



Top-Tips

Entry level Azur has high-end pedigree

Unlike high-end audio, where cost is not a constraint, entry level Hi-Fi separates often deliver poor quality sound as manufacturers economise on components to keep costs down or because they simply do not have the capability achieve such a feat. Part of the Azur range, the 351A amplifier and 351C CD player have been developed to offer the perfect combination of high quality audio performance and exceptional value.

The 351 Series provides you with the flexibility to connect and enjoy a wide range of audio sources. As well as CDs – delivered as if they were in the recording studio - thanks to the 351C, users can connect a tuner, TV, iPod/MP3 player (via convenient front-mounted 3.5mm jack), satellite TV box, games console and even a computer using the dedicated USB audio input – great for music stored in iTunes or from streaming services such as Spotify. The USB port bypasses the basic soundcard found in a computer or laptop and uses the 351A's superior on-board digital processing capabilities to produce high quality audio direct from a computer.

Never compromising on sound quality, our engineers have utilised our innovative audio technologies together with premium

components developed for the 651 Series and flagship 851 Series to bring unparalleled sound to entry level Hi-Fi. We use custom toroidal transformers in both the 351A and 351C to ensure there is ample power to effortlessly drive the speakers and operate without buzz, hum or interference. Unlike competitor CD players which use multi-purpose computer derived CD-ROM drives (also known as transport), the 351C uses our custom, audio-only CD drive to deliver more accurate and detailed sound.

The 351A amplifier boasts a slim profile to match the 351C, and both units are constructed using solid, full metal casework, completely isolating components allowing them to perform without interference and provides an elegant brushed metal finish.

351 Series at a glance:



Audiophile-grade components



Powerful toroidal transformers



Solid metal construction



Versatile connectivity inc USB (351A)

The inside story

351A: A serious amplifier at a low price

The 351A has been completely re-worked and re-voiced to deliver an enhanced performance, with improved component choices and a new higher current toroidal transformer. The custom toroidal transformer operates quietly with low distortion and noise to deliver all the power required to drive the 351A, without any of the buzz, hum or interference inherent in cheaper EI transformers. This, together with an oversized heatsink to keep it cool, allows the 351A to deliver 45 Watts per channel (at 8 Ohms).

The dedicated USB audio input supports CD quality sound from files played directly from a connected computer, bypassing its basic

sound card and using the 351A's integral Burr Brown DAC (Digital to Analogue Converter).

The premium ALPS black box volume control, specified for near perfect channel balance, allows the 351A to outperform its competitors.

351C: High performance CD player

Every CD player has a DAC to take the data from a CD and convert it into audio which is then passed to an amplifier and delivered to the speakers. Not satisfied with the performance of cheaper, inferior alternatives, the 351C features a Wolfson 8728 DAC to produce detail and refinement for uncompromised sound exactly as the artist intended.



The perfect combination of high performance and exceptional value

Ideal for:



Home stereo systems:

The 351 Series is perfect for home stereo set-ups and with a USB connection, it's ideal for those who stream music services from a PC / Mac or who use iTunes on their computer as a music source. Both are simple for all the family to use thanks to the intuitive front panels and the easy to use 3.5mm jack connection for connecting an iPod or MP3 player.



Offices and boardrooms

The 351A's high performance toroidal transformer makes a powerful and unruffled amplifier which is ideal for board rooms, meeting rooms, receptions and lecture theatres, whether for presentations, announcements or ambient music.



Shops and restaurants

The 351A amplifier is user-friendly allowing digital music from laptops or MP3 players to be quickly connected by employees or customers using USB or line input connectivity.



Schools and universities

Tens of thousands of classrooms across the UK are equipped with Cambridge Audio amplifiers, specifically chosen for their ease of use, immense reliability and clarity.

LISTENING TIP

Connect a laptop (using headphone output) to the 351A (3.5mm to Phono) and play a track, then use a USB lead to connect the laptop to the amplifier and hear the improvement in sound quality.

USB adds extra versatility to 351A

As well as having five RCA phono inputs, the 351A has a USB audio input to receive files directly from a computer or laptop. This direct USB connection is great for getting the best from audio stored on your computer - perhaps in iTunes, from an internet radio station or streamed from a cloud service such as Spotify. What's more the 3.5mm input allows fast connection of any device with a line-output such as an MP3 player or mobile phone.

Did you know?

Not only does the 351A's 3.5mm jack allow anyone to quickly connect an MP3 player, iPhone or iPod to enjoy and share their music, for complete ease of use the amplifier will detect this source and automatically switch to this input.

351A amplifier 351C CD player



Custom CD technology

Whereas many 'comparable' CD players utilise an inferior CD/DVD-ROM computer-derived drive (also known as transport), the 351C takes full advantage of our custom designed audio-only CD transport. Coupled with our new S3 Custom CD Servo it gives the double benefit of error-free data retrieval from CDs with minimal levels of jitter (the audio equivalent of a blurred image). The result is a truly unsurpassed audiophile experience, as the 351C delivers precisely what is on the CD.



Bi-wire or multi-room

The 351A's two sets of speaker connection terminals allow you to bi-wire speakers. This produces the best possible sound by sending two discrete signals to each speaker allowing it to handle the bass/midrange separately to the high frequencies in the tweeter. Alternatively this could be used to connect a second pair of speakers in a different location, perhaps in the dining room, or kitchen.



Toroidal vs EI transformers

Both the 351A and 351C feature powerful toroidal transformers. Cambridge Audio was one of the first manufacturers to use toroidal transformers in the 1970s, and we continue to use them today. Some of the benefits of a toroidal transformer over the cheaper, inferior EI transformers used by most other manufacturers include:

- ✓ High quality power output to the amplification circuits, with no clipping of the waveform signal, to provide a consistent signal
- ✓ No transformer noise, buzz or hum
- ✓ Sensational bass performance
- ✓ High power output, to allow large and demanding speakers to be driven at high volumes
- ✓ Large power reserves, to allow the transformer to deliver high peaks of volume when required
- ✓ Fully shielded against internal and external electrical interference, to maintain quality of power and signal



A typical cheaper EI transformer:

- ✗ Weak inconsistent signal
- ✗ No shielding
- ✗ Noisy
- ✗ Won't drive powerful and demanding speakers

Top reasons to buy the 351A/351C

The 351A and 351C deliver exceptional quality audio... here are 10 reasons to choose the Cambridge Audio duo over other systems

- 1 Performance & value:** Part of the Azur range the 351 benefits from many of the performance enhancing custom-developed technologies found in the 651 Series and 851 Series but at a price which makes it accessible to a much wider audience.
- 2 Effortless power:** The 351A's attractive slim profile disguises the powerful 45 Watts per channel (at 8 Ohms) this amplifier delivers for a great audio performance.
- 3 Dedicated USB input:** The 351A's dedicated USB audio takes audio directly from a computer (stored or streamed) and uses its integral DAC (Digital to Analogue Converter) to avoid the huge loss in quality when using the computer's own basic sound card.
- 4 Versatile connectivity:** As well as the USB audio input, the 351A features 5 x RCA/Phono inputs for connection of a CD player (351C), tuner, TV, games console and more, catering for most source requirements.
- 5 Share music with ease:** The front-mounted 3.5mm input allows fast connection of an iPod, iPhone, MP3 player or other device with a line-output, allowing you to enjoy and share music through their Hi-Fi system with ease.
- 6 Audiophile-grade technologies:** Advanced components such as toroidal transformers, custom audio-only CD drives, ALPS volume control (typically used by competitor products at many times the price) and a USB audio input, combine for the 351 Series to deliver a truly exceptional performance.
- 7 Bi-wire or multi-room:** For the best performance, you can bi-wire your speakers, alternatively the 351A can be used to switch to a second pair of speakers for audio in two different locations.
- 8 Solid construction:** Unlike many competitor models which use inferior plastic construction, both the 351A and 351C are built from an ultra-rigid, all-metal acoustically-damped chassis isolating components for an interference free performance.



- 9 User friendly:** Together with the easy to use front-panels, the full function 'Navigator' remote enables intuitive control of the 351A and 351C reducing clutter, batteries and confusion.
- 10 CD text:** The 351C's easy to read display is compatible with CD text allowing users to quickly identify track, album and artist names.

Designer's note

"Only through our passion for developing the finest audiophile-grade technologies is it possible to deliver the levels of performance found in the 351 Series. With many of the design principles found in the award winning 651 Series and 851 Series - but at a fraction of the cost, the 351A and 351C are examples of those truly great products where you really do get a lot of 'bang for your buck!'"



Nick Brown
351 Series lead engineer and
Mechanical Design Manager