



EQ901 Platinum User Guide

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Introduction

The EQ901 Platinum is Deer Creek Audio's flagship equalizer / preamplifier for the legendary Bose 901® Series speakers. The EQ901 Platinum features four specifically designed equalization curve sets unique to each series: I/II, III/IV or V/VI (select your series when ordering).

The EQ901 Platinum is also a high fidelity digital preamplifier intended to drive high quality power amplifiers, integrated amplifiers or receivers. Analog, USB, SPDIF, TOSLINK and high definition Bluetooth (LDAC) streaming inputs are included.

When used in the digital input mode, the music stream is maintained in the digital domain all the way through the 901 equalization process. This is the purest and highest fidelity way to drive your 901s.

1. Features

- Precise BOSE 901 equalization
- The four BOSE 901 tone modes (EQ curves) are available on all four outputs
 - Normal mode
 - Enhanced mode
 - Warm mode
 - Low frequency reduction mode
- Two identical stereo pairs outputs are available, allowing for dual active stereo systems (two stereo power amps) or the addition of an active subwoofer(s)
- Remote volume control with 0.5dB resolution and mute
- Inputs - remote selectable
 - Bluetooth streaming - LDAC CD quality
 - Analog RCA or Balanced TRS
 - USB audio
 - TOSLINK / SPDIF (RCA / optical)
- Output Options
 - Single-ended analog I/O (RCA)
 - Balanced analog I/O (TRS)
- OLED front panel display and volume control knob
- Ultra low noise and distortion

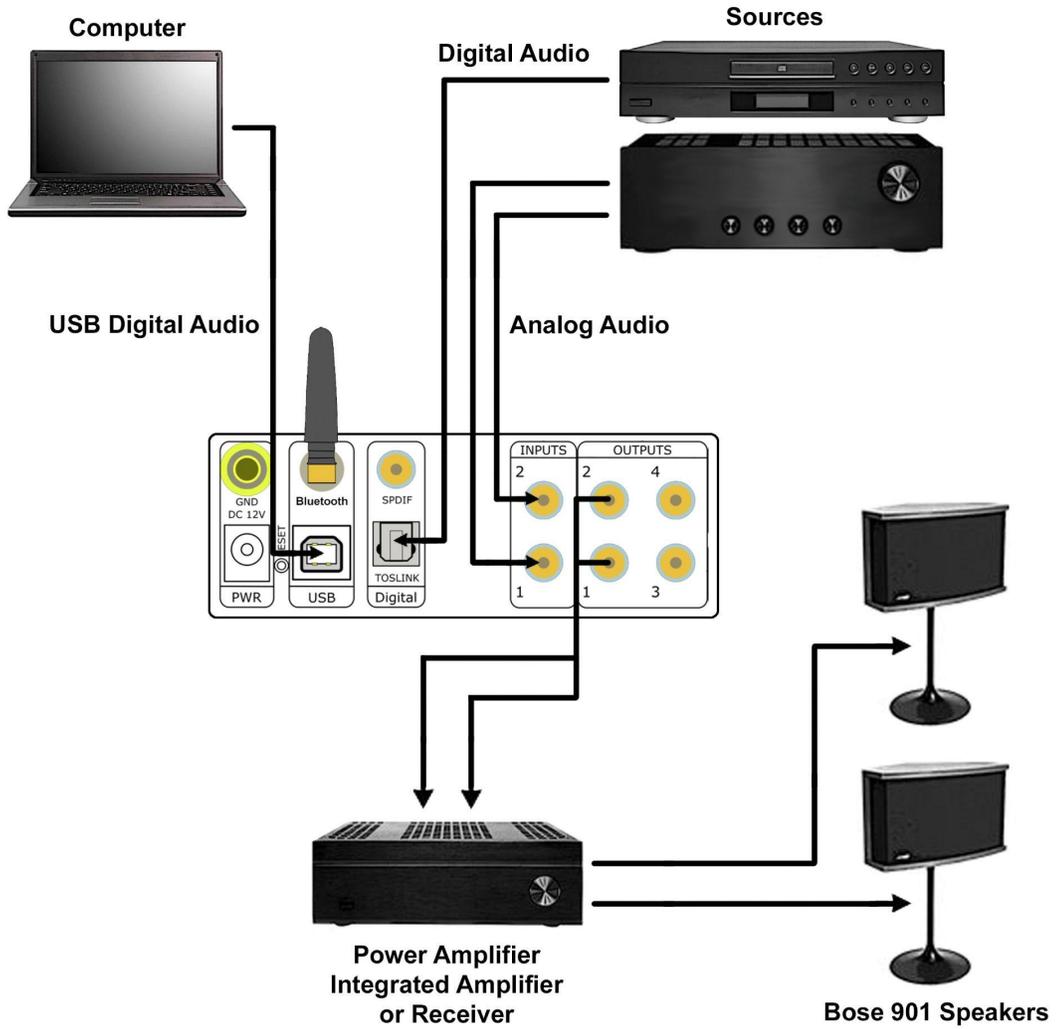
2. What's Included

- EQ901 Platinum equalizer
- Four precision engineered tone adjustment equalization curves
- IR remote
- External power supply (UK/EU/US)

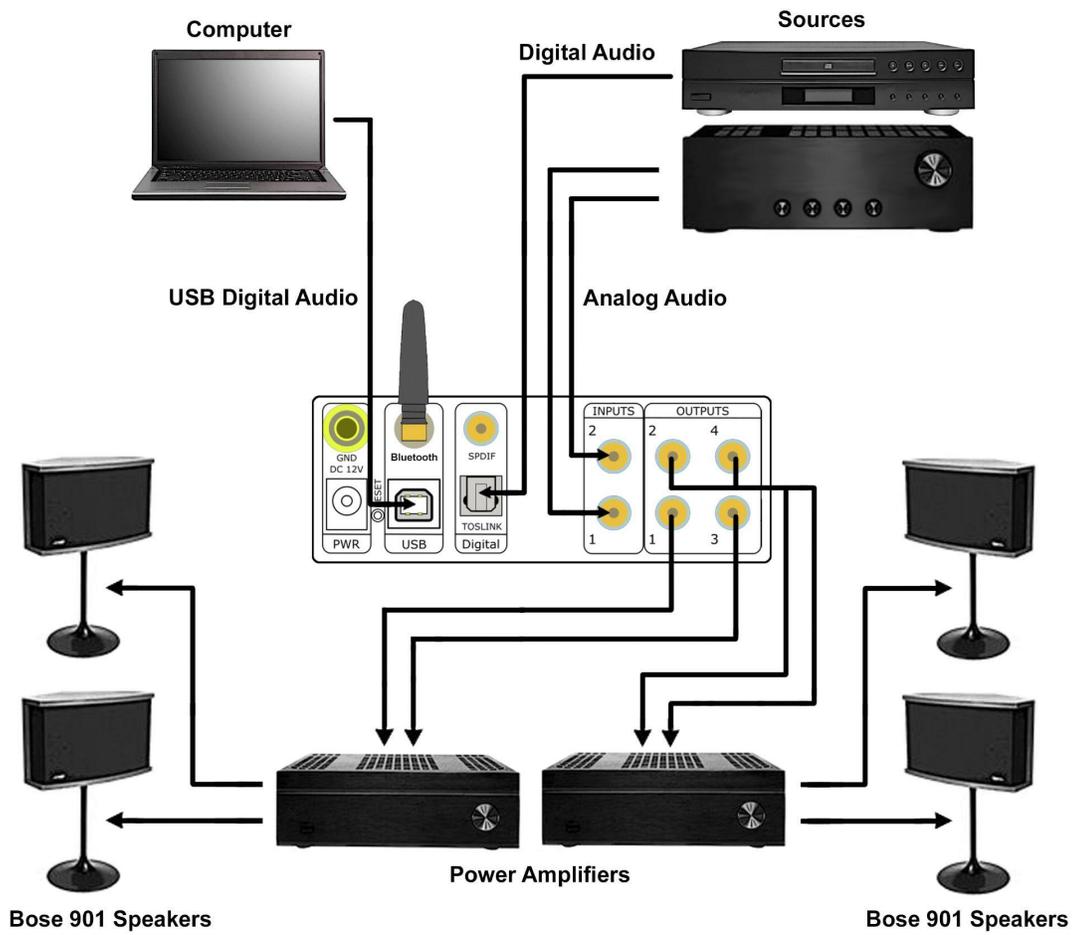
3. Typical Installation Examples

Analog audio input and output connections are made directly to the RCA input and output jacks. For RCA connections, #1 is Left (L) and #2 is Right (R). ***When making these connections, make sure to power off the equipment being connected.***

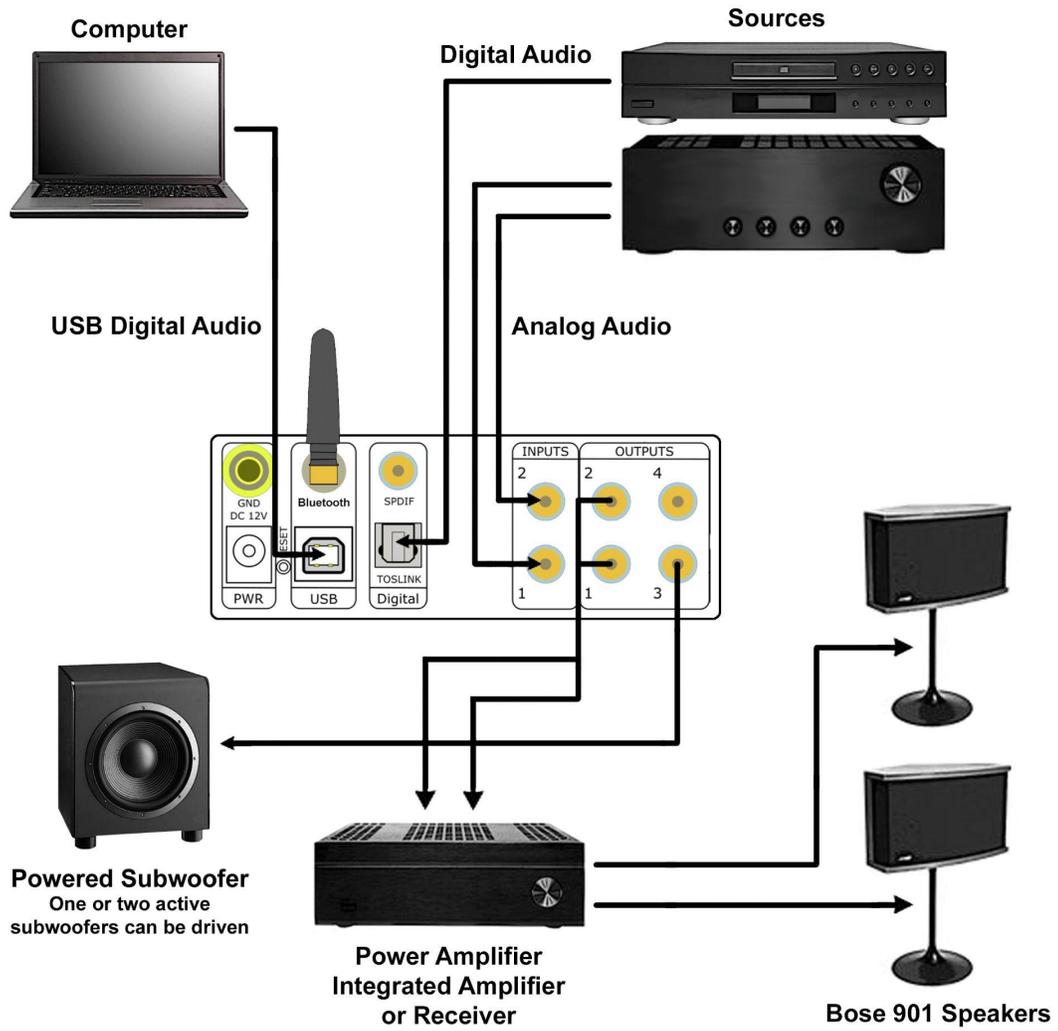
3.1 Stereo Mode



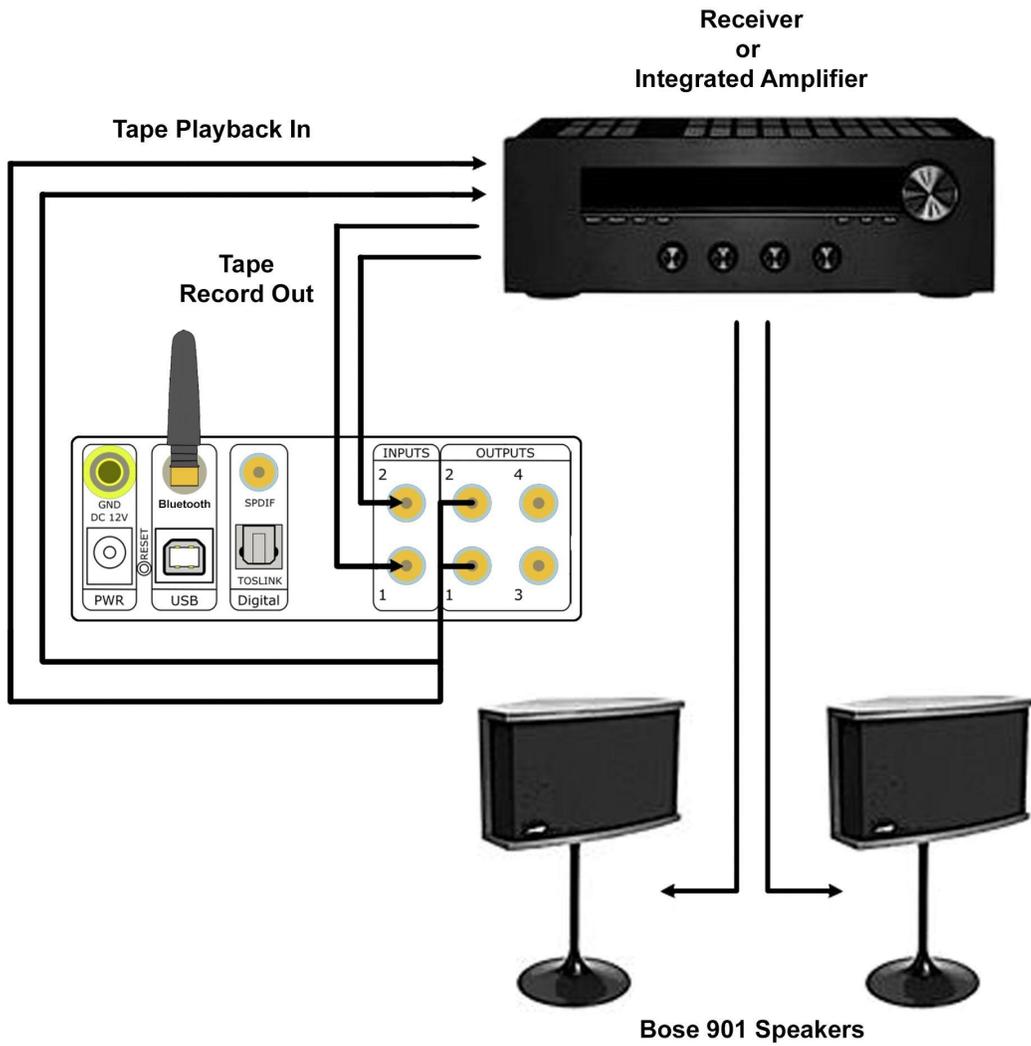
3.2 Dual Stereo (Quad) Mode



3.3 Active Subwoofer Mode

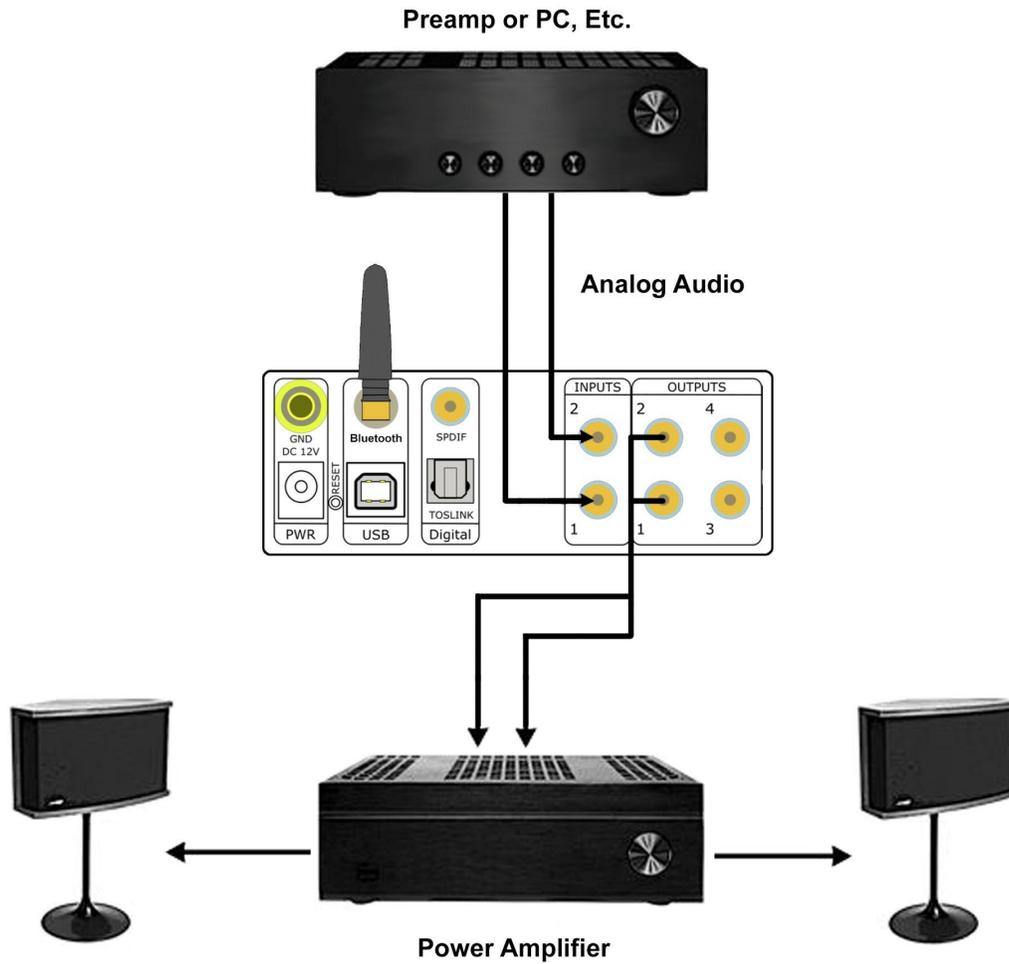


3.4 Tape / Processor Loop Setup

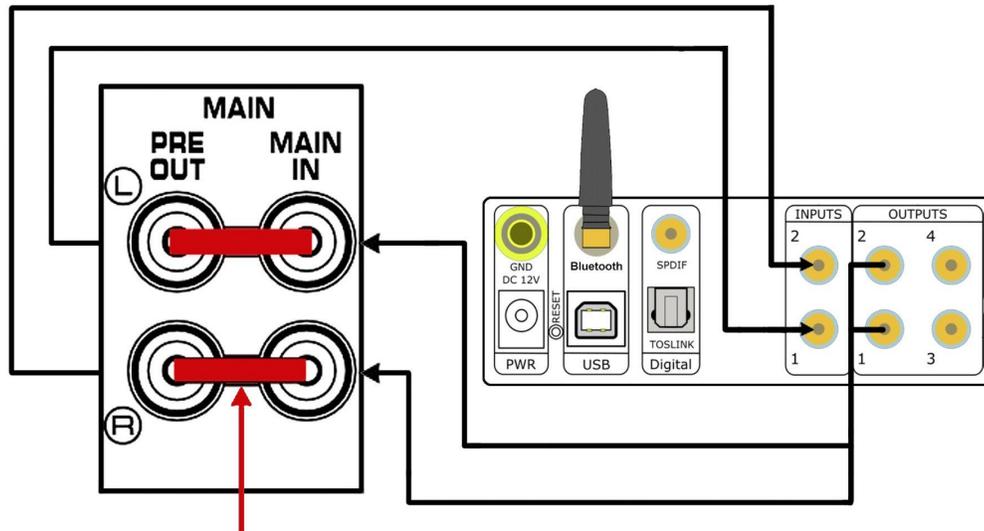


3.5 Analog Only Preamp / Power Amplifier Setup

This example shows a typical connection between a preamp and power amp.



If you have a receiver or integrated amplifier with a pre-out / main in loop, you can insert the EQ901 Platinum as shown below.

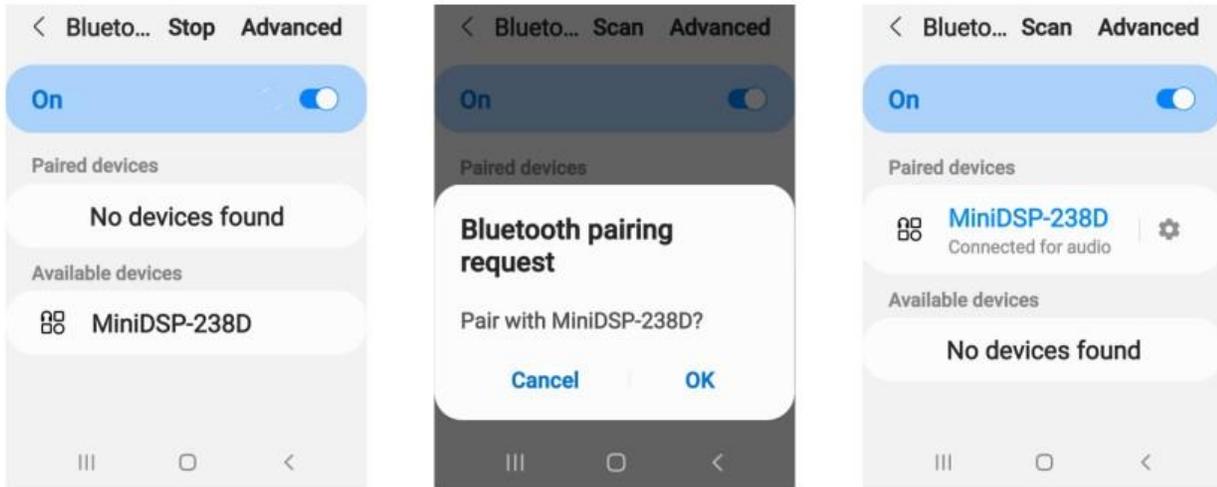


Remove Couplers or Select Per Amplifier Manual

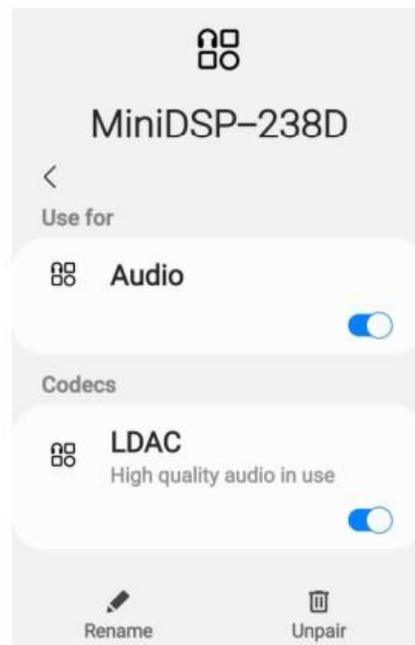
4. Bluetooth

The EQ901 Platinum includes LDAC and aptX HD Bluetooth. To put the EQ901 Platinum into pairing mode:

1. Press the encoder button on the Platinum twice and rotate it until the display shows "Bluetooth."
2. Press and hold the encoder and the display will change to "BTPairing." The EQ901 Platinum is now in pairing mode.
3. Open the Bluetooth Settings on your mobile device to pair with the Platinum. The exact appearance will vary depending on your specific device, but this series of screenshots illustrates a typical sequence.



4. If your device supports LDAC, enable it by using the gear icon.



When Bluetooth audio is selected as the source, the front panel display will show the source in the lower right corner as one of the following:

- BT(C) - Paired over Bluetooth
- BT(NC) - No Bluetooth device is paired
- BT(P) - In pairing mode.

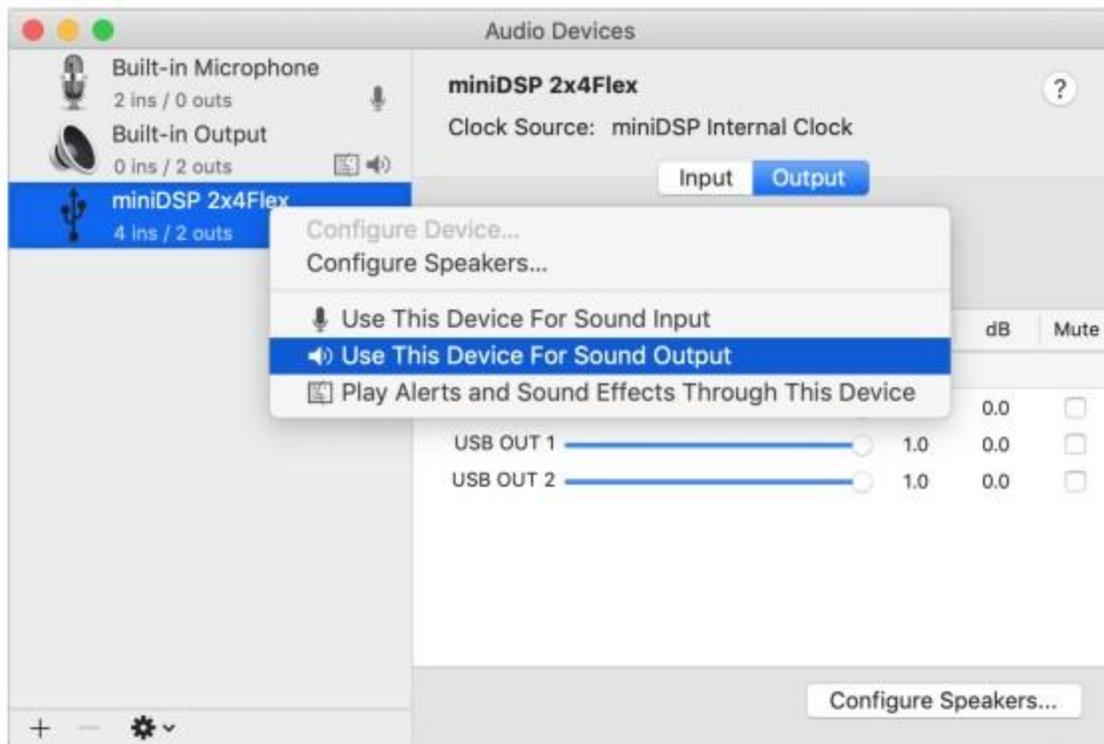
The EQ901 Platinum will receive and play the audio stream from the paired device.

5. USB Audio

The EQ901 Platinum accepts USB stereo audio from your Windows pc or macOS computer.

5.1 Connecting with macOS

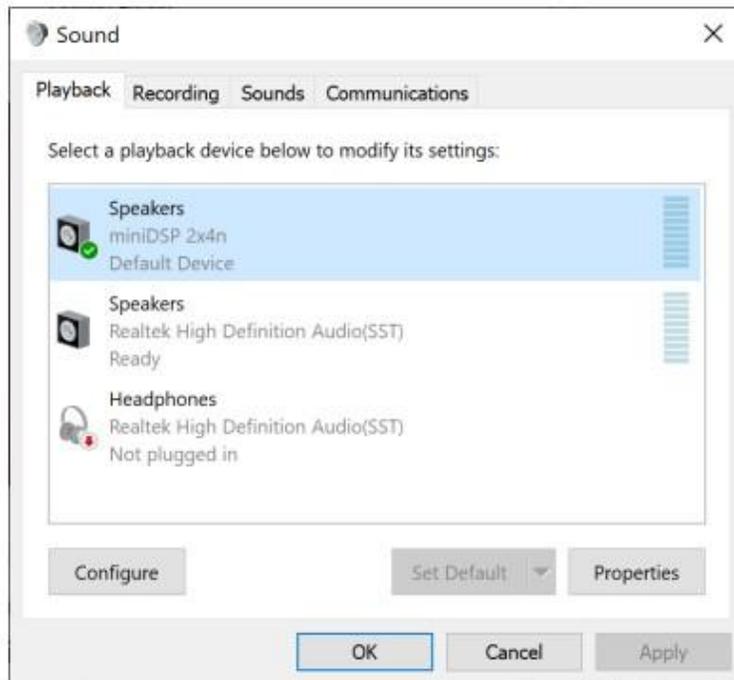
Open Audio MIDI setup and select “miniDSP 2x4 Flex”. Sample rates up to 192 kHz can be selected. To set the EQ901 Platinum as the default audio output device, right-click and select “Use this device for sound output.”



5.2 Connecting with Windows

To set the EQ901 Platinum as the default audio output device, open the Windows Control Panel and navigate to the Audio Devices section. On the Playback tab, click the device named “miniDSP 2x4n” and select the “Set Default” button. To change the bit depth and sample rate, click on Properties and select Advanced. Drop down the selection menu and choose the desired value. Sample rates up to 192 kHz can be selected.

The enclosed thumb drive contains a USB driver that enables streaming music from the computer to the EQ901 Platinum. Connect the EQ901 to the computer using the USB cable then download and install the driver from the thumb drive.



6. Level Setting

Your EQ901 Platinum is being delivered with an internal level (gain) setting of 0db (max, no insertion loss) that you will adjust with the supplied remote control. It has been set with the analog inputs selected. **Be sure to turn down your music source to protect your system at turn on.** Once you have your inputs connected and all components on, you can adjust all the gain levels for optimal volume midposition control performance.

7. Subwoofer Settings

You may drive an active subwoofer with outputs 3 and 4, however, keep in mind these are an exact, full range stereo match to outputs 1 and 2. To begin, your subwoofer should be set at mid-level gain and the crossovers should be set at the mid-level setting. After you have the system up and running, adjust the subwoofer level, phase and crossover to get the best response.

We offer an active crossover subwoofer solution for users with pre/power amplifiers or pre-in/pre-out ports who wish to add a powered subwoofer to their system. This is applied to

Tone Mode 4 only and is calibrated with high and low pass filters to provide natural sounding, seamless subwoofer integration.

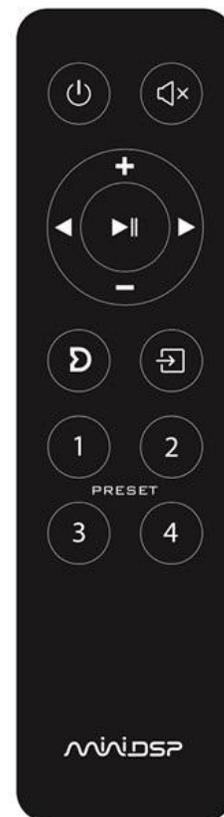
Please see the subwoofer supplement document for more information: [EQ901 Elite / USB / Platinum Powered Subwoofer Option Guide](#).

8. USB Music Server Volume Setting Warning

If you are streaming digital music via a server such as foobar2000, JRiver, Roon, etc., **begin with the server application level set low.**

9. Using the EQ901 Platinum Remote Control

-  **Standby**
Put into standby and take it out again.
-  **Mute**
Mute and unmute audio output.
-  **Volume**
+ - Reduce or increase the volume. Each press changes the volume by 0.5 dB. Holding down a button will accelerate volume change to 3 dB steps.
-  **Media control**
If the selected source is USB or Bluetooth, these buttons control audio playback. From left to right, the buttons skip back a track, play or pause audio, and skip forward to the next track.
-  **Not used.**
-  **Source selection**
Cycle through the available input sources in order: TOSLINK, SPDIF (coax), USB, Bluetooth, Analog.
-  **Preset (1 through 4)**
Switch to the selected preset. It will take a few seconds for the preset selection to complete



10. Setting Tone Modes

Selection of the tone mode is generally a subjective choice based on what sounds best to you. Specifically:

- Normal mode is the most neutral
- Enhanced mode provides a tighter sound
- Warm mode adds midrange with slight treble reduction
- Low frequency reduction mode is intended to control bass in smaller rooms or on “boomy” recordings

If you have ordered the optional subwoofer option, Tone Mode 4 is calibrated with high and low pass filters to provide natural sounding, seamless subwoofer integration.

11. Specifications

- Bluetooth streaming: LDAC™/aptX™ HD/aptX™/AAC/SBC
- Inputs: Stereo digital (USB Audio / SPDIF / Optical / Bluetooth), stereo analog
- Output versions: Unbalanced (RCA) or balanced (TRS)
- SNR (Digital to Analog): 121 dB(A)
- Analog Audio Input Impedance: 100 kΩ
- Analog Audio Output Impedance: 200 Ω
- Analog Devices Floating point DSP SHARC ADSP21489 @ 400MHZ
- Multi-Core USB Audio processor (XMOS)
- Dimensions: 150mm x 180mm x 41mm
- Power Supply: External PSU 12V/1.6A (US/UK/EU/AU plugs)
- Power: 10.3 W (idle) 3.1 W (standby)

12. Warranty Terms

This product is warranted to be free from defects in materials and workmanship for a period of one year from the invoice date. Warranty does not cover failure of the product due to incorrect connection or installation, improper or undocumented use, unauthorized servicing, modification or alteration of the unit in any way, or any usage outside of that recommended in this manual. Return shipping is the responsibility of the customer.

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Contact Deer Creek Audio

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