ARIES

2.1 Integrated Amplifier User Guide

All models

INDY AUDIO LABS

IMPORTANT SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

CAUTION:
RISK OF ELECTRIC SHOCK!
DO NOT OPEN!

CAUTION! To reduce the risk of electric shock and fire, do not remove the cover or back plate of the device enclosure. There are no user serviceable parts inside. Refer servicing to an Acurus authorized service center.

CAUTION! The international symbol of a lightning bolt inside a triangle is intended to alert the user to uninsulated "dangerous voltage" within the device enclosure. The international symbol of an exclamation point inside a triangle is intended to alert the user to the presence of important operating, maintenance and servicing information in the manual accompanying the device.

WARNING! To reduce the risk of fire or electrical shock, do not expose this equipment to rain or moisture.

1. Read Instructions – All safety and operating instructions should be read before operating the device.
2. Retain Instructions –The safety and operating instructions should be retained for future reference.
3. Heed Warnings – All warnings on the device and in the operating instructions should be adhered to.
4. Follow instructions – All operating and safety instructions should be followed.
5. Attachments – Do not use attachments not recommended by the product manufacturer as they may cause hazards.
6. Water and Moisture – Do not use this product near water (for example, near a bath tub, wash bowl, kitchen sink, or laundry tub; in a wet basement; or near a swimming pool; and the like).
7. Ventilation – Slots and openings in the cabinet are provided for ventilation and to ensure reliable operation of the product and to protect it from overheating, and these openings must not be blocked or covered. The openings should never be blocked by placing the product on a bed, sofa, rug, or other similar surface. This product should not be placed in a built-in installation such as a bookcase or rack unless proper ventilation is provided or the manufacturer's instructions have been adhered to.
8. Heat – This product should be situated away from heat sources such as radiators, heat registers, stoves, or other products that produce heat.
9. Power Sources – This product should be operated only from the type of power source indicated on the marking label. If you are not sure of the type of power supply in your home, consult with your product dealer or the local power company. For products intended to operate from battery power, or other sources, refer to the operating instructions.
10. Grounding – This product is equipped with a three-wire grounding-type plug, a plug having a third (grounding) pin. This plug will only fit into a grounding-type power outlet. This is a safety feature. If you are unable to insert the plug into the outlet, contact your electrician to replace your obsolete outlet. Do not defeat the safety purpose of the grounding-type plug.
11. Power Cord Protection – Power supply cords should be routed so that they are not likely to be walked on or pinched by items placed upon or against them, paying particular attention to cords at plugs, convenience receptacles, and the point where they exit from the product.
12. Overloading – Do not overload wall outlets, extension cords, or integral convenience receptacles as this can result in a risk of fire or electrical shock.
13. Lightning and Periods of Non-Use – For added protection for this product during a lightning storm, or when it is left unattended and unused for long periods of time, unplug it from the wall outlet and disconnect the antenna or cable system. This will prevent damage to the product due to lightning and powerline surges.
14. Cleaning – Unplug this product from the wall outlet before cleaning. Do not use liquid cleaners or aerosol cleaners. Use a damp cloth for cleaning.
15. Object and Liquid Entry – Never push objects of any kind into this product through openings as they may touch dangerous voltage points or short-out parts that could result in a fire or electric shock. Never spill liquid of any kind on the product.
16. Damage Requiring Service – Unplug this product from the wall outlet and refer servicing to qualified service personnel under the following conditions:

a) When the power supply cord or plug is damaged,

b) If liquid has been spilled, or objects have fallen into the product,

c) If the product has been exposed to rain or water,

d) If the product does not operate normally by following the operating instructions. Adjust only those controls that are covered by the operating instructions as an improper adjustment of other controls may result in damage and often will require extensive work by a qualified technician to restore the product to its normal operation,

e) If the product has been dropped or damaged in any way, or

f) When the product exhibits a distinct change in performance – this indicates a need for service.

17. Replacement Parts – When replacement parts are required, be sure the service technician has used replacement parts specified by the manufacturer or that have the same characteristics as the original parts. Unauthorized substitutions may result in fire, electric shock, or other hazards.
18. Safety Check – Upon completion of any service or repairs to this product, ask the service technician to perform safety checks to determine that the product is in proper operating condition.
19. Servicing – Do not attempt to service this product yourself as opening or removing covers may expose you to dangerous voltage or other hazards. Refer all servicing to qualified service personnel. If this unit is purchased outside of the U.S., please contact your local dealer or distributor for service center information. If purchased inside the U.S. and dealer service is not available, contact Acurus Customer Service for a return authorization (RA) number before shipping. For further service information, contact:

ACURUS CUSTOMER SERVICE

phone: 1-866-781-7284

Email: support@acurusav.com

5225 EXPLORATION DRIVE

INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46241

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congratulations

Congratulations on your purchase of an Acurus Aries integrated amplifier. The Acurus Aries is a state-of-the-art component featuring high-end audio performance combined with unprecedented control and connectivity. Years of dedicated research, extensive testing, and engineering refinement went into the creation of this product. Since 1993, Acurus has been delivering high-value, high-performance electronics. Just like the first Acurus products to roll off the assembly line more than 20 years ago, your Acurus was designed, hand-assembled and tested with pride by engineers, technicians and skilled assemblers in the United States of America. You should expect years of trouble-free operation from your product investment.

Acurus components offer unparalleled performance and control flexibility for the most discriminating listener. Your Aries integrated amplifier incorporates advanced design and construction in a superbly crafted amplifier.

unpacking

Outer and Inner Carton

Using a sharp object such as a knife or scissors, carefully open the outer single-walled (brown) shipping carton and inner double-walled (white) packaging cartons along their top seams.

Your Acurus unit is wrapped in a protective poly bag and sandwiched between 100% recycled foam bumpers. Carefully lift the amplifier out of the package with the foam bumpers attached.

Package Contents

Inside the box you should find the following:

1. **Acurus Aries**
2. **Foam Bumpers (2)**
3. **AC Power Cord**
4. **Programmable Universal IR Remote Control**
5. **IR Target**
6. **User Guide**
7. **Universal IR Remote Control Manual**
8. **Warranty Card**

In the unlikely event of any of the above items missing, immediately contact your dealer or Acurus Customer Service:

ACURUS CUSTOMER SERVICE
phone: 1-866-781-7284
email: support@acurusav.com
5225 EXPLORATION DRIVE
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46241

Retain your Packaging

We highly recommend retaining your box and packaging materials as these are the best way to protect your amplifier in transit. Should warranty service be required, you MUST either use your original packaging materials or request new packaging from Acurus Customer Service (for a nominal fee).

Register your Product

In order to validate your purchase and qualify for the full five (5) year parts and labor manufacturer's warranty on your new Acurus product, you must have purchased it from an authorized Acurus retailer AND you must return the included warranty card completely filled out within 30 days of purchase.

Record your Unit Information

For future reference, we recommend recording your product information here:

Model No. _____

Serial No. _____

Date of Purchase _____

Date Registered _____

ARIES features

Your ARIES integrated amplifier has been engineered to provide years of trouble-free enjoyment when installed and used according to this guide. This section will help you become familiar with the most important features of your Acurus component.

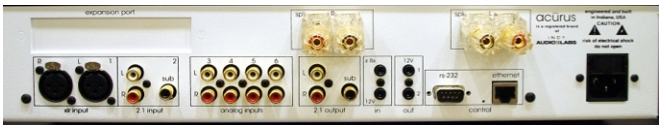
Front Panel

The front-panel of your Acurus Aries was designed with beauty, simplicity and control confidence as the primary goals.

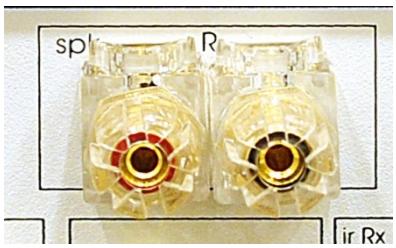
Touch Screen: The Aries features a touch sensitive screen for direct control and status monitoring on the unit. The full-color, high-contrast TFT screen features familiar mobile-device-like icons. The touch panel is also for powering the unit on and off.

Rear Panel

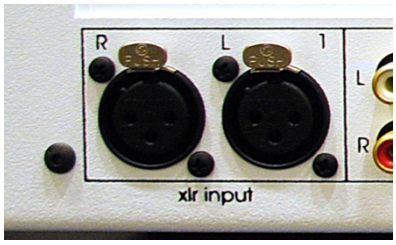
The rear panel of your Acurus was designed for ease of connection and expandability. A white powder coat finish makes connector labels easy to see in dimly lit shelving or rack mounting situations.



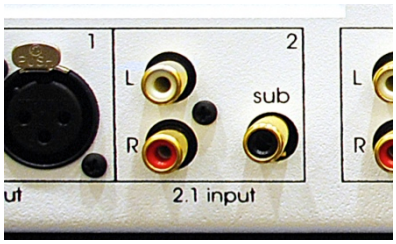
Loudspeaker Connectors: In the back of the unit are two sets of Rugged, 60-amp gold-plated binding posts with anti-touch, protective clear housings. These connectors accept standard banana-type plugs, bare wire or spade lugs.



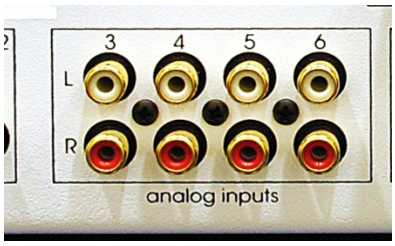
Balanced Input Connectors: The Aries includes a balanced input (input #1), ideal for making connections from a media source with an XLR-type output such as an external DAC, optical player, pro-audio source, or remote zone feed.



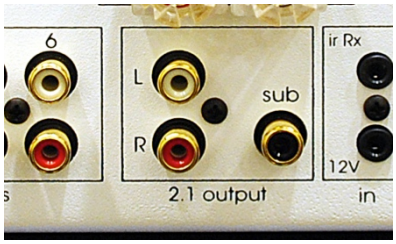
Unbalanced 2.1 Input: A dedicated 2.1 input (input #2) is included for passing through down-mixed surround audio from sources such as TVs, gaming systems or set top boxes. The subwoofer input (“sub”) can be set to pass directly to the subwoofer out (see section entitled “audio settings menu”).



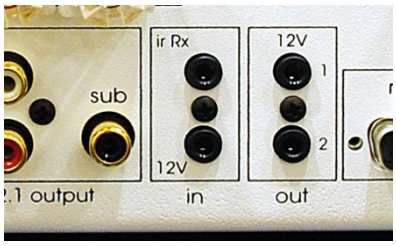
Unbalanced Stereo Inputs: Four unbalanced stereo inputs (input #s 3,4,5 and 6) are provided for use with a wide variety of input sources such as a video player, tape deck, optical disc – essentially any media source with a line-level RCA output.



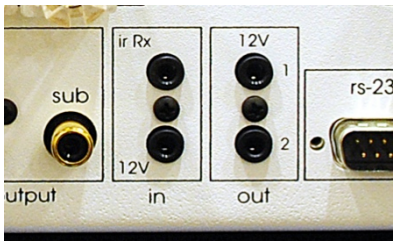
Unbalanced 2.1 Output: A line-level 2.1 output may be used to drive an external amplifier and/or a system subwoofer. This variable output is affected by the Aries volume level and balance settings. The sub output is affected by the subwoofer settings (see section entitled “audio settings menu”).



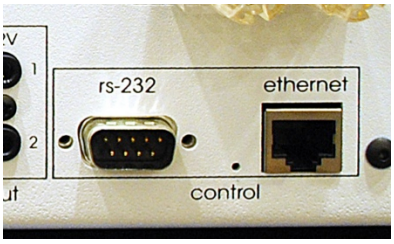
IR In Connector: An infra-red remote (IR) input jack (“ir Rx”) supports connection to the IR target included with Aries. The IR target should be placed in the line-of-site from the IR remote used to control the Aries. This feature allows the freedom to locate the Aries in an enclosed cabinet or behind a wall as needed.



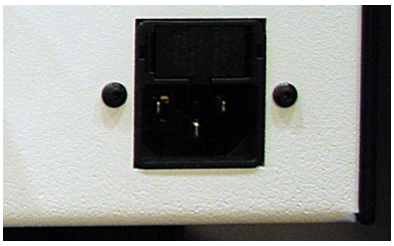
12V Trigger Connectors: A 12V trigger input jack is located below the ir Rx jack to allow for triggering the Aries on/off from an external source such as a power conditioner or AV receiver. Two 12V trigger outputs allow the Aries to trigger external amplifiers on and off (see section entitled “trigger settings menu”).



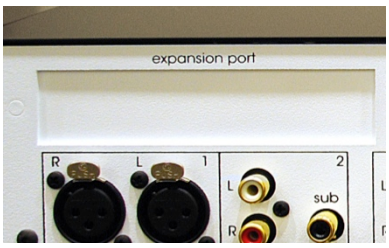
RS-232 and Ethernet Connectors: Both RS-232 and a dedicated 2.1 input (input #2) is included for passing through down-mixed surround audio from sources such as TVs, gaming systems or set top boxes. The subwoofer input (“sub”) can be set to pass directly to the subwoofer out (see section entitled “audio settings menu”).



AC Power Inlet: The main AC input on the Aries is a module on the lower right hand side of the rear panel that accommodates an IEC-type plug and also houses the main AC protection fuse(s) in a slide-out drawer.



Expansion Port: Aries supports hardware upgrades and added connectivity features through an expansion port. Adding and configuring expansion cards should be performed only by Acurus support or through authorized Acurus dealers.



NOTE: Consult with your authorized Acurus dealer or Acurus support regarding pricing and availability of expansion options for your Aries.

ARIES placement and setup

An enjoyable home entertainment experience always begins with carefully planned placement and setup of system components. This section will provide guidance on how to best install your new Acurus integrated amplifier.

Shelf Mounting

When planning to mount on a shelf, be aware of the physical dimensions of your Acurus integrated amplifier as outlined in the section entitled “Technical Specifications”.

It is ALWAYS advisable to:

1. Provide ample space above the unit (1-2 inches is the minimum preferred)
2. Provide plenty of room (at least 1-2 inches) between the sides of the unit at nearby surfaces or other components
3. Locate the unit near an AC outlet or power conditioner and avoid using extension cords or power strips
4. Locate the integrated amplifier as close as possible to audio source units such as optical players or music servers
5. Use as short length wire leads as practical, especially on the amplifier inputs
6. Connect the integrated amplifier to the same mains circuit as audio source units

It is NEVER advisable to:

1. Enclose the unit in a cabinet without air flow or adequate ventilation, particularly across the heat fins along the side and back of the unit.
2. Place the unit near a source of moisture such as a window or a live plant
3. Place other components in a stack on top of the amplifier
4. Place the amplifier on a carpeted surface
5. Remove the safety ground connector from the AC mains cord

Rack Mounting

Your Acurus integrated amplifier can easily be configured to mount in a standard 19-inch rack cabinet with an optional Acurus rack mount accessory kit, ARM-3. Hardware and detailed installation instructions are included with the kit. See your authorized retailer or contact Acurus to obtain a rack kit for your Aries.

system planning and optimizing

In order to experience the best performance from your integrated amplifier, the entire system needs to be planned and components carefully selected to work together. Your authorized Acurus dealer is trained to be able to help you ensure your components work well together.

The following are some helpful guidelines to ensure your Acurus integrated amplifier is well-matched to the other components in your system.

1. Quality loudspeakers can have a dramatic impact on overall sound quality in a system for a given room environment. When planning or upgrading a system, as a rule of thumb, we recommend budgeting for loudspeakers at or somewhat above the price of your amplifier electronics. Your Acurus dealer will be able to advise you on best loudspeaker selection for your electronics, your environment, and, most importantly, your listening preferences.
2. Using higher-efficiency loudspeakers (87dB/W/m or greater) will reduce the average amount of amplifier power consumed to produce a target listening loudness. This effectively helps reserve greater peak amplifier power when loud transient passages are reproduced.
3. High-power amplifiers (over 100W continuous into 8 ohms) are generally OK to pair with speakers with slightly lower power ratings, particularly if subwoofers are involved. Higher-power amplifiers will tend not to go into clipping distortion as readily as lower-powered amplifiers or receivers. Clipping is a type of distortion that is prone to damage loudspeakers.
4. Preamps should be chosen with output voltage swing capability equal to or greater than the amplifier sensitivity spec for full rated power output (for example, 1.42V for full rated output). Similarly, an ideal preamp choice has a noise spec less than or equal to that of the power amplifier. Using the Aries line output with other Acurus-branded amplifiers ensures a perfect match.

making system connections

Your Acurus amplifier is designed for simple, reliable connections in a variety of system configurations. Following the instructions below will ensure optimal performance from your Aries integrated amplifier.

NOTE: Making system connections with AC power disconnected is ALWAYS recommended.

Connecting Loudspeaker Outputs

Use a high-quality loudspeaker cable with sufficient gauge wire for the loudspeaker run lead length. Be sure to observe consistent speaker polarity connections (plus (+) and minus (-) speaker leads) from amplifier to loudspeaker. The Acurus Aries is non-polarity inverting.

Physical connection options supported include bare wire, single banana post, dual banana post, spade connector and wire lead.

Before powering on the Aries, check to ensure speaker plus and minus leads are not touching each other or touching other connectors or the unit chassis.

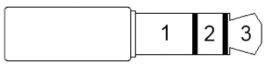
Connecting Audio Source Inputs

Use a high quality RCA and/or XLR cabling to connect audio source devices to Aries inputs. Avoid coiling or bunching up of cables. Be sure RCA cables are fully inserted into Aries input jacks so as to avoid hum and other signal integrity problems.

Trigger In and Out Control

To enable an external power conditioner or AVR to power on your Acurus Aries, connect the trigger out from that device to the the 3.5mm 12V trigger in on the Acurus. The jack is wired with its tip active and will accept a stereo or mono plug.

12V trigger 3.5mm stereo plug



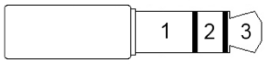
1 – Ground
2 – Ground
3 – Trigger Voltage

NOTE: the front panel power button functions normally even if the trigger input is used. The Acurus amplifier will automatically resume control sync with the external device after the next time system power is cycled.

Connecting the IR Target

To enable control of the Aries with an IR remote, the IR target must be plugged into the rear of the unit. The Aries IR target is a 5V unit.

IR target 3.5mm stereo plug



1 – Ground
2 – IR Signal
3 – 5V DC

NOTE: Use only the IR target included with your Aries. Pin-out and operational voltages of IR target devices vary. Use of an incompatible device could possibly damage the unit.

Mains (AC) Power

Your Acurus Aries is equipped with a high-quality 14 gauge, 3-conductor power cord. Plug this cord into the back of the integrated amplifier and then into a nearby AC outlet. Avoid using any extension cords or plugging into other components with rear-panel switched outlets. If using Aries with a power conditioner, ensure that the receptacle your integrated amplifier plugs into is capable of providing the full current required. See section entitled “Technical Specifications” for Aries AC current draw requirements.

Control Networks

Ethernet: In order to take advantage of Acurus Enhanced Ethernet Control (E2C), connect the Ethernet port to a 10/100 or faster home network router or switch port via a standard CAT 5e or newer Ethernet cable. The network activity indicator near the Ethernet jack illuminates green when network activity is detected.

This port may also be directly connected to a system controller utilizing Ethernet command protocols. Contact your dealer or Acurus Customer Service in order to verify compatibility with certain control systems.

RS-232: Connect this port to a system controller using a 9-pin RS-232 serial cable in order to control and monitor the Aries remotely. Contact your dealer or Acurus Customer Service in order to verify compatibility with certain control systems.

ARIES operation (front panel)

This section discusses the normal operation of your Acurus amplifier via the front touch-sensitive screen

Standby Mode

When first connected to AC power, your Acurus Aries amplifier initializes all circuits and goes into standby mode.

After normal initialization, the Aries displays a universal power on/off icon as below:

Turn on the Aries by touching the front panel power button icon.

Listening Mode

Home Screen Layout: Aries home screen is designed to provide all the information and control you need for your audio system with the least amount of complexity.

Input Indicator: Aries input indication is located in the middle top of the display and represented as a yellow number 1-6.

Volume Level Indication: Aries volume level is displayed as a two-digit number between 01 and 99 and represents simply the percentage of total available volume range.

Volume Adjust Up: To adjust Aries volume up, simply touch the blue volume adjust up (“+”) button. The Aries volume will increment up.

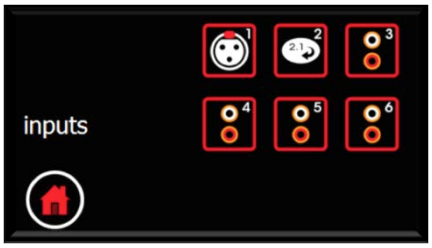
Volume Adjust Down: To adjust Aries volume down, simply touch the blue volume adjust down (“-”) button. The Aries volume will increment up.

Loudspeaker Mute: To Mute Aries volume, simply touch the blue loudspeaker mute icon.

The Aries sound output will mute and both the mute icon and volume indication will change from white to red as visual feedback. Press the mute button again to unmute.

Input Source Selection: To select inputs, touch the source select icon in the upper left. The input selector screen is then displayed as a response.

Input Icons: Input #s 1-6 are displayed as icons corresponding to the input number and (refer to section entitled “rear panel” on pages 5-6). Touch the desired input icon to select that input as the sound source.



Home Icon: At the lower left of each screen other than the home screen, simply touch the home icon to return to the home screen.

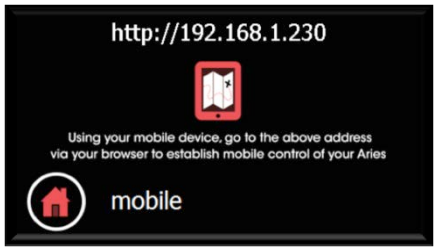
ARIES operation (mobile device)

Your Acurus amplifier can be operated via a web browser on a computer or mobile device such as a smart phone or tablet.

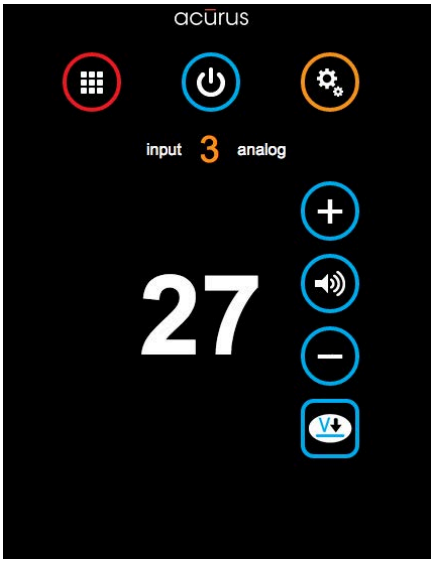
Connecting to Aries

The Aries automatically checks for the presence of an Ethernet network. If a network is present, a network icon at the bottom middle of the main screen appears.

To connect to the Aries, simply touch the network icon to bring up the IP address screen. Then, enter this IP address into a URL line of your mobile device web browser.

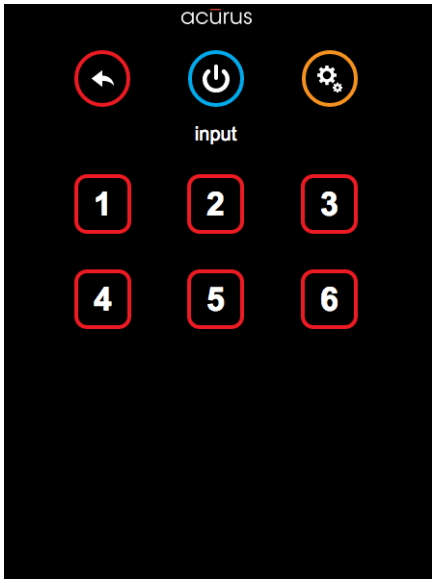


Main Mobile Screen: The Aries home screen as viewed on a computer, tablet or smart phone is similar to the front panel home screen with the icons arranged for optimal mobile viewing. Basic audio controls such as Input Select, Volume, and Mute are available from this view.



V-drop: This unique Aries function enables you to drop audio level instantly when you need to interrupt your listening. It works very similarly to a mute function. However, with v-drop, the Aries output volume is reduced only to a level preset in the v-drop settings menu. Unlike mute, you can still hear a slight amount of audio in the background. Note that v-drop is only accessible through mobile control and not through the front panel.

Input Source Selection: To select input sources from the mobile view, the following page is displayed:



Adjusting Aries Settings from the Front Panel

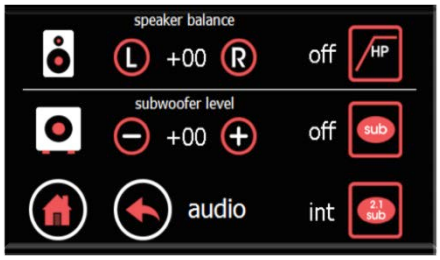
Settings Icon: To adjust settings in the Aries, enter the settings menu by touching the settings Icon at the lower left of the main display.

Settings Menu: The Aries settings menu shows each category of user-adjustable parameter as an icon.

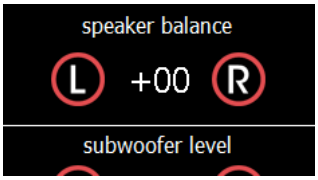
Audio Settings Sub-menu: Touching the Audio Settings Icon brings up the sub-menu below:

Audio Settings Icon

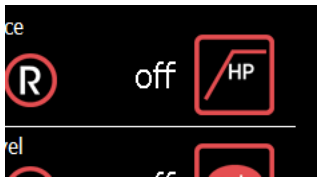
On this sub-menu, audio settings can be tailored for specific system setup conditions.



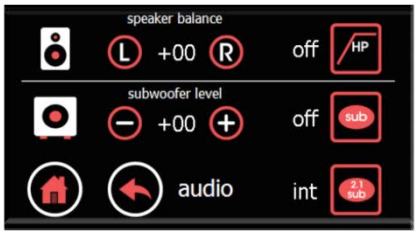
Loudspeaker Balance: Touch the L or R buttons to shift more sound output to either the left or right loudspeakers. This is useful in certain asymmetrical room setups. Default is centered.



High-Pass Filter On/Off: Touch the HP icon to enable or disable the 80Hz analog high-pass filter in the Aries. This filter should generally be enabled for systems when an external subwoofer is used. Default is off.



Subwoofer On/off and Level Trim: The level of the subwoofer can be adjusted up or down via the "+" and "-" touch buttons. +/- 15dB adjustment range is available. To the right of the subwoofer level trim is a subwoofer on/off control. Defaults are off and "0".



Subwoofer Internal vs. External Pass-Through (2.1 input only): Input #2 includes an optional subwoofer input from an external 2.1 audio source device. Normally, the Aries subwoofer output signal is derived from the left and right input channels. For input #2, by enabling the external subwoofer pass through ("int" button), the external sub input signal is passed through to the subwoofer output. Default is off or no pass-through.

Back Arrow: To return to the settings page rather than the home page, simply touch the back arrow. This applies to all sub-menus.

Mode Settings Sub-menu: Aries can be used in a pre-amp only mode, disabling the internal amplifier. This can be useful for night-time listening through headphones or for disabling a second zone when an external amplifier is driven.

Mode Settings Icon

Simply select power amp "on" or "off" to enable or disable the internal amplifier in the Aries. Default is amplifier enabled.

Network Settings Sub-menu: Touching the Network Settings Icon brings up the sub-menu below:

Network Settings Icon

On this screen, the IP address of the Aries is displayed along with network detection status. "No connection" indicates that a network cable is disconnected or there is a fault elsewhere with a switch or router.

Display Brightness Sub-menu: Touching the Display Brightness icon Icon brings up the sub-menu below:

Display Brightness Icon

On this screen, the brightness of the Aries display can be altered from low to medium to high based on user preference.

Volume Drop (v-drop) Sub-menu: Touching the “v drop” icon Icon brings up the sub-menu below:

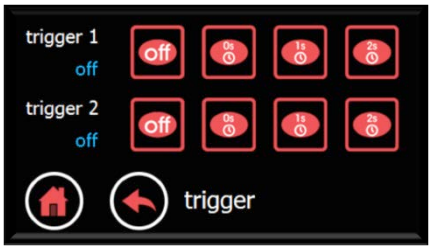
V-drop Icon

The unique Aries v-drop function enables you to keep audio playing at a reduced listening level when you need to be interrupted momentarily. It works very similarly to a mute function. With v-drop, the Aries output volume is reduced to the level preset in the v-drop settings menu. Unlike mute, you can still hear a slight amount of audio in the background. This setting determines the v-drop loudness level. Default v-drop level is 10.

Trigger Sub-menu: Touching the Trigger Icon brings up the sub-menu below:

Trigger Control Icon

On this screen, the 12V trigger outputs can be individually turned on and off and adjusted for time delay before triggering (0, 1, 2 seconds). This allows power sequencing of external devices such as amplifiers and prevents too many devices from drawing excess AC current all at once.



System Information Sub-menu: Touching the System Information icon brings up the sub-menu below:

System Information Icon

The System Information page displays information about the particular software and hardware versions running in the Aries. It also displays ID information about the type of expansion card in the unit (if any). This information is usually only needed for servicing or adding expansion cards to Aries.

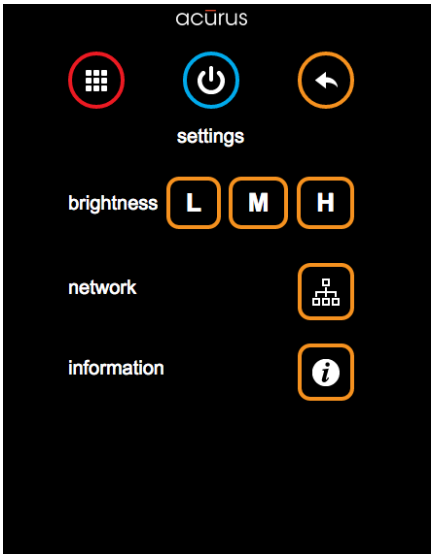
Factory Reset Sub-menu: Touching the Factory Reset Icon brings up the sub-menu below:

Factory Reset Icon

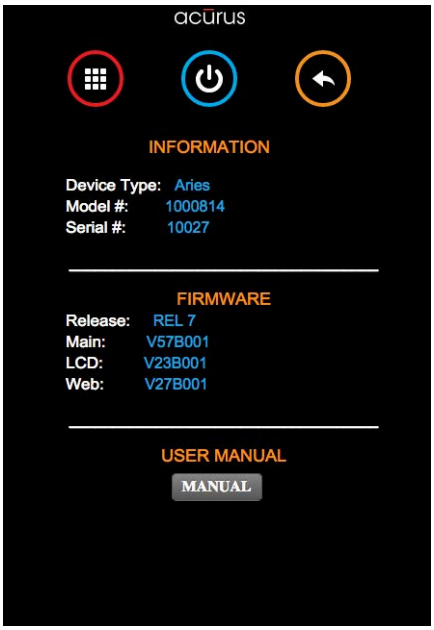
From this screen, touch the factory icon to restore the Aries to its original factory settings. All adjustable parameters will be reset to their default values and the Aries will re-start.

Adjusting Aries Settings from the Mobile View

Mobile Settings Menu: A mobile device can access the most frequently used Aries settings for adjustment. Shown below is the mobile view of the settings menu. To exit the settings menu and return to the main page, simply touch the back arrow.

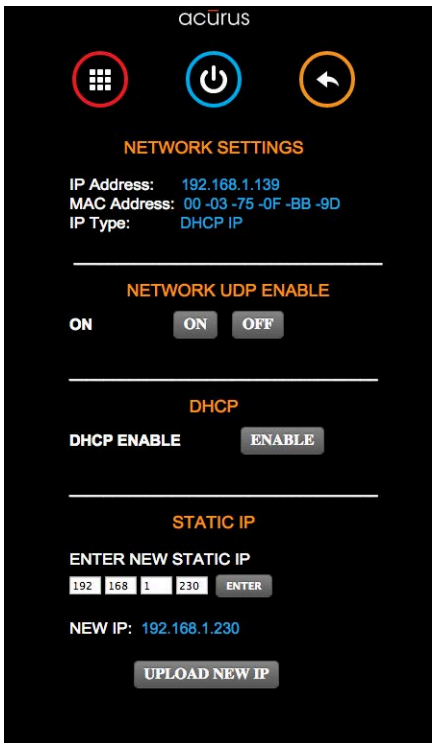


Mobile Information Menu: The mobile information menu shows basic information about Aries hardware and firmware. It also contains an active hyperlink to the Aries user guide online (requires an active Internet connection).



Mobile Brightness Adjustment Menu: To adjust the Aries screen brightness, simply select the desired setting (H, M or L).

Mobile Network Menu: The mobile network settings menu displays basic network information and provides means to adjust several network parameters.



Network UDP Enable: To prevent Aries from responding to network UDP commands, select off. Default setting is “on”.

DHCP Enable: To enable Aries to use DHCP to automatically obtain an IP address from a local DHCP server, select enable.

Static IP Enable: To disable DHCP and enable a static IP address for the Aries, enter and upload a new IP address as desired. This allows a persistent link or shortcut to be created for controlling the Aries.

problem resolution

From time to time, problems may occur. The following table is intended to help categorize and solve issues that may arise. Of course, if problems persist, do not hesitate to call your local dealer or Acurus Customer Service.

Troubleshooting Table

problem or symptom	possible cause	recommendations
Aries does not power on – no front panel display illumination	AC not connected	• Check that power cord is connected at the wall and at the back of the unit • Check that switched AC outlets are on • Check that power conditioner is on (if applicable)
	Blown main fuse	• Check fuse compartment in back of unit near AC inlet. Replace fuse and retest. If problem persists, refer unit to service personnel.
Aries has power ("on" button shows on screen) but does not respond via IR remote	IR Target not connected correctly	• Verify that the IR target is connected to the correct input jack on the back of the Aries and that the sensor is located in line-of-sight with the IR remote
	IR Remote dead	• Check IR remote to ensure it has fresh batteries and that the batteries are inserted correctly
	IR Universal Remote not Programmed	• Re-program the Universal IR remote and re-test
Aries has power ("on" button shows on screen) but does not respond via mobile device control	IP address not entered correctly on mobile device	• Verify correct IP address for Aries by reviewing the Aries network settings menu. NOTE: It can take up to a few minutes for some routers to assign an IP address automatically. The initial address Aries displays may be re-assigned by the router after DHCP auto-assignment.
	Mobile device not connected to same network as Aries	• Check to ensure control device is connected to the local network and not another neighboring network • Check to ensure that all network routers and switches are powered up and active • Look at the connection table in the router to confirm that both the Aries and the mobile device a listed
	Aries disconnected from network	• Check Aries rear-panel network activity light – if not illuminated green, check network cable connections. If cable is plugged in and switch or router shows activity indication, replace network cable.
Aries has power ("on" button shows on screen) but does not respond via 12V trigger	Trigger cable connection issue	• Check to ensure control device is connected to the local network and not another neighboring network. • Check to ensure that all network routers and switches are powered up and active.
	Trigger not enabled on source device	• Check network activity light – if not illuminated green, check opposite end of cable. If cable is plugged in and switch or router shows activity indication, replace network cable.
Aries cuts out after playing for a while	Inadequate ventillation	• Check to ensure that sides, rear and top of unit have at least 2 inches of air space and that air can flow in and out of space around Aries installation.
Aries does not recognize the network	Network IP range incompatible	• Aries is compatible with networks with an IP range that begins with 192.168… Networks out of this range may not work with Aries. Reset the IP of the router to 192.168.x.y if possible.

Problem or symptom	Possible cause	recommendations
Aries switches on (display shows home screen) but does not produce audio	Shorted or poorly connected loudspeaker wires	• Check loudspeaker connections at the amplifier and at the speaker terminals. Look for frayed, shorted, or disconnected leads.
	Aries pre-amp mode	• If connecting loudspeakers directly to Aries, check Aries settings menu and power amp mode sub-menu to ensure Aries is not in pre-amp only mode • If using an external amplifier, check to ensure the external amplifier is powered on and signal cable between Aries and the external amplifier is connected
	Defective source device or cables	• Check connections between source device and Aries • Try using an alternate source device to eliminate the possibility of an Aries problem. • Check source device XLR or RCA cables for faults
	Aries input setting issue	• Make sure the Aries input number matches the source device connection
Not all Aries channels appear to be working	Loudspeaker connection issue	• Check loudspeaker connections at the amplifier and at the speaker terminals. Look for frayed, shorted, or disconnected leads.
	Aries balance setting issue	• Check Aries audio settings menu to ensure balance is set near middle and not over to favor one channel
	Source device connection issue	• Check connections between source device and Aries • Try using an alternate source device to eliminate the possibility of an Aries problem. • Check source device XLR or RCA cables for faults
Aries sound is garbled or distorted	Shorted or poorly connected loudspeaker wires	• Check loudspeaker connections at the amplifier and at the speaker terminals. Look for frayed, shorted, or disconnected leads.
	Defective source device or cables	• Check connections between source device and Aries • Try using an alternate source device to eliminate the possibility of an Aries problem. • Check source device XLR or RCA cables for faults
	Loudspeaker problem	• Check for one or more loudspeakers with faults. If the problem appears on only one loudspeaker, switch Aries channels to test the opposite loudspeaker to rule out an Aries problem.
Aries sound contains hum	Poorly connected or faulty source cables	• Ensure that audio cables are inserted fully in RCA and XLR jacks • Replace cables that are suspect
	AC ground loop	• Be sure to use either the 3-prong AC cord that came with the Aries or equivalent • Do not remove the ground lug from the AC cord • Plug all devices into the same AC outlet if possible
	Cable or Satellite TV grounding issue	• Verify source by disconnecting incoming cable line or satellite dish cable to see if hum disappears. If this is the source, then hum will disappear when the cable is disconnected from the system. If so, use an isolation transformer (such as a Mondial Magic Box) at each of the cable and/or satellite inputs

Obtaining Additional Help

For problems not addressed here, have the model, serial number and date of purchase of your Acurus component handy and contact your local dealer or contact Acurus

Customer Service at 1-866-781-7284 M-F, 9AM to 5PM E.S.T. or email support@acurusav.com.

technical specifications

Electrical	Power output	200Wx2 (8Ω), 400Wx2 (4Ω), both channels driven
	THD (amplifier)	< 0.05% (200W, 8Ω), < 0.08% (400W, 4Ω)
	Frequency response	20 – 20kHz ± 0.05dB
	Gain (amplifier)	29.2 ± 0.1dB
	Polarity	Non-inverting
	SNR	>115dB (A-wt.)
	Damping factor	>1000, 8Ω @ 50Hz
	Input impedance	20kΩ
	THD (pre-amp output)	<0.0015% (20 – 20kHz, 3Vrms input)
	DC Offset	± 2mV (max)
	Max output (pre-amp output)	3.5Vrms, 7Vrms (sub out)
	Loudspeaker High-pass filter	Defeatable, 80 Hz (-3dB), 2nd order
	Subwoofer Low-pass Filter	80 Hz (-3dB), 2nd order
	Power consumption	12W (idle), 1440W (max), 9W (standby)
Control	Front panel display	4.3" touch-sensitive TFT 480x272 QVGA, RGB 65k colors
	Ethernet/RS-232	Serial command and UDP message protocol for all parameters
	12V	1 3.5mm in, 2 3.5mm out, trigger out delay adjustable 0-2 sec
Audio Inputs/Outputs	Stereo audio input	4 Gold-plated RCA (unbalanced) L/R pairs
	Balanced input	1 XLR (balanced) L/R pair
	2.1 audio input	1 Gold-plated RCA (unbalanced) L/R pair plus sub in
	2.1 pre-amp output	1 Gold-plated RCA (unbalanced) L/R pair plus sub out
	Loudspeaker out	Gold-plated 60A 5-way binding posts x 2
	Expansion port	(up to 3 inputs or outputs with expansion card option)
Physical	Product dimensions	3.5" (8.89cm) x 17" (43.2cm) x 13.0" (33.0cm)
	Rack height	2 RU
	Product weight	17 lbs. (7.71kg)
	Finish	Black satin anodized, laser-etched logo, white rear panel
	Carton dimensions	10" (25.4cm) x 22" (55.9cm) x 18" (45.7cm)

Architects and Engineering Specifications

The integrated audio amplifier shall provide 2 output channels and produce 200W continuous power into 8 ohms, both channels driven simultaneously.

The integrated audio amplifier shall include a 10/100 Ethernet port and an RS-232 port for remote control and status monitoring. A 12V Trigger port shall be included to allow remote on/ off triggering by an external preamp or power control center. The integrated audio amplifier shall have an internal web server which delivers a browser-compatible GUI. This Graphical User Interface shall allow for remote control and monitoring via computer or mobile device/An RS-232 port.

The integrated audio amplifier shall have adjustable front panel lighting levels for dimly lit environments or bright rooms. The rear panel shall have gold-plated input RCA unbalanced and XLR balanced connectors and gold-plated 60A-rated loudspeaker binding posts.

The integrated audio amplifier shall contain a worldwide configurable power supply, and be compliant with FCC Part 15 and CE requirements.

The integrated audio amplifier shall be the Acurus ARIES

ARIES design notes

The Acurus Aries was designed by engineers at Indy Audio Labs to deliver an audio experience rivaled only by a live performance. We refer to Aries as our “concert system” in one compact unit.

While other high-end components may draw attention to themselves cosmetically or sonically, the Aries was conceived differently. Aries was conceived as a high-end product so simple to use, so compact and so transparent in operation that it delivers a dramatic musical event without getting in the way. The goal of Aries is to deliver a rich user experience in the least obtrusive manner possible.

To deliver on Aries goal from an audio perspective, a solid, neutral power amplifier must be utilized. The power amplifier should be able to reproduce the broadest possible musical styles without imparting its own coloration on the program material. We chose 200W per channel as the target power spec since this tends to support larger rooms and less efficient loudspeakers with ample power for music transient peaks. We also wanted to ensure we chose an amplifier design capable of driving low impedance loudspeakers (3-4 ohms nominal) with ease. In order to achieve these stringent amplifier specifications while simultaneously maintain as compact a chassis as possible, we developed and introduced in Aries Acurus’ first ever analog class D switching power amplifier technology. This new Acurus amplifier platform remains true to Acurus musicality and neutrality while boasting all the advantages of class-D switching technologies such as compactness and low heat dissipation. Acurus engineers were able to achieve all the above design goals with this new platform, unique to the new Aries integrated amplifier.

At the front end of the Aries, much like other legacy Acurus integrated amplifiers and pre-amplifiers, care has been taken to ensure signal paths are kept short and utilize minimal or no gain stages. This ensures that the source signal is not altered in any way from audio inputs to internal amplifier front-end stages. We utilize low-noise, ultra-low-distortion digitally-controlled volume circuits and discrete high-performance audio relays for basic source switching, muting and volume adjustments. Subwoofer filtering is performed in the analog domain with no DSPs in the signal path. This keeps processing artifacts out of the signal and maintains the most natural-sounding performance.

In addition to the subwoofer out, a full left-right pre-amp output feature is included in Aries. This allows Aries to control an external amplifier such as an Acurus A2002 driving a second set of loudspeakers. Or, if additional power is warranted beyond Aries built-in 400W amplifier platform, an external amplifier can be connected to allow speaker wiring for a bi-amplified configuration. The Acurus A2002 is a perfect match in gain for this option and would result in delivery of a total of 400W to each loudspeaker.

The front panel controls of the Aries are modern, minimalist and meant to be unintimidating for even the listener least familiar with audio separates. What is required is simply a basic understanding of the icons and symbols used universally in modern mobile devices and tablet PCs. The Aries takes full advantage of this modern graphical approach to communicating status information. The result is a product which is easy to learn and operate and conveys a more modern design approach than most of its peers in the audio industry.

Like all other Acurus products developed recently by Indy Audio Labs, the Aries approach to web connectivity provides the user with the simplest possible means to control their audio system with a smartphone or tablet. Aries does all the network “heavy lifting” behind the scenes so that the user doesn’t need to download any apps or set any network settings. The user simply enters the IP address displayed on the Aries screen in their mobile device web browser. The user’s mobile device then mimics the front panel display of the Aries for full audio control from anywhere within the home.

As user needs change and as technology advances, an expansion slot in the rear of the Aries makes the system ready to evolve. The rear-panel expansion slot in the Aries allows for future cards from Acurus which add 1 to 3 additional inputs such as digital audio, phono, wireless and other technologies yet-to-be conceived. Authorized Acurus dealers can provide additional information about the availability and pricing of expansion cards as they are released. The Aries owner can feel confident that Aries can be updated as new source devices are added to the system.

All-in-all, the Aries is a full-featured, flexible, yet extremely simple solution for a wide variety of modern 2-channel audio applications. Whether for pure audio listening, audio-for-video, audio-for-gaming or any other applications where surround processing is not needed or warranted, Acurus engineers are confident that you’ll find Aries delivers an exceptional all-around experience.

about acurus and indy audio labs

Acurus and Aragon and wholly owned brands of Indy Audio Labs, LLC.

Indy Audio Labs was founded in late 2008 by three audio engineers and a physicist who saw a vision for an affordable set of home entertainment products that bring together professional-grade audio performance, state-of-the-art control and connectivity, and simplified access to today's content sources.

Acurus was originally founded by Mondial designs in 1993 as a more affordable alternative to its critically acclaimed flagship brand, Aragon. Like its predecessor, Mondial, Indy Audio Labs designs and manufactures all of its audio components in the USA using custom fabricated parts and assemblies. Indy Audio Labs prides itself on remaining true to the original mission of Acurus today – delivering both high-performance and high-value. Acurus is "accuracy from the US".

acurus

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WARRANTY

U.S. and Canada:

The Warranty below is valid only for sales to consumers in the United States or Canada.

The manufacturer warrants this product to be free from defects in materials and workmanship (subject to the terms set forth below) for a period of five (5) years from the date of purchase. During the Warranty period, the manufacturer will repair or replace (at the manufacturer's option) this product or any defective parts.

To obtain technical support and/or warranty service, you may either: (a) contact the authorized Acurus dealer from which you purchased this product or (b) call INDY AUDIO LABS at 1-866-559-5113 (toll free) or (c) email INDY AUDIO LABS support at support@indyaudiolabs.com. If you choose to call INDY AUDIO LABS directly we strongly suggest that you choose the technical support option as the majority of customer problems can be solved over the phone. If technical support is unable to solve the problem, they will advise as to whether the preferred route to obtain warranty service is to return the product to the INDY AUDIO LABS authorized dealer from which you purchased the product or to return the product directly to the manufacturer, freight paid, for repair. If returning the product you will need to obtain a Return Authorization from Indy Audio Labs and ship this product in either its original packaging or packaging affording an equal degree of protection.

Proof of purchase in the form of a bill of sale or receipted invoice (which is evidence that this product is within the Warranty period) must be presented or included in order to obtain Warranty service.

This Warranty is invalid if (a) the factory-applied serial number has been altered or removed from this product or (b) this product was not purchased from an INDY AUDIO LABS authorized dealer. You may call 1-866-559-5113 (choose the INDY AUDIO LABS customer service option) to confirm that you have an unaltered serial number and/or that you purchased from a INDY AUDIO LABS authorized dealer.

This Warranty is only valid for the original purchaser and will automatically terminate prior to expiration if this product is sold or otherwise transferred to another party.

This Warranty does not cover cosmetic damage or damage due to misuse, abuse, negligence, acts of God, accident, commercial use or modification of, or to any part of, the product. This Warranty does not cover damage due to improper operation, maintenance or installation, or attempted repair by anyone other than the manufacturer or an INDY AUDIO LABS dealer which is authorized to do INDY AUDIO LABS warranty work. Any unauthorized repairs will void this Warranty. This Warranty does not cover product sold AS IS or WITH ALL FAULTS.

REPAIRS OR REPLACEMENTS AS PROVIDED UNDER THIS WARRANTY ARE THE EXCLUSIVE REMEDY OF THE CONSUMER. THE MANUFACTURER SHALL NOT BE LIABLE FOR ANY INCIDENTAL OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES FOR BREACH OF ANY EXPRESS OR IMPLIED WARRANTY ON THIS PRODUCT. EXCEPT TO THE EXTENT PROHIBITED BY LAW, THIS WARRANTY IS EXCLUSIVE AND IN LIEU OF ALL OTHER EXPRESS AND IMPLIED WARRANTIES WHATSOEVER, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE WARRANTY OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PRACTICAL PURPOSE.

Applicable Territories: Some states and foreign territories do not allow the exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages or implied warranties so the above exclusions may not apply to you. This Warranty gives you specific legal rights, and you may have other rights, which vary from state to state and territory to territory. The warranty on this product if it is sold to a consumer outside of the United States or Canada shall comply with applicable law and shall be the sole responsibility of the distributor that supplied this product. To obtain any applicable warranty service, please contact the dealer from which you purchased this product, or the distributor that supplied this product.

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