

**audio research**  
HIGH DEFINITION®

CD 6SE

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Thank you for choosing the CD6SE to be a part of your high performance music listening system. Since 1970, Audio Research has been creating some of the world's finest audio equipment. Each piece is handcrafted in Minnesota, and has been designed to provide many years of listening enjoyment.

We understand you are eager to begin listening; however, please take a few minutes to read through this guide for useful information concerning the operation of your new CD player/DAC. Once installed, please allow an appropriate break-in period to fully appreciate the benefits this CD player/DAC will provide to your system.

After reading the user guide, if you have any further questions regarding your preamplifier, contact your dealer or Audio Research customer service – they will be happy to help you make the most of your new component.

Good Listening!

**Thank You.**

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## Warnings

To prevent fire, or shock hazard, do not expose your CD6SE to rain or moisture.

Do not place objects containing water on top of this unit.

This unit contains voltages which can cause serious injury or death. Do not operate with cover removed. Refer servicing to your authorized Audio Research dealer or other qualified personnel.

The detachable power cord on your CD6SE is equipped with a heavy gauge, 3-conductor cable and a standard three-prong grounding plug. For absolute protection, do not defeat the ground power plug. This provides power line grounding of the CD6SE chassis to provide absolute protection from electrical shock.

For continued protection against fire hazard, replace the fuse only with the same type and rating as specified at the fuse holder.

Do not operate the CD6SE player without the supplied CD6SE clamp installed on the CD. Gently place clamp on disc to prevent damaging the spindle mechanism.

Whenever the CD6SE power is on, the door covering the drive mechanism/tray area should remain fully closed after inserting or removing a CD. Following this procedure will maintain proper ventilation and also minimize dust intrusion on the lens and drive mechanism.

If the unit is to be operated in an enclosure such as an equipment rack, make certain that adequate airflow above and to each side of the unit is provided.

The appliance coupler at the rear of this unit must be accessible for emergency power disconnect.

This unit is RoHS compliant.

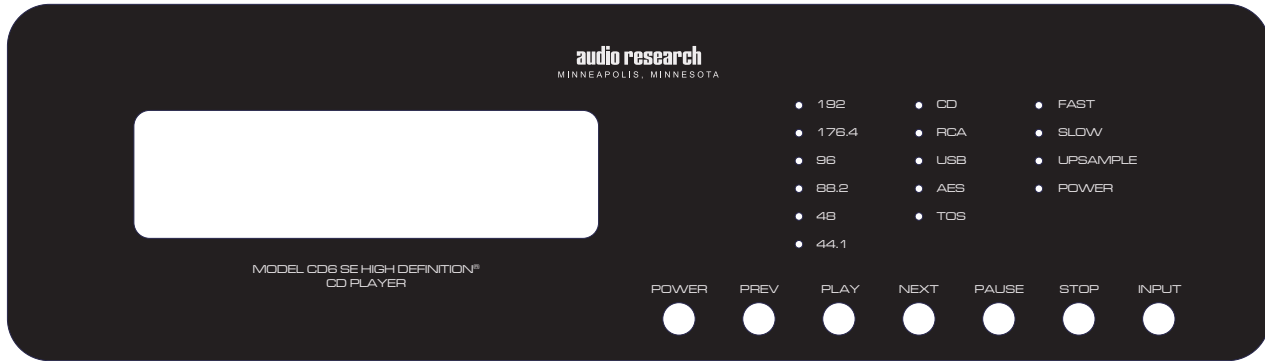
### ***A note about packaging...***

Save all packaging in a dry place away from fire hazard. Your CD6SE compact disc player is a precision electronic instrument and should be properly cartoned any time shipment is made. You may not have occasion to return your unit to the factory for service, but if that should prove necessary, or other occasion requiring shipment occurs, the original packaging will protect your CD6SE from unnecessary damage or delay.

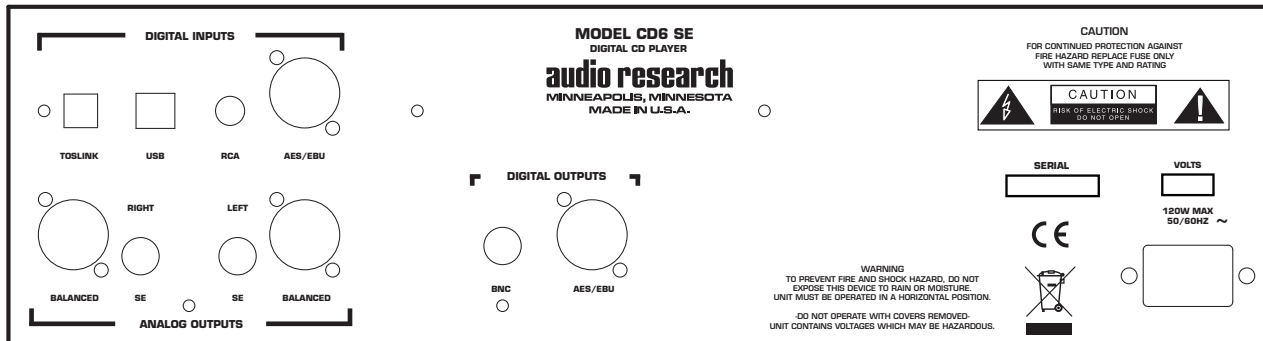
# Installation

## Illustrations

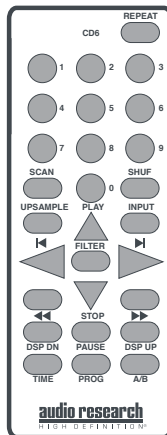
### Front Panel



### Rear Panel



### Remote



## Installation

### ***In your System***

While the CD6SE does not dissipate an unusual amount of heat, it is important that it be provided with reasonable airflow to assure long, trouble-free operation. In addition, the following installation guidelines will help insure maximum sonic performance as well as reliable service.

Upright and level horizontal mounting is mandatory, preferably on solid, non-resonant shelving. Allow sufficient space for convection cooling. Do not block the ventilation holes when the unit is turned on.

Do not stack the CD6SE on top of another component: not only could this cause overheating, but hum may be introduced into the system.

Do not place any objects on top of the CD6SE; its suspension feet are tuned for the specific weight of the CD6SE.

Do not place or operate your CD6SE on a soft or irregular surface such as a rug. This can prevent proper leveling and restrict ventilation.

Do not operate your CD6SE without the top and bottom covers installed. These are required both for safety as well as shielding from interference.

If side-by-side mounting with other equipment is employed, place the CD6SE to the left of the other chassis, so as to provide maximum spacing between the transformers of the CD6SE and the other component.

# Connections

## **Digital Connections**

The CD6SE offers four digital inputs, and two standard digital output options. Which option is best for your system will depend on your personal listening preference, the nature of your system installation requirements, and the options allowed by your external digital processor, if one is used.

### **Digital Inputs**

**RCA:** Connect to a transport or other device equipped with an RCA digital output. Press the INPUT button until the 'RCA' LED is illuminated.

**USB:** Connect to a Windows-based PC or Mac computer for music playback from your computer. Press the INPUT button until the 'USB' LED is illuminated. Note: Software installation is not necessary for Mac or Linux users. Windows users can find the necessary software drivers at [www.audioresearch.com](http://www.audioresearch.com) under the Download tab.

**AES/EBU:** Connect to a transport or other device equipped with an AES/EBU digital output device. Press the INPUT button until the AES/EBU LED is illuminated.

**Toslink:** Connect to a transport, computer or other device equipped with Toslink (optical) digital output. Press the INPUT button until the 'Toslink' LED is illuminated.

## **Digital Outputs**

**BNC:** Use 75-ohm impedance coaxial cable with locking BNC-type connectors. An RCA/BNC adaptor is also supplied.

**AES/EBU:** For connection to digital processors having the AES/EBU-Standard interface.

## **Analog Outputs**

Single-Ended (RCA): For connection to the inputs of a line-level preamplifier or integrated amplifier.

Balanced (XLR): For connection to the balanced inputs of a line-level preamplifier.

## **Warning**

The digital outputs supply only a digital signal and should therefore only be connected to an input which is suitable for this signal. Never connect either of these digital outputs to a non-digital input of a preamplifier (such as those labeled CD, AUX, PHONO, TAPE, etc.) or to a power amplifier. To do so is to risk damage to your system and may void any or all warranties involved.



## Operation

### **Front Panel Control Functions**

**Power:** The Power switch completely turns on the CD6SE for operation (there is no “standby” mode). During the first 40 seconds, the analog SE and BAL outputs are muted to allow the analog output stage to stabilize. The digital BNC and AES/EBU outputs will function immediately. After 40 seconds the analog outputs will unmute.

Also illuminated will be the LEDs for the last selected settings of the Filter (Fast or Slow), the last input selected, and the sample rate (if an active digital input is selected, or a CD is loaded).

To turn off the CD6SE, press the power switch again. All LEDs will extinguish.

**Prev:** Selects the previous track to play. Continue pressing to cycle backward through previous tracks. (Track number will appear on display.)

**Play:** Starts play. CD door must first be fully closed. Begins to play first track unless another is selected. Restarts track if pressed during play. (Track number and elapsed track time appear on display.)

**Next:** Selects the next track to play. Continue pressing to cycle forward through tracks. (Track number will appear on display.)

**Pause:** Interrupts play (display will read “PAUSE”). Release PAUSE by pressing it a second time to resume playing disc.

**Stop:** Stops play. (Number of tracks and total disc track time appear on display.)

**Input:** Selects between the CD player and digital inputs on the rear panel. Pressing the Input button repeatedly will cycle through all the inputs.



### **Note**

Play, Pause, Stop, Previous and Next only function when using the CD player.

**System operation note:** The CD6SE should be the first component turned on in your system, followed by other source components, the preamp, and last the power amp. This will prevent any extraneous turn-on noise an upstream component might generate from reaching the power amp, which could amplify the noise, which might potentially damage the loudspeakers. When powering down the system, reverse the order: Mute the preamp, turn off the power amp first, then the preamp, then the CD6SE and other source components. If the above is followed, it will help to avoid accidental loudspeaker damage.

## Operation

### **Remote Only Functions**

The remote control unit includes all of the above described CD6SE front panel control functions plus the following additional functions. (Functions in [ ] indicate labeling abbreviations appearing on remote control unit.)

**0-9 Buttons:** Pressing numbered button(s) corresponding to the disc track number will advance disc to desired track. Also used to select tracks when compiling a custom disc playback program (see PROGRAM function description below).

**Scan:** With a stopped CD and the CD door closed, press SCAN and the first 10 seconds of each track will be played in sequence. ("SCAN" will light up on display, then 10 seconds are counted out next to each track number.) To hear a track in full that the player is presently scanning, press SCAN button again which will cancel SCAN function.

**Shuffle [SHUF]:** Toggles between Shuffle play (random playback order) and normal play (sequential playback). SHUFFLE appears in the display window when random playback is selected.

**Repeat [REP]:** Press REPEAT once to repeat the entire disc continuously ("REPEAT" appears in display window). Press REPEAT once more to continuously repeat the track now playing ("REPEAT 1" appears in display window). Press REPEAT once again to discontinue repeat mode.

**Upsample:** Select between native sampling rate playback and integer upsampling. 44.1 kHz and 88.2 kHz sampling frequencies are upsampled to 176.4 kHz, whereas 48 kHz and 96 kHz frequencies are upsampled to 192 kHz. An LED will indicate which sampling frequency is selected. Note: When using the USB input, upsampling is available only to 88.2 kHz or 96 kHz.

**Filter:** Select between Fast and Slow digital filters. Pressing FILTER will toggle between the two options, and will be indicated by an LED next to the selected filter name.

## Operation

*Remote Only Functions, continued*

**Input:** Select between CD playback and the digital inputs on the rear panel (RCA, USB, AES/EBU, Toslink). Pressing INPUT toggles through the different inputs, and the selected input will be indicated by an LED next to the input name. Note: display window is illuminated only during CD playback.

**Time:** Pressing and releasing TIME repeatedly will cycle through the following information on the display: current track time elapsed (default setting initially seen on display), total disc time elapsed, and total disc time remaining.

**Display Down/Display Up [DISP DN/DISP UP]:** Decreases/Increases display intensity, offering four levels of brightness as well as display off.

**A/B:** Press the A/B button once while music is playing, then press it again; the musical passage in the interval between pressing the button is then repeated in a loop until pressing the A/B button once again to discontinue it. Display reads "A-B" to show activation. Note: you must discontinue the A/B loop before pressing PLAY to resume normal playback. Pressing and holding this button down will fast search backward through the track that is playing until it is released. Rate of search accelerates as button is held down.

**Program [PROG]:** Allows compiling a custom track selection and playback order of up to 20 tracks on a disc. With the player in STOP mode, enter the desired first track number and then press the PROGRAM button. The word "PROGRAM" will light and the display will show the total number of tracks programmed and total programmed time. If a second track selection is entered, the word "PROGRAM" flashes, indicating that other track(s) have already been stored in the program memory. Press the PROGRAM button to save the second track selection. Repeat procedure to program additional tracks as desired. This programming procedure, with readout of the cumulative total number of programmed tracks and total programming time (including time between tracks), works for any of the first 13 numbered tracks on a disc. You may program track numbers higher than 13, but from then on no track time information will appear on the display. To preview a program before playing it, press PLAY and then use the NEXT and PREV buttons to cycle through track selections. Pressing PLAY will begin playing program. Pressing STOP once will stop program play. Pressing PLAY again will resume play from beginning of program. To cancel program, press STOP twice.

## Operation

### ***CD Door Functions/Warnings***

Do not attempt to play a CD without first installing the supplied CD6SE magnetic disc clamp on the CD. Use only the supplied CD6SE clamp in your CD6SE player.

CD door must be fully closed for the CD6SE to operate.

If the CD door is closed without a CD in the player and the CD6SE is powered up, the display will read "NO DISC".

If a CD is inserted (label side up) in the CD6SE, the CD door is fully closed and the CD6SE is powered up, the CD will spin for a few seconds while the track information is accessed. The number of tracks and total disc time will then be displayed, indicating the CD is ready to play.

Keep the CD door closed when the CD6SE is turned off and not in use to keep dust out of the lens and drive area.

When the CD6SE power is on, keep the CD door fully closed (except to change CDs) to prevent dust from collecting on the tray and lens.

## Software Installation

Software installation is not necessary for Mac or Linux users. Windows PC users can find the necessary software drivers at [www.audioresearch.com](http://www.audioresearch.com) under the Download tab.

### ***Removal of previous driver versions***

Uninstall any prior/existing Audio Research Corp. Drivers for Windows OS by opening the Windows "Control Panel" for your computer. Find and open the "Uninstall Programs" for your particular computer. This may be named "Programs" or "Programs and Features."

If you experience difficulty, please contact your selling dealer or Audio Research Customer Support at [service@audioresearch.com](mailto:service@audioresearch.com) or call 763-577-9700 between 8AM – 5PM CST.

## Maintenance

### ***Servicing***

Because of its careful design and exacting standards of manufacture, your CD6SE CD player should normally require only minimal service to maintain its high level of performance.

### ***About Fuse Replacement***

The CD6SE has two internal fuses. Under normal operation these should never blow. If you experience an operational problem and suspect a blown fuse, please contact your dealer or Audio Research Customer Support for assistance.



### ***Disposal and Recycling Guidelines***

To dispose of this electronic product, do not place in landfill. In accordance with the European Union Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) directive effective August 2005, this product may contain regulated materials which upon disposal require special reuse and recycling processing. Please contact your dealer or importing distributor for instructions on proper disposal of this product in your country. Or, contact Audio Research Corporation at [service@audioresearch.com](mailto:service@audioresearch.com) or 763-577-9700 for the name of your importing distributor and how to contact them. Packing and shipping materials may be disposed of in a normal manner.

### ***Cleaning***

To maintain the visual appearance of your CD6SE, occasionally wipe the front panel and top cover surfaces with a soft damp (not wet) cloth to remove dust. A mild, non-alkaline soap solution may be used to remove fingerprints or similar smudges. Cleaners containing abrasives should not be used as they will damage the brushed grain of the front panel finish, as well as the LED display window. A dry 2-inch pure bristle paint brush works well to remove dust from bevels, reliefs and switches. The CD6SE CD compartment may be gently dusted: carefully avoid touching the laser assembly area to prevent possible damage.

### ***Caution***

Your CD6SE contains sufficient levels of voltage and current to be lethal. Do not tamper with a component or parts inside the unit. Refer any needed service to your authorized Audio Research dealer or other qualified technician. Should service be necessary, please contact your Audio Research dealer, or Audio Research Customer Service at [service@audioresearch.com](mailto:service@audioresearch.com) or 763-577-970.

## Limited Warranty

Audio Research Corporation products are covered by a 3-Year Limited Warranty, or a 90-Day Limited Warranty on vacuum tubes. This Limited Warranty initiates from the date of purchase, and is limited to the original purchaser, or in the case of demonstration equipment, limited to the balance of warranty remaining after original shipment to the retailer or importer.

In the United States, the specific terms, conditions and remedies for fulfillment of this Limited Warranty are listed on the warranty card accompanying the product in its shipping carton, or may be obtained from the authorized retailer or from the Audio Research Customer Service Department. Outside the United States, the authorized importing retailer or distributor has accepted the responsibility for warranty of Audio Research products sold by them. The specific terms and remedies for fulfillment of the Limited Warranty may vary from country to country. Warranty service should normally be obtained from the importing retailer or distributor from whom the product was purchased.

In the unlikely event that technical service beyond the ability of the importer is required, Audio Research will fulfill the terms and conditions of the Limited Warranty. Such product must be returned at the purchaser's expense to the Audio Research factory, along with a photocopy of the dated purchase receipt for the product, a written description of the problem(s) encountered, and any information necessary for return shipment. The cost of return shipment is the responsibility of the purchaser.

## FCC Rules



This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class B digital device, pursuant to Part 15 of the FCC Rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference in a residential installation. This equipment generates, uses and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with the instructions, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. However, there is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation. If this equipment does cause harmful interference to radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning the equipment off and on, the user is encouraged to try to correct the interference by one or more of the following measures:

Reorient or relocate the receiving antenna.

Use interconnect cables of no more than one meter in length.

Increase the separation between the equipment and receiver.

Connect the equipment into an outlet on a circuit different from that to which the receiver is connected.

Consult the dealer or an experienced radio/TV technician for help.



# Specifications

**Frequency Response:** +0-3dB, 3Hz to 96kHz at rated output. 0.15dB 20Hz to 20kHz. (Balanced, 200k ohms load)@ 192kHz sample rate.

**Distortion:** THD+N Less than .004% at 2V RMS BAL output.

**Signal-Noise-Ratio:** 110dB

**Dynamic Range (AES17):** 111dB

**IMD (SMPTE):** .003%

**RMS Noise level:** -95dBV (20-20kHz)

**Gain:** 16.5dB Balanced, 8.3dB SE.

**Input Impedance:** Digital: 75 ohms RCA, 110 ohms AES/EBU, OPT 660nm TOSLink fiber 44.1 to 96kHz.

**Output Impedance:** 500 ohms Balanced, 250 ohms SE Main (2), 20K ohms minimum load and 2000pF maximum capacitance.

**Output Polarity:** Non-inverting.

**Max. Output:** At 0.0dB input, 5V RMS into 200K ohm balanced load.

**Digital Sample Rates:** 24 bits @ 44.1kHz to 192kHz, SPDIF and USB 2.0 HS.

**Upsampling:** Select upsampling or Native mode; CD, RCA, AES/EBU, TOS upsample to 176.4 or 192kHz. USB upsamples to 88.2 or 96kHz.

**Master Oscillator:** 22.579mHz  $\pm$ 20Hz for 44.1, 88.2 & 176.4kHz. 24.576mHz  $\pm$ 20Hz for 48, 96 & 192kHz.

**Intrinsic Jitter:** <10ps

**Outputs Digital:** XLR Balanced AES/EBU 110-ohms 4V P-P, BNC coax SPDIF 75-ohms 0.7V P-P.

**Channel Separation:** 103dB @ 1kHz.

**Push buttons:** Power, Previous, Stop, Pause, Play, Next, Input.

**Signal Format (disc):** Sample freq. 44.1kHz, Quantization bit; 16bit linear/channel, Channel bit rate; 4.3218Mb/sec, Channel modulation code; EFM (8-14 modulation), Error Correction; CIRC.

**Drive Mechanism (Top Load):** Wow & Flutter; Unmeasurable (Quartz stability); Discs; Accepts 5" (12cm) and 3" (8cm) sizes.

**Optical pickup:** Type; 3-beam LDGU (Laser Diode & Grating Unit), with holographic diffraction light pen, Laser; GaAlAs semiconductor, 780nm, 0.5mW max. output, Servo; Digitally-controlled low inertia linear positioning actuator.

**Jitter reduction:** High-stability crystal-controlled re-clocking for all outputs.

**Display:** Six-digit vacuum fluorescent with optical filter; LED display; CD, USB, RCA, TOS1, TOS2, Fast, Slow, Upsample, Power, 44.1, 48, 88.2, 96, 176.4, 192kHz.

**Remote Buttons:** Repeat track/disc, 0-9 digit entry keys, Scan ten seconds each track, Pause program, Stop program, Play, Shuffle tracks, Program enters selection on program list, Time elapsed, remaining track, remaining disc, A/B repeat segment, Filter select, Input select, Pause, Play, Skip>, Skip<, FF, FR, Upsample/Native mode, DSP-DN, DSP-UP.

**Power Requirements:** 105-125VAC 60Hz (210-250VAC 50/60Hz) 120 watts maximum. Sleep mode 1 watts maximum.

**Fuses:** 2A fuse slo-blo (120V) / T1A (220-240V); AGC 1/4A fuse (120V) / T125mA fuse (220-240V)

**Dimensions:**  
Width 19" (48 cm)  
Height 5.75" (14.5 cm) (standard rack panel)  
Depth 14.75" (37.5 cm) including handles and jacks.

**Weight:** 25.9 lbs. (11.8 kg) Net; 34 lbs. (15.5 kg) Shipping.

This unit is RoHS compliant



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