WARNING - TO REDUCE RISK OF FIRE OR ELECTRICAL SHOCK, DO NOT EXPOSE THIS EQUIPMENT TO RAIN OR MOISTURE.

CAUTION - Invisible Laser Radiation when open. DO NOT stare into the beam or view directly with optical instruments. Use of controls or adjustments or performance of procedures other than those specified in the Owners Manual may result in Hazardous Radiation Exposure.

LUOKAN 1 LASERLAITE
KLASS 1 LASER APPARAT

VAROITUS! Laitteen käyttäminen muulla kuin tassa käyttöohjeessa mainitulla tavalla saattaa altistaa käyttäjän turvallisuusluokan 1 ylittäville näkymättömille lasersateille.

WARNING! Om apparaten används pa annat sätt an i denna bruksanvisning specificerats, kan användaren utsätta for osynlig laserstråling, som overskrider gransen for laserklass 1.

This product incorporates an embedded CLASS 3R Laser (IEC60825-1).
IMPORTANT SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS!

PLEASE READ THEM BEFORE OPERATING THIS EQUIPMENT.

1. Read these instructions.
2. Keep these instructions.
3. Heed all warnings.
4. Follow all instructions.
5. Do not use this apparatus near water.
6. Clean only with a dry cloth.
7. Do not block any ventilation openings. Install in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions.
8. Do not install near any heat sources such as radiators, heat registers, stoves, or other apparatus (including amplifiers) that produce heat.
9. Do not defeat the safety purpose of the polarized or grounding-type plug. A polarized plug has two blades with one wider than the other. A grounding type plug has two blades and a third grounding prong. The wide blade or the third prong are provided for your safety. If the provided plug does not fit into your outlet, consult an electrician for replacement of the obsolete outlet.
10. Protect the power cord from being walked on or pinched particularly at plugs, convenience receptacles, and the point where they exit from the apparatus.
11. Only use attachments/accessories specified by the manufacturer.
12. Use only with the cart, stand, tripod, bracket, or table specified by the manufacturer, or sold with the apparatus. When a cart is used, use caution when moving the cart/apparatus combination to avoid injury from tip-over.
13. Unplug this apparatus during lightning storms or when unused for long periods of time.
14. Refer all servicing to qualified service personnel. Servicing is required when the apparatus has been damaged in any way, such as power-supply cord or plug is damaged, liquid has been spilled or objects have fallen into the apparatus, the apparatus has been exposed to rain or moisture, does not operate normally, or has been dropped.
15. Do not expose this equipment to dripping or splashing and ensure that no objects filled with liquids, such as vases, are placed on the equipment.
16. To completely disconnect this equipment from the a.c. mains, disconnect the power supply cord plug from the a.c. receptacle.
17. The mains plug of the power supply cord shall remain readily operable.
18. Do not expose batteries to excessive heat such as sunshine, fire or the like.
19. Connect mains power supply cord only to a mains socket outlet with a protective earthing connection.

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Thank You
Your decision to own this McIntosh MCD550 SACD/CD Player ranks you at the very top among discriminating music listeners. You now have “The Best.” The McIntosh dedication to “Quality,” is assurance that you will receive many years of musical enjoyment from this unit. Please take a short time to read the information in this manual. We want you to be as familiar as possible with all the features and functions of your new McIntosh.

Please Take A Moment
The serial number, purchase date and McIntosh Dealer name are important to you for possible insurance claim or future service. The spaces below have been provided for you to record that information:

Serial Number: _______________________________
Purchase Date: _______________________________
Dealer Name: ________________________________

Technical Assistance
If at any time you have questions about your McIntosh product, contact your McIntosh Dealer who is familiar with your McIntosh equipment and any other brands that may be part of your system. If you or your Dealer wish additional help concerning a suspected problem, you can receive technical assistance for all McIntosh products at:

McIntosh Laboratory, Inc.
2 Chambers Street
Binghamton, New York 13903
Phone: 607-723-1545
Fax: 607-723-1917

Customer Service
If it is determined that your McIntosh product is in need of repair, you can return it to your Dealer. You can also return it to the McIntosh Laboratory Service Department. For assistance on factory repair return procedure, contact the McIntosh Service Department at:

McIntosh Laboratory, Inc.
2 Chambers Street
Binghamton, New York 13903
Phone: 607-723-3515
Fax: 607-723-1917

General Information
1. For additional connection information, refer to the owner’s manual(s) for any component(s) connected to the MCD550 SACD/CD Player.
2. The Super Audio Compact Discs Audio Signals are converted internally from Digital to Analog. There is no Digital Audio Signal present at the MCD550 Digital Output Connectors during playback of a SACD Disc.
3. A PCM version of the decoded MP3 and WMA Signals is available at the Digital Audio Outputs.
4. The MCD550 internal Digital to Analog Converter is designed to decode 2 channel PCM (Pulse Code Modulation) signal present at the Digital Audio Inputs into 2 channel analog audio.
5. The IR Input, with a 3.5mm mini phone jack, is configured for non-McIntosh IR sensors such as a Xantech Model HL85BK Kit. Use a Connection Block such as a Xantech Model ZC21 when two or more IR sensors need to be connected to the MCD550.
6. When discarding the unit, comply with local rules or regulations. Batteries should never be thrown away or incinerated but disposed of in accordance with the local regulations concerning battery disposal.
6. For additional information on the MCD550 and other McIntosh Products please visit the McIntosh Web Site at www.mcintoshlabs.com.

Connector and Cable Information

XLR Connectors
Below is the Pin configuration for the XLR Balanced Output Connectors on the MCD550. Refer to the diagram for connection:

PIN 1: Shield/Ground
PIN 2: + Output
PIN 3: - Output

Data and IR Input Port Connectors
The MCD550 Data In Port receives Remote Control Signals. A 1/8 inch stereo mini phone plug is used for connection. The IR Ports also use a 3.5mm stereo mini phone plug and allow the connection of other brand IR Receivers to the MCD550.

Power Control Connector
The Power Control Input Jack receives Power On/Off Signals (+12 volt/0 volt) when connected to other McIntosh Components. The Power Control Output Jack sends Power On/Off Signals (+12 volt/0 volt) when connected to other McIntosh Components. An additional connection is for
controlling the illumination of the Power Output Meters on McIntosh Power Amplifiers. A 3.5mm stereo mini phone plug is used for connection to the Power Control Jacks.

**Disc Information**

1. The MCD550 is designed to play round Compact Discs do not try other shapes or possible damage may occur.
2. The MCD550 SACD/CD Player is designed to play all industry standard “Redbook” CD Audio Discs as indicated by the symbol. It will also play most CD-R, CD-RW and Dual Discs, however some recorded discs may not be able to play due to the condition of the recording or manufacturing.
3. Disc with tracks recorded with MP3 and WMA Formats will playback on the MCD550 when the writing software used to create them conforms to the ISO9660 Level 1 standard.
4. Several of the SACD performance features available on the MCD550 are active only if the SACD Disc includes the supporting encoded information.
5. The Audio from playback of SACD Two Channel Layer and Multichannel Layer Discs is available at the MCD550 Analog Output Jacks and Connectors; the Digital Outputs will be muted.

**Introduction**

The McIntosh MCD550 SACD/CD Player offers the latest in audio technology, providing state of the art reproduction of audio program sources. A full complement of performance features allows for the enjoyment of the SACD special audio format available on discs. Audio CDs are also reproduced with flawless realism. The advanced mechanical design of the transport ensures many years of smooth trouble free operation.

**Performance Features**

- **Twin Laser Pickup**
  The MCD550 incorporates two laser elements, with different wavelengths, that are focused through one lens assembly. This unique design allows reading both the CD and Super Audio Compact Disc (SACD) Discs Formats.

- **Advanced Transport**
  The MCD550 has a new transport with a Die Cast Tray. It has the latest in advanced digital servo for faster, quieter and accurate operation. The Disc Audio Data is read at twice the normal rate insuring better disc tracking and error correction processing.

- **Quad Balanced Digital to Analog Converter**
  The 8 channel 32-bit, 192kHz Digital to Analog Converter is used in a Stereo Quad Balanced Mode, assuring the music is reproduced with a wide dynamic range and extremely low distortion, for both Disc and external sources.

- **Digital Audio Inputs and Outputs**
  The MCD550 has Digital Coaxial and Optical Inputs/Outputs along with an USB Input Connection.

- **Front Panel Level Control**
  The Level Control allows varying the music volume level with headphones, matching the volume level of the MCD550 with other components in a system and can drive any Power Amplifier directly.

- **Power Control and Full Function Remote Control**
  The Power Control Input Connection switches the MCD550 On/Off with other McIntosh Components in a system. The Remote Control with illuminated push-buttons provides complete control of the MCD550 operating functions.

- **Multi-Function Front Panel Display**
  The MCD550 Front Panel display indicates the current disc playback status, digital input status and the variable audio output volume level.

- **Balanced Outputs**
  The MCD550 has both variable and fixed Balanced Outputs, permitting long cable lengths without a loss in sound quality.

- **Special Power Supply**
  The Linear Power Supply has both a special R-Core Power Transformer and Multiple Regulators to ensure stable noise free operation even though the power line varies.

- **Glass Front Panel and Super Mirror Chassis**
  The MCD550 has the famous McIntosh Illuminated Glass Front Panel and Stainless Steel Super Mirror Finish Chassis ensures the pristine beauty of the MCD550 will be retained for many years.

- **Fiber Optic Solid State Front Panel Illumination**
  The Illumination of the Front Panel is accomplished by the combination of custom designed Fiber Optic Light Diffusers and extra long life Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs). This provides even Front Panel Illumination and is designed to ensure the pristine beauty of the MCD550 will be retained for many years.

1. The MCD550 is designed to play round Compact Discs do not try other shapes or possible damage may occur.
2. The MCD550 SACD/CD Player is designed to play all industry standard “Redbook” CD Audio Discs as indicated by the symbol. It will also play most CD-R, CD-RW and Dual Discs, however some recorded discs may not be able to play due to the condition of the recording or manufacturing.
3. Disc with tracks recorded with MP3 and WMA Formats will playback on the MCD550 when the writing software used to create them conforms to the ISO9660 Level 1 standard.
4. Several of the SACD performance features available on the MCD550 are active only if the SACD Disc includes the supporting encoded information.
5. The Audio from playback of SACD Two Channel Layer and Multichannel Layer Discs is available at the MCD550 Analog Output Jacks and Connectors; the Digital Outputs will be muted.
Dimensions

The following dimensions can assist in determining the best location for your MCD550.

Front View of the MCD550

17-1/2"  
44.5cm

5-3/8"  
13.7cm

6"  
15.2cm

Rear View of the MCD550

17-1/8"  
43.5cm

4-5/8"  
11.8cm

13 -1/4"  
33.7cm

Side View of the MCD550

16-3/8"  
41.6cm

14-1/2"  
36.8cm

3/16"  
0.5cm

4-7/8"  
12.8cm

13/16"  
2.1cm

1-15/16"  
26.8cm

2"  
5.1cm
**Installation**

The MCD550 can be placed upright on a table or shelf, standing on its four feet. It also can be custom installed in a piece of furniture or cabinet of your choice. The four feet may be removed from the bottom of the MCD550 when it is custom installed as outlined below. The four feet together with the mounting screws should be retained for possible future use if the MCD550 is removed from the custom installation and used free standing. The required panel cutout, ventilation cutout and unit dimensions are shown.

Always provide adequate ventilation for your MCD550. Cool operation ensures the longest possible operating life for any electronic instrument. Do not install the MCD550 directly above a heat generating component such as a high powered amplifier. If all the components are installed in a single cabinet, a quiet running ventilation fan can be a definite asset in maintaining all the system components at the coolest possible operating temperature.

A custom cabinet installation should provide the following minimum spacing dimensions for cool operation.

Allow at least 2 inches (5.1cm) above the top, 2 inches (5.1cm) below the bottom and 1 inch (2.5cm) on each side of the SACD/CD Player, so that airflow is not obstructed. Allow 17 inches (43.2cm) depth behind the front panel. Allow 1-1/8 inch (2.9cm) in front of the mounting panel for knob clearance. Be sure to cut out a ventilation hole in the mounting shelf according to the dimensions in the drawing.

---

**Cutout Opening for Custom Mounting**

**MCD550 Front Panel**

**Custom Cabinet Cutout**

**MCD550 Side View in Custom Cabinet**

**MCD550 Bottom View in Custom Cabinet**

Note: Center the cutout Horizontally on the unit. For purposes of clarity, the above illustration is not drawn to scale.
UNBALANCED FIXED level AUDIO OUTPUTS supply analog audio signals to Unbalanced Inputs of other components

UNBALANCED VARIABLE level AUDIO OUTPUTS supply analog audio signals to Unbalanced Inputs of other components

BALANCED FIXED level AUDIO OUTPUTS supply analog audio signals to Balanced Inputs of other components

BALANCED VARIABLE level AUDIO OUTPUTS supply analog audio signals to connect to Balanced Inputs of other components

POWER CONTROL IN receives turn-on signals from a McIntosh component and POWER CONTROL OUT sends turn-on signals on to another McIntosh Component

Connect the MCD550 power cord to a live AC outlet. Refer to information on the back panel of your MCD550 to determine the correct voltage for your unit

USB DIGITAL AUDIO INPUT receives a Digital Audio Signal from a computer connection

DATA IN receives control data from a McIntosh Control Center

IR IN for connecting an IR Receiver

OPTICAL and COAXIAL DIGITAL AUDIO OUTPUTS send a Digital Audio Signal to a Preamplifier or an A/V Control Center with a D/A Converter or a decoder

OPTICAL and COAXIAL DIGITAL AUDIO INPUTS receive a Digital Audio Signal from an external source component such as a Disc Player and uses the MCD550 internal D/A Converter to decode the signal into analog audio

1 - For additional information Refer to page 4 “General Information”, note 4.
MCD550 Connections

The MCD550 has the ability to be remotely switched On/Off from a McIntosh Preamplifier or A/V Control Center via the Power Control connection. The MCD550 Data Port Connection allows for the remote operation of basic functions using the Preamplifier or A/V Control Center Remote Control. With an external sensor connected to the MCD550, remote control operation is possible from another room and/or when the MCD550 is located in a cabinet with the doors closed.

The connection instructions below, together with the MCD550 Connection Diagram located on the separate folded sheet “Mc1A, is an example of a typical audio or audio/video system. Your system may vary from this, however the actual components would be connected in a similar manner. For additional information refer to “Connector and Cable Information” on page 4.

### Power Control Connections:
1. Connect a Control Cable from the Preamplifier or A/V Control Center Power Control MAIN (or ACC) Jack to the POWER CONTROL IN Jack on the McIntosh MCD550 SACD/CD Player.
2. Optionally, connect a Control Cable from the MCD550 SACD/CD Player POWER CONTROL OUT Jack to the external Disc Player Power Control In Jack.
3. Optionally, connect a Control Cable from the MCD550 SACD/CD Player Power Control Out Jack to the Music Server PWR (Power) CTRL (Control) In Jack.
4. Connect any additional components in a similar manner, as outlined in steps 1 thru 3.

### Data Control Connections:
5. Connect a Control Cable from the Preamplifier or A/V Control Center CD Data Port Jack to the McIntosh MCD550 SACD/CD Player DATA IN Jack.

### Sensor Connections:
6. Connect an IR Sensor to the McIntosh MCD550 SACD/CD Player IR IN Jack.

### Digital Audio Connections:
7. Optionally, connect a Cable from the McIntosh MCD550 SACD/CD Player DIGITAL AUDIO OUTPUT, COAXIAL or OPTICAL to the Optical or Coaxial Input on the Preamplifier or A/V Control Center.
8. Optionally, connect a Cable from the MCD550 SACD/CD Player DIGITAL AUDIO INPUT, COAXIAL to the Coaxial Output on the Disc Player.
   Note: Optical connections may be used instead of the Coaxial Connections.
9. Optionally, connect a Cable from the MCD550 SACD/CD Player DIGITAL AUDIO INPUT, OPTICAL to the Optical Output on the Music Server.
   Note: Coaxial connections may be used instead of the Optical Connections.

### Analog Audio Connections:
10. Connect Balanced Cables from the McIntosh MCD550 SACD/CD Player FIXED AUDIO OUTPUT, BALANCED Connectors to the Preamplifier or A/V Control Center Balanced 1 Input Jacks.
11. Optionally, connect an Audio Cable from the MCD550 SACD/CD Player FIXED AUDIO OUTPUT, UNBALANCED Jacks to the Preamplifier or A/V Control Center CD Input Jacks.

Note: Preamplifiers require either a Balanced or Unbalanced audio connection. A/V Control Centers usually require unbalanced connections for proper operation of Zone B and the record output, with Balanced connections as optional.

### AC Power Cords Connections:
12. Connect the McIntosh MCD550 SACD/CD Player AC Power Cord to a live AC outlet.
MCD550 Direct to a Power Amplifier Connections

The MCD550 has the ability to be connected directly to a Power Amplifier and remotely switch the amplifier and other source components On/Off via the Power Control connection. The connection instructions below, together with the MCD550 Connection Diagram located on the separate folded sheet “Mc1B,” is an example of a typical audio system. Your system may vary from this, however the actual components would be connected in a similar manner. For additional information refer to “Connector and Cable Information” on page 4.

Power Control Connections:
1. Connect a Control Cable from the McIntosh MCD550 SACD/CD Player POWER CONTROL OUT Jack to the Power Amplifier Power Control INput Jack.
2. Optionally, connect a Control Cable from the Power Amplifier Power Control Out 1 Jack to the external Disc Player Power Control In Jack.
3. Optionally, connect a Control Cable from the external Disc Player Power Control Out Jack to the Music Server PWR (Power) CTRL (Control) In Jack.
4. Connect any additional components in a similar manner, as outlined in steps 1 thru 3.

Digital Audio Connections:
5. Optionally, connect a Cable from the MCD550 SACD/CD Player DIGITAL AUDIO INPUT, COAXIAL to the Coaxial Output on the Disc Player.
   Note: Optical connections may be used instead of the Coaxial Connections.

AC Power Cords Connections:
6. Optionally, connect a Cable from the MCD550 SACD/CD Player DIGITAL AUDIO INPUT, OPTICAL to the Optical Output on the Music Server.
   Note: Coaxial connections may be used instead of the Optical Connections.

Analog Audio Connections:
7. Connect Balanced Cables from the McIntosh MCD550 SACD/CD Player VARIABLE AUDIO OUTPUT, BALANCED Connectors to the Power Amplifier Balanced Input Connectors.
   Note: The Unbalanced audio connections may be used instead of Balanced connections.

8. Connect the McIntosh MCD550 SACD/CD Player AC Power Cord to a live AC outlet.
Front Panel Displays, Controls, Push-buttons and Jack

- **Audio Output Mute On Indicator**: Indicates when the audio output is muted.
- **Standby Power On Indicator**: Indicates the status of the Auto Off Feature.
- **Connection for low impedance dynamic headphones, for private listening**.
- **Digital Signal Detector Indicator LED**: Indicates when there is no digital audio signal.
- **Front Panel Display indicates the volume level**.
- **IR Sensor receives commands from a Remote Control**.
- **Disc Tray opens to load and unload a disc**.
- **Adjusts the listening volume level**.
- **Starts disc playback and pauses disc playback**.
- **STANDBY/ON Push-button switches the MCD550 ON or OFF (Standby)**.
- **Selects either disc playback or selects the external Digital Input (Coaxial, Optical or USB)**.
- **Selects the SACD or CD Audio Tracks from a hybrid disc**.
- **Front Panel Display indicates various operation functions and times**.
- **Push to mute the audio at rear panel Audio Output Connectors (Headphones are not affected)**.
- **Opens and Closes the disc tray for loading or unloading discs**.
- **STANDBY/ON Push-button switches the MCD550 ON or OFF (Standby)**.
Indicates when the Play Mode is active
Indicates when the Track Number is being displayed
Indicates when in the Pause Mode
Indicates the Repeat Mode selected; Repeat All (Tracks) or Repeat 1 (Track)
Indicates the sound channels on a CD or SACD Disc. Left and Right Channels for a CD and STEREO SACD Discs. Left, Center, Right, LFE (subwoofer), Surround Left and Surround Right on a Multichannel SACD Disc.
Indicates the total disc remaining playback time or the current track remaining playback time
Indicates the number of tracks on the Disc, Programmed Tracks, the current Track Time, Remaining Track Time, Total Disc Playing Time, Text and various other Information
Indicates the Random Play Mode is active
Indicates the volume level available at the variable outputs and headphone jack
Indicates the type of disc loaded, CD or SACD
Indicates when the tracks on the CD disc are MP3 or WMA encoded
Indicates the Programming or Program Play Mode is active
Indicates the type of disc loaded, CD or SACD
Indicates the total disc remaining playback time or the current track remaining playback time
Indicates the Repeat Mode selected; Repeat All (Tracks) or Repeat 1 (Track)
Indicates the number of tracks on the Disc, Programmed Tracks, the current Track Time, Remaining Track Time, Total Disc Playing Time, Text and various other Information
Indicates the sound channels on a CD or SACD Disc. Left and Right Channels for a CD and STEREO SACD Discs. Left, Center, Right, LFE (subwoofer), Surround Left and Surround Right on a Multichannel SACD Disc.
Indicates the volume level available at the variable outputs and headphone jack
Indicates when the Play Mode is active
Indicates when the Track Number is being displayed
Indicates when in the Pause Mode
Indicates the Repeat Mode selected; Repeat All (Tracks) or Repeat 1 (Track)
Indicates the sound channels on a CD or SACD Disc. Left and Right Channels for a CD and STEREO SACD Discs. Left, Center, Right, LFE (subwoofer), Surround Left and Surround Right on a Multichannel SACD Disc.
Indicates the total disc remaining playback time or the current track remaining playback time
Indicates the number of tracks on the Disc, Programmed Tracks, the current Track Time, Remaining Track Time, Total Disc Playing Time, Text and various other Information
Indicates the Repeat Mode selected; Repeat All (Tracks) or Repeat 1 (Track)
Indicates the sound channels on a CD or SACD Disc. Left and Right Channels for a CD and STEREO SACD Discs. Left, Center, Right, LFE (subwoofer), Surround Left and Surround Right on a Multichannel SACD Disc.
Indicates the total disc remaining playback time or the current track remaining playback time
Indicates the number of tracks on the Disc, Programmed Tracks, the current Track Time, Remaining Track Time, Total Disc Playing Time, Text and various other Information
Indicates the Repeat Mode selected; Repeat All (Tracks) or Repeat 1 (Track)
Remote Control Push-Buttons

- Used to activate random playback or program the desired tracks on a SACD or CD disc
- Press to move backward one track at a time on SACD and CD Discs
- Moves backward in time through a track
- Starts playback of a disc and pauses playback
- Used to stop playback of the disc
- Access the Text Display Mode when playing a SACD Disc containing the information
- Use to select various disc information, including time, on the Front Panel Display. It is also used to cancel the text display mode on a SACD Disc
- Access any numbered operating function
- Use to Clear the last programmed track
- Use to select one of various repeat modes
- Selects sound from MCD550 Disc Playback or the external Digital Input (Coaxial, Optical or USB)
- Momentarily press to Power the MCD550 ON or OFF
- Press to move forward one track at a time on SACD and CD Discs. Also used to review the programmed tracks
- Moves forward in time through a track
- Use to select the SACD or CD Tracks from a hybrid disc for playback
- Used for navigating up, down, left, right through tracks/folders; also use to select the track/folder indicated on the Front Panel Display
- Adjusts the volume level up or down
- Selects Disc Mode or Folder Mode for navigating and selection of music on a CD-ROM Disc
- Use to direct access tracks 10 and above

Note: The Remote Control Push-buttons not identified are for use with other McIntosh Products
How to use the Remote Control

The Remote Control is capable of performing most Operating Functions for the MCD550 SACD/CD Player.

Note: Refer to the "How to Operate" Section of this manual for additional information using this Remote Control.

Play
With a disc loaded, press the PLAY► Push-button to start the disc playing. Press the PLAY► Push-button a second time to temporarily stop disc playback at any time (Pause).

Note: The Play and Pause Push-buttons have been combined into a single rocker type push-button. Press the upper portion where the ► symbol is for playback and and for pausing the playback of a disc.

Stop
Press the STOP ■ Push-button to stop disc playback and return to displaying the table of contents of the disc.

Numbered Push-buttons
Press 1 through 9 to directly access one of the first nine Disc Tracks using the Front Panel Information Display. For track numbers greater than 10, press the +10 Push-button followed by the 0-9 Push-button. For example, to access Disc Track 23, press the +10 Push-button twice and then the 3 Push-button.

Reverse and Fast Forward
Press the ◀ (Reverse) or ▶ (Fast Forward) Push-button to start moving rapidly through a track on the disc. When the desired location is reached release the ◀ (Reverse) or ▶ (Fast Forward) Push-button to resume normal playback.

Back and Next
Press the ▶ (Next) Push-button to move forward one track or the ◀ (Back) Push-button to move back to the beginning of the current track playing. Also used to review the Programmed Tracks from the disc on the Front Panel Information Display, while in the Program Mode.

Note: If the ◀ (Back) Push-button is pressed during playback of the first three seconds of the track, the MCD550 will start playing back the previous track from the beginning. If the Front Panel Information Display is indicating time, the display will momentarily indicate the track number.

SACD or CD Track Selection
Press the DISC LAYER Push-button to select the SACD or CD Tracks from a hybrid disc for playback.

Display/Time
Press the DISPlay/TIME Push-button to access various disc times. It is also used to return the Front Panel Information Display to indicating time instead of text information on a SACD Disc.

Menu/Text
Press the MENU/TEXT Push-button to select the various text information on a SACD Disc such as Album, Artist and Track Titles (disc dependent).

Repeat Modes
Press the REPEAT Push-button to select either One Track, All Tracks or cancel the Repeat Mode.

Clear
Press the CLEAR Push-button to erase a program track(s).
How to Operate the MCD550

Power On and Off
The LED above the STANDBY/ON Push-button lights to indicate when the MCD550 is connected to AC Power. Refer to figure 1. The LED also indicates the status of the Auto Off Feature. When the MCD550 is in the Standby Mode, green illumination indicates the Auto Off Feature is enabled (default setting) and red illumination indicates the Auto Off Feature is disabled. For additional information refer to “Auto Off Mode” on page 21.

Note: When AC Power is initially applied to the MCD550, the unit will momentarily switch On and then go into the Standby Mode.

To Switch ON the MCD550, momentarily press the STANDBY/ON Push-button on the Front Panel or the (Power) Push-button on the Remote Control. Refer to figures 2 and 21. The LED above the STANDBY/ON Push-button illuminates green. LEDs above the MUTE and INPUT Push-buttons will illuminate. The Front Panel Display will momentarily indicate “DISC” followed by “READING” and then “NO DISC”. Refer to figures 2, 3, 4, 5 and 21. To switch OFF the MCD550, momentarily press the STANDBY/ON Push-button on the Front Panel or the OFF Push-button on the Remote Control.

How to Load and Unload a Disc
1. Press the OPEN/CLOSE Push-button. The disc tray will slide out allowing a CD Disc to be loaded. Refer to figure 6. Note: When a Disc is placed in the tray and the PLAY/PAUSE Push-button is pressed, the tray will close and the first track will start playing.
2. Press the OPEN/CLOSE Push-button and the disc tray will close. Refer to figure 7. Loading of the CD Disc’s Table of Contents (number of tracks and total playing time) will be indicated on the Front Panel Display. Refer to figure 8.
3. Pressing the OPEN/CLOSE Push-button will stop playback of the disc and the disc tray will open.

How to Play a SACD Disc
Load a SACD Disc into the MCD550. The Front Panel Display will first scroll the Album Title of the SACD Disc (available on most SACD Discs). Refer to figures 9, 10 and 11.

The Album Title is followed by the Table of Contents. Refer to figure 12.

Press the PLAY/PAUSE Push-button on the Front Panel of the MCD550 or Remote Control. Refer to figures 2 and 21. The Disc will start playing the first track of the SACD Layer.

Note: The default setting for SACD/CD Hybrid Disc is to play the SACD Stereo Layer. The default setting may be changed to play the CD Layer or the SACD Multichannel Layer, when available. With the MCD550 On and no disc loaded, press the DISC LAYER Push-button until the Front Panel Display indicates the desired layer.
Selection of a different Layer (CD, Stereo or Multichannel) can occur during playback of a disc by pressing the DISK LAYER Push-button once to see the current selection and a second or third time to select the desired Layer. Refer to figures 13, 14 and 15. The Player will stop playing the current Layer and then load the desired Layers’ Table of Contents (Number of tracks and Total Playing Time). Once the information is indicated on the front panel display, press the PLAY/PAUSE \( \uparrow / \) Push-button. Refer to figure 16.

Note: 1. Most SACD Disc(s) have the ability of displaying the Album Title and Artist. With the disc loaded, SACD Table of Contents read and the disc stopped, press the MENU/TEXT Push-button once for scrolling the Title and twice for scrolling the Artist Name. Display of the Artist information is not available during playback of the disc. Refer to figures 17, 18 and 21.

2. In a similar manner, some SACD Discs have the ability of scrolling the Track Number and Title by pressing the MENU/TEXT Push-button after the Track has started to play. Refer to figures 19 and 21.

How to Play a CD Disc
With a disc already loaded into the MCD550, press the PLAY/PAUSE \( \uparrow / \) Push-button on the Front Panel of the MCD550 or Remote Control. Refer to figures 2, 20 and 21.

How to Pause a Disc
This feature allows for the temporary stopping of disc playback. Refer to figures 2, and 16.
1. When playing a Disc, press the PLAY/PAUSE \( \uparrow / \) Push-button to temporarily stop playback.
2. Press the PLAY/PAUSE \( \uparrow / \) Push-button to resume playing the disc.

Track Back
Return to the beginning of the Track currently playing by rotating the MCD550 Front Panel TRACK BACK \( \leftarrow \) Control counterclockwise and then releasing the control or momentarily pressing the \( \leftarrow \) Push-button on the Remote Control. Rotate and hold the TRACK BACK \( \leftarrow \) Control or press and hold the \( \leftarrow \) Push-button on the Remote Control for rapid selection of the desired previous Tracks. Refer to figures 2 and 21.

Track Next
Advance to the next Track by rotating the MCD550 Front Panel TRACK NEXT \( \rightarrow \) Control clockwise and then releasing the control or momentarily pressing the \( \rightarrow \) Push-button on the Remote Control. Rotate and hold the TRACK NEXT \( \rightarrow \) Control or press and hold the \( \rightarrow \) Push-button on the Remote Control for rapid selection of the next desired Track. Refer to figures 2 and 21.

Fast Forward or Reverse
Using the Remote Control, press the \( \rightarrow \) (Fast Forward) or \( \leftarrow \) (Reverse) Push-button to search back and forth rapidly through a Track on a disc. To return to normal
How to Operate the MCD550, con’t

Mute
Press the MUTE Push-button to mute the audio (-50dB down in level) at both the Fixed and Variable Output Connections on the Rear Panel. Refer to figure 2. The LED above the MUTE Push-button will illuminate. Pressing the MUTE Push-button a second time restores the audio at the output connections and the LED will no longer be illuminated.

Note: The Headphone Jack is not affected by the Mute Function.

Direct Track Selection
The MCD50 Front Panel Display indicates the Disc Track currently playing. Use the Remote Control NUMERIC Push-button(s) to enter the desired Track Number. Refer to pages 14 and 15 for additional information using the Remote Control.

Repeat
This allows repeating a Track, Disc, Program Mode or Random Play Mode on a continuous basis. Refer to figures 2 and 25.

1. With the disc playing (Regular, Program or Random Playback Modes), press the REPEAT Push-button once to activate the Track Repeat (N1); press the REPEAT Push-button twice to activate the Disc Repeat (G). Refer to figures 23 and 24.

2. To cancel the previously selected Repeat Mode, press the REPEAT Push-button until the character “1” and/or the symbol “G” in the Front Panel Information Display is extinguished.

Random Playback
This feature allows for listening to Tracks of a Disc in a Random Order. Refer to figure 25.

Note: Before the Random Playback Mode feature on the MCD550 can be activated, the disc must be stopped or the message “Press ■ (stop) first” will momentarily appear on the Front Panel Display. Refer to figure 26.

1. With the MCD550 in the STOP ■ Mode press the RANDOM Push-button. The word RANDom will be indicated in
**Program Playback**

This feature allows for playback of selected Tracks on a Disc in the desired order. In the following example, a Disc is programmed to play Track 6 followed by Track 4 and then Track 2.

Notes: 1. The MCD550 must be in STOP Mode with the Disc TOC (Table of Contents) read before the Program Playback Mode Feature can be activated.
2. When programming Hybrid SACD Discs, first choose the layer (SACD or CD) so the correct TOC can be read, as some discs have different selections for the SACD and CD Tracks.

1. Press the RANDOM Push-button twice to access the Program Mode. Refer to figures 2, 25 and 28.

2. Enter the first desired selection (track 6) using the Numeric Push-buttons. The Front Panel Display will first indicate track 6 followed by indicating the total number of tracks and total playback time for the current program. Refer to figures 29 and 30.

3. In a similar manner, enter the remaining Tracks 4 and 2. Refer to figures 31 thru 34.

4. To start playback of the just entered program, press the PLAY/PAUSE button. Refer to figure 35.

After playback begins, the Repeat Mode can be activated to provide continuous playback of the Programmed Track(s). Refer to figure 25.

Notes: To momentarily stop playback, press the PLAY/PAUSE button. To resume Program Playback press the PLAY/PAUSE button.

5. To cancel the Program Playback Mode, press the STOP Push-button followed by pressing the RANDOM Push-button.

Once the Program Playback Mode is active, tracks may be added or deleted by first pressing the STOP Push-button followed by entering the additional tracks using the Numeric Push-buttons or delete the last track programed by using the CLEAR Push-button.
How to Operate the MCD550, con’t

MP3/WMA Disc Playback
The MCD550 has the ability of playing back MP3 and WMA encoded discs. MP3 and some version of WMA coding allow more tracks on the Disc by using the technique of lossy compression applied to the original audio information. These Tracks have lower audio quality than the original recording. Load a MP3/WMA disc into the MCD550. Refer to figure 36.

The MCD550 has two MP3/WMA Modes of Operation: Disc Mode and Folder Mode. Refer to figures 37 and 38. Select the desired mode by pressing the MODE Push-button on the Remote Control.

Display Modes
The MCD550 Front Panel Display indicates both track number and playing time. There are three playing time display indications: track elapse time, track remaining time or disc remaining time. To change from the default setting of track elapse time, press the DSP/TIME Push-button on the Remote Control. Refer to figures 25, 41, 42 and 43.

Display Brightness
There are three available brightness settings for the MCD550 Front Panel Displays: high (default setting), medium or low. To change the brightness setting perform the following steps and refer to figure 2:
1. Remove any disc from the MCD550 Disc Tray.
2. Press the STAND/BY Push Button to switch power OFF to the MCD550.
4. Press the STAND/BY Push-Button to switch power ON to the MCD550.
5. Release the MUTE Push-button, the LED above the MUTE Push-button will now be illuminated.
6. To change the current brightness setting, momentarily press the MUTE Push-button for the next brightness setting (high, medium or low). Repeat

How to Operate the MCD550, con’t

MP3/WMA Disc Playback
The MCD550 has the ability of playing back MP3 and WMA encoded discs. MP3 and some version of WMA coding allow more tracks on the Disc by using the technique of lossy compression applied to the original audio information. These Tracks have lower audio quality than the original recording. Load a MP3/WMA disc into the MCD550. Refer to figure 36.

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4. Press the STAND/BY Push-Button to switch power ON to the MCD550.
5. Release the MUTE Push-button, the LED above the MUTE Push-button will now be illuminated.
6. To change the current brightness setting, momentarily press the MUTE Push-button for the next brightness setting (high, medium or low). Repeat

How to Operate the MCD550, con’t

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How to Operate the MCD550, con’t

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2. Press the STAND/BY Push Button to switch power OFF to the MCD550.
4. Press the STAND/BY Push-Button to switch power ON to the MCD550.
5. Release the MUTE Push-button, the LED above the MUTE Push-button will now be illuminated.
6. To change the current brightness setting, momentarily press the MUTE Push-button for the next brightness setting (high, medium or low). Repeat
this until the desired brightness setting is selected.
7. Press the DISC LAYER Push-button to store the
new brightness setting. The LED above the MUTE
Push-button will now extinguish.

Power Mode
The MCD550 incorporates an Auto Off Feature,
which can automatically place the SACD/CD Player
into the Power Saving Standby/Off Mode (default
setting). This occurs approximately 30 minutes after
there has been an absence of a Digital Audio Signal.
This includes a Digital Audio Signal coming from
Disc Playback, Optical/Coaxial Input Signal or an
USB Input Signal. If it is desirable to disable the Auto
Off Feature, perform the following steps:
1. Using the MCD550 Remote Control, press and
hold in the (Power) Push-button for about 5-10
seconds, at which time the Front Panel Display
indicates “Auto STBY Off”. Refer to figure 44.

Auto STBY Off
Figure 44

2. The MCD550 will switch Off and the LED above
the STAND/BY Push-button will illuminate Red
in color. Press the (Power) Push-button to
switch the MCD550 On.
3. To re-active the Auto Off Feature, press and hold
in the (Power) Push-button on the Remote Con-
trol for about 5-10 seconds, at which time the Front
Panel Display indicates “Auto STBY On”. Refer to
figure 45.

Auto STBY On
Figure 45

4. The MCD550 will switch Off and the LED above
the STAND/BY Push-button will illuminate Green
in color. Press the (Power) Push-button to
switch the MCD550 On.

External Digital Inputs
The MCD550 internal D/A (Digital to Analog) Con-
verter may be used to decode a variety of Digital Au-
dio Signals. It will decode a two channel PCM Encod-
ed Digital Signal into a two channel Analog Signal.
There are connections for Coaxial, Optical, and USB
Digital Inputs. They may be connected simultaneously
and the MCD550 has electronic switching for selection
of the desired music source.

The default Digital Input Selection is DISC for
playback of a disc. To select an external Digital Input
press the INPUT Push-button on the Front Panel
or press the INTRO (HDMI) Push-button on the
MCD550 Remote Control repeatedly until the name of
the desired Input appears on the Front Panel Informa-
tion Display. Refer to figures 46, 47, 48, 49 and 25.

When a Digital Audio Signal is not present on the
selected External Digital Input, the Front Panel Dis-
play will flash the input name. Once a Digital Audio

USB
Figure 46

COAX
Figure 47

OPT
Figure 48

Signal is received the Front Panel Display will indicate
the sample rate of the signal. Refer
to figure 50.

USB Input Operation with a
Computer
The MCD550 USB Input provides
the capability to playback music
from a computer, when the com-
puter is connected to the rear panel
USB Digital Audio Input Connect-
or. The MCD550 USB Input is
compatible with both PC Comput-
ers using Microsoft® Windows®
(XP [SP 3], Vista [SP 1], Windows
7[SP1] and Windows 8) and the
Apple® Macintosh® Computers us-
ing OS-10.6 with the latest update.
When using a PC Computer
with Windows or an Apple® Ma-
cintosh®, a special McIntosh USB
Audio Software Driver B needs
to be installed on the Computer
before connecting the MCD550
USB Input to an USB Port on the
computer.
**How to Operate the MCD550, con’t**

The McIntosh USB Audio Driver along with the Installation and Operation Guide are available for download from the McIntosh Web Site:

http://www.mcintosh-labs.com/us/support/Pages/Manuals.aspx

Under “Product Category” select Sources and under “Model Number” select MCD550, then click on “Select”. When the MCD550 Information appears, download the “McIntosh Audio Windows Driver B Installation and Operation Guide” or the “McIntosh Audio Apple Macintosh Driver B Installation and Operation Guide”. Also download “McIntosh USB Audio Windows Driver B Version _._” or the “McIntosh USB Audio Apple macintosh Driver B Version _._”. Follow the instructions in the Guide and after the USB Driver B is installed, connect the MCD550 to the Computer.

*Note: When computer application programs and various computer hardware components conform to the Microsoft® Windows® and Apple® Macintosh® standards they should also work well when used in conjunction with the MCD550 USB Input. If you are experiencing difficulty with a specific computer hardware component or computer application program, contact the manufacturer of the product.*

**Resetting the MCD550**

In the unlikely event the MCD550 stops functioning, first try resetting the Main (System) microprocessor by performing the following:

1. Simultaneously press and hold in the Front Panel MUTE and DISC LAYER Push-buttons until the illumination of the LED above the STAND/BY Push-button goes Off. The MCD550 will then switch Off.
2. Press the STAND/BY Push-button to switch the MCD550 back On.

If the MCD550 is still not functioning properly, reset the Secondary (Transport) microprocessor by performing the following:

   *Note: Temporarily, connect the AC Power Cord coming from the MCD550 into an AC Power Strip with an On/Off Switch. Position the AC Power Strip so the On/Off Switch on the strip is in very close proximity to the MCD550 Front Panel STOP Push-button (the MCD550 Remote Control STOP Push-button will not work for resetting the micro).*
2. Rotate the Track Control Knob clockwise to the NEXT Track and hold the position, then press and hold in the STOP Push-button while at the same time switching On the AC Power Strip.
3. The Front Panel will indicate “RESET” and then go through the process of reading the Disc for playback. At this time release the TRACK Control and the STOP Push-button.
4. The MCD550 will resume normal operation.
### Audio Specifications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disc Formats</th>
<th>CD, SACD, MP3 and WMA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fixed Output level</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.0Vrms Unbalanced</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.0Vrms Balanced</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Variable Output level</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 - 8.0Vrms Unbalanced</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0- 16.0Vrms Balanced</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Output Impedance</strong></td>
<td>600 ohms Unbalanced and Balanced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Frequency Response</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4Hz to 40,000Hz, +0.5,-2dB (SACD)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4Hz to 20,000Hz, ±0.5dB (CD)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Signal to Noise Ratio</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Better than 110dB (A-weighted)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dynamic Range</strong></td>
<td>Better than 100dB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Harmonic Distortion</strong></td>
<td>0.002% @ 1000Hz (SACD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0.002% @ 1000Hz (CD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Channel Separation</strong></td>
<td>Better than 98dB (1,000Hz)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Headphone Output Impedance</strong></td>
<td>47 ohms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Headphone Load Impedance</strong></td>
<td>16-600 ohms</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Digital Audio Specifications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Digital Input Format</th>
<th>SPDIF (PCM¹)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Digital Input Sample Rate</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coaxial: 16, 24-Bit/96kHz</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Optical: 16, 24-Bit/192kHz</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USB: 16, 24-Bit/192kHz</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Digital Inputs</strong></td>
<td>Coaxial: 0.5V p-p/75 ohms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Optical: - 15dbm to -21dbm (TOS Link)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USB: USB Type B Connector</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Digital Output Format</strong></td>
<td>SPDIF (PCM¹)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Digital Output Sample Rate</strong></td>
<td>Up to 24-Bit/192kHz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Digital Output</strong></td>
<td>Coaxial: 0.5V p-p/75 ohms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Optical: - 15dbm to -21dbm (TOS Link)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ PCM (Pulse Code Modulation) Digital Signal type used for CD Discs

### General Specifications

| **Transport** | Laser Type: Twin Beam |
|               | Laser Beam Wavelength: 650nm (SACD)/790nm (CD) |
|               | Laser Power: CLASS IIa/CLASS I |
| **Power Requirements** | 100 Volts, 50/60Hz at 35 watts |
|               | 110 Volts, 50/60Hz at 35 watts |
|               | 120 Volts, 50/60Hz at 35 watts |
|               | 220 Volts, 50/60Hz at 35 watts |
|               | 230 Volts, 50/60Hz at 35 watts |
|               | 240 Volts, 50/60Hz at 35 watts |
|               | Standby: Less than 0.5 watt |
|               | Note: Refer to the rear panel of the MCD550 for the correct voltage. |
| **Overall Dimensions** | Width is 17-1/2 inches (44.4cm) |
|               | Height is 6 inches (15.2cm) |
|               | Depth is 19 inches (48.3cm) including the Front Panel, Knobs and Cables |
|               | Note: When the Disc Tray is opened, the panel clearance required in front of mounting panel is 6-3/4 inches (17.2cm). |
| **Weight** | 28 pounds (12.7Kg) net, 42.5 pounds (19.2Kg) in shipping carton |
| **Shipping Carton Dimensions** | Width is 26-1/2 inches (67.3cm) |
|               | Depth is 24-1/4 inches (62.2cm) |
|               | Height is 11-3/4 inches (29.9cm) |
Packing Instructions

In the event it is necessary to repack the equipment for shipment, the equipment must be packed exactly as shown below. It is very important that the four plastic feet are attached to the bottom of the equipment. This will ensure the proper equipment location on the bottom pad. Failure to do this will result in shipping damage.

Use the original shipping carton and interior parts only if they are all in good serviceable condition. If a shipping carton or any of the interior part(s) are needed, please call or write Customer Service Department of McIntosh Laboratory. Refer to page 4. Please see the Part List for the correct part numbers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Part Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>033838</td>
<td>Shipping carton only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>033837</td>
<td>End cap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>033836</td>
<td>Inside carton only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>034414</td>
<td>Top pad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>034301</td>
<td>Bottom pad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>034446</td>
<td>Foam plug</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>017937</td>
<td>Plastic foot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>400159</td>
<td>#10-32 x 3/4&quot; screw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>404080</td>
<td>#10 Flat washer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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