

# TAURUS

stereo/mono  
power amplifiers



250 watts per channel into 8 Ohms

Constellation Direct XLR input for our Constellation Link interface.

Fully discrete circuitry with high-quality components and no analog audio ICs

Perfectly balanced bridged design for extraordinary fidelity.

Balanced bridged design for optimum fidelity and stability to 2 Ohms

## OVERVIEW

The Taurus stereo power amplifier is the result of a phenomenon repeated often through our history. Every time our “dream team” creates a new audio component, they gain fresh inspiration. Seeing our Performance Series Centaur III and the Inspiration Stereo 1.0 amplifier side-by-side, they realized that using the space-saving techniques they developed for the Inspiration 1.0 Stereo, they could fit most of the Centaur III’s massive power supply into a more modestly sized, practical chassis. The result is Taurus, a power amplifier with colossal headroom and effortless dynamics that, like the Inspiration Stereo 1.0, is sized to fit somewhat smaller spaces.

In the 130-pound, nearly foot-high Centaur III, we had ample space to fit the amplifier’s large toroidal power transformer. We wanted to get as much of that awe-inspiring capacity into Taurus as we could, so we went with twin

transformers, for nearly double the VA capacity of the transformer in the Inspiration Stereo 1.0. This allows Taurus to deliver 250 watts per channel into 8 ohms, 50 watts more than the Inspiration Stereo 1.0 but with substantially more muscle to drive the largest, most demanding speakers.

We also greatly increased storage capacitance relative to the Inspiration Stereo 1.0. Not only does this further smooth the DC power delivered to the amplifier rails, it also works as a reserve, providing additional output and headroom so that dynamic peaks are reproduced with the same fidelity as the subtlest details, and with all the original volume of the live event (or, if you wish, perhaps a bit more).

Taurus employs the same Balanced Bridged topology we pioneered in our original Reference Series Hercules amplifier and have continued with every Constellation amplifier

since. The idea was to deliver all the delicacy and detail of a small, single-ended amplifier, with the incredible power and dynamics of the world’s largest and most revered amplifiers. The approach our “dream team” took was surprisingly simple in concept: Build the best small, single-ended 125-watt amplifier we could, then combine several of them as modules to create a larger amp. This way, Taurus and all other Constellation amps achieve a blend of musicality and muscle no conventional amplifier design can match.

Another benefit of our Balanced Bridged topology is that we use exactly the same module design to amplify the positive and negative halves of the signal. A typical fully balanced design uses mirror-imaged circuit boards with NPN output transistors on one side and PNP transistors on the other. This creates a slight imbalance in the signal that can obscure subtle details. In Taurus, only NPN output transistors are used, so the

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amplifier maintains the essentially perfect balance achieved in all Constellation line stages, music servers and phono preamps.

In order to get the best possible performance from our Balanced Bridged topology, we must first ensure that the incoming signal is itself perfectly balanced. Taurus can accomplish this in two ways. Its Direct XLR input can be used with Constellation preamps, which have perfectly balanced outputs; using this input creates the Constellation Link, which bypasses the amplifier's gain stage for even better fidelity. Or when the conventional XLR or RCA inputs are used, the signal passes through our Line Stage Gain Module, the same perfectly balanced, servo-based gain stage circuit used in all of our preamps.

Audiophiles who crave uncompromised dynamics and prefer large, full-range tower speakers will immediately appreciate Taurus's increased output and substantial power reserves. And those for whom listening-room space is at a premium will immediately appreciate its thoughtful design and modest size.

## FEATURES

### Twin toroidal transformers

The power supply of each Taurus is based around two toroidal transformers, which deliver incredible power while reducing the physical size of the amplifier and maintaining a tighter magnetic field.

### Compact design (Relatively)

Like the Inspiration Stereo 1.0, Taurus is 8.5 inches high by 17 inches wide, although the chassis is deeper to accommodate the larger power supply. This more compact design makes it easier to use Taurus in smaller rooms and in equipment racks.

### 250 watts per channel into 8 ohms

Taurus's extra transformer and supply capacitance give it the power to deliver 250 watts into 8-ohm loads and 500 watts into 4-ohm loads. This eliminates any concern about whether the amp can drive your speakers—no matter what speakers you own.

### Balanced Bridged circuit concept

We build Taurus from multiple 125-watt single-ended modules using only N-type output transistors. This design delivers the "best of both worlds": the power of large amplifiers, and the finesse and musicality of the best small amplifiers. Because it is fully balanced, with separate circuits for the positive and negative halves of the signal, slew rate doubles and frequency response is expanded.

### Constellation Link balanced interface

Taurus includes a Direct XLR input for our Constellation Link interface. This interface, used with Constellation preamps, bypasses the amplifier's input stage and allows the preamp to drive Taurus's output stages di-

rectly. This arrangement assures the simplest possible audio chain and the best possible sound quality in systems where Constellation preamps are used.

### Line Stage Gain Module

Signals from non-Constellation preamps can still achieve their maximum fidelity thanks to the Taurus's Line Stage Gain Module, which is connected to the standard XLR and RCA inputs. This module is the same circuit used in our preamps. Its unique servo design maintains a perfect balance between the positive and negative halves of the audio signal, preserving even the tiniest details in the music without distortion or coloration.

### All-discrete audio circuitry

For maximum performance and precision, Taurus's audio circuits inside are manufactured using no ICs in the audio path, only discrete components.

### Inherently stable design

Taurus's Balanced Bridged design is inherently stable even at ultrasonic frequencies, so it does not require a Zobel output at its network as many high-end power amps do. This means fewer components between the output transistors and your speakers—and clearer sound as a result.

## SPECIFICATIONS

	Monoblock	Stereo
Inputs	2 XLR (1 for Constellation Link) 1 RCA	4 XLR (2 for Constellation Link) 2 RCA
Outputs	metal binding posts	
Power output per channel, 8Ω (1 kHz @ 0.05% THD+N)	500 W	250 W
Power output per channel, 4Ω (1 kHz @ 0.05% THD+N)	1000 W	500 W
Frequency response	10 Hz to 100 kHz, +1/-0.5 dB	
Gain	32 dB	
THD+N (1 kHz @ rated power)	<0.05%	
Output impedance	0.05Ω	
Damping factor (8Ω load)	150	
Input impedance	100KΩ unbalanced, 200KΩ balanced	
Output noise	<500 μV, -100 dB @ 250 watts	
Weight	120 lbs / 54.4 kg	
Dimensions	11.7 x 18.75 x 23.75 in (hwd) 297 x 476 x 603 mm (hwd)	

*Constellation reserves the right to change designs, and / or specifications*

 **constellation**

Audio That Inspires

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