MC1201 Monoblock Power Amplifier
With a monumental 1,200 watts, the MC1201 is the most powerful amplifier ever produced by McIntosh Laboratory. Its extraordinary double-balanced design – possible only with the proprietary McIntosh autoformer – eliminates virtually all distortion. The MC1201 combines the spine-tingling performance of an “exotic” amp with the dependability of a McIntosh.

**Featured Technologies**

**DOUBLE-BALANCED PUSH-PULL DESIGN.** The MC1201 is fully balanced from input to speaker output. Matched amplifiers operate in complimentary push-pull with their outputs combined in the McIntosh autoformer. The resulting double-balanced configuration cancels virtually all distortion. This circuit design is possible only with the McIntosh autoformer.

**EXCLUSIVE MCINTOSH OUTPUT AUTOFORMER.** An impedance mismatch between an amplifier and loudspeaker can cause distortion and a reduction in power. The legendary McIntosh autoformer is a hand-crafted transformer with output connections for 2, 4, and 8 ohms, allowing an ideal impedance match. A McIntosh amplifier with an autoformer can also safely drive multiple speakers connected in parallel without shortening the life expectancy of the output stage. There is absolutely no performance penalty with an autoformer. In fact, its frequency response exceeds that of the output circuit itself, and extends well beyond the audible range. Distortion is so low it is virtually immeasurable.

**EXCLUSIVE MCINTOSH POWER ASSURANCE SYSTEM.** Power Assurance is a collection of technologies that enhance performance and reliability and protect the amp and the loudspeakers. 

- **Power Guard® clipping protection.** Power Guard ensures that the amplifier will always deliver full power without causing clipping distortion. If an amplifier channel is overdriven, Power Guard automatically reduces the input volume just enough to keep distortion below 2% and prevent any clipping distortion. Thanks to an optical resistor, Power Guard acts literally at the speed of light, producing absolutely no audible side effects. An amplifier with Power Guard will actually deliver clipping-free output well above its rated power.

- **Sentry Monitor® current protection.** Sentry Monitor continually senses the voltage and current of the output stage and confines it to a safe limit. Sentry Monitor does not limit power output.

- **Thermal Cutout.** If the cooling air is blocked and the power transistors become too hot, thermal cutouts prevent over-heating until the amp cools.

- **DC Failure protection.** In the rare event of an output circuit failure, any DC current that appears in the output is shunted to ground by the autoformer, protecting the speakers from damage.

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See “SYSTEMS ENGINEERING” in the main brochure for more on McIntosh system architectures.
The McIntosh products shown at right are logical companions for the MC1201. Separate literature is available. Check with your McIntosh dealer for late additions.

**C200 Preamplifier/Controller.** One of the finest power amplifiers McIntosh has ever produced deserves an equally fine partner. The dual-chassis, fully balanced C200 is virtually devoid of any measurable noise.

**MR85 AM/FM Tuner with Dual Tuners.** Ideal for multiroom systems, the MR85 is available with a second tuner (the TM1 module) that operates independently. A thoroughly engineered broadcast monitor, the MR85 reveals the upper limits of AM and FM performance. The supplied RAA1 AM antenna can be positioned away from sources of interference (e.g., TV sets, fluorescent lights) for greatly improved AM quality.

**MVP841 DVD/CD/Video CD Player.** The MVP841 delivers crystal-clear DVD video and outputs Dolby Digital® and DTS® surround sound.

**C200 PREAMPLIFIER/CONTROLLER**

**MR85 AM/FM TUNER**

**MVP841 DVD/CD/VIDEO CD PLAYER**

**Academy LS360 Loudspeaker.** The Academy loudspeakers satisfy the often contradictory demands of pure music versus movie sound. All Academy loudspeakers use the acclaimed LD/HP® driver— which significantly reduces bass distortion while increasing power handling. The LS360 features arched bridge truss construction that is virtually immune to vibrations that distort sound. The five tweeters increase power handling and are wired in a Bessel Function array that acts as a point source.

**XR290 Loudspeaker.** The 7-foot-high XR290 provides nearly flat response all the way down to 20Hz. All drivers are in a Line Source configuration, resulting in tightly controlled vertical dispersion that minimizes floor and ceiling reflections for a deep and well-focused soundstage.

**Why Choose McIntosh?**

Consumer electronics products usually are viewed as short-term investments because they don’t last or they quickly become obsolete in some way. But behind every McIntosh is a fifty-year heritage of excellence, proudly carried forward by every employee. No production lines, no “price-point” engineering, no planned obsolescence. McIntosh equipment is made to sound better and last longer.

When customers are presented with McIntosh products, criteria they have been conditioned to overlook—reliability, longevity, craftsmanship, ease-of-use, adaptability, pride of ownership—suddenly leap to the top of their list. The choice then becomes clear: There is nothing like a McIntosh.

**ILLUMINATED PEAK-RESPONDING WATTMETER.** The output in watts of any amp depends on loudspeaker impedance, which varies considerably with the frequency content of music. Conventional output meters may display “watts” but they actually measure output voltage because they assume a fixed impedance. McIntosh wattmeters display real output in watts, and thus indicate the real power required to drive a particular speaker. McIntosh wattmeters respond 95% full scale to a single-cycle tone burst at 2kHz. Response is almost 10-times faster than a professional VU meter. The “hold” feature provides a longer pause at the peak reading. The meter illumination can be switched off.

**BALANCED CONNECTIONS.** A premium feature not usually found in consumer audio gear, balanced connections guard against induced noise and allow long cable runs without compromising sound quality. A balanced connection between the MC1201 and the C200 Control Center provides 40dB more noise protection than would an unbalanced (“single-ended”) connection.

**REMOTE POWER CONTROL.** This allows a McIntosh Control Center to turn the MC1201 and other system components on/off.

**Featured Technologies (cont’d.)**

**Turn-On Delay.** This circuit delays operation for about two seconds after turn-on in order to avoid any pops or thumps generated as other equipment turns on.

**Soft Start inrush protection.** Thermistors in the power transformer act as a cushion against inrush current, eliminating component stress during turn-on. Soft Start is one of many design details that contribute to the remarkable longevity of McIntosh equipment.
MC1201 Monoblock Power Amplifier

Double balanced push-pull design
1 x 1,200 watts (8/4/2 ohms)
High output current capability (> 200 amps)
Balanced and unbalanced inputs
Exclusive McIntosh output autoformer
Wide power bandwidth, ultra-low distortion
Exclusive McIntosh Power Assurance System:
- Power Guard® clipping protection
- Sentry Monitor® current protection
- Thermal Cutout
- DC Failure protection
- Turn-On Delay
- Soft-Start inrush protection
Illuminated peak-responding wattmeter with hold
Regulated illumination
Remote power control
Massive gold-plated five-way output binding posts
Fanless convection cooling
Modular construction with stainless steel chassis
1/2”-thick glass front panel with illuminated nomenclature

RMS Power Output (8/4/2 ohms)
1,200W min. sine wave continuous average power output from 20Hz to 20kHz

Output Load Impedance
Terminals for 8, 4, or 2 ohms

Rated Power Band
20Hz to 20kHz

Total Harmonic Distortion
0.005% max. at any level from 250mW to rated power output

Intermodulation Distortion
SMPTE 0.005% maximum if instantaneous peak output does not exceed twice the output rating

Dynamic Headroom
2.1dB

Frequency Response
20Hz to 20kHz, +0 / -0.25dB
10Hz to 100kHz, +0 / -3.0dB

Input Sensitivity
2.45V unbalanced
4.9V balanced

A-Weighted Signal-to-Noise Ratio
Bal.: 124dB below rated output
Unbal.: 120dB below rated output

Wide Band Damping Factor
>100 (8 ohms)

Input Impedance
10k ohms

Power Guard®
Clipping is prevented and THD does not exceed 2% with up to 14dB overdrive at 1kHz

Power Requirements
120V 50/60Hz, 15A

Dimensions (h x w x d)
inch: 11 x 17.75 x 19.63
cm: 27.9 x 45 x 49.9

Weight
147 lbs. (66.8kg) net
172 lbs. (78.2kg) boxed