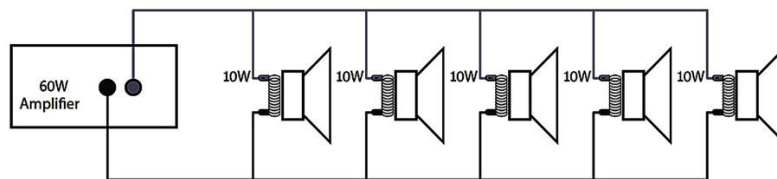


Adastra CS60 slave amplifier

This equipment is not in regular use but can be made available if there is a need

The Adastra CS60 is described as a *slave* as it is designed to take the signal from a more sophisticated system and pass it on. For home use, it is usual for speakers to have an impedance of 8 Ω (ohms) so, if the speaker is taking 30W, the voltage at the amplifier terminals is 15V and the current in the speaker leads is 2A. This is fine when the distance from the amplifier to the speaker is a few metres. However, for the public address system in the corridors of an airport, the resistance of the cable would be significant and, at the far end, there wouldn't be much signal. In these applications engineers use an amplifier with a 100V line output and, at each speaker, there is a transformer to couple the line to the speaker:



The CS60 is designed to be used either in a home [or U3A] environment with an 8 Ω speaker, or in a commercial environment using a 100 V line. Removing the panel marked "speaker terminals" in the photo exposes the connections where one can choose 8 Ω or 100V.



The input is connected to SLAVE IN at the bottom right hand corner in the photo. The output is from the speaker terminals. In addition to the 230 V supply, the amplifier can be driven from a 12 V dc supply, as from a car battery.

I tested this unit with the ALTO type ZMX52 mixer (U3A tag 133), a Røde M5 electrostatic microphone, and a Celestion KR8 speaker. It produced a powerful, clear sound that would have carried more than 50 metres outdoors.

By using a [readily available] cable with a 3.5 mm jack on one end and RCA connectors on the other, the amplifier can be used with a mobile phone to share podcasts or music with everyone in the room.



Roger Kemp 26 November 2025