## 1594B

## OPERATING <br> INSTRUCTIONS



Read this manual before operating the AL_TEC 15948 Power Amplifier.

## FEATURES

- 100 Watts of Output Power at Less than 1\% THD from 35 Hz to 20 kHz
- Transformer-Isolated Outputs for 4, 8 and 160 hms and for 25 V and 70.7 V Distribution Systems
- Switchable Highpass Filter Protects Driver Loudspeaker from Excessive Low-Frequency Power Demands
- Exclusive Active Dissipation Sensing Circuit Protects Output Transistors
- AC or Battery Operation
- Automatic Transfer to Battery Operation if AC Power Fails
- Low Power Consumption
- Low Heat Generation
- Hinged Front Panel for Easy Maintenance
- Small Size
- Light Weight

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NOTE
ACCESSORIES MUST BE ORDERED SEPARATELY


Figure 1.. Typical Power Output Versus Frequency for 0.5\% THD and 1\% THD (8-Ohm Load)


Figure 2. Typical Frequency Response Characteristics


Figure 3. Typical \% THD Versus Frequency for 100-Watt Output


Figure 4. Typical \% THD Versus Wattage Output at 1000 Hz (8-Ohm Load)

## DESCRIPTION

The ALTEC 15948 Power Amplifier delivers up to 100 watts of output power for all types of sound reinforcement Systems. It remains stable with operating conditions of varying line voltages and with all types of loads, including long, unloaded speaker lines having considerable capacitance. Frequency response and output power characteristics are shown in Figures 1 through 4.

A switchable, two-section highpass filter is provided to protect driver loudspeakers from excessive low-frequency power demands.

ALTEC's Active Dissipation Sensing Circuit provides failsafe protection for the output transistors. Circuit action is immediate and effective at all frequencies within the passband of the amplifier, limiting only that portion of program material that would damage or degrade the output transistors.

## ACCESSORIES

A plug-in 15095A or 15335A Line Transformer is available to provide line isolation. Input sensitivity for full-rated amplifier output is 0.2 V rms with the 15095 A Transforiner and 0.8 V rms with the 15335 A Transformer.

The 42526 Shelf Mount Cover is available to enclose the 15948 for shelf use. It tilts the 15948 for easy accesr to front panel controls. The sides and top extend beyond the front panel to preventaccidental changes of control settings. The cover provides easier handling for portability and it is
sturdy enough to support lightweight equipment placed on top of it. Four polyethylene feet prevent marring of surfaces. The ALTEC green finish matches the front panel of the 15948 .

## INSTALLATION

The 15948 may be installed in a standard 19-inch equipment rack, or in the 42526 Shelf Mount Cover accessory for shelf use. Vertical space required is 7 inches (four rack units).

## RACK INSTALLATION

Step 1. Remove four screws securing front panel. Open and lower panel as shown in Figure 5.

Step 2. Install 15948 in equipment rack with appropriate four screws supplied.

Step 3. Close front panel and secure with four screws previously removed.

## SHELF INSTALLATION

The $1594 B$ may be shelf mounted as desired after installing the ALTEC 42526 Shelf Mount Cover (refer to 42526 Installation Instructions).

## VENTILATION

The 15948 generates minimal heat during normal use. Although the amount of heat is relatively low, the amplifier


Figure 5. Front View With Hinged Panel Open
must be ventilated to prevent an excessive temperalure rise. Because transistors are heat sensitive, the 15948 should not be placed adjacent to heat-generating equipment or in areas where ambient temperature exceeds $55^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\left(131^{\circ} \mathrm{F}\right)$.

If the 15948 is installed in an equipment rack or cabinet with other heat-producing equipment installed above and/or below (two or more 1594B's or one 15948 with real time analyzer, oscilloscope, etc.), space must be provided between the units or the 15948 may become too warm. The $1-3 / 4^{\prime \prime}$ perforated panel (ALTEC Part No. 10399) is recommended for this purpose. When several amplifiers or other heat-producing units are installed in a single rack or cabinet, acceptable air temperature may be in doubt. To determine temperature conditions, operate the system until temperature stabilizes, then measure air temperature with a bulb-type thermometer held at the bottom of the uppermost amplifier. Do not let the thermometer bulb touch metal because the metal probably will be hotter than the ambient air. If air temperature exceeds $55^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ (or if it is a hot day), the equipment should be spaced farther apart or a blower should be installed to ventilate the cabinet.

## CAUTION

Do not block the cuver ventilation holes when placing other equipment on the 42526 Shelf Mount Cover accessory. When shelf-mounting the 1594B, allow at least $1-3 / 4^{\prime \prime}$ between the unit and any wall behind it to assure air circulation past the output transistors.

## ELECTRICAL

## 120 Volt, 50160 Hz Power Connections

Equipment supplied for domestic use is provided with the power transformer primary strapped for 120 volts (terminals

1 to 2 and 3 to 4 on TB3). The power input nameplate, adjacent to the power cord on the chassis, is mounted to show the appropriate side specifying the connections (see Figure 6). Verify that line voltage is in accordance with the voltage rating before connecting the 1594B to line power.

## 240 Volt, $50 / 60 \mathrm{~Hz}$ Power Connections

Export equipment is provided with the power transformer primary strapped for 240 volts (terminals 2 to 3 on TB3). The power input nameplate, adjacent to the power cord on the chassis, is mounted to show the appropriate side specifying the connections.

For a 15948 previously wired for 120 V ac primary power, use the following procedure to change wiring for 240 V ac, 50160 Hz operation:

Step 1. Remove four screws securing front panel, open and lower panel.

Step 2. Locate terminal board TB3 above power trans. former T1 (see Figure 5).

Step 3. Remove strap "A" connecting terminals 1 and 2 and remove strap " $B$ " connecting terminals 3 and 4 ; solder strap " C " to terminals 2 and 3 (see Figure 7).

Step 4. Remove voltage-rating plate (see Figure 6) from chassis, reverse and reinstall to show 240 V ac rating.

Step 5. Close front panel and secure with four screws previously removed.


Figure 6. Rear View of 15948 Power Amplifier


Figure 7. Converting to 240 V ac, 50160 Hz Operation

## Battery Connections

If desired, the $1594 B$ may be connected to an external $24 / 28$ volt battery with minus (-) as ground. Terminals for the dc power connections are on TB4 (see Figures 6 and 12). If ac power fails, transfer to dc power is instantaneous, automatic and silent. A built-in charging circuit supplies a 100 mA trickle current to maintain battery charge during ac operation. The battery power supply is not operated by the primary power ON-OFF switch on the front panel, If switching of battery power is desired, an external relay or switch should be provided by the user.

## Input Connections

Input connections may be either direct-coupled or transformer-isolated at the INPUT terminal board (see Figure 6). Direct coupling is accomplished by connecting the input leads (shielded conductor recommended) to terminals 1 and 2. Terminal 2 is ground. Table I lists the terminals and applications of the INPUT terminal board.

Table I. Terminals and Applications of INPUT Terminal

| Terminals | Function/Application |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1.2 (GND) | Direct-Coupled | For unbalanced high-impedance sources |
|  |  | For bridging unbalanced low-impedance lines having signal voltages of 0.8 V rms or higher |
| 3.4 | TransformerIsolated | For balanced or unbalanced lines of 150 or * 600 ohms up to level of +15 dBm (with 15095A Line Transformer) |
|  |  | For low-impedance line bridging input or 15 K ohrn line-matching input (with 15335A Line Transformer) |

[^0]For transformer-isolated input, a plug-in 15095A or 15335A Line Transformer must be plugged into receptacle J1 (see Figure 6). The input leads are connected to terminals 3 and 4 of the INPUT terminal board.

When shipped from the factory, pins 3 and 4 of J 1 are strapped together to provide a 600 -ohm input. A 150 -ohm input may be obtained by removing the strap from pins 3 and 4 and then strapping pins 1 and 4 and pins 3 and 6 (see Figure 8).

## Output Connections

Output transformer taps provide connections for 4 -ohm, 8 -ohm and 16 -ohm speakers, plus a 70.7 -volt speaker distribution system (see Figure 6). For 25 -volt speaker distribution systems, use the 8 -ohm tap. Connect to the terminal of desired impedance and terminal 5 (common). Terminal functions and designations are listed in Table II. If stray electrostatic radiation causes interference, strap terminal 5 (common) to terminal 6 (ground).

CAUTION
When using stranded wire, be sure no frayed wire strands short circuit one terminal to another terminal.

Table II. Soeaker Outputs

| Terminal | Function |
| :---: | :--- |
| TB2-1 | 70.7 V (50 ohms) speaker distribution systems |
| TB2-2 | 16 ohms (40V) speaker systems |
| TB2-3 | 8 ohms (28V) speaker systems. May be used <br> for 25 V speaker distribution systems. |
| TB2-4 | 4 ohms (20V) speaker systems |
| TB2-5 | Common |
| TB2-6 | Ground |



Figure 8. Socket Wiring for Transformer-Isolated Input Using 15095A Line Transformer

## Speaker Matching

Use the output tap most nearly equal to total speaker impedance. If the load impedance falls between two output terminal values, use the terminal of lower impedance.

## Speaker Power Distribution

Total power distributed to all speakers should be not greater than the power rating of the amplifier system. The 70.7 V distribution outlet permits connection to a large number of speakers, each speaker operating at its required power level. Computing impedance is not necessary for this application. Each speaker is equipped with a line transformer having various power taps. Select the tap which yields the power desired for that speaker.

## OPERATION

## CONTROLS AND INDICATORS

Two operating controls are on the front panel; a VOLUME control and a primary power ON-OFF switch. A pilot indicator is lit when the power is ON .

## HIGHPASS FILTER

A two-section highpass filter is provided with the 1594 B to protect driver loudspeakers from excessive low-frequency power demands. Filter use is indicated when high power output from the amplifier is applied to driver loudspeakers not equipped with protective crossover networks. The 3 dB frequency of the highpass filter is 400 Hz (see Figure 2).

A screwdriver-operated FILTER IN-OUT switch is located on the rear of the chassis (see Figure 6). The switch is placed in the OUT position when the 1594 B is ;hipped from the factory.

## SERVICE

If a malfunction occurs, service should be performed by an ALTEC Qualified Service Representative. For factory service, ship the 15948 prepaid to Customer Service. ALTEC, 1515 South Manchester Avenue. Anaheim, California 92803. For additional information or technical assistance. call (714) 774-2900, or TWX 910-591-1142.

Main chassis component locations are shown in Figures 10 and 11. The 1594B schematic is shown in Figure 12. Component locations on the power driver PCB are shown in Figure 13.

## ACCESS

Remove the four screws securing the front panel, then open and lower the hinged front panel to gain access to the chassis interior.

If the ALTEC 42526 Shelf Mount Cover accessory is installed, remove by reversing the steps of the cover installation procedure given in the associated instructions.

## ADJUSTMENT OF POWER DRIVER BALANCE CONTROL

The Power Driver Balance Control (R116 on Power Driver PCB), balances the outputs of transistors 0104 and Q105 on the PCB. If this control is not adjusted properly, highfrequency distortion results. If adjustment is indicated, use the following procedure:

Step 1. Connect a 16 -ohm dummy load across terminals 2 (16 ohms) and 5 (common) of TB2 (see Figure 12).

Step 2. Apply a 20 kHz sine wave to terminals 1 and 2 of the INPUT terminal board (TB1).

Step 3. Adjust VOLUME control for 100-watt output (40 volts).

Step 4. Connect a frequency distortion analyzer (pre ferred) or an oscilloscope to terminals 2 and 5 of TB2 ( 16 -ohm speaker output) and observe output.

Step 5. Remove four screws securing front panel, then open and lower panel.

Step 6. Adjust R116 on Power Driver PCB (see Figures 5 and 12) until minimum distortion is observed on distortion measuring instrument.

Step 7. Close front panel and secure with four screws previously removed.

## ADJUSTMENT OF OUTPUT " O " BALANCE CONTROLS

Output "Q" Balance Controls R136 and R137 on Power Driver PCB (see Figure 5) balance the bias current of power transistors Q1, Q2, Q3 and 04. Inadequate adjustment of these controls may result in distortion and excessive current drain from one or more power transistors. If adjustment is indicated (such as replacement of one or more power transistors), use the following recommended procedure:

Step 1. Turn VOLUME control fully counterclockwise (0).

Step 2. Remove four screws securing front panel, then lower panel for access to interior.

## CAUTION

High voltage may be encountered when the chassis is opened for service. This procedure should be referred to a qualified service technician.

Step 3. Turn Output "O" Balance Controls R136 and R137 fully clockwise (see Figure 5).

Step 4. Turn on power and allow a 5-minute warmup period.

Step 5. Adjust R136 and R137 by one of the following methods [method (a) is preferred] :
(a) Locate wire attached to terminal 1 of output transformer T2. Connect a clamp. on milliammeter to this wire and adjust R136 counterclockwise for a " Q " current of 40 mA . Change connection of milliammeter to wire attached to terminal 3 of output transformer T2 and adjust R137 for a "Q" current of 40 mA .
(b) Remove two screws securing Power Driver PCB to chassis and lower PCB on hinged connector. Connect a millivoltmeter across resistor R7 (see Figure 10), starting with highest scale to protect meter. Adjust R136 for meter reading of 13 mV . Change connection of millivoltmeter to read across resistor R8 and adjust R137 for meter reading of 13 mV . Remove millivoltmeter and secure PCB to chassis with two screws previously removed.

Step 6. Close front panel and secure with four screws removed in Step 2.

## ASSEMBLY REPLACEMENTS

Fuses

The ac primary power fuse is mounted on the front panel (see cover photo). The battery power fuse is located on the rear of the chassis (see Figure 6). If fuse replacement is required, determine and correct any cause of failure before replacing fuse. Install an identical fuse (see PARTS LIST) by unscrewing fuse holder, replacing fuse and resecuring fuse holder.

## Pilot Lamp

The pilot lamp is located on the front panel (see cover photo). If replacement is required, unscrew the red pilot lamp shield to expose the bulb. Press bulb inward and turn counterclockwise (ccw) to remove. Install an identical bulb (see PARTS LIST), then replace red pilot-lamp shield.

## Power Driver PCB

If the amplifier fails because of a faulty power driver PCB. operation may be restored by replacing the PCB with a new or repaired PCB. Use the following procedure.

Step 1. Remove four screws securing front panel. Open and lower panel for access to PCB (see Figure 5).

Step 2. Remove two screws securing PCB to chassis brackets.

Step 3. Lower hinged connector of PCB and carefully remove PCB from connector.

Step 4. Carefully insert new or repaired power driver PCB into connector. Do not warp, bend or twist the board or conductor may fracture.

Step 5. Secure PCB with two screws removed in Step 2.
Step 6. Perform ADJUSTMENT OF POWER DRIVER BALANCE CONTROL procedure.

## RECOMMENDED SERVICE TECHNIQUES

If systematic troubleshooting shows need for parts replacement, observe the following precautions.

## Transistor Orientation

Solid-state components are packaged in various case sizes and types with various lead orientations (see Figure 9). Before removing a solid-state component from tie points or from a PCB, sketch the lead orientation with respect to the tie points or PCB.

Form the leads of the new component to conform with the leads of the part being replaced to aid in making proper connections. Before removing small transistors, note position of index tab with respect to the PCB or socket. Cut the leads of the new transistor to the required length and insert them, properly indexed, into the PCB or socket.

## Replacing Power Transistors

Verify the following conditions exist when replacing power transistors.

1. Mica insulator is not damaged. If damaged, use new insulator.
2. No grit or metal particles are between transistor and heat sink.
3. Both sides of mica insulator are covered with silicone grease or fluid.
4. Mounting screws are tight,

## Testing Transistors

Transistors should be checked with a transistor tester. If a tester is not available, use the following procedure for testing transistors with an ohmmeter.

Step 1. Remove suspected transistor from circuit (see Replacing PCB Components).

Step 2. Connect ohmmeter leads to base and emitter. Read on lowest ohms scale. Reverse leads and read again. Normal readings should be at least 10 times greater in one direction than in the other.

Step 3. Connect ohmmeter leads to base and collector. Ohmmeter readings should be similar to those obtained in Step 2.

Step 4. If Steps 2 and 3 show normal function, connect ohmmeter leads to collector and emitter. Read on lowest ohms scale. Reverse leads and read again. If reading is low and virtually unchanged when ohmmeter leads are reversed, the transistor has a short circuit between collector and emitter.

## Replacing PCB Components

Before removing PCB components for testing or replacement, read and perform the following instructions.

1. Solid-state components and PCB's may be damaged by excessive heat. Use a small soldering iron with a 1/8-inch diameter chisel tip and use small-diameter 60/40 rosin-cored solder.
2. Remove components by placing soldering iron on component lead on conductor side of PCB and pull out lead. Avoid overheating the conductor.

## CAUTION

The conductor on the PCB is a metal surface plated with solder and laminated to the board. Too much pressure or overheating may lift the conductor from the board.

> *Not all types. Some have base to-cose internally; others hove no connection to cose.
3. If component is faulty or damaged, clip leads close to component and then unsolder leads from board. Withdraw leads from component side.
4. Clear solder from circuit board holes before inserting leads of new component. Heat solder remaining in hole, remove iron and quickly insert a pointed nonmetallic object, such $a$ a toothpick, from conductor side.
5. Shape new component leads and clip to proper length. Lead shape should provide stress relief for component. Insert leads in holes, observing same polarity or orientation of removed component. Apply heat and solder on conductor side.

## Repairing Fractured or Damaged PCB Conductor

If a conductor is fractured, damaged or lifted from the circuit board, a recommended method of repair is to solder a section of good conducting wire along the damaged area and then seal with epoxy.

Figure 9. Typical Solid-State Component Configurations


Figure 10. Component Locations Inside Main Chassis


Figure 11. Component Locations on Rear of Chassis


Figure 12. Schematic (3D186-11), 1594B Power Amplifier


Figure 13. Component Locations (3C661-4), Power Driver PCB Assembly

## PARTS



PARTS LIST (continued)

| Reference Designator | Ordering Number | Name and Description |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| R113 | 47 11-102177-01 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Res., } 15 \mathrm{~K} \Omega \pm 10 \% \text {, } \\ & 1 / 4 \mathrm{~W} \end{aligned}$ |
| R114 | 47.01-102166-01 | Res., $1.8 \mathrm{~K} \Omega \pm 10 \%$, 1/4W |
| R115.117 | 47-01-102145-01 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Res, } 33 \Omega \therefore \because \\ & 1 / 4 W \end{aligned}$ |
| R116 | 47-05-108544-01 | Pot., 10, 2N |
| R118.119 | 4\%-C1-102163-01 | Res., $1 \mathrm{~K} \Omega \pm 10 \%$, 1/4W |
| R120,123 | 47-01-100642-01 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Res.. } 330 \Omega \pm i 0 \% \\ & 1 \mathrm{~W} \end{aligned}$ |
| R121,122 | 47-01-102144-01 | Res., $27 \Omega \pm 10 \%$, $1 / 4 \mathrm{~W}$ |
| R124,125 | 47-01-102338-01 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Res., } 47 \Omega \pm 10 \% \text {, } \\ & 1 / 2 \mathrm{~W} \end{aligned}$ |
| R126,127 | 47-01-102345-01 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Res.. } 180 \Omega \pm 10 \% \text {, } \\ & 1 / 2 W \end{aligned}$ |
| R128 | 47-01-102148-01 | Res., $56 \Omega \pm 10 \%$, 1/4W |
| R129,132 | 7-01-102090-01 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Res., } 3.3 \mathrm{~K} \Omega \pm 5 \% \text {, } \\ & 1 / 4 \mathrm{~W} \end{aligned}$ |
| R130.133 | 4: $01-102110-01$ | Res., $22 \mathrm{~K} \Omega \pm 10 \%$, 1/4W |


| Reference Designator | Ordering Number | Name and Description |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| R134 | 47-01-102147.01 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Res., } 47 \mathrm{Q} \pm 10 \% \text {, } \\ & 1 / 4 \mathrm{~W} \end{aligned}$ |
| R135 | 47-01-102155.01 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Res., } 220 . Q \pm 10 \% \text {, } \\ & 114 \mathrm{~W} \end{aligned}$ |
| R136,137 | $47-05-014697.01$ | Pot., $50 \Omega \pm 20 \%$, <br> 2 W " |
| R138,139 | 47-01-102355-01 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Res., } 1 \mathrm{~K} \Omega \pm 10 \%, \\ & 1 / 2 W \end{aligned}$ |
| S1 | 51-02-118703-01 | Switch, DPDT, slide |
| S2 | 51-01-100988-01 | Switch, toggle, 125 V ac, $3 \mathrm{~A}-20 \mathrm{~V} \mathrm{dc}, 5 \mathrm{~A}$ |
| T1 | 56-08-007221-07 | Transformer. power |
| T2 | 56-07-016763-01 | Transformer, output |
| T101 | 56-07-015315-07 | Transformer, output |
| TB1 | 21-04-101038-01 | Terminal board, 4-terminal |
| TB2 | 21-04-101045-01 | Terminai board. 6-terminal |
| TB3 | 21.04-101013-01 | Terminal board, 5-terminal |
| TB4 | 21-04-101034-01 | Terminal board, 2-terminal |


[^0]:    ${ }^{*}$ Factory wiring at receotacle $\mathbf{J 1}$ is for 600 ohms

