

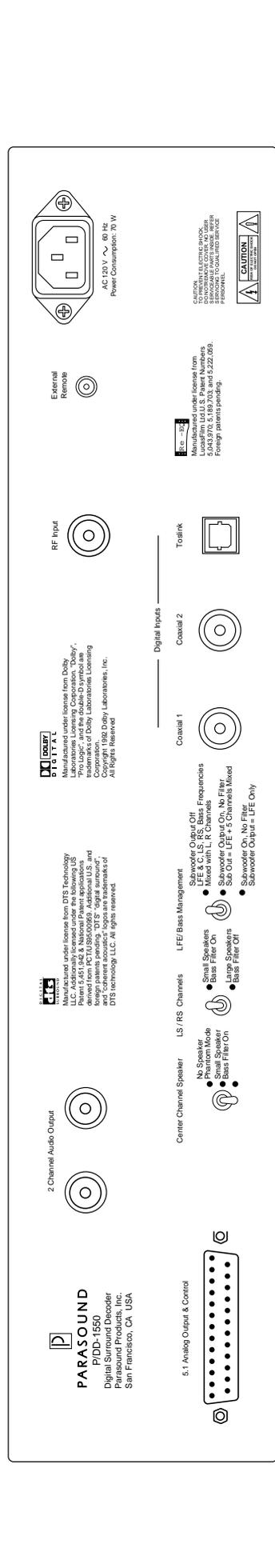
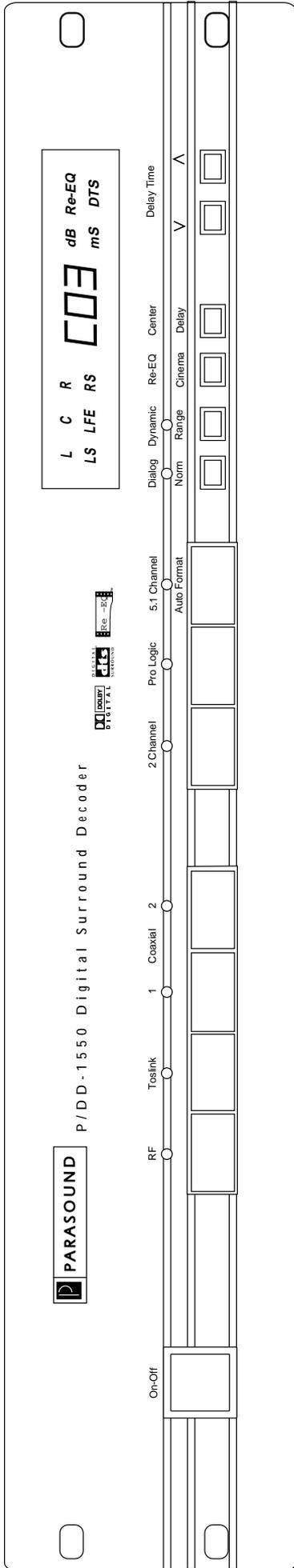
A D D E N D U M



PARASOUND

P/DD-1550 Digital Surround Decoder





Parasound P/DD-1550 Owner's Manual Addendum

The P/DD-1550 is an upgraded version of the P/DD-1500. The main difference between these two units is the addition of DTS decoding circuitry. Otherwise, all the instructions from the P/DD-1500 manual are applicable.

5.1 Channel Auto Format - Dolby Digital Decoding

If the source you are playing was encoded with 5.1 channel Dolby Digital, the P/DD-1550 will automatically select Dolby Digital decoding. The green LED above the 5.1 Channel Auto Format button and all of the amber **L**, **C**, **R**, **LS**, **RS**, **LFE** channel indicators will illuminate to indicate 5.1 channel Dolby Digital.

5.1 Channel Auto Format - DTS Decoding

If the source you are playing was encoded with 5.1 channel DTS, the P/DD-1550 will automatically select DTS decoding. The green LED above the 5.1 Channel Auto Format button, all of the amber channel indicators, and the red DTS indicator will illuminate to indicate 5.1 channel DTS. The new red DTS indicator replaces the Lock indicator explained on page 10 of the P/DD-1500 Owner's Manual. By design, DTS decoding requires full range frequencies for all channels without the bass management used for Dolby Digital. If your speakers are not designed to handle bass frequencies below 100 Hz, use caution when playing DTS encoded material at high volume levels to avoid distortion or damage.

Pro Logic Surround

If the source material you want to listen to was encoded in Dolby Surround (L_T, R_T matrix) you can decode the signal into Dolby Pro Logic by selecting this mode. You can also use this mode to hear surround effects with unencoded two channel material. When you select this mode, the **L**, **C**, **R** indicators will light amber. However, the **LS** and **RS** indicators will now light red instead of amber to indicate the surround channels are mono which is standard for Pro Logic, and the **LFE** indicator will remain off. If the program material has been encoded in either 5.1 channel Dolby Digital or DTS, the Pro Logic mode will not operate because the P/DD-1550 automatically selects superior 5.1 discrete surround.

Two Channel

If the P/DD-1550 detects a two channel Dolby Digital or PCM or signal from the source, it automatically selects the two channel mode. You can also manually select two channel while playing 5.1 channel encoded material if you want to route the center, and surround channels to the front left and right channels only. This is called "downmixing". You can easily downmix a 5.1 Dolby Digital or DTS encoded signal by pressing the 2 Channel button.

Notes on DTS Decoding

DTS encoded laserdiscs will play properly on laserdisc players equipped with RF outputs. Currently released DTS encoded music CDs are encoded with a PCM audio bitstream and should play properly on most first generation DVD players. However, first and second generation DVD players will not play DTS encoded DVD *movies* when they become available. This is because the ability to read the DTS data stream "identifier flag" was not built into these DVD players. Consequently, no DTS decoder, including the P/DD-1550, can decode DTS discs from first or second generation DVD players. DVD players that are "DTS-ready" will have an "DTS Digital Out" logo on the front panel. Consult your dealer to determine whether your DVD player can play DTS encoded CDs and DVDs properly. See page for 4 of this addendum for frequently asked questions about DTS DVDs and CDs.

The following information obtained from DTS's web site (www.dtstech.com) in April, 1998 answers many questions regarding DTS equipped DVD players and DTS encoded DVDs and CDs:

When will DTS-encoded DVD titles begin to enter the market?

The first release of DTS-encoded DVD titles is targeted for the 2nd quarter of 1998, to coincide with the arrival of the first 'DTS Digital Out' DVD players. A detailed explanation of the initial titles and street dates is currently being finalized.

Which companies will offer 'DTS-ready' DVD players, and when?

Announcements have already been made by Panasonic and Yamaha (for 2nd quarter 1998 delivery), and several other manufacturers will soon announce new DVD models targeted for summer and fall shipments. The DVD players that are 'DTS-ready' will have an official 'DTS Digital Out' logo on the front face panel.

Are current DVD players capable of playing the upcoming DTS-encoded DVD titles?

None of the DVD players presently on the market are able to play the DTS-encoded multi-channel soundtrack, including the Sony 7000. At the same time, you will still be able to play these discs on current DVD players, but only with the alternate PCM or Dolby Digital soundtrack.

Why does a DTS-encoded music CD play on current DVD players, but not the DTS soundtrack of a DVD?

For compact discs and laserdiscs, there is only one digital audio data stream (PCM). The player does not need to know whether the data is DTS-encoded or not; it simply plays whatever is there and sends it to the digital output. DVD, on the other hand, allows for several different digital audio formats, more than one of which can be found on the disc simultaneously. The player must now recognize the various bit streams as being DTS, Dolby, PCM, etc.; choose the one the user wants; and present it properly at the output. This ability to read the DTS data stream 'identifier' was not built into present players.

But I have seen the Sony and other current players play the DTS demonstration DVDs.

As a way to demonstrate the picture and sound quality you can expect on DTS DVDs, a limited quantity of demo discs were specially produced to play on some of the current players. This procedure, however, cannot be utilized for commercially saleable product, as previously explained.

Can I get a copy of the DTS demonstration DVD?

Unfortunately, no. The demonstrations DVDs were produced in very small quantities, for dealer and trade show use only. However, you can see and hear them at stores where DTS Digital Surround is being demonstrated.

Will it be possible to upgrade existing DVD players to recognize the new DTS-encoded data stream?

Currently, there are no upgrade announcements for DVD players that are already on the market. This is a question that can only be answered decisively by the player manufacturers or other companies that offer aftermarket modifications.



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*Parasound Products, Inc. 950 Battery Street, San Francisco, CA 94111
415-397-7100 / FAX 415-397-0144 www.parasound.com*