MC126 Six-Channel Power Amplifier
Count on McIntosh to provide audiophile-quality power in a multichannel amplifier designed for today’s surround-enhanced 6.1 theater systems. The MC126 delivers 120 watts to each of six channels, plenty enough for small to mid-size theater spaces. But more power is just a switch away: Each channel pair can be bridged to 275 watts, creating a three-channel powerhouse that begs the question, “Why not buy two?”

Featured Technologies

**SINGLE-CABLE CONNECTION TO MX132.** To simplify installation of a McIntosh home theater system, the MC126 connects to the MX132 A/V Control Center + Processor via a single, multipin cable that carries all audio signals and power control commands to the amplifier.

**CONFIGURABLE POWER OUTPUT.** Channels 1/2, 3/4, and 5/6 can be operated either in the normal mode (120W x 6) or with each channel pair independently bridged (275W x 3). Configurations of 5 and 4 channels are also possible.

Diagram: Using the MC126 or MC206 in a 6.1 theater system with the MX132 and MSE1

The MSE1 Surround Expander can be used to upgrade existing 5.1 systems to 6.1. The MSE1 provides automatic expansion of “surround-enhanced” soundtracks, plus manual expansion (if desired) of standard 5.1 soundtracks. The MSE1 processes the Surround analog outputs of the McIntosh MX132 A/V Control Center, which also monitors the digital bitstream to detect the presence of the enhanced surround signal. The MSE1 works with the McIntosh MX132, MSD4, and MAC3 as well as non-McIntosh 5.1 decoders.

In this diagram, the MC126 or MC206 powers ALL channels. The MSE1 processes and outputs the LS and RS signals. When the BS channel is active, it is powered by the sixth channel of the MC126 or MC206.

A powered subwoofer can be connected to the SUB output of the MSE1. This output – an option provided by McIntosh – is active regardless of the mode.

See “SYSTEMS ENGINEERING” in the main brochure for more on McIntosh system architectures.
The McIntosh products shown at right are logical companions for the MC126. Separate literature is available. Check with your McIntosh dealer for late additions.

**MCX132 A/V Control Center + Processor.** The MC126 connects via one cable to the MX132 to create a powerful 5.1 theater system.

**MSE1 Surround Expander.** Adding the MSE1 to the MC126/MX132 theater system provides a Back Surround (BS) channel powered by the sixth channel of the MC126 (diagram, opposite).

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

**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.

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**Featured Technologies (cont’d.)**

**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 protect against overheating until the amp cools.

**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.

**REMOTE POWER CONTROL.** This allows a McIntosh Control Center to turn the MC126 and other system components on/off. (The MC126 receives power on/off instructions via the multipin cable when connected to the MX132.)

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**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.**
MC126 Six-Channel Power Amplifier

Six-Channel Power Amplifier for home theater systems
Single-cable connection to MX132 A/V Control Center + Processor
6 x 120 watts (4 ohms) or 6 x 80 watts (8 ohms)
Any pair can be bridged for 1 x 275 watts (8 ohms)
Dual MC126s make 6 x 275 watts
Configurable to 5, 4, or 3 channels
Wide power bandwidth
Ultra-low distortion
Exclusive McIntosh Power Assurance System:
Power Guard® clipping protection
Sentry Monitor® current protection
Thermal Cutout
Turn-On Delay
Soft Start inrush protection
Low-noise toroid power transformer
Remote power control
Gold-plated high-current output terminals
Fanless convection cooling
Modular construction with steel chassis
Glass front panel with illuminated nomenclature

RMS Power Output
Min. sine wave continuous avg. output per channel with all channels operating:
Normal: 120 watts (4Ω) or 80 watts (8Ω)
Bridged: 275 watts (8Ω)
(Can also be configured for 5, 4, or 3 channels)

Output Load Impedance
Normal: 8 or 4 ohms
Bridged: 8 ohms

Rated Power Band
20Hz to 20kHz

Peak Output Current
> 18 amperes

Total Harmonic Distortion
0.005% max. at any level from 250mW to rated output from 20Hz to 20kHz

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

Dynamic Headroom
1.8dB

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

Input Sensitivity
0.8V (1.6V at gain control center detent)

A-Weighted Signal-to-Noise Ratio
110dB below rated output

Wide Band Damping Factor
200 (8 ohms); 100 (4 ohms)

Input Impedance
20k ohms

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

Power Requirements
120V 50/60Hz, 7.8A

Dimensions (h x w x d)
inch: 7.062 x 17.5 x 20
cm: 17.9 x 44.5 x 50.8

Weight
40 lbs. (18.1kg) net
58 lbs. (26.4kg) boxed