplifier

OWNER'S GUIDE



## IMPORTANT SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

The lightning flash with the arrowhead symbol within an equilateral triangle is intended to alert the user to the presence of “dangerous voltage” inside the product that may constitute a risk of electric shock.

The exclamation point within an equilateral triangle is intended to alert the user to the presence of important operating and maintenance instructions in the literature accompanying the product.

### **TO REDUCE THE RISK OF ELECTRIC SHOCK, DO NOT REMOVE COVER. NO USER-SERVICEABLE PARTS INSIDE. REFER SERVICING TO QUALIFIED SERVICE PERSONNEL**

1. **Read Instructions** — Read all the safety and operating instructions before operating this product.
2. **Retain Instructions** — Retain safety and operating instructions for future reference.
3. **Heed Warnings** — Adhere to all warnings on the product and in the operating instructions.
4. **Follow Instructions** — Follow all operating and use instructions.
5. **Cleaning** — Unplug this product from the wall outlet before cleaning. Use a damp cloth for cleaning. Clean the outside of the product only.
6. **Attachments** — Do not use attachments that are not recommended by the product manufacturer; they may be hazardous.
7. **Water and Moisture** — Do not use this product near water.
8. **Accessories** — Do not place this product on an unstable cart or stand. The product may fall, causing bodily injury and damage to the product. A product and cart combination should be moved with care. Quick stops, excessive force, and uneven surfaces may cause the product and cart to overturn.
9. **Ventilation** — Slots and openings in the cabinet are provided for ventilation to ensure reliable operation of the product and to protect it from overheating. These openings must not be blocked or covered. This product should not be placed in a built-in installation such as a bookcase or rack unless proper ventilation is provided.
10. **Power Sources** — Operate this product only from the type of power source indicated on the label. If you are not sure of the type of power supply to your home, consult your dealer or local power company. This product is equipped with a three-prong grounding plug. This plug will only fit into a grounding power outlet. If you are unable to insert the plug into the outlet, contact your electrician to replace your obsolete outlet. Do not defeat the safety purpose of the grounding plug.
11. **Power Cord Protection** — Power supply cords should be routed so that they are not likely to be walked on or pinched by items placed upon or against them.
12. **Lightning** — Unplug the unit from the wall outlet for added protection during a lightning storm and when it is left unattended and unused for long periods of time. This will prevent damage to the product due to lightning and power line surges.
13. **Overloading** — Do not overload wall outlets or extension cords. This can result in a fire or electric shock.
14. **Inserting Objects into Unit** — Never push objects of any kind into this product through any openings; they may touch dangerous voltage points or short out parts that could result in fire or electric shock.
15. **Servicing** — Do not attempt to repair or service this product yourself. Opening or removing covers may expose you to dangerous voltage and other hazards. Refer all servicing to qualified service personnel.
16. **Damage Requiring Service** — Unplug this product from the wall outlet and refer servicing to qualified service personnel under the following conditions: **a)** If the power-supply cord or plug is damaged. **b)** If liquid has been spilled into the product. **c)** If the product has been exposed to rain or water. **d)** If the product does not operate normally by following the operating instructions. **e)** If the product has been dropped or damaged in any way. **f)** If the product exhibits a distinct change in performance.
17. **Replacement Parts** — When replacement parts are required, be sure the service technician has used replacement parts specified by the manufacturer. Unauthorized substitutions may result in fire, electric shock, and other hazards.
19. **Safety Check** — Upon completion of any service or repairs to this product, ask the service technician to perform safety checks to determine that the product is in proper operating condition.
20. **Wall or Ceiling Mounting** — Mount the product to a wall or ceiling only as recommended.
21. **Heat** — The product should be situated away from heat sources such as radiators, heat registers, stoves, and other products (including amplifiers) that produce heat.

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Congratulations and thank you for your purchase of this precision Parasound audio component.

The Parasound Model 2250 is the latest generation of popular and proven audio power amplifiers dating back to 1981. It has been designed for a wide variety of applications, establishing a new standard for audio performance, user-friendliness and utility in custom installations.

The versatility of the Model 2250 allows many connection and configuration options, so please be sure to read this manual thoroughly before you begin installation.

### ***Unpacking***

Carefully unpack your Model 2250 and these accessories:

- Detachable AC power cord
- Black trigger wire with a 2.5 mm sub-mini plug at both ends
- Black trigger wire with a 2.5 mm plug at one end, 3.5mm mini plug at the other end

Please inspect the unit now and contact your Parasound Dealer promptly if you see evidence of shipping damage. Save the carton and packing inserts in case you move or in the event you need to ship your amplifier for repair. Before you proceed, locate the serial number on the rear panel or underside of the unit and record it here for future reference:

#### **OWNERSHIP REFERENCE INFORMATION**

Parasound Model 2250 Amplifier Serial #:

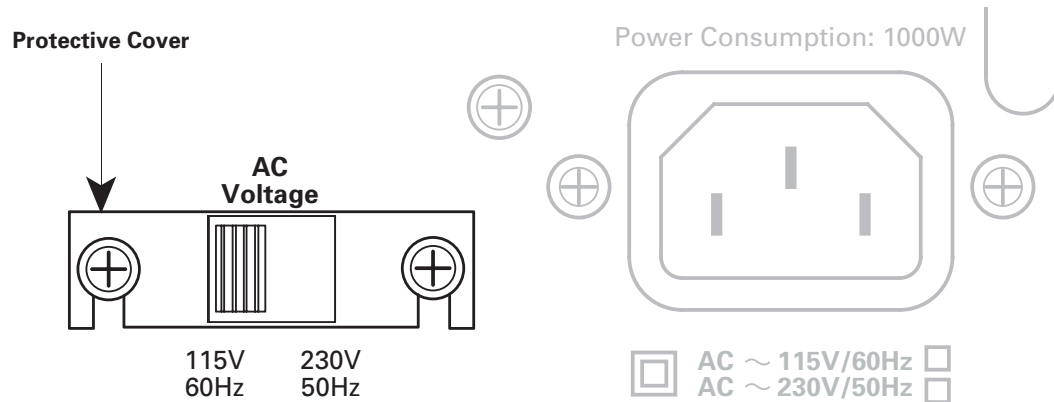
Parasound Dealer:

Dealer Phone Number: (  ) -

Date of Purchase:  /  /

## 115v - 230v AC Voltage Selector Switch

This switch is found on the chassis rear panel. The 115V position of this switch is correct for North America; most other regions require setting it to 230V. Make sure the 115/230V switch is set for the correct AC line (mains) voltage before you connect the Model 2250's power cord and before you install it. The unit may be seriously damaged if this switch is set incorrectly.



## Installation and Ventilation Requirements

Install your Model 2250 away from heat sources such as heating ducts, radiators, or other heat producing components. Always position it horizontally.

Observe the following ventilation guidelines when installing the Model 2250 in an equipment rack or any other enclosed space:

You should never install the Model 2250 in an unventilated equipment cabinet or compartment because hot air will not exhaust adequately to prevent overheating. Air won't often circulate adequately in a cabinet or enclosure whose front and back sides are open; pockets of intense heat can still develop around any heat-producing equipment. Therefore, a ventilation fan is highly recommended. Allow a few inches of empty space on each side and above the unit and try to avoid crowding or stacking the Model 2250 tightly between other components. A ventilation fan is also recommended where other equipment must be mounted close to the Model 2250.

Do not place the unit on carpeting or any other material that could obstruct air flow into the ventilation holes in its chassis bottom.

## Rack Mounting

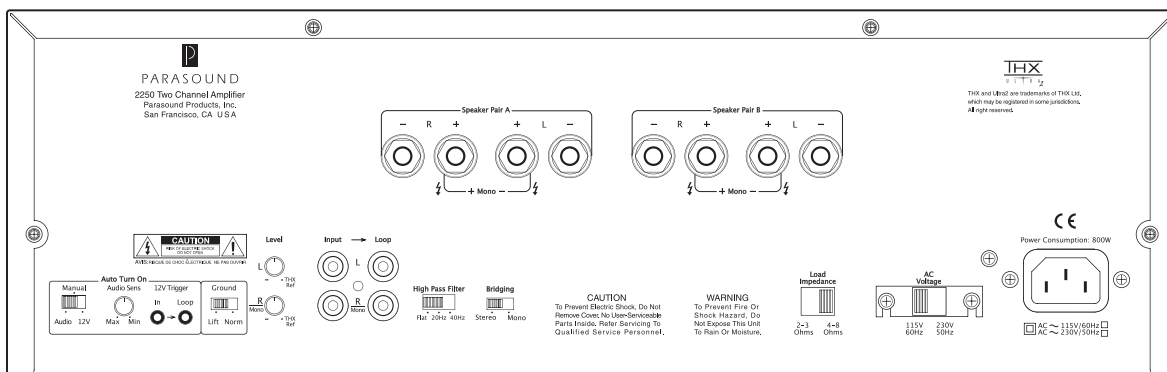
The Model 2250 front panel occupies only three rack spaces in a standard 19" equipment rack.

For rack mounting, you'll need to use the Parasound RMK33 rack mounting kit (purchased separately). We recommend that you use the 8 insulated shoulder washers with the four mounting bolts which are included with the RMK33. Position these washers on both sides so they "sandwich" the front panel before the mounting bolts are screwed into the rack rail. This will eliminate metal-to-metal contact between the Model 2250 chassis, the equipment rack, and the other components in the rack.

# REAR PANEL CONNECTIONS AND CONTROLS

## Connection Precautions

Disconnect the AC cord before making or changing any input, trigger, or speaker wire connections. Make sure there is no strain or tension on any wires that could cause them to pull loose.



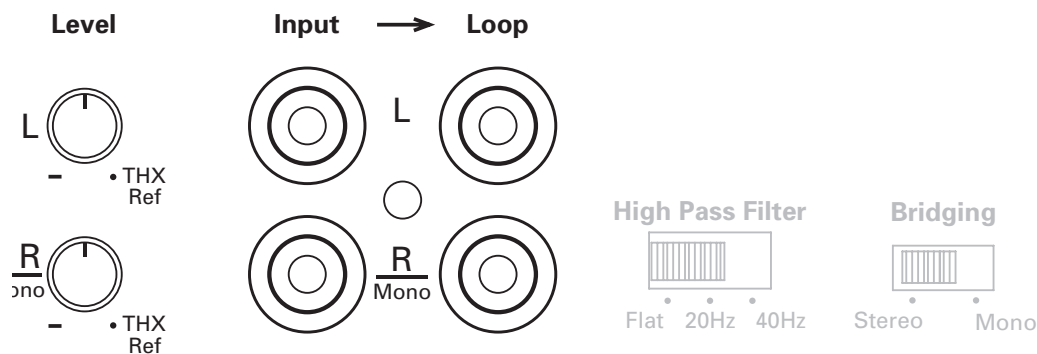
## In Jacks

Connect the shielded audio cables from your preamplifier or system controller’s output jacks to the Model 2250’s L and R audio Input jacks. Use only the R channel jack for mono operation.

## Loop Jacks

The jacks replicate the audio input signals to facilitate connections of other power amplifiers to the same preamplifier or system controller. Loop connection of multiple power amplifiers is called a “daisy chain.”

**Note:** You may loop the trigger connections of multiple Parasound power amplifiers without overloading the surround controller or preamplifier trigger outputs.



## R (Right) and L (Left) Level Knobs

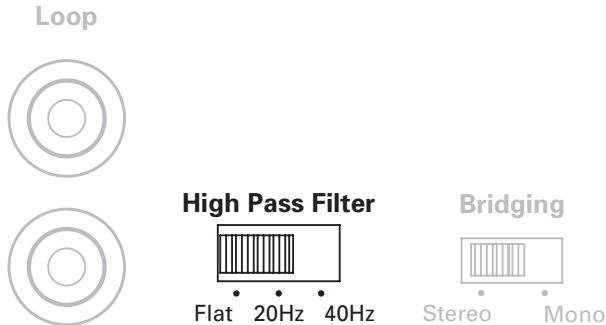
You can adjust the listening level for each channel by turning its Level knob clockwise to increase gain or counter-clockwise to reduce gain. The maximum settings correspond to THX Reference Level where the gain is 28.28: 1 volt at the input jacks corresponds to a 28.28 volts at the speaker terminals. THX recommends this setting whenever the 2250 is installed with other THX-certified components.

**Note:** You may wish to experiment with different gain settings on your preamp or a non-THX surround controller and on the Model 2250 to find a combination of gain settings where your system’s background noise is lowest. Sound professionals call these adjustments “gain staging.”

**Note:** Only the R channel Level knob is used for bridged mono operation.

## High Pass Filter Switch

The High Pass filter can improve the sound in virtually any installation. It's called a "high pass" filter because it permits signals higher than 20 Hz and 40 Hz to pass, while preventing signals below these frequencies from passing.



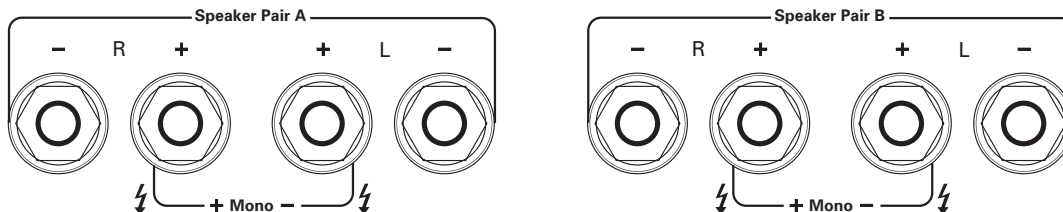
- The Flat switch position disconnects the filter and the 2250's frequency response is flat.
- The 20 Hz switch position filters out frequencies below 20 Hz. Your speakers have greater dynamic range and far less distortion when they don't receive frequencies which are lower than they can reproduce. Likewise, the 2250 operates more efficiently when it's not called upon to amplify frequencies which the speakers can't reproduce. Because the 20 Hz filter has a steep 18 dB per octave slope, it is essentially a sub-sonic filter, and you probably won't notice any loss of bass unless you're using very large speakers.
- The 40 Hz switch position filters bass below 40 Hz at 18 dB per octave. This is ideal when the 2250 is driving in-wall or in-ceiling speakers because very few of them can reproduce very much bass below 40 Hz. You'll enjoy much cleaner sound and higher undistorted volume levels. Not having to amplify bass that's inaudible with your speakers is another way the 2250 will run cooler.

**Note:** Autoformer-type passive volume controls are highly reactive loads that are known to cause amplifier malfunction. The 20 Hz or 40 Hz filter settings enable the 2250 to drive them with ease.

## Speaker Connections

There are separate speaker terminals for two pairs of speakers, labeled Speaker Pair A and Speaker Pair B.

Each - and + speaker terminal will accept bare speaker wire up to AWG 12, a wire terminated with a 1/4" spade lug, or with a single banana plug; dual banana plugs which are 3/4" (19mm) apart may be used for each speaker.



If you use bare wires, remove only enough insulation, about 1/2" (12mm) for each exposed bare wire to insert through the small hole in the side of the binding post. Before inserting a bare wire, twist the strands tightly between your fingers to prevent strays that might touch the chassis or another terminal and cause a short circuit. If you have soldering experience you may want to "tin" the stripped bare wire with solder for a cleaner termination and to prevent the wire from oxidizing.

## Correct Speaker Polarity is Important

As you connect the speaker wires, you can see that the insulation on one of the two wires in each pair has either printing or a raised ridge. The marking lets you know which wire you connected to the positive speaker terminal at its other end.

Make sure the + wire you attach to each Model 2250 + speaker terminal is attached to the + terminal of the speaker for that channel.

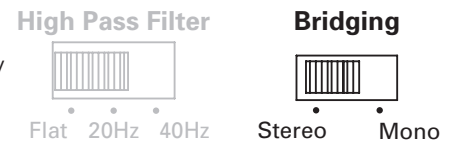
## Bridging Switch: Stereo - Mono

The Model 2250 power should always be turned off before moving this switch.

For normal operation the Bridging switch must be set to Stereo.

For bridged mono operation, set it to Mono.

**Note:** Stereo sound will be faint and very distorted if you accidentally leave the Bridging switch in its Mono position.



## Mono Operation

For a mono speaker connection the Model 2250 “bridges” its R channel to amplify only the positive half of the audio signal while its L channel amplifies only the negative half. In effect, each amp channel “sees” only half of a mono speaker’s rated impedance, so that a single 8 ohm speaker in bridged mono is only a 4 ohm load; a single 4 ohm speaker in bridged mono is only a 2 ohm load.

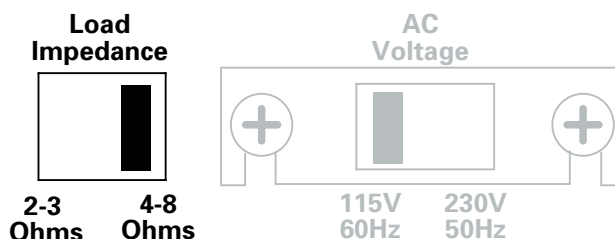
**Note:** You may safely connect one 4 ohm or two 8 ohm bridged mono speakers only if you set the Load Impedance switch to its 2-3 ohm position.

## Mono Input and Speaker Connections

1. Turn the unit off and remove the AC cord.
2. Connect the single cable from the preamp or controller to the R channel Input jack.
3. Set the Bridging switch to its Mono position.
4. Connect the positive lead of the speaker wire to the red R + channel speaker pair A terminal.
5. Connect the negative lead of the speaker wire to the red L + channel speaker pair A terminal.
6. Do not connect anything to either the L - or R - speaker terminals.
7. If you have a second 8 Ohm mono speaker, set the Load Impedance switch to the 2-3 Ohm position and repeat steps 4-6 with the speaker pair B terminals.
8. Reconnect the AC cord.

**Note:** The Model 2250 creates more heat when it drives a bridged mono speaker or multiple speaker pairs. Lower impedance speakers will make it run even hotter. Heat greatly reduces the life of the amplifier and nearby components. Please heed the instructions for setting the Load Impedance switch to avoid overheating.

## Load Impedance Switch





For a single pair of 4 ohm or 8 ohm speakers the Load Impedance switch may be set to its 4-8 Ohms position. The Load Impedance Switch must be set to 2-3 ohms whenever the load will be lower than 4 ohms. Speaker loads below 4 ohms impedance can cause the Model 2250 to over-heat rapidly and cause audible distortion. These are examples that require the 2-3 ohms setting.

1. Driving two pairs of speakers whose impedances you don't know.
2. Driving two pairs of speakers with impedances that are lower than 8 ohms. Two pairs of 4 ohm speakers driven simultaneously are a 2 ohm load.
3. Driving a single 4 ohm speaker bridged to mono. This is a 2 ohm load.
4. Driving two 8 ohm speakers bridged to mono. This is a 2 ohm load.

**Note:** For the coolest possible operating temperature we recommend setting the Load Impedance switch to 2-3 ohms even if you are using a single pair of 8 ohm speakers.

## ***Automatic Turn On and Off***

### **Auto Turn On Switch**

For convenience, there are two ways the Model 2250 can be triggered to turn on automatically.

- When a suitable voltage is applied to its 12V DC In (input) jack.
- When an audio signal is present at the L and R audio Input jacks.

**Note:** When either automatic turn on method is selected the Model 2250 front panel Power button is disabled so that on/off is determined solely by the triggering preamp or system controller.

### **12V Position**

When the Auto Turn On switch is set to its 12V position, the Model 2250 is turned on and off with an external +9V to +12V DC voltage from your preamp or controller. When the external voltage ceases the Model 2250 will turn off immediately. The 12V switch position disables the front panel Power button.

### **Man (Manual) Position**

When the Auto Turn On switch is in its MAN (manual) position, the auto turn on function is disabled and the Model 2250 must be turned on and off manually with the Power button on its front panel.

### **Audio Position**

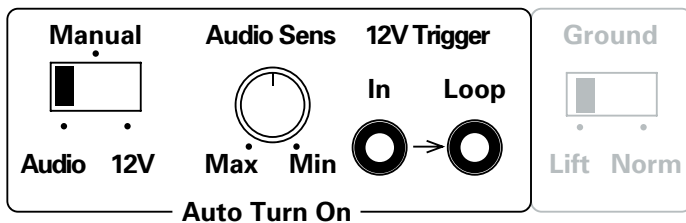
When the Auto Turn On switch is set to its Audio position, the Model 2250 will be turned on whenever an audio signal is present at its Left and Right Input jacks. After the audio signals cease the Model 2250 remains on for about ten minutes. This prevents unintended turn-off during pauses in your music or movies. The Audio position of the Auto Turn On switch also disables the front panel Power button.

**Note:** You will achieve more consistent auto turn on operation by using the 12V DC trigger if the Model 2250 is driving the surround, center, or rear channels. At the beginning of films the surround channel levels are even lower than the minimum level required by the Audio sensing circuit.

### **12V In Jack**

The Model 2250 12V input uses a 2.5mm sub-mini jack. To trigger the Model 2250, insert the plug at one end of the provided trigger wire into this jack and the other plug at the other end into the source component's trigger output jack.

Some components, including most Parasound Surround Controllers, may use a 3.5mm mini jack for trigger output, so we have also included a 2.5mm jack - 3.5mm plug adapter for your convenience.



**Note:** If the controller's trigger output is a + and - terminal, you can cut the 2.5mm plug off one end of the included trigger wire and attach the bare wires to these terminals. The lead with the white stripe on it corresponds to the plug's tip and the unmarked lead corresponds to the sleeve of the plug.

**Note:** If the trigger voltage source is DC, the trigger plug tip must be + (positive) and its sleeve - (negative).

### 12V Out Jack

The Trigger Out jack lets you loop or "daisy-chain" the incoming trigger voltage to an additional Model 2250 or other component.

**Note:** The Model 2250 trigger circuit draws a negligible 15 mA from the controller. The total load on your controller's trigger output(s) is the sum of the trigger current drawn by each of the components you've looped together. Controllers can typically supply 150 mA at their trigger outputs.

### Audio Trigger Sens (Sensitivity) Knob

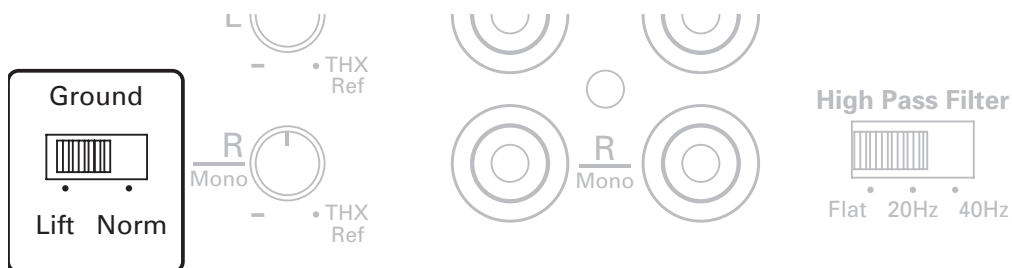
The Auto Turn On Audio Sensitivity knob adjusts the incoming audio level or the "threshold" required to turn on the Model 2250. Its 12 o'clock position will be suitable in most cases. To increase sensitivity for response to lower level audio signals, turn the knob counter-clockwise toward +.

Turn the knob clockwise toward - to decrease its sensitivity. This will prevent spurious noise and switching transients in your system from false-triggering the Model 2250.

**Note:** Plugging in the 2250's AC cord for the first time will usually create an internal power surge that "false triggers" its Audio auto turn on, even if there's no audio signal at its input jacks, and it will remain on for 10-15 minutes after you switch it off. This is normal.

### Ground Switch

Ground is the normal position for this switch. If you hear background hum in the speakers connected to the Model 2250, try setting the Ground Lift Switch to its Lift position. The Ground Switch disconnects or "lifts" the audio circuit ground from the chassis ground. This often helps to eliminate audible hum that results from ground loops. Ground loops are multiple ground paths such as the metal-to-metal contact with the panels or chassis of other components combined with the ground connections of the audio cables or even the ground wires of the various AC cords.



### AC Power Connections and AC Grounding

If possible, plug your Model 2250 into the same AC outlet that your accompanying audio components (especially the preamp or system controller) are plugged into. The ground potential between different AC outlets may be higher or lower, resulting in audible hum.

## Power Button

Press the Power button once to turn the Model 2250 on, press it again to turn it off. The Power button is inoperative when the Auto Turn On switch is set to Audio or 12V.

**Note:** It is normal for the 2250 Protect indicator to flash briefly right after turn on.



## A and B Speaker Select Buttons

These buttons turn on the speaker pairs connected to the corresponding Speaker Pair A and B terminals. They will also select two single mono speakers.

**Note:** The front panel buttons and switches activate relays which perform the actual speaker switching. The contacts in the relays will last longer if you don't press the A and B buttons to turn speaker pairs on and off while the 2250 is playing at high volume.

## L and R Channel Indicators

L and R will illuminate green when the Model 2250 is turned on and is operating normally. The green L or R indicator will not light if the fault condition is only in that channel. Neither L or R will illuminate if there is a general fault or if the temperature is too high.

## Protect Indicator

Protect will illuminate red when the Model 2250 has experienced either an internal or external fault condition which has also activated its protection circuit to prevent internal damage.

**Note:** It is normal for Protect to flash for a few seconds right after the unit is turned on.

## Hi-Temp Indicator

Hi-Temp will illuminate red when the Model 2250 reaches its maximum safe operating temperature.

If the heat persists the unit will soon shut itself off for protection and will remain off until the temperature drops. If Hi-Temp appears, the unit has been over-driven at too high a listening level and/or too low impedance speaker load or has not been provided with sufficient ventilation.

## Maintaining Your Model 2250

Your Parasound Model 2250 power amplifier requires no periodic maintenance other than the knowledge that you are bragging about it to your friends. It has no user-serviceable parts inside. To avoid the risk of electric shock, do not remove its top cover. The exterior can be cleaned with a soft cloth pre-moistened only with a few drops of water or glass cleaner.

**No sound**

- Check that AC is live.
- Is the unit on? Check the setting of the Auto Turn On switch.
- Check that input cables and speaker wires are secure at both ends.
- Make sure the control preamp/receiver is switched to the correct input.
- If using Audio Auto turn on feature, increase the sensitivity by turning the sensitivity knob towards the + position. You may also want to turn the Left and Right gain down to reduce the Auto turn on volume level.
- Is the Hi-Temp or Protect (or both) illuminated? Check for excessive temperature, short circuited speaker wires, low impedance speaker load, and inadequate ventilation to remove heat.

**Background Hum**

- Move the Ground switch to Lift.
- Move audio cables and AC cords away from each other.
- Try different routes for the audio cables and AC cords.
- Make sure insulating shoulder washers are used if unit is rack mounted.
- Try reversing the direction of each other component's AC plug, one by one.

**Overheating**

- Remove any external sources of heat.
- Increase ventilation around the Model 2250.
- Reset the Load Impedance switch to 2-3 Ohms.

Call your Parasound dealer first. If the dealer can't help you with your problem we encourage you to call Parasound's Technical Service Department, toll-free at **415 397-7100**, Monday – Friday, 8am – 4pm Pacific time. We can suggest other diagnostic tests you can easily perform. If we determine that your Model 2250 should be returned to Parasound or an Authorized Parasound Warranty Center for inspection and possible servicing, we will provide the location of a warranty center near you or shipping instructions and a Return Authorization number for its return to Parasound.

***Before You Return Any Unit to Parasound for Service***

Before you send your unit to Parasound, you will need to obtain a specific Return Authorization (RA) number and shipping instructions from Parasound's Technical Department. The RA number must be clearly marked on the outer carton. Use the original factory packing materials and arrange adequate insurance to cover its value. You must include a copy of your purchase receipt, since this document establishes the validity of this unit's warranty. Warranty repairs are only performed by Parasound or Parasound Authorized warranty centers when your purchase receipt is from a Parasound Authorized Dealer or Parasound Authorized Reseller.

**Units Will Be Refused by Parasound Under the Following Conditions**

1. Unit was sent without the Parasound-assigned RA number marked on the carton.
2. Unit was sent in an unsuitable shipping carton, likely to have been damaged in transit.
3. Unit has inadequate packing, unit likely to have been damaged in transit.
4. Unit was shipped collect for shipping charges. We do not accept collect shipments.
5. Unit was shipped via the US Postal Service.
6. Unit was sent to an address other than the address instructed by our Technical Department.

***Warranty Repair***

Read your accompanying Parasound Limited Warranty carefully to understand the applicable rights and limitations. This section provides instructions for obtaining repairs, both for units covered under the Parasound Limited Warranty and for units or situations which are outside the Warranty.

**Unit is not eligible for repair under the terms of the Parasound warranty if:**

1. Unit was not purchased from a Parasound Authorized Dealer or Parasound Authorized Reseller.
2. You are not the original owner. The warranty is not transferable.
3. Unit's serial number was removed, modified, or defaced.
4. Unit shows evidence of abuse and/or misuse.
5. Unit was modified in any way.
6. A prior repair was attempted by an unauthorized repair station.

**Continuous RMS Power Output****20 Hz – 20 kHz, Both Channels Driven**250 watts x 2, 8  $\Omega$ 385 watts x 2, 4  $\Omega$ 250 watts x 2, 2  $\Omega$ **Continuous RMS Power Output****20 Hz – 20 kHz, Bridged Mono**600 watts, 8  $\Omega$ 600 watts, 4  $\Omega$ **Current Capacity**

45 amps peak per channel

**Frequency Response**

20 Hz - 50 kHz, +0/-3 dB, 1 watt

**Dynamic Headroom**

1.6 dB

**Total Harmonic Distortion**

0.02% at full rated output

0.015% at average listening levels

**IM Distortion**

0.05 %

**Transient IM Distortion**

Not measurable

**S/N Ratio**

114 dB at rated output, IHF A-weighted

106 dB at rated output, unweighted

93 dB at 2.828 V output, IHF A-weighted

84 dB at 2.828 V output, unweighted

**Input Impedance**33 k  $\Omega$ **Input Sensitivity**

1 V for 28.28 V out, THX standard

**Inter-Channel Crosstalk**

85 dB, 1 kHz

73 dB, 10 kHz

67 dB, 20 kHz

**Damping Factor**

Over 150 at 20 Hz

**Auto Turn On – DC**

9 – 12V, 15 mA

**Auto Turn On – Audio**

1.2 mV – 12 V, adjustable

15 minute turn off delay

**AC Power Requirement**

110 - 120 V / 220 -240 V, 50 - 60 Hz

3 watts standby; 1000 watts full output

**Dimensions**

17¼" Wide

16" Deep, with connectors

2½" High with feet, 1¾" panel only

437 x 406 x 63mm, 44.1 mm panel only

**Net Weight**

43 lbs, 19.6 kg

**Shipping Weight**

53 lbs, 25 kg

**Rack Mount Accessory**

May be Purchased Separately

RMK33

Before any home theatre component can be THX Ultra2 certified, it must pass a rigorous series of quality and performance tests. Only then can a product feature the THX Ultra2 logo, which is your guarantee that the Home Theatre products you purchase will give you superb performance for many years to come. THX Ultra2 requirements cover every aspect of the product including performance and operation.



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**Note:** Specifications are subject to change or improvement without notice.



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We invite you to visit [www.parasound.com](http://www.parasound.com) for the most up-to-date information on your unit and to find out about other Parasound products. Learn why Parasound has been a quality and value favorite of magazine reviewers, sound professionals and listeners like you since we were founded in 1981.



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