MC126 Power Amplifier
The lightning flash with arrowhead, within an equilateral triangle, is intended to alert the user to the presence of uninsulated “dangerous voltage” within the product’s enclosure that may be of sufficient magnitude to constitute a risk of electric shock to persons.

Caution: Risk of Electric Shock Do Not Open

Avis: Risque de Choc Electrique - Ne Pas Ouvrir.

Warning - To reduce risk of fire or electrical shock, do not expose this equipment to rain or moisture.

No User-serviceable parts inside. Refer servicing to qualified personnel.

To prevent the risk of electric shock, do not remove cover or back. No user serviceable parts inside.

Important Safety Instructions!

Please read them before operating this equipment.

General:
1. Read these instructions.
2. Keep these instructions.
3. Heed all warnings.
4. Follow all instructions.

5. Warning: To reduce risk of fire or electrical shock, do not expose this equipment to rain or moisture.
   This unit is capable of producing high sound pressure levels. Continued exposure to high sound pressure levels can cause permanent hearing impairment or loss. User caution is advised and ear protection is recommended when playing at high volumes.

6. Caution: To prevent electrical shock do not use this (polarized) plug with an extension cord, receptacle or other outlet unless the blades can be fully inserted to prevent blade exposure.
   Attention: pour preventer les chocs electriques pas utiliser cette fiche polarisée avec un prolongateur, une prise de courant ou un autre sort de courant, sauf si les lames peuvent etre inserées afond ans en laisser aucune partie a decouver.

7. Unplug this equipment during lightning storms or when unused for long periods of time.
8. Only use attachments/accessories specified by the manufacturer.

Installation:
9. The equipment shall be installed near the AC Socket Outlet and the disconnect device shall be easily accessible.
10. Do not block any ventilation openings. Install in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions.
11. Do not install near any heat sources such as radiators, heat registers, stoves, or other equipment (including amplifiers) that produce heat.
12. Do not use this equipment near water.
13. Do not expose this equipment to dripping or splashing and ensure that no objects filled with liquids, such as vases, are placed on the equipment.
14. Use only with the cart, stand, tripod, bracket, or table specified by the manufacturer, or sold with the equipment. When a cart is used, use caution when moving the cart/equipment combination to avoid injury from tip-over.

Connection:
15. Connect this equipment only to the type of AC power source as marked on the unit.
16. Protect the power cord from being walked on or pinched particularly at plugs, convenience receptacles, and the point where they exit from the equipment.
17. Do not defeat the safety purpose of the polarized or grounding-type plug.
A polarized plug has two blades with one wider than the other. A grounding type plug has two blades and a third grounding prong. The wide blade or the third prong are provided for your safety. If the provided plug does not fit into your outlet, consult an electrician for replacement of the obsolete outlet.

18. Do not overload wall outlets, extension cords or integral convenience receptacles as this can result in a risk of fire or electric shock.

19. To completely disconnect this equipment from the AC Mains, disconnect the power supply cord plug from the AC receptacle.

**Care of Equipment:**

20. Clean only with a dry cloth.

21. Do not permit objects or liquids of any kind to be pushed, spilled and/or fall into the equipment through enclosure openings.

22. Unplug the power cord from the AC power outlet when left unused for a long period of time.

**Repair of Equipment:**

23. Refer all servicing to qualified service personnel. Servicing is required when the equipment has been damaged in any way, such as power-supply cord or plug is damaged, liquid has been spilled or objects have fallen into the equipment, the equipment has been exposed to rain or moisture, does not operate normally, or has been dropped.

24. Do not attempt to service beyond that described in the operating instructions. All other service should be referred to qualified service personnel.

25. When replacement parts are required, be sure the service technician has used replacement parts specified by McIntosh or have the same characteristics as the original part. Unauthorized substitutions may result in fire, electric shock, or other hazards.

26. 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.

**Thank You**

Your decision to own this McIntosh MC126 Power Amplifier ranks you at the very top among discriminating music listeners. You now have “The Best.” The McIntosh dedication to “Quality,” is assurance that you will receive many years of musical enjoyment from this unit.

Please take a short time to read the information in this manual. We want you to be as familiar as possible with all the features and functions of your new McIntosh.

**Please Take A Moment**

The serial number, purchase date and McIntosh dealer name are important to you for possible insurance claim or future service. The spaces below have been provided for you to record that information:

| Serial Number: ____________________________ |
| Purchase Date: ____________________________ |
| Dealer Name: ____________________________ |

**Technical Assistance**

If at any time you have questions about your McIntosh product, contact your McIntosh dealer who is familiar with your McIntosh equipment and any other brands that may be part of your system. If you or your dealer wish additional help concerning a suspected problem, you can receive technical assistance for all McIntosh products at:

McIntosh Laboratory, Inc.
2 Chambers Street
Binghamton, New York 13903
Phone: 607-723-1545
Fax: 607-723-3636

**Customer Service**

If it is determined that your McIntosh product is in need of repair, you can return it to your dealer. You can also return it to the McIntosh Laboratory Service Department. For assistance on factory repair return procedure, contact the McIntosh Service Department at:

McIntosh Laboratory, Inc.
2 Chambers Street
Binghamton, New York 13903
Phone: 607-723-3515
Fax: 607-723-1917

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Multi-Channel Amp DB25 Connector Pin Layout

2. Center Front + ........................................... 15. Center Front Gnd.
4. N/C ........................................... 17. N/C
9. N/C ........................................... 22. N/C
10. N/C ........................................... 23. N/C
13. Power Control In

Introduction

Now you can take advantage of traditional McIntosh standards of excellence in the MC126 Power Amplifier. Six 120 watt high current output channels will drive any high quality loudspeaker system to its ultimate performance. The MC126 reproduction is sonically transparent and absolutely accurate. The McIntosh Sound is “The Sound of the Music Itself.”

Performance Features

• Power Output
The MC126 consists of six separate power amplifier channels, each capable of 120 watts into 4 ohm speakers with less than 0.005% distortion. It may also be used as a Three Channel Amplifier with each channel capable of 275 watts into 8 ohm speakers.

• High Current Output
A peak output current of 10 amperes per channel ensures that the MC126 will successfully drive high quality loudspeakers such as McIntosh for a truly exciting sound experience.

• Power Guard
The MC126’s Patented McIntosh Power Guard Circuits prevent each of the amplifier channels from being overdriven into clipping, with its harsh distorted sound that can also damage your valuable loudspeakers.

• Sentry Monitor and Thermal Protection
McIntosh Sentry Monitor power output stage protection circuits ensure the MC126 will have a long and trouble free operating life. Built-in Thermal Protection Circuits guard against overheating.
Dimensions

The following dimensions can assist in determining the best location for your MC126. There is additional information on the next page pertaining to installing the MC126 into cabinets.

Front View of the MC126

Rear View of the MC126

Side View of the MC126
Installation

The MC126 can be placed upright on a table or shelf, standing on its four feet. It also can be custom installed in a piece of furniture or cabinet of your choice. The four feet may be removed from the bottom of the MC126 when it is custom installed as outlined below. The four feet together with the mounting screws should be retained for possible future use if the MC126 is removed from the custom installation and used free standing. It also can be custom installed in a piece of furniture or cabinet of your choice. The required panel cutout, ventilation cutout and unit dimensions are shown.

Always provide adequate ventilation for your MC126. Cool operation ensures the longest possible operating life for any electronic instrument. Do not install the MC126 directly above a heat generating component such as a high powered amplifier. If all the components are installed in a single cabinet, a quiet running ventilation fan can be a definite asset in maintaining all the system components at the coolest possible operating temperature.

A custom cabinet installation should provide the following minimum spacing dimensions for cool operation. Allow at least 6 inches (15.24 cm) above the top, 2 inches (3.81 cm) below the bottom and 1 inch (2.54 cm) on each side of the amplifier, so that airflow is not obstructed. Allow 20 inches (50.8 cm) depth behind the front panel. Allow 1 inch (2.54 cm) in front of the mounting panel for knob clearance. Be sure to cut out a ventilation hole in the mounting shelf according to the dimensions in the drawing.
INPUTS for discrete audio cables from an A/V Control Center or Preamplifier Audio Outputs

MULTI-CHANNEL INPUT accepts a 25 conductor DB25 computer type cable that connects all audio and power control signals

Selects power turn-on mode

Individual Input LEVEL Controls for each channel

POWER CONTROL IN receives turn On/Off signals from a McIntosh component and the POWER CONTROL OUT sends that turn On/Off signal to the next McIntosh component

Main Fuse holder, refer to information on the back panel of your MC126 to determine the correct fuse size and rating

Connect the MC126 power cord to a live AC outlet. Refer to information on the back panel to determine the correct voltage

MODE switch selects between Stereo and Mono Bridge operation for each pair of channels

Loudspeaker OUTPUT Connections for Stereo and Mono Bridge Modes of Operation for each pair of channels
How to Connect the MC126 for Six Channels

Caution: The supplied AC Power Cord should not be connected to the Rear Panel of the MC126 Amplifier until after the Loudspeaker Connections have been made and the supplied protective Terminal Connection Covers have been installed. Failure to observe this could result in Electric Shock.

1. Connect a power control cable from the McIntosh A/V Control Center Power Control Out to the McIntosh Surround Expander Power Control In.
2. Connect a power control cable from the McIntosh Surround Expander Power Control Out to the MC126 POWER CONTROL IN.
3. Connect cables from the Audio Outputs of a McIntosh A/V Control Center and Surround Expander to the MC126 INPUTS, making sure to match up the channel identifications between both units.
4. Prepare the Loudspeaker Hookup Cables that attach to the MC126 Power Amplifier by choosing one of the methods below:
   - **Bare wire cable ends:** Carefully remove sufficient insulation from the cable ends, refer to figures 1, 2 & 3. If the cable is stranded, carefully twist the strands together as tightly as possible.  
     Note: If desired, the twisted ends can be tinned with solder to keep the strands together, or attach spade lug and/or banana connector.
   - **Spade lug or prepared wire connection:** Insert the spade lug connector or prepared section of the cable end into the terminal side access hole, and tighten the terminal cap until the cable is firmly clamped into the terminal so the wires cannot slip out. Refer to figures 4, 5 & 6.

5. Connect the Loudspeaker Hookup Cables from the MC126 OUTPUT Terminals to the loudspeakers, being careful to observe the correct polarities and channel designation.

**WARNING:** Loudspeaker terminals are hazardous live and present a risk of electric shock. For additional instruction on making Loudspeaker Connections contact your McIntosh Dealer or McIntosh Technical Support.

6. Attach each of the three supplied Terminal Connection Covers with the four Pan Head Mounting Screws (6-32 x 5/16 inch) to the Rear Panel of the MC126 Amplifier. Refer to figures 7 and 8.

   Note: There are four openings on the bottom edge of the cover to allow the Loudspeaker Cables to exit the MC126.

7. Connect the MC126 Power Cord to an active AC outlet.
How to Connect the MC126 for Three Channels

Caution: The supplied AC Power Cord should not be connected to the Rear Panel of the MC126 Amplifier until after the Loudspeaker Connections have been made and the supplied protective Terminal Connection Covers have been installed. Failure to observe this could result in Electric Shock.

1. Connect a power control cable from the McIntosh A/V Control Center Power Control Out to the McIntosh MC126 POWER CONTROL IN.

2. Connect cables from the Audio Outputs of a McIntosh A/V Control Center to the MC126 MONO INPUTS.

3. Prepare the Loudspeaker Hookup Cables that attach to the MC126 Power Amplifier by choosing one of the methods below:

   Bare wire cable ends:
   Carefully remove sufficient insulation from the cable ends, refer to figures 1, 2 & 3. If the cable is stranded, carefully twist the strands together as tightly as possible.

   Note: If desired, the twisted ends can be tinned with solder to keep the strands together, or attach spade lug and/or banana connector.

   Spade lug or prepared wire connection:
   Insert the spade lug connector or prepared section of the cable end into the terminal side access hole, and tighten the terminal cap until the cable is firmly clamped into the terminal so the wires cannot slip out. Refer to figures 4, 5 & 6.

Banana plug connection:
Insert the banana plug into the hole at the top of the terminal. Tighten the top portion of the terminal post and the set screw to secure the banana plug in place.

   Note: The use of Banana Plugs is for use in the United States and Canada only.

5. Connect the Loudspeaker Hookup Cables from the MC126 MONO OUTPUT Terminals to the loudspeakers, being careful to observe the correct polarities and channel designation.

   WARNING: Loudspeaker terminals are hazardous live and present a risk of electric shock. For additional instruction on making Loudspeaker Connections contact your McIntosh Dealer or McIntosh Technical Support.

6. Attach each of the three supplied Terminal Connection Covers with the four Pan Head Mounting Screws (6-32 x 5/16 inch) to the Rear Panel of the MC126 Amplifier. Refer to figures 7 and 8.

   Note: There are four openings on the bottom edge of the cover to allow the Loudspeaker Cables to exit the MC126.

7. Connect the MC126 Power Cord to an active AC outlet.
McIntosh A/V Control Center

To AC Outlet

Center Front Loudspeaker (8 ohm)

Right Front Loudspeaker (8 ohm)

Left Front Loudspeaker (8 ohm)
Remote On Indicator lights when the amplifier is in the Remote Turn-On Mode.

POWER GUARD LEDs light when the LEFT FRONT, CENTER or RIGHT FRONT Amplifier Channel POWER GUARD Circuit activates.

POWER GUARD LEDs light when the LEFT SURround, BACK SURround or RIGHT SURround Amplifier Channel POWER GUARD Circuit activates.

POWER Switch Turns AC power On/Off.
How to Operate the MC126

Power On
To have the MC126 turn On or Off when a multichannel system turns On or Off, the Front Panel Power Switch must be left in the ON position and the Rear Panel Power Control Switch must be in the REMOTE Position. For non-remote operation, set the Rear Panel Power Control Switch to LOCAL and use the Front Panel Power Switch to turn the MC126 On or Off as desired. Refer to figure 9.

Note: There must be a power control connection between the MC126 and the McIntosh A/V Control Center or Surround Decoder in order for the remote power turn-on to function.

Input Level Controls
When using a McIntosh A/V Control Control Center or Surround Decoder set all six level controls to the 1.6V position. If an A/V Control Center or Surround Decoder has a 0.8V output rating, set the controls to the 0.8V position. If an increase or decrease in amplifier sensitivity is required for other applications, set the controls as desired. Refer to figure 10.

Mode Switch
The MODE Switch allows a pair of MC126 channels to be used in two different operating configurations. Refer to figure 11.

Stereo: Each channel operates independently as 120 watt amplifiers.
Mono: A channel pair operates in bridged configuration for a single monaural 275 watt amplifier.

How to Operate with a Bridged Channel

The versatile McIntosh MC126 can be used in two different Operating Modes. The three channel pairs can be used in Stereo Mode to supply 120 watts (4 ohm) to each of the Home Theater System’s six channels. Any of the three stereo pairs can be set to Mono (Bridged) Mode to supply 275 watts (8ohm) of power when greater power is desired. Refer to figures 10, 11 and 12.

1. Set the MODE Switch to the MONO position.
2. Adjust the MONO Level control to the 1.6V position if using a McIntosh A/V Control Center or Surround Decoder.
3. Connect the cable from the signal source component to the MONO In jack.
4. Connect loudspeaker cables to the terminals marked (-) and (+) MONO.
Specifications

Power Output Stereo
Minimum sine wave continuous average power output per channel, all channels operating is:
120 watts into a 4 ohm load
80 watts into a 8 ohm load

Power Output Mono
Minimum sine wave continuous average power output per channel, all channels operating is:
275 watts into a 8 ohm load

Rated Power Band
20Hz to 20,000Hz

Total Harmonic Distortion
Maximum Total Harmonic Distortion at any power level from 250 milliwatts to rated power output is:
0.005% for 4 or 8 ohm loads (Stereo)
0.005% for 8 ohm loads (Mono)

Dynamic Headroom
1.8dB

Frequency Response
+0, -0.25dB from 20Hz to 20,000Hz
+0, -3dB from 10Hz to 100,000Hz

Sensitivity
0.8Volts

A-Weighted Signal To Noise Ratio
92dB (113dB below rated output)

Intermodulation Distortion
Maximum Intermodulation Distortion if instantaneous peak output per channel does not exceed twice the rated output, for any combination of frequencies from 20Hz to 20,000Hz, with all channels operating is:
0.005% for 4 or 8 ohm loads (Stereo)
0.005% for 8 ohm loads (Mono)

Input Impedance
20,000 ohms

Wide Band Damping Factor
100 at 4 ohms
200 at 8 ohms

Power Requirements
100 Volts, 50/60Hz at 9.4 amps
110 Volts, 50/60Hz at 8.5 amps
120 Volts, 50/60Hz at 5.9 amps
220 Volts, 50/60Hz at 4.3 amps
230 Volts, 50/60Hz at 4.0 amps
240 Volts, 50/60Hz at 3.9 amps

Note: Refer to the rear panel of the MC126 for the correct voltage.

Dimensions
Front Panel: 17-1/2 inches (44.45cm) wide, 7-1/8 inches (18.10cm) high. Depth behind front mounting panel is 18 inches (45.72cm). Clearance required in front of the Front Panel is 1 inch (2.54cm) for knobs.

Weight
58 pounds (26.3 kg) net, 77 pounds (34.9 kg) in shipping carton
Packaging Instructions

In the event it is necessary to repack the equipment for shipment, the equipment must be packed exactly as shown below. It is very important that the three plastic feet are attached to the bottom of the equipment. Three #10 x 2-1/2 inch screws and washers must be used to fasten the unit securely to the bottom pad and wood skid. This will ensure the proper equipment location on the bottom pad. Failure to do this will result in shipping damage.

Use the original shipping carton and interior parts only if they are all in good serviceable condition. If a shipping carton or any of the interior part(s) are needed, please call or write Customer Service Department of McIntosh Laboratory. Please see the Part List for the correct part numbers.

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<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Part Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<td>033888</td>
<td>Shipping carton only</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>033887</td>
<td>End cap (Foam pad)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>033697</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>033725</td>
<td>Top Pad</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>034008</td>
<td>Bottom pad</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>017218</td>
<td>Plastic foot (spacer)</td>
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<td>#10 x 1-3/4 inch Flat washer</td>
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<td>017218</td>
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<td>#10-32 x 3/4 inch Machine screw</td>
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