AAA-3780

Balanced / Unbalanced Line Audio Interface Amplifiers

IRT COMMUNICATIONS

User Manual

Revision History:

Revision	Date	By	Change Description	Applicable to:
00	05/05/2008	AL	Original Issue – based on AA-780 handbook.	Serial Numbers ≥ 0804001
01	10/06/2016	AL	Upgraded to I.R.T. Communications company name.	Serial Numbers ≥ 0804001
02	19/04/2017	AL	Link settings corrected.	Serial Numbers ≥ 0804001

USER MANUAL

Table of Contents:

This instruction book applies to Serial Numbers ≥ 0804001.

OPERATIONAL SAFETY

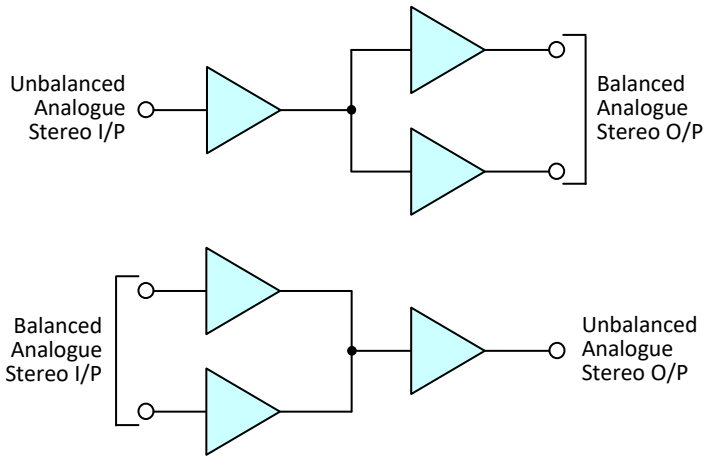
WARNING

Operation of electronic equipment involves the use of voltages and currents that may be dangerous to human life. Note that under certain conditions dangerous potentials may exist in some circuits when power controls are in the **OFF** position. Maintenance personnel should observe all safety regulations.

Do not make any adjustments inside equipment with power **ON** unless proper precautions are observed. All internal adjustments should only be made by suitably qualified personnel. All operational adjustments are available externally without the need for removing covers or use of extender cards.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

BLOCK DIAGRAM AAA-3780 SIGNAL PATH



The AAA-3780 Eurocard audio interface amplifier module contains four separate amplifiers designed to provide level matching and to interface balanced 600 Ω and unbalanced high impedance audio signals.

The AAA-3780 is a standard IRT Eurocard module and is compatible with our other Eurocard products.

Gain controls are accessible on the front panel.

Each of the four channels can be individually configured as either balanced to unbalanced or unbalanced to balanced.

Applications:

- **Gain matching of multiple unbalanced signals to balanced audio signals at a central location. (Nominally -6 dBu unbalanced to +8 dBu balanced and vice versa.)**
- **Matching balanced signals to unbalanced lines.**
- **Using hi-fi components such as CD players in a professional studio chain.**
- **Matching studio signals to unbalanced recorders.**
- **Matching transducers to instrumentation recorders.**

Standard features:

- **User configurable.**
- **Unbalanced to balanced;**
  or
- **Balanced to unbalanced.**
- **High common mode rejection.**
- **Wide gain range.**
- **High packaging density.**

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Inputs:

Type		Transformerless, choice of balanced or unbalanced.
Number		1 per amplifier.
Impedance		> 10 kΩ.
Maximum input level		24 dBu.
Input CMR		> 45 dB 20 Hz to 20 kHz.

Outputs:

Type		Transformerless, choice of balanced or unbalanced.
Number		1 per amplifier.
Impedance	**Balanced**	< 40 Ω.
	Unbalanced	< 60 Ω.
Maximum output level		24 dBu.
DC on Output		< ±20 mV.

Performance:

Overall gain	Set by front panel control. Adjustable from no output to a maximum of +10 dB.
Frequency response	±0.5 dB (20 Hz to 20 kHz).
Total harmonic distortion	< 0.01% (measured @ +10 dBm input) (20 Hz to 20 kHz).
Phase difference between channels	< 0.1^{o} (20 Hz to 15 kHz).
Noise	< -75 dBm unweighted.
Crosstalk ratio	> 80 dB.

Connectors:

Balanced	Pluggable screw block connectors.
Unbalanced	RCA phono.

Power Requirements:

Voltage	28 Vac CT (14-0-14) or ±16 Vdc.
Power consumption	< 2 VA (55 mA, no signal).

Other:

Temperature range		0 - 50° C ambient.
Mechanical		For mounting in IRT 19" rack chassis with input, output and power connections on the rear panel.
Finish	**Front panel**	Grey background, black lettering & red IRT logo.
	Rear assembly	Detachable silk-screened PCB with direct mount connectors to Eurocard and external signals.
Dimensions		6 HP x 3 U x 220 mm IRT Eurocard.

CIRCUIT DESCRIPTION

Audio matching amplifiers:

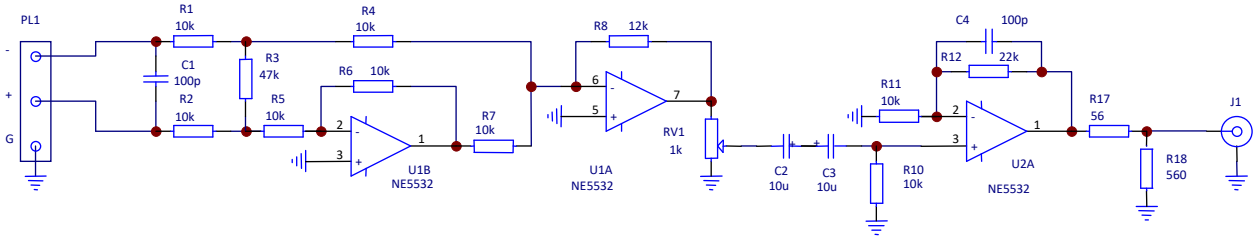
Four identical circuits are provided on the module. Only that for channel 1 will be described.

The circuit consists of the following parts:

1. Selection for balanced or unbalanced input and unbalanced or balanced output.
2. Balanced input amplifier
3. Balanced summing amplifier and unbalanced input amplifier
4. Output amplifier

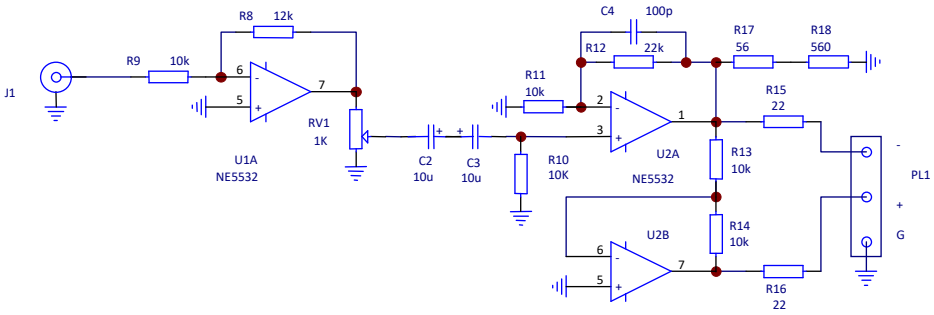
It should be noted that the three jumpers J1 A, B & C should be set only according to the pattern described in the configuration section. Failure to observe this may cause damage to the module or associated equipment.

Simplified diagram of AAA-3780 in Balanced to Unbalanced configuration:



The balanced input amplifier U1B inverts the incoming +ve signal and sums the result with the incoming -ve signal providing common mode rejection.

Simplified diagram of AAA-3780 in Unbalanced to Balanced configuration:



Amplifier U1A acts as a summing amplifier for a balanced input signal or as an input amplifier for an unbalanced input signal. Its output is fed to the gain control potentiometer RV1 which may be accessed by a screwdriver through the front panel to provide attenuation from full output to zero.

Up until this point the circuit has been DC coupled. In order to prevent DC bias fluctuations from possible DC content on the input, the output stage U2A / U2B is AC coupled by back to back high quality tantalum tag capacitors.

The output stage U2A / U2B provides a balanced output and additional gain. For unbalanced output operation only U2A is effectively employed.

For unbalanced output operation R17 and R18 form a voltage divider to set the correct output level and provide an output sourcing impedance of approximately 60 Ω.

For balanced output operation R15 and R16 provide an output sourcing impedance of approximately 40 Ω.

Wideband modification:

(For use with time code, composite stereo and other extended frequency response signals.)
Capacitor C4 in the feedback loop of U2A provides high frequency roll off above 20 kHz. If a higher frequency response is required the value of C4 may be decreased from 100 pF to 22 pF. This will provide a useful response to 100 kHz ± 0.5 dB.

Gain range extension modification:

It can be seen from the above simplified diagrams that that amplifier U1b is common to both configurations and that resistor R8 sets the gain of this stage. Increasing the value of R8 to 27 kΩ will result in approximately a 6 dB gain increase and to 47 kΩ in approximately a 12 dB gain increase.

Note however that the increase in gain will also result in an increase in noise. Whilst the NE5532 amplifier is a low noise type it is not considered to be sufficiently quiet for use as a preamplifier for dynamic microphones or other very low level signals.

Internal Adjustments:

There are no internal adjustments required except as noted in the configuration section.

CONFIGURATION

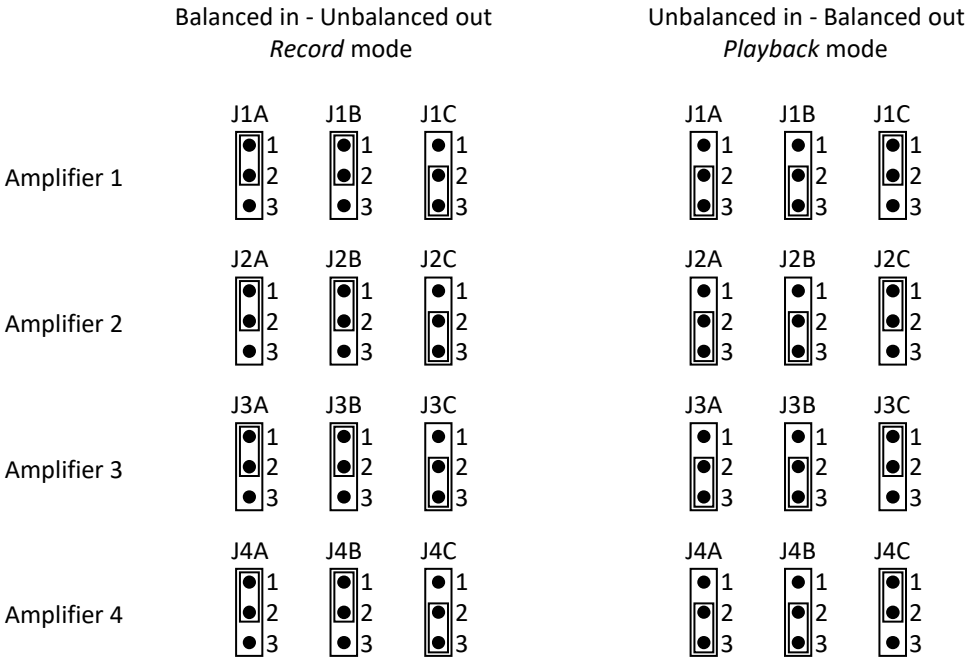
The AAA-3780 consists of four amplifier stages each of which must be set for correct operation prior to being connected to external equipment.

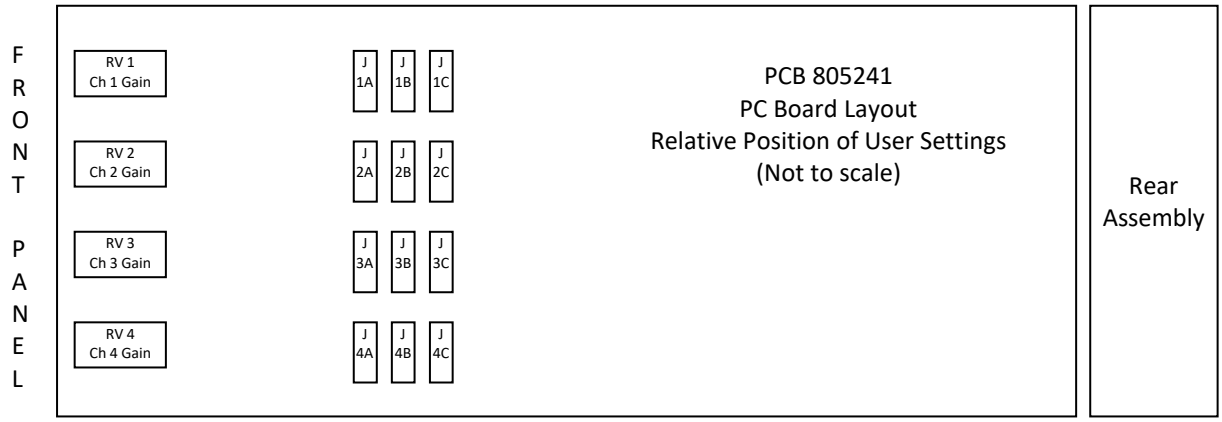
When shipped all four amplifiers are set for unbalanced input and balanced output. This may also be described as “Playback” mode as it is the normal mode for connecting a CD, DAT or VHS player with unbalanced outputs to the AAA-3780 to provide balanced outputs to connect to a studio balanced system.

Operation with balanced input and unbalanced output may conversely be described as “Record” mode as it is the normal mode for connecting a balanced studio output line to the unbalanced record input of a VHS or DAT recorder.

The main module PCB is labelled with the jumper settings required for *Record* or *Playback* operation of each of the four amplifiers.

These are as follows:





INSTALLATION

Pre-installation:

Handling:

This equipment may contain or be connected to static sensitive devices and proper static free handling precautions should be observed.

Where individual circuit cards are stored, they should be placed in antistatic bags. Proper antistatic procedures should be followed when inserting or removing cards from these bags.

Power:

AC mains supply: Ensure that operating voltage of unit and local supply voltage match and that correct rating fuse is installed for local supply.

DC supply: Ensure that the correct polarity is observed and that DC supply voltage is maintained within the operating range specified.

Earthing:

The earth path is dependent on the type of frame selected. In every case particular care should be taken to ensure that the frame is connected to earth for safety reasons. See frame manual for details.

Signal earth: For safety reasons a connection is made between signal earth and chassis earth. No attempt should be made to break this connection.

Installation in frame or chassis:

See details in separate manual for selected frame type.

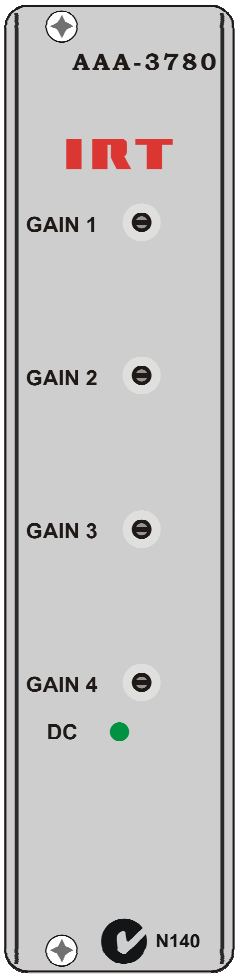
Audio Connections:

Note that the connectors on the rear assembly are not marked as input or output. The function of each connector is dependent on the mode selected by the jumpers on the main PCB. See configuration section for details.

Balanced connectors: Connection is made to the removable screw down terminal blocks provided with the module. Observe the polarity markings on the rear assembly for correct phasing of outputs.
For channels operated with balanced inputs the normal input impedance is 10 kΩ. If a lower input termination is required then termination resistors should be fitted to the input sockets.

RCA phono connectors: For stereo operation it is conventional to connect the Left channel to the black connector and the Right channel to the red connector.

Front & rear panel connector diagrams:



MAINTENANCE & STORAGE

Maintenance:

No regular maintenance is required.

Care however should be taken to ensure that all connectors are kept clean and free from contamination of any kind. This is especially important in fibre optic equipment where cleanliness of optical connections is critical to performance.

Storage:

If the equipment is not to be used for an extended period, it is recommended the whole unit be placed in a sealed plastic bag to prevent dust contamination. In areas of high humidity a suitably sized bag of silica gel should be included to deter corrosion.

Where individual circuit cards are stored, they should be placed in antistatic bags. Proper antistatic procedures should be followed when inserting or removing cards from these bags.

WARRANTY & SERVICE

Equipment is covered by a limited warranty period of three years from date of first delivery unless contrary conditions apply under a particular contract of supply. For situations when "**No Fault Found**" for repairs, a minimum charge of 1 hour's labour, at IRT's current labour charge rate, will apply, whether the equipment is within the warranty period or not.

Equipment warranty is limited to faults attributable to defects in original design or manufacture. Warranty on components shall be extended by IRT only to the extent obtainable from the component supplier.

Equipment return:

Before arranging service, ensure that the fault is in the unit to be serviced and not in associated equipment. If possible, confirm this by substitution.

Before returning equipment contact should be made with IRT or your local agent to determine whether the equipment can be serviced in the field or should be returned for repair.

The equipment should be properly packed for return observing antistatic procedures.

The following information should accompany the unit to be returned:

1. A fault report should be included indicating the nature of the fault
2. The operating conditions under which the fault initially occurred.
3. Any additional information, which may be of assistance in fault location and remedy.
4. A contact name and telephone and fax numbers.
5. Details of payment method for items not covered by warranty.
6. Full return address.
7. For situations when "**No Fault Found**" for repairs, a minimum charge of 1 hour's labour will apply, whether the equipment is within the warranty period or not. Contact IRT for current hourly rate.

Please note that all freight charges are the responsibility of the customer.

The equipment should be returned **to the agent who originally supplied the equipment** or, where this is not possible, to IRT directly. Details of IRT's direct address can be found at I.R.T. Communications' website.

Web address: www.irtcommunications.com

Email: sales@irtcommunications.com