

Owners Manual

virtue **one.2**TM **two.2**TM Reference grade audio amplifier

Document Revision 1.5



Reference grade integrated two-channel amplifier
Powered by Tripath™ technology

Purchased from Dealer:

Serial Number:

Purchase Date:

Invoice Number:

Welcome

We started Virtue in 2005 with the dream of bringing the sensory experience of the high-end audio to the masses. Welcome to our family! If you're already an audiophile, you know already that this amplifier is one of the best sounding, highest value audio products ever made. If you simply like listening to good music, we hope to help you appreciate accurate sound reproduction and museum-caliber build quality. Once you do, you'll be an audiophile.

Virtue is a principle-driven company. Here are some of the rules we live by:

- Life is too short for bad audio. Make audio lovers audiophiles.
- If it's not overbuilt, it can be made better. Overbuild.
- Provide a transporting sensory experience through sight, touch, and sound.
- Make a product too attractive to be hidden in a cabinet.
- Build it no bigger than it needs to be, but no smaller.
- Make sure that ten is "loud enough" but go all the way to eleven regardless.
- Establish Virtue as the highest value brand in the industry.
- Provide a completely satisfying buying experience.
- Live up to the Virtue name in every product and every way, every day.

We hope that you get a lifetime of enjoyment from your Virtue amplifier. Let this guide show you how. We'll cover:

- What's New
- What's in the box
- Setting up your amplifier
- Deployment options
- Trouble-shooting
- Specifications
- Warranty
- Trademarks

If you have any questions whatsoever about the amplifier, please submit feedback on our website. Go to <http://www.virtueaudio.com>, click on "Us" and then specify "Product Question" or "Product Issue" in the message form.

What's New

The Virtue ONE.2 and ONE "classic" models are next-generation versions of the critically acclaimed Virtue ONE amplifier and likewise, with the TWO.2. These amplifiers include two of the most requested upgrades:

- a tiny but extremely high-resolution, 20+ step attenuator
- built-in 80Hz high-pass mains filter for the buffered subwoofer output

While the "classic" does not add these features, it is more advanced than the original Virtue ONE in several respects. Significantly, both models include a built-in soft-start which allows you to use high-current power supplies with the unit safely. Our testing has shown that using high-current supplies running at the same 30V provides significant musical improvements.

Customers are having very good luck with DIY as well as high-end commercial power supplies. Please visit our forum on Audio Circle (<http://www.audiocircle.com/index.php?board=152.0>) to stay current and learn the latest tips and tricks. Commercial power supply options available for these amplifiers include:

- **Red Wine Audio Black Lightning:** beautifully boxed and finished 24V (nominal 25V) SLA supply including the proprietary SMART recharger and soft-start circuit. Available from <http://www.redwineaudio.com>.
- **JT Dynamic Power:** professionally packaged Antek PS-3N30 power supply with enhancements. Available from <http://store.virtueaudio.com>.
- **Paul Hynes:** custom, proprietary regulated, linear supplies. Available from <http://www.paulhynesdesign.com>.
- **Dodd Audio:** 24V SLA DIY battery kit with recharger. Available from <http://store.virtueaudio.com>.

We do not limit what supply you use with your amplifier only that the output not exceed 30V DC. The amp can draw more than 7A depending on the load impedance, at 30V. For a 2 ohm load, it could be well over 10A. The fuse must be matched to maximum current demanded by the amp (not the supply). The recommended fuse is 6.5A slow blow (these blow at around 2x fuse voltage).

In this document we refer to both the "classic" and ONE.2 models as the "ONE.2" to reflect that they are based on the same, next-generation platform.

What's in the box

You will find 4 items in the box.



Please note that we changed the name of the product from "audiophile" to "virtue" but the box was not reprinted.



1. Virtue ONE.2



4. Volume knob (must be attached, preferably glued)



2. Power Supply unit (PSU) *If you order a high-current supply, you should still receive a "stock" 65w/24v supply suitable for near-field listening or burn-in. We advise that you keep this on-hand for testing as well should you experience any challenges with your high-current supply.*



3. AC power cord

Setting up your amplifier

We bubble wrap several of the amplifier parts to protect them during long-distance shipping. After unwrapping the parts, you should be up and running within 5 minutes. You will then need to:

- 1) Attach the volume knob
- 2) Connect the signal and speaker cables
- 3) Plug in power
- 4) Turn on!

Attach the volume knob

After unwrapping the amplifier and the volume knob, you must attach the volume knob, which is shipped separately to minimize possible damage to the POT/attenuator. The volume knob will not always be tight enough to avoid dropping off. We recommend putting a drop of super-glue into the inner plastic bushing and then immediately pressing on the knob. The flat part on the bushing should correspond with the flat part of the POT/attenuator shaft.



If the amp is shipped with the volume knob attached, it is possible that the POT shaft will tear completely off. Remember that if you are sending the amp this way, make sure that the volume knob cannot bounce around by security it in both directions with removable masking tape.

Plug in audio inputs and outputs

The following diagram shows how the unit is configured for stereo (2 channel) play.



For use as a mono-block amplifier, simply use one channel of the amplifier (left or right). The unit will automatically dedicate all available current to the channel you choose: left, right or both (if both channels are attached). That's it.

Note: The binding posts have been re-oriented to reflect that the unit is most commonly wired vertically instead of horizontally. Additionally, a sticker has been added beneath the binding posts to reduce the chance that speaker cables are shorted to the enclosure. Please reduce the chance of speaker damage by unplugging the unit before connecting speakers.

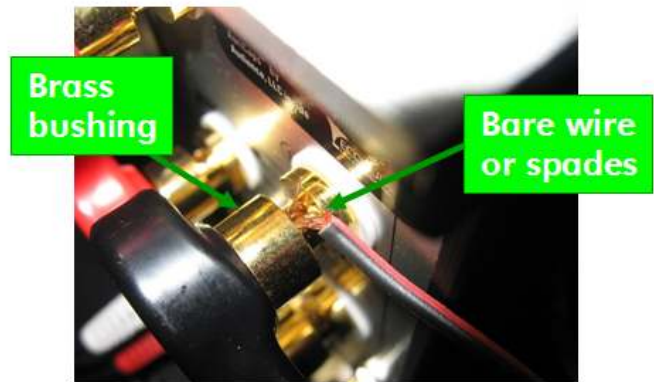
Connect your audio source to the L/R RCA input connectors. Your CD/DVD player, DAC, MP3 player, tuner, TV audio, preamp, and other inputs can be connected here. The unit supports high level inputs such as MP3 players on maximum volume.

WARNING: If you are using a subwoofer, please use the line-level subwoofer output. **Do NOT connect the high-level speaker outputs to your sub-woofer high-level inputs** and use the subwoofer amp to cross-over the high and low frequencies. With Tripath™ amps such as this one, there is a more than zero chance that your subwoofer amplifier will bridge the amp's speaker outputs, blowing up your Virtue amp. If you want to prevent low frequencies from reaching your main speakers, please use the 80Hz high-pass jumper on the volume pot (on the ONE.2/TWO.2) or follow the instructions below about changing the main input capacitors (for other frequencies or with the ONE "classic").

You will attach speaker cables to the glorious Propeller Post™ binding posts. They support banana plugs, bare wire, and spades.



Banana plugs are simply inserted in the back of the plug. Banana plugs are the most convenient attachment option.



Bare wire can be wrapped around the post or inserted through the hole. Be sure the brass bushing is above the hole as shown. Spades and bare wire provide the opportunity for an all-copper signal path (on the TWO).

If you are using bare wire or spades, twist down the posts to make a solid connection. Check the connections again in a week to see they remain snug. If snug, they should remain that way.

You may connect speakers with an impedance of anywhere from 2 ohms to 16 ohms, without problem. Lower impedances may cause the amp to shut down; higher impedances may not have optimum frequency response. But you'll be fine with the vast majority of speakers on the market. Running the amp without speakers will not harm it.

Plug in power

Making sure that the unit is turned off, you will then plug in the power brick, linear power supply, or high-current SLA batteries.

Turn on the amplifier

You can now depress the power switch to turn on the unit. When you do, the blue LED on the front panel will illuminate. Also, you will notice a red light momentarily behind the volume control. Seeing this light flash during startup, shutdown, and under very heavy loads (signaling clipping) is normal. The soft-start circuit in these amplifiers will delay full turn-on for around ½ second. This circuit protects the power switch when high-current supplies are in use.

If you see the red light come on often or consistently during normal listening, please consider upgrading the PSU or turning down the volume. Clipping can damage speakers.

Modding your unit

You may want to remove the wrap-around skin in several circumstances:

1. Curiosity.
2. Replacing the cover with another color.
3. Bypassing the POT/attenuator to turn the unit in case a pre-amp is being used.
4. Minor repairs or upgrades such as:
 - a. tightening the output binding posts
 - b. replacing the LED assembly
 - c. replacing the fuse
 - d. replacing the power switch
 - e. replacing the input capacitor to implement high-pass filtering

WARNING: Before modding your Virtue amplifier, please insure that the amplifier is completely powered off and the power supply cable is disconnected from the amplifier.

Removing the Cover

To remove the cover, choose a hex-screw wrench that fits the screws snugly. Unscrew slowly, making sure not to strip the threads. When tightening, please do not over-tighten as you may damage the threads and make it difficult to remove them.



After removing the screws, spring open the shell and gently slide back, half way. Do not slide the cover off fully before unfastening the LED tether.

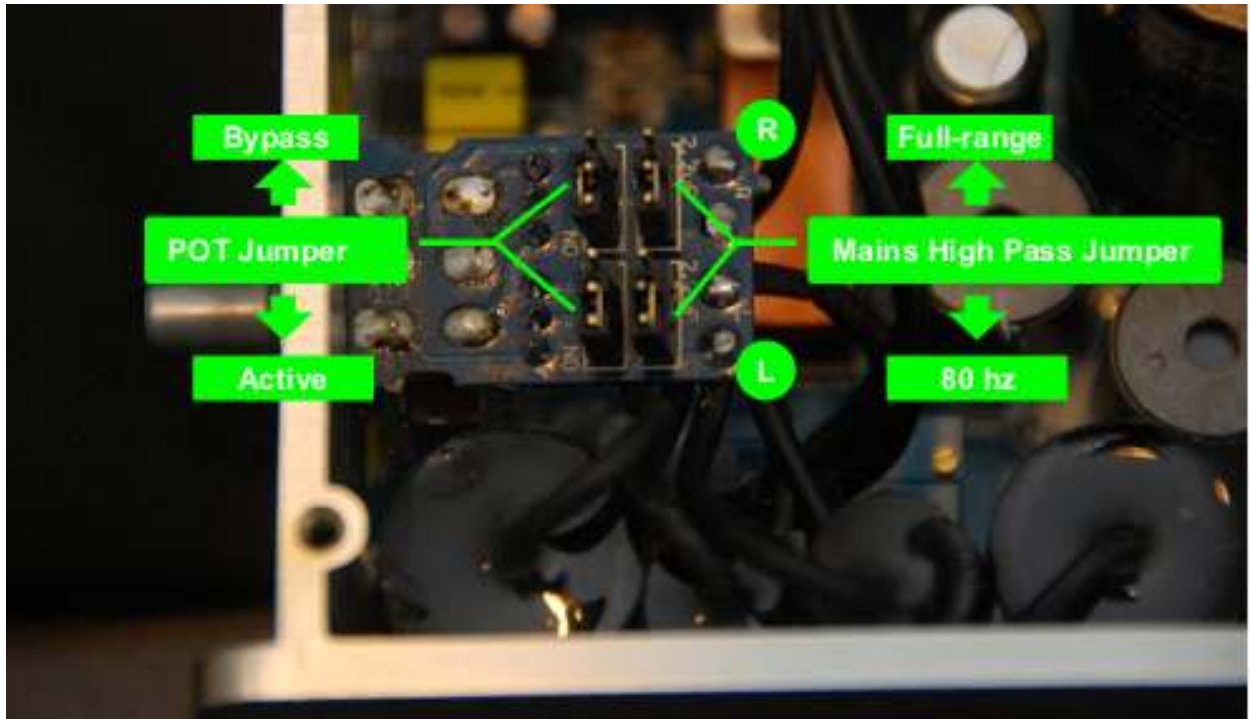
Unfastening the LED

On the front side of the unit, you will find the LED tether. Using your fingers or a needle-nose pliers, pull it up from the board.



Turn the unit into a power amplifier

If you are using a pre-amplifier, there is no need to use the internal attenuator (POT) on the Virtue amp. Customers have found that by taking the POT out of the circuit, sound quality improves. This job requires moving the POT bypass jumpers.



The volume control bypass jumpers are located on the end of the circuit board under the POT.

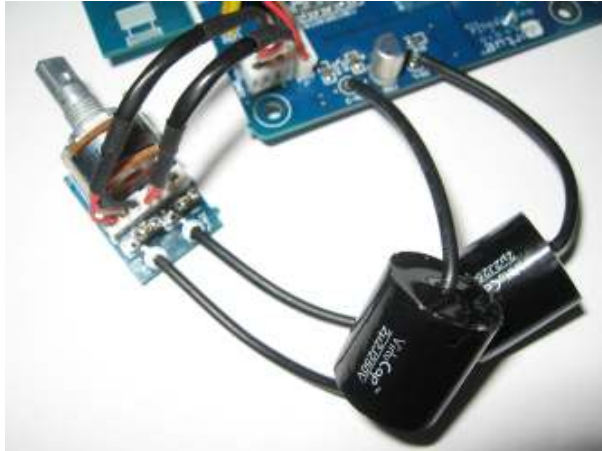
Small needle nose pliers will make the job easy. Simply move the jumpers to the position shown in the photo above. If you have not yet glued the volume knob in place, the job can be made easier by removing the 8mm nut, pulling the POT back and moving the jumpers. Then reinstall the pot.

*We recommend trying the volume in full open position with your preamp first, to be certain this works well with your system.

Cuting off low-frequencies to your main speakers

There is also a second set of jumpers on the POT board which will engage the smaller 0.1 uF input capacitor rather than the default, larger, full-range 2.2 uF capacitor.

On the ONE "classic" and legacy ONE/TWO amplifiers, making this change requires desoldering the installed input capacitors and replacing them with smaller values. We recommend high quality film capacitors such as Auricap or Sonic Caps.

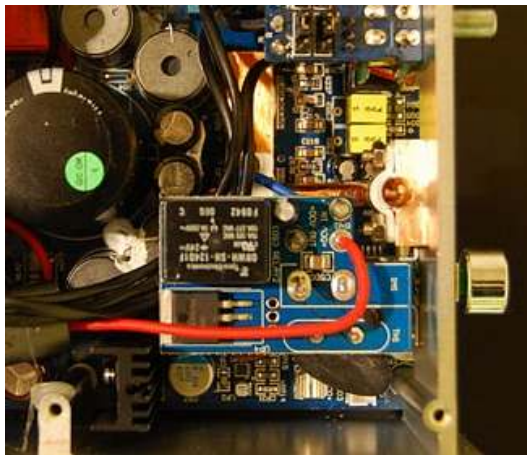


The picture to the left is of the prior model (ONE/TWO).

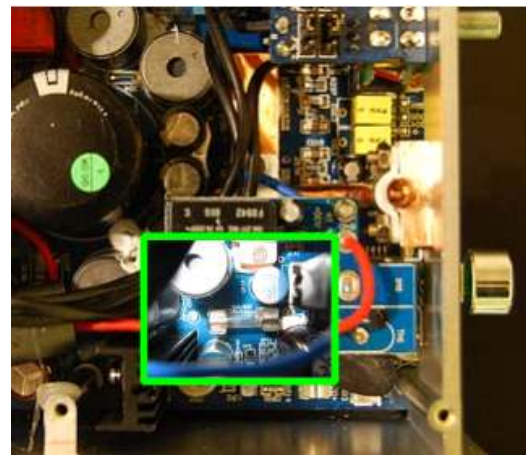
- For 80Hz high pass use 0.1uf
- For 100Hz high pass use 0.082uf
- For 120Hz high pass use 0.068uf
- For 160Hz high pass use 0.05uf

Replacing the fuse

The fuse is located on the main circuit board. You will need to unscrew the power switch, holding the soft-start circuit board, in order to gain access to it. A 6.5A slow-blow fuse (5mm x 20mm) is recommended (no larger). It is possible that when you upgrade the PSU on the amp, the fuse will simply blow. This is a standard part you can find in most hardware stores. If you have trouble finding the part, email us.



The fuse is hidden.



The soft-start circuit board attached to the power button must be loosened to access it.

Troubleshooting

Virtue amplifiers are triple checked and burned in for 24-hours before shipment to customers and are built to provide a lifetime of use. Here are the most common problems that customers have experienced and recommended solutions.

Issue: Sound is only coming through one channel

Recommendation: The green ring on the subwoofer output jack is a quite dark green, so it may be mistaken for a black signal input jack. Please check to see that both the left and right (red/black) RCA input cables are connected to the RCA input jacks (red and black) and not the subwoofer output jack (green).

Issue: The unit will not turn on

Recommendation: It is most likely that the fuse is blown. Please open up the unit and replace the fuse with a 6A "slow blow"

Issue: FM reception is weaker when the radio is beside the amplifier

Recommendation: Please try moving the unit at least 24 inches away from FM receiver in order to reduce interference.

Issue: The amp clicks on and off every 5-10 seconds or so

Recommendation: Your switching power supply has probably failed and clicking is the soft-start circuit engaging and disengaging.

Issue: The Virtue label fell off

Recommendation: Due to some very cold weather this winter in both shipping and storage, your "VIRTUE" label the front of the amp may have come unglued. A drop of Super Glue will fix it back in place.



on

Issue: The red light behind the volume knob is flashing often

Recommendation: Seeing this light during play indicates clipping, a condition when the peaks of the signal are clipped off. This is the power limit of the amp. If you find your unit clipping often, please consider upgrading the power supply or turning down the volume. The unit will drive loads as low as 2 ohms and with speakers as insensitive as 83db, we have many satisfied customers.

Issue: My propeller posts have broken free from the chassis

Recommendation: It is possible to over-tighten the posts, thereby breaking allowing them to freely rotate. If this occurs, please open up the enclosure and tighten down the posts from the inside. Also, add some super-glue or Lok-Tite™ to reduce the chance of untwisting.

This condition is especially common on the new amps because the plastic label on the back does not provide enough friction.

Issue: The volume knob cannot rotate 360 degrees or is off-center

Recommendation: Due to poor tolerances on the chassis volume hole, jarring the unit may knock the volume knob off-center. To fix, loosen the nut holding the potentiometer in place, move the knob to the center position via a vis the wrap-around, and re-tighten.

Issue: The blue LED pulses on and off and gets dimmer, when no music is playing

Recommendation: The relay in your soft-start is probably blown open and must be replaced. Contact Virtue for more instructions.

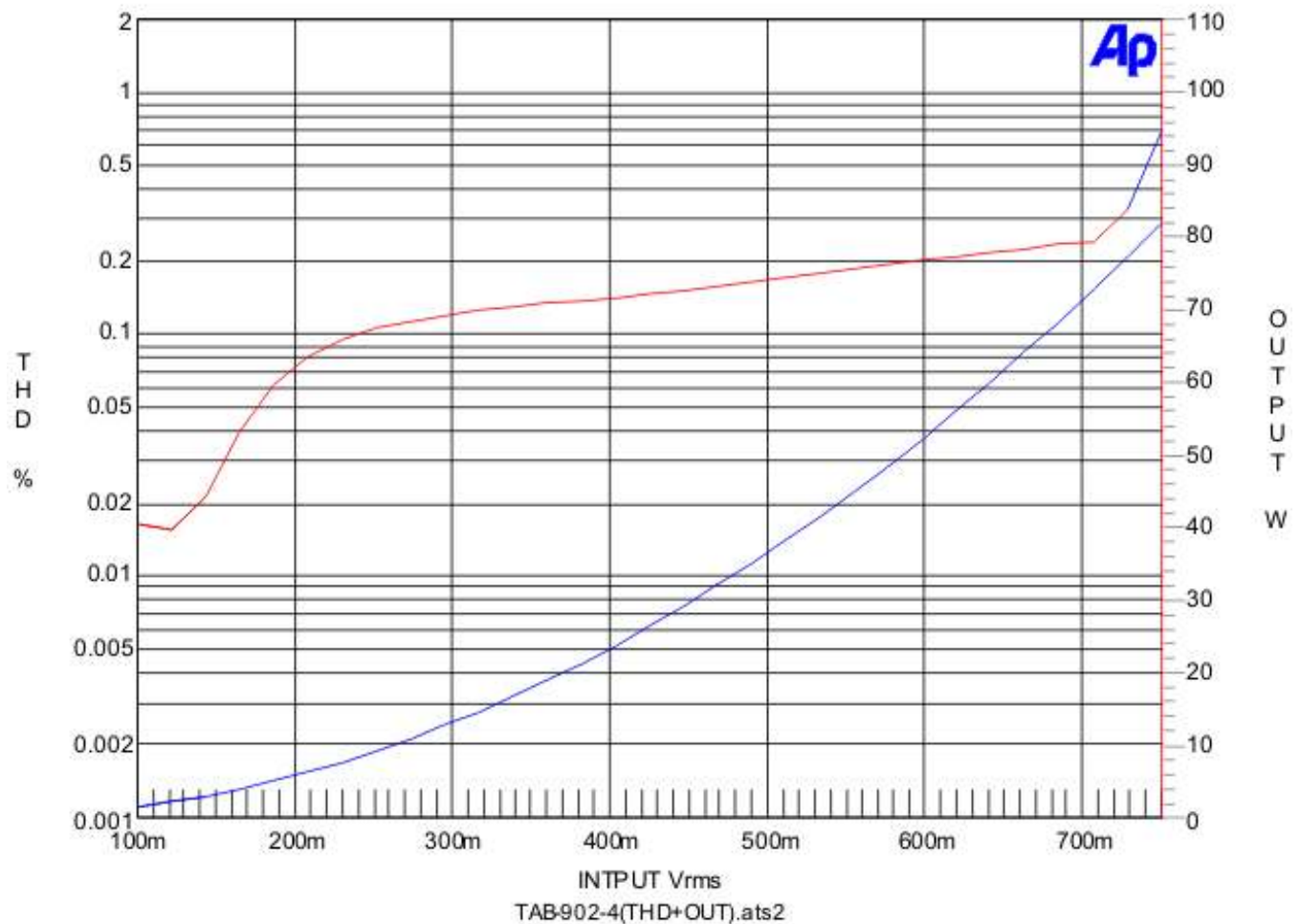
Issue: You see a spark when the power supply is attached to the amp

Recommendation: The relay in your soft-start is probably fused shut and must be replaced. Contact Virtue for more instructions.

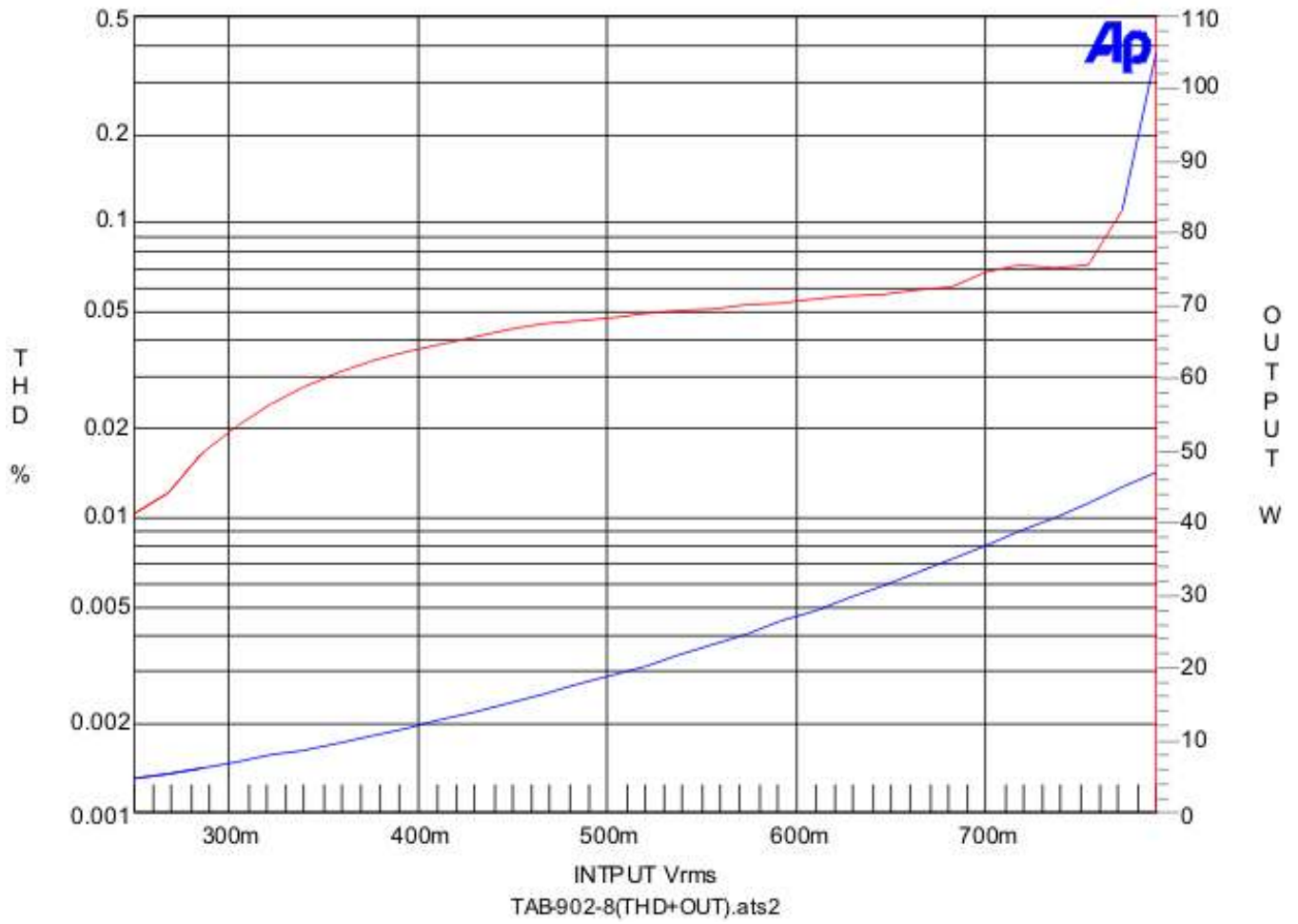
Specifications

Maximum DC voltage	30 V
Efficiency	~85%
Input Impedance (default: POT enabled)	18K ohm
Input Impedance (POT bypassing)	15K ohm
Minimum speaker impedance	2 ohms
Maximum speaker impedance	20 ohms
Total Harmonic Distortion (THD) @ 87wpc	<0.1%
Maximum usable power source @ 30 V	Greater than 7A/200W (both channels)

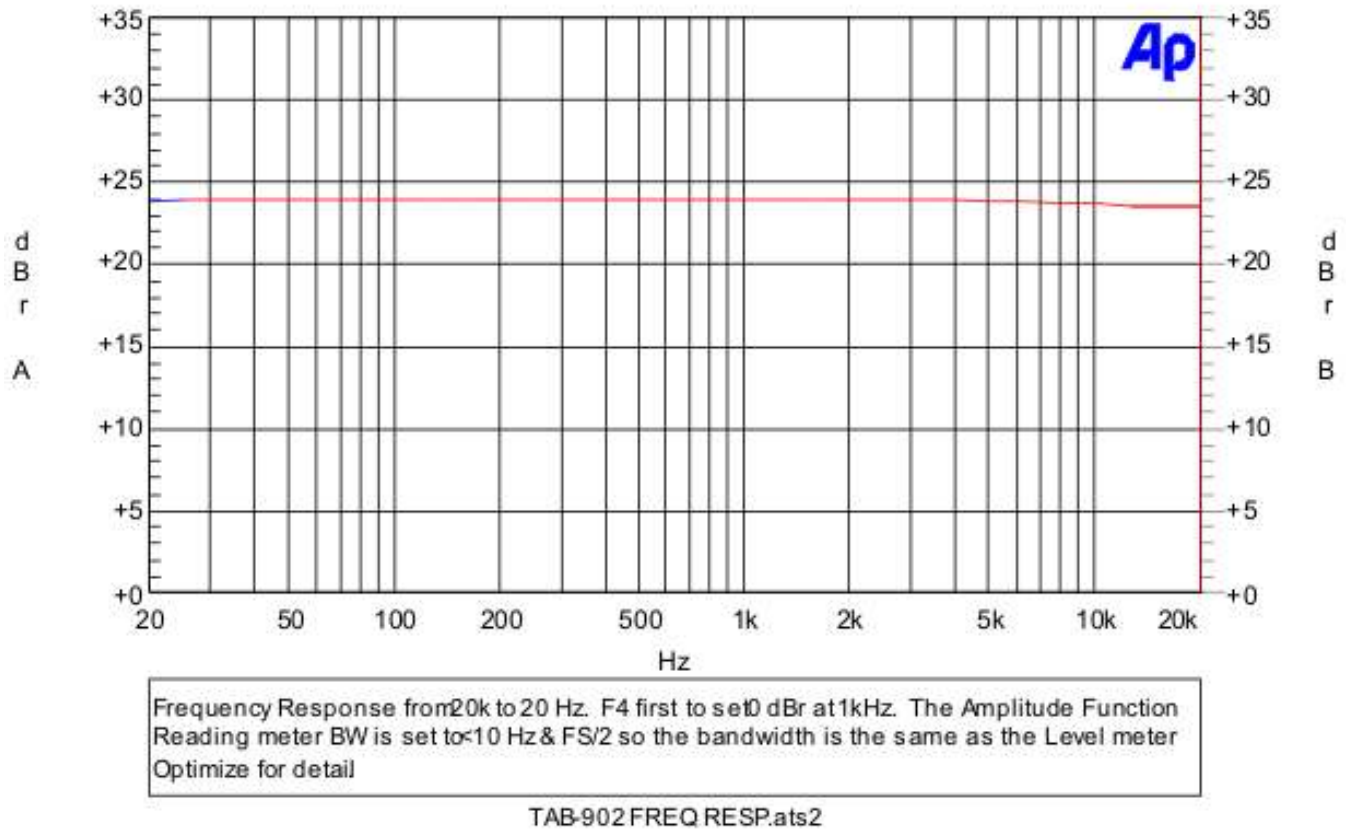
Power vs. Distortion @ 30v, 4 ohms load



Power vs. Distortion @ 30v, 8 ohms load



Frequency Response



Warranty

Virtue Audio products are guaranteed to be free of defects for 2 years from the time of purchase. If you experience what you consider a defect, please visit the "Contact Us" section of the Virtue Audio website and submit a message with the type "Product Issue". We reply to requests within 24-48 hours. If you did not purchase the product from Virtue Audio directly, you may also contact the seller who may be able to help you faster and easier.

We keep a stock of replacement parts such as blue LEDs, power switches, and volume POTs. In some situations, it may be faster and easier for you the customer to perform the repair than to send your unit back to the dealer or Virtue in the USA. We will discuss opportunities for self-service on a case-by-case basis.

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