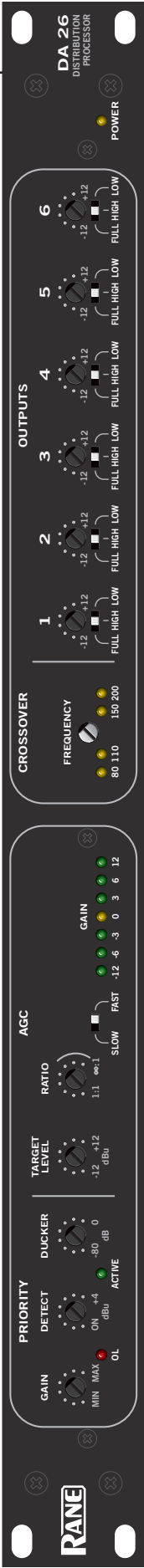




# DA 26

DISTRIBUTION AMPLIFIER WITH PAGING



## IMPORTANT SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

For the continued safety of yourself and others we recommend that you read the following safety and installation instructions. Keep this document in a safe location for future reference. Please heed all warnings and follow all instructions.

Do **not** use this equipment in a location where it might become wet. Clean only with a damp cloth.

This equipment may be installed in an industry standard equipment rack. We recommend that all mounting holes be used, providing the best physical support. The equipment may be used as a table top device, although stacking of the equipment is dangerous and not recommended.

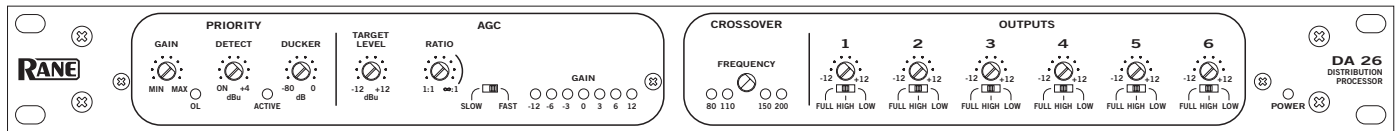
Do not directly block any of the ventilation openings. If rackmounting, please provide adequate ventilation. Equipment may be located directly above or below this unit, but note that some equipment (like large power amplifiers) may cause an unacceptable amount of hum or may generate too much heat and degrade the performance of this equipment.

Protect the power cord and plug from damage caused by being walked on or pinched. Protect the line cord, where it exits the unit, from excessive strain. Only use attachments and accessories specified by Rane.

Unplug this equipment during lightning storms or when unused for long periods of time.

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 damage, spilled liquid, fallen objects into an opened chassis, exposure to rain or moisture, a dropped unit, or abnormal operation.





### QUICK START

Are you in a hurry? For optimum system performance, we recommend reading the detailed **Setup & Operation** below and on page Manual-4. For those who can't wait, at least be aware of these points:

- There are two inputs: **PRIORITY** and **LINE**. The **PRIORITY Input** accepts MIC or LINE level.
- The **PRIORITY Input** sums with an output when assigned by the **PRIORITY ASSIGN Port**, and **PRIORITY DETECT** is active.
- The level of the **PRIORITY Input** is unaffected by the **AGC**, **Output Level** controls or **Remote Level** controls.
- The **AGC** only operates when the signal is within 26 dB of the **Target Level**. If the Line Input level is out of **AGC** range, the 0 dB indicator on the **AGC GAIN** meter is off.
- With the **RATIO** set to  $\infty:1$ , the **AGC GAIN** meter should indicate about 0 dB for nominal Line Input levels.
- The **AGC SLOW / FAST** switch only affects the gain reduction time constant. The gain increase time constant is fixed.
- Only the **LINE Input** is processed by the **AGC**, **CROSSOVER**, **Output Level** and **Remote level** controls.
- The three **Crossover Outputs** (full-range, high-pass and low-pass) may be selected by any of the six Outputs.
- Set the initial Output levels using the **Output Level** controls on the front panel.
- **Remote Level** controls allow end user adjustment of Output level.
- Any combination of **Remote Ports** may be controlled by a single Remote device.
- **Remote Level** controls provide automatic loudness compensation for low-pass Outputs. Loudness compensation is not provided for full range Outputs.
- The optional **VR 1 Remote Level control** provides audio taper control over a range of 0 dB to -80 dB.
- *Never connect anything except an approved Rane power supply to the Input that looks like a telephone jack on the rear of the DA 26.* This is an AC Input and requires specific voltage and current. This is *not* a good place to experiment or improvise. Use only the supply sent with your DA 26.

### SETUP & OPERATION

The outline below is detailed in the following procedure.

1. Set Line Input level
  2. Set AGC (Automatic Gain Control) Target Level and Ratio
  3. Set Crossover frequency
  4. Select Source for each Output (Full-range, High-pass or Low-pass)
  5. Set Output Level controls
  6. Connect Output Remote Level controls
  7. Connect the Priority Input for the intended source
  8. Set the Priority Input automatic Detect threshold
  9. Set Ducking depth for the application
  10. Priority Assign selection
1. Connect a balanced line level source to the Line Input. The Line Input accepts an unbalanced Input connected to (+) and (GND). We do not recommend unbalanced operation unless the distance to the source is less than 3 feet [one meter].
  2. The Line Input signal is processed by the AGC circuit. The AGC GAIN meter 0 dB indicator lights when the Line Input signal is within 26 dB of the set TARGET LEVEL. For Line Input levels more than 26 dB *below* the Target Level, the 0 dB indicator is *off* and AGC returns to unity. The AGC GAIN indicates the amount of attenuation used to make the Line Input level equal the set TARGET LEVEL. For best results,

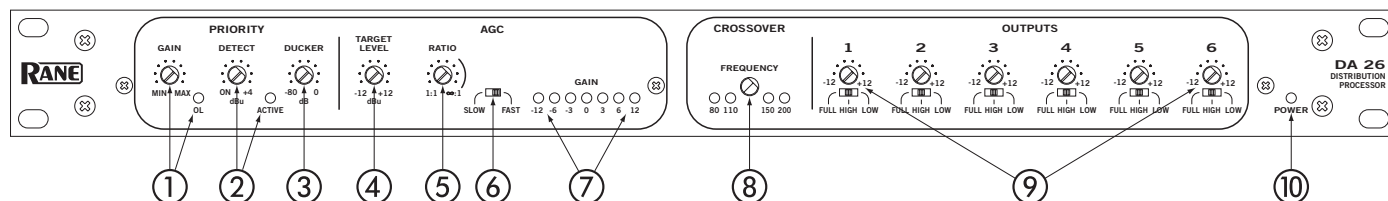
the AGC GAIN meter should indicate about 0 dB for nominal Line Input signals. *The best resolution for this adjustment is achieved with the AGC RATIO set to  $\infty:1$ .*

The TARGET LEVEL is set in one of two ways:

- a) If you have a source output level control, set the TARGET LEVEL to the desired setting and adjust the Line Input level so that the AGC GAIN meter indicates 0 dB for nominal signal levels.
  - b) If a source output level control is not available, adjust the TARGET LEVEL so the AGC GAIN meter indicates 0 dB for nominal Line Input levels. The difference between the resulting AGC Target Level and the desired Target Level is compensated with the OUTPUT trims. With Input level and TARGET LEVEL correctly set, adjust the AGC RATIO to the desired value. We recommended values between 2:1 and  $\infty:1$  as marked by the gray band. The soft-knee-response of the AGC results in a natural sounding response with AGC Ratios as high as  $\infty:1$ .
3. The CROSSOVER splits the Line Input signal into three separate Outputs: Full-Range, High-pass and Low-pass, each selectable for each of the six Outputs. Select the desired FREQUENCY (80, 110, 150 or 200 Hz).

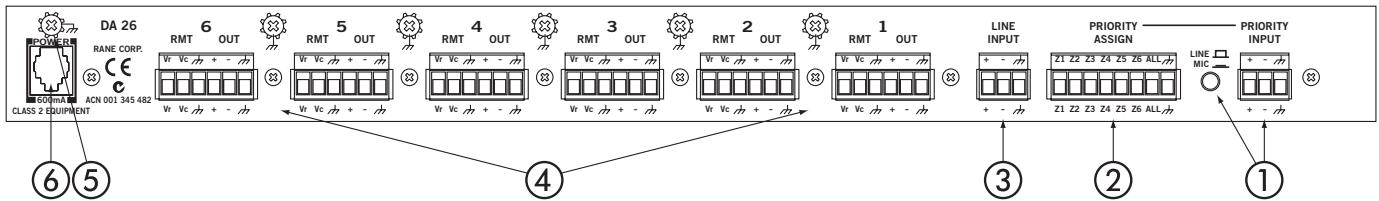
*continued on page Manual-4...*

## FRONT PANEL DESCRIPTION



- ① **PRIORITY GAIN trim and OL indicator:** adjusts the gain for the PRIORITY INPUT. Set this trim to prevent overloading the Input — if the Priority Gain OL illuminates, turn down the GAIN.
- ② **PRIORITY DETECT trim and ACTIVE indicator:** sets the threshold in dBu for the PRIORITY INPUT to override the LINE INPUT. When the threshold has been reached, the ACTIVE indicator illuminates. *Set the GAIN(①), then set the DETECT trim.* The range of operation is +4 dBu to ON. The release time for the auto-detect circuit is fixed at about 6 seconds, after which the LINE INPUT signal returns to it's previous level.
- ③ **PRIORITY DUCKER trim:** sets the amount of attenuation applied to the LINE INPUT signal when the PRIORITY INPUT is activated by the DETECT threshold. DUCKER depth is continuously adjustable over a range of 0 dB to –80 dB. For equal mixing of PRIORITY and LINE, set the DUCKER to 0 dB. For PRIORITY replaces LINE operation, use –80 dB. A value of –12 dB (1 o'clock) is typical for PRIORITY (page) talks over LINE (music) operation.
- ④ **AGC TARGET LEVEL trim:** is best set so the average signal at the LINE INPUT reads 0 dB on the GAIN meter. This gives the best performance of the AGC (Automatic Gain Control). Active constant gain range of the AGC is  $\pm 12$  dB (24 dB range). When the Input falls 26 dB below the AGC Target Level, gain returns to unity. See *Setup and Operation*, step 2.
- ⑤ **AGC RATIO trim:** determines the Ratio applied to the AGC with a soft-knee response. Increased clockwise rotation increases the amount of AGC. The full counter-clockwise position disables the AGC. The normal range of operation is between 2:1 and  $\infty$ :1 as marked by the gray band.
- ⑥ **AGC SLOW/FAST release switch:** determines the gain reduction time constant of the AGC circuit. SLOW = 230 ms (best for music), FAST = 11 ms (best for voice). The gain increase time constant is fixed at 1100 ms.
- ⑦ **AGC GAIN meter:** indicates the amount of AGC applied to the LINE INPUT. The 0 dB GAIN indicator is off if the Input is more than 26 dB below the Target Level.
- ⑧ **CROSSOVER FREQUENCY switch and indicators:** select the FREQUENCY for the 2-way Crossover when High-Pass and/or Low-Pass outputs are used (80, 110, 150 or 200 Hz). High, Low or Full-Range is selectable for each of the six Outputs.
- ⑨ **OUTPUT trims and Crossover select switches:** The  $\pm 12$  dB trims set the levels for each of the six Outputs. High, Low or Full-Range is switch selectable for each of the six Outputs. *Note: the Output trims do not affect Low-pass loudness compensation or Priority Input level.* See *Setup & Operation*, step 5.
- ⑩ **POWER indicator LED:** This yellow illumination device lights up to let the operator know the thing is plugged in.

## REAR PANEL DESCRIPTION



- ① **PRIORITY INPUT connector and MIC/LINE switch:** The balanced PRIORITY INPUT operates at line or mic level, determined by the MIC / LINE switch. This Input accepts unbalanced signals, however, we do not recommend unbalanced operation unless the source is within 3 feet [one meter]; then only connect (+) and (GND). *Note: the Priority Input is not influenced by the AGC, Crossover, Output trims or Remote Level controls.* The gain range for MIC level Input is 30 to 60 dB. The gain range for LINE level Input is 0 to 30 dB.
- ② **PRIORITY ASSIGN port:** The state of the PRIORITY ASSIGN port determines Priority Input assignment to each of the six Outputs. Assignment pins are active low with passive internal pull-up. Any combination of pins may be active at one time. The select ALL pin is provided for convenience. To complete an assignment, the Output must be selected by the PRIORITY ASSIGN port and Priority Detect must be active. *Note that if a combination of Crossover Outputs is used in one zone, all Outputs serving the zone must be selected by the PRIORITY ASSIGN port.* Variations in wire type do not greatly affect the performance of this port. However, 22-gauge stranded wire with a flexible jacket is recommended. Unshielded multi-conductor cable is OK for shorter runs (less than 100 feet). For longer runs, we recommend shielded cable.
- ③ **LINE INPUT connector:** Connect a balanced line level source to the Line Input. The Line Input accepts an unbalanced Input connected to (+) and (GND), but we do not recommend unbalanced connection unless the distance to the source is less than one meter; then only connect (+) and (GND).
- ④ **OUTPUT and REMOTE connectors:** are on single 6-pin Euroblocks, one set for each Output. Outputs are line-level, balanced, and hopefully driving a balanced equalizer or amplifier. If not, keep cable lengths short and consult *RaneNote 110, "Sound System Interconnection"* located elsewhere in this manual.  
Connections for optional wired Remote Level controls are provided for each Output. *Note: Remote Level controls do not affect the level of the Priority Input.* Each port provides a 5 volt reference voltage (REF), a control voltage input (Vc) and a ground reference. Gain control law is 50 mV/dB. See *Setup and Operation*, step 6 for details.
- ⑤ **Chassis ground point:** A #6-32 screw is used for chassis grounding purposes. If after hooking up your system it exhibits excessive hum or buzzing, there is an incompatibility in the grounding configuration between units somewhere. Your mission is to discover how your particular system wants to be grounded. Here are some things to try:
  1. Try combinations of lifting grounds on units that are supplied with ground lift switches or links.
  2. If your equipment is in a rack, verify that all chassis are tied to a good earth ground, either through the line cord grounding pin or the rack screws to another grounded chassis.
  3. Units with outboard power supplies, such as the DA 26, do not ground the chassis through the line cord. Make sure that these units are grounded either to another chassis which is earth grounded, or directly to the grounding screw on an AC outlet cover by means of a wire connected to a screw on the chassis with a star washer to guarantee proper contact. If you are connecting the DA 26 Outputs directly to a power amplifier, be sure to connect a ground wire to the amplifier chassis.
 Refer to the RaneNote *"Sound System Interconnection"* (supplied with this manual) for further grounding information.
- ⑥ **Remote POWER supply input:** The DA 26 is supplied from the factory with a Model RS 1 Remote Power Supply suitable for connection to this input jack. The power requirements call for an 18 VAC center-tapped transformer only. *This is not a telephone jack. Never use a power supply with your DA 26 other than the one supplied or an exact replacement obtained from Rane Corporation.* Using any other type of supply may damage the unit and void the warranty.

*Setup & Operation...continued from page Manual-1...*

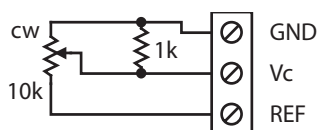
4. Next, set up the six OUTPUTS. First, determine the number of zones served and the signals to be sent to each. Using a drawing like the example application diagram in the Data Sheet is helpful. For ease of wiring, make Outputs serving a common zone adjacent. Select Full-range, High-pass or Low-pass as required for each output. The following are possible zone configurations:

- Full-range only for medium size bookshelf speakers.
- High-pass only for small distributed ceiling speakers.
- Full-range output combined with Low-pass Output to enhance bass response.
- High-pass output combined with Low-pass Output for true bi-amp operation.

5. The  $\pm 12$  dB OUTPUT trims set Output levels, with relative levels between Full-range, High-pass and Low-pass. *Note: the Output trims do not affect Low-pass loudness compensation or Priority Input level.* The idea is to set system levels for proper operation at the maximum required SPL (with Remote Level controls set for unity gain). Remote Level controls then attenuate the level as required.

**Automatic loudness compensation** is achieved by altering the gain control law of any Remote port associated with a Low-pass Output. A Low-pass Output is always used in conjunction with a high-pass or full-range Output. Because the Remote Level control turns the low-pass Output down at a lesser rate than the high-pass or full-range Output, bass response is enhanced. The corner frequency for loudness compensation is set by the CROSSOVER frequency selection. The reference level for the room is set with the OUTPUT trim on the front panel. Any Remote Level gain change results in automatic loudness compensation.

6. A port for a wired Remote Level control is provided for each Output. *Note: Remote Level controls do not affect the level of the Priority Input.* Each port provides a 5 volt reference voltage (REF), a control voltage input (Vc) and a ground reference. The gain control law for Vc is 50 mV/dB. Using the optional VR 1 Remote control provides an audio taper response from 0 dB to  $> -80$  dB. *To control more than one Remote Port with a single Remote control, it is only necessary to connect the Vc pin of each additional port.* An external ground referenced control voltage with a range of 0 to 5 volts may be used with the Remote ports. If the ratiometric output of a linear potentiometer is used, (GND to CW, Vc to center tap, REF to CCW), a linear log response results. Audio taper response requires a potentiometer with a reverse log taper. Audio taper response is achievable using a linear potentiometer by connecting a resistor equal to 1/10th the value of the potentiometer between GND and Vc as shown below:



Variations in wire type do not greatly affect the performance of the Remote controls. However, 22-gauge stranded wire with a flexible jacket is recommended. You may use 3-conductor unshielded remote control signal cable for shorter runs (less than 100 feet [30 meters]). For longer runs, we recommend using shielded cable. The type of wire required is influenced by your installation and local electrical codes. Rane Corporation does not provide cable— please contact your local retail or wholesale outlet.

7. The balanced PRIORITY INPUT operates at line or mic level, determined by the MIC / LINE switch, on the rear panel next to the PRIORITY INPUT jack. See Rear Panel (Ⓢ) for unbalanced connection rules. *Note: the Priority Input is not influenced by the AGC, Crossover, Output trims or Remote Level controls.* The gain range for MIC level Input is 30 to 60 dB. The gain range for LINE level Input is 0 to 30 dB. Set the PRIORITY GAIN to prevent overloading the Input — if the Priority Gain OL illuminates, turn down the GAIN.
8. The PRIORITY DETECT threshold is calibrated in dBu, and monitors the signal after the input preamp. Any change in PRIORITY GAIN setting affects the DETECT sensitivity. *Set the GAIN, then set DETECT.* The range of operation is +4 dBu to ON. The consequence of setting DETECT too low is premature triggering due to background noise. Setting DETECT too high results in excess delay and a sudden large step in amplitude (perceived as a “pop”). If a paging mic is used in an environment with a lot of background noise, we recommend a push-to-talk device. The release time is fixed at about 6 seconds. The release delay is based on the typical time required to accommodate a pause in speech or dead-time between music programs.
9. The PRIORITY DUCKER depth sets the amount of attenuation applied to the LINE INPUT signal when the PRIORITY INPUT is activated by the DETECT threshold. DUCKER depth is continuously adjustable over a range of 0 dB to -80 dB. For equal mixing of PRIORITY and LINE, set the DUCKER to 0 dB. For PRIORITY replaces LINE operation, use -80 dB. A value of -12 dB (2 o'clock) is typical for PRIORITY (page) talks over LINE (music) operation.
10. The state of the PRIORITY ASSIGN port determines Priority Input assignment to each of the six Outputs. Assignment pins are active low with passive internal pull-up. Any combination of pins may be active at one time. The select ALL pin is provided for convenience. To complete an assignment, the Output must be selected by the PRIORITY ASSIGN port and Priority Detect must be active. *Note that if a combination of Crossover Outputs is used in one zone, all Outputs serving the zone must be selected by the PRIORITY ASSIGN port.* The type of wire recommended is similar to the description in Step 6 above.