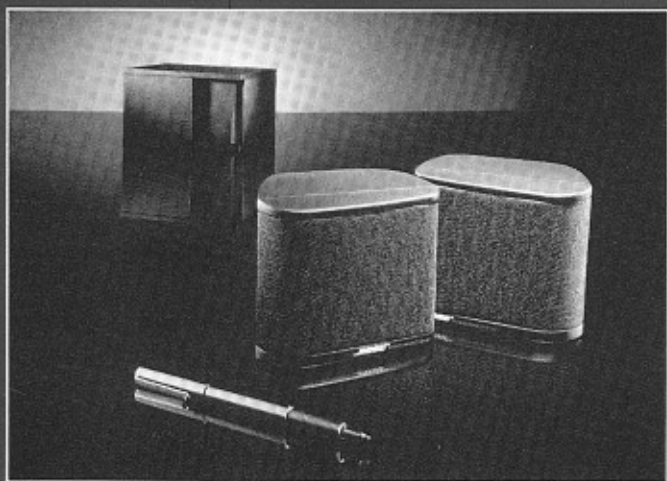


THE
BOSE®
ACOUSTIMASS®-3
SERIES II
SPEAKER SYSTEM
OWNER'S
GUIDE



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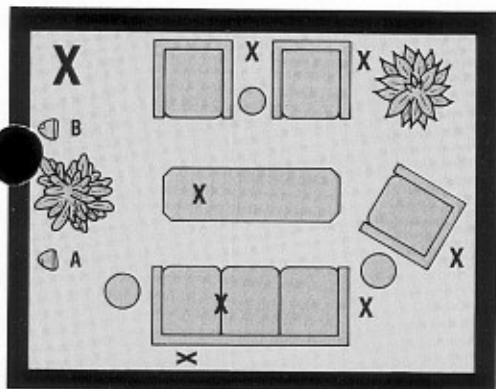


Figure 1.

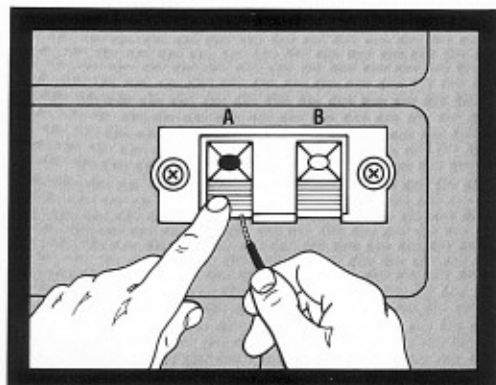


Figure 3.

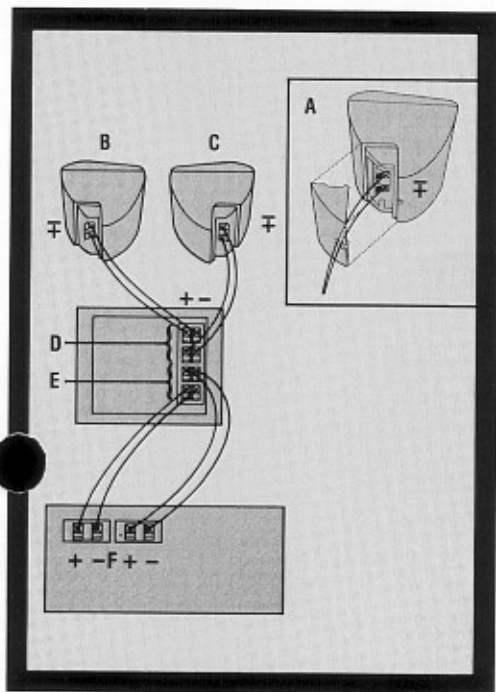


Figure 2.

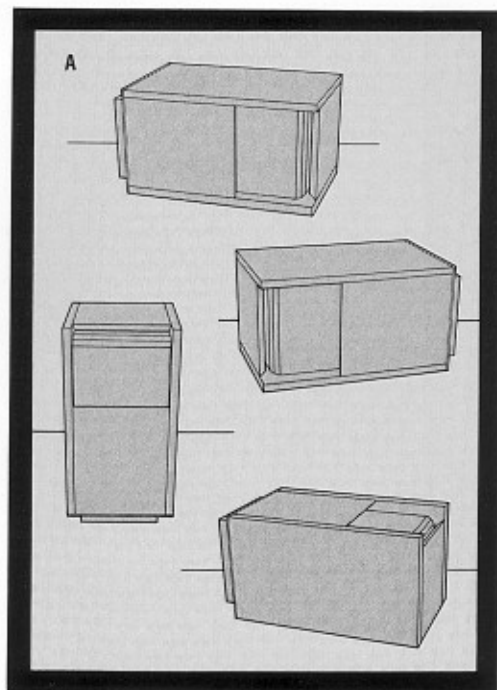


Figure 4.

See page 2 for English explanation of diagrams.

Diagrams and Illustrations for the Acoustimass®-3 System

Figure 1

Place the left and right cube speakers, respectively, on the left and right sides of the room. The Acoustimass module can go almost anywhere—behind or under furniture, near a wall, or in the middle of the room. A corner location (see large X), recommended for most situations, will typically provide the greatest bass output.

- A Left Cube Speaker B Right Cube Speaker

Figure 2

Wiring diagram for the Acoustimass-3 system. Connect the right and left speaker terminals to the right and left terminals on the rear of the Acoustimass module marked "OUTPUTS TO CUBE SPEAKERS." Connect the right and left channel terminals on the Acoustimass module marked "INPUTS FROM AMP OR RECEIVER" to the right and left speaker output terminals on the amplifier or receiver.

- A Insert thumbnail and gently pull back, being careful not to scratch finish.
B Left Cube Speaker
C Right Cube Speaker
D Output to Cube Speaker
E Input from Amplifier or Receiver
F Output from Amplifier or Receiver

Figure 3

To connect cables to the cube speakers and the Acoustimass module, press the tabs on the back of each component, insert a corresponding negative or positive lead, and release the tab to secure the lead in place.

- A Red B Black

Figure 4

You can put the Acoustimass module in any position as long as you leave at least 2 inches of space in front of the two slotted openings on its end.

- A Various positions of the Acoustimass Bass Module.

The Bose® Acoustimass®-3 Series II Speaker System Owner's Guide

We at Bose® would like to thank you for purchasing the Acoustimass®-3 Series II speaker system, the world's smallest speaker system delivering pure sound and virtual invisibility. The advanced technology and quality construction of this music system will provide you with years of listening pleasure. You'll also find that the virtual invisibility of its components will give you almost unlimited flexibility in how—and where—you can set it up.

Because the Acoustimass-3 speaker system is significantly different from conventional systems, both in the way it operates and the way you set it up, we recommend that you read this owner's guide. The first section gives you step-by-step instructions on how to connect your system to your stereo so that you can begin to enjoy it as soon as possible. We've also included some more detailed information and suggestions on arranging your system's components and on using your system to help you get the best quality performance possible.

Everything you need to hook up your Acoustimass-3 system is contained in its shipping cartons. Your system consists of:

- 2 cube speakers, one left ("L") and one right ("R"); see Figure 1
- 1 Acoustimass module
- 4 cables (one pair for connecting the cube speakers to the Acoustimass module, one pair for connecting the Acoustimass module to your receiver or amplifier)

Be sure to save all the cartons and packing material in case you need to transport your system at any time. If any components appear damaged when you unpack them, **do not attempt to use the system.** Instead, repack the system in its original cartons and notify your authorized Bose dealer immediately.

Superb Sound in Five Easy Steps

CAUTION: Unplug your receiver or amplifier from the wall outlet before connecting your Acoustimass®-3 system.

1

Set up the components (Figure 1). Check the letter on the bottom of each cube speaker, then place the left ("L") speaker on the left side of the room, the right ("R") speaker on the right side, and the Acoustimass module wherever you want it (just leave at least 2 inches of space in front of the two slotted openings on its end). Be sure that the supplied 20-foot cables will reach from the speakers to the Acoustimass module. (You may increase the distance between the cube speakers and the Acoustimass module by using a longer wire of the same or greater gauge, connecting them positive to positive, negative to negative.)

2

Examine the cables and connections. At the end of each of the supplied cables are two leads, one marked with a gray stripe or a red collar, and the other one plain. The plain lead is always negative (-), and the striped or red one is always positive (+). These correspond to the negative (plain) and positive (red) terminals on the backs of the speakers and the Acoustimass module. Always connect the leads to their corresponding terminals (negative to negative, positive to positive). To do so, simply press the black ("-") tab, insert the plain lead, and release the tab to secure the lead in place. Insert the gray striped or red lead into the red ("+") tab (Figure 3).

3

Connect the cube speakers to the Acoustimass module (Figure 2).

- Using the thumbnail recesses, remove the plastic covers on the back of the cube speakers (Figure 2).
- Connect one end of the first cable to the terminals on the rear of the left speaker and the other end to the left ("L") terminals on the rear of the Acoustimass module marked "OUTPUTS TO CUBE SPEAKERS." Take another cable and connect the right speaker to the right module outputs in the same way. Replace the plastic covers on the back of the cube speakers.

4

Connect the Acoustimass module to your amplifier or receiver (Figure 2).

- Connect the third cable between the left channel terminals on the Acoustimass module marked "INPUTS FROM AMP OR RECEIVER" and the left ("L") speaker output terminals on your amplifier or receiver. Repeat for the right channel, using the fourth cable.
- Check all your connections to make sure they are wired positive to positive (+ to +), negative to negative (- to -). The speakers will produce little or no bass if they are wired incorrectly. Also, **check to make sure that no strands of wire from any terminal are brushing against any other terminal. Such "bridged" wires create short circuits that can damage your receiver or amplifier.**

5

Enjoy! Plug in your receiver, turn on your system, and enjoy your music!

Checking Your System

The following simple test will help you make sure that your Acoustimass®-3 system is working properly:

1. Turn the balance control on your receiver or amplifier completely to the left. If your cube speakers are connected properly, you will hear music only from the left one. You may also detect a very faint sound from the other speaker.
2. Now, turn the balance control completely to the right. If your cube speakers are connected properly, this time you will hear music only from the right one. You may also detect a very faint sound from the other speaker.
3. Return the balance control to the center position and play some music with good, deep bass. Listen carefully, first with the balance control in the center position, then in the far left position, and then in the far right position. If the system is connected properly, you should hear the same or deeper bass in the center position than in the left-only or right-only position. If the bass is not as full, your speakers are wired "out of phase." Check to make sure that your receiver or amplifier is properly connected to the Acoustimass® module (all connections positive to positive, negative to negative).
4. Return the balance control to the center position.

If your system still doesn't appear to be working properly, refer to the "In Case You Have a Problem" section.

Getting the Best Sound from Your Acoustimass®-3 Series II System

The compact size of the cube speakers and the almost unlimited placement options for the Acoustimass module make the Acoustimass-3 system readily adaptable to any size room and any decor. We have provided the following tips to help you get the best possible sound from your speaker system.

Automatic System Protection. The Acoustimass-3 speaker system incorporates an automatic protection circuit, which guards the system against most kinds of potential damage due to electrical stress or overload. This circuit activates at high volume levels to reduce the system output, causing a slight decrease in volume. This is normal operation and indicates that power input may be exceeding safe levels. Sustained listening at these levels is not recommended.

Distance Between Speakers. In average-sized listening rooms, you get the best stereo sound with the left and right cube speakers placed 6 to 12 feet apart (approximately 1.8–3.6 m). However, you can still get excellent sound with the speakers as close as 3 feet (approximately 1 m) or as far apart as 15 feet (approximately 4.5 m).

Using the Speakers with a Television. The cube speakers are magnetically shielded so that they can be used with a TV or video monitor without affecting the picture quality. For such applications, you can place the speakers right next to the monitor, if desired. A variety of accessories is available to enhance this application; refer to the "Accessories" section for details.

Where to Place the Acoustimass® Module. You can place the Acoustimass module almost anywhere in your listening room (Figure 1)—even under a bed or table or behind a sofa—and in either a vertical or horizontal position (Figure 4). Just be sure not to block the two slotted openings in the end of the unit, and leave at least 2 inches (approximately 5 cm) of open space between these openings and the wall or other surface.

NOTE: While the cube arrays are shielded, the Acoustimass module is not shielded and should always be placed at least 2 feet from any monitor or television.

The unique Acoustimass speaker technology of the Acoustimass-3 system delivers room-filling bass from almost anywhere. **The most bass is generally produced with the module playing in the corner of a room.** You can fine-tune the level of the bass simply by changing the location of the module within your room. Generally, we recommend that you place the module along a wall, not more than 5 feet (approximately 1 to 1.5 meters) from a corner. This provides a normal balance of frequencies from your Acoustimass-3 system. To increase the amount of bass, move the module closer to the walls and/or corners of your room. Or, to get less bass, move the module toward the center of your room. It should be reasonably easy to find a location that is both convenient and provides a pleasing level of bass.

Room Acoustics. The acoustics (sound properties) of your listening room can affect the overall sound quality of any speaker system, including your Acoustimass-3 system. In general, you can solve many acoustical problems by careful use of the tone controls on your amplifier or receiver. However, these controls may put greater power demands on your receiver or amplifier, especially if you turn them all the way up. Although your Bose® Acoustimass-3 system incorporates automatic protection circuitry that guards against most types of electrical stress, **excessive tone control use can cause an amplifier or receiver to run out of power and distort, potentially damaging your system.**

Below are some common acoustical problems and tips for controlling them:

- 1. Not enough treble sound (high frequencies)**—Rooms with a lot of sound absorbing furnishings such as stuffed furniture, wall-to-wall carpet, or heavy drapes may reduce the high frequencies from your Acoustimass®-3 system. Slightly turn up the treble control on your amplifier or receiver. Or, if you prefer, remove some of the sound absorbing furnishings from the room.
- 2. Too much treble sound**—Rooms with too few sound-absorbing furnishings, especially those with bare floors and walls, may sound overly shrill or "bright." Turn down the treble control or add throw carpets or drapes to absorb the sound.
- 3. Too much or too little bass (low frequencies)**—Adjust the bass control on your amplifier or receiver, or move the Acoustimass module closer to or away from a wall and/or corner as described in the preceding section.

External signal processors (such as graphic and parametric equalizers), although not recommended, can be used with your Acoustimass-3 system if you want a greater degree of acoustic control. Consult your Bose dealer for advice.

Maintaining Your System

You can easily clean the module and cubes of your Acoustimass-3 system with a damp cloth and, if necessary, a mild detergent such as dish soap. You may prefer to remove the grilles to clean them, as the drivers are located directly behind the grilles and can be easily damaged. Do not allow liquids to spill through the grille assemblies of the cube speaker or to enter the Acoustimass module in any way.

In Case You Have a Problem

If your Acoustimass®-3 system does not appear to be working correctly, try the solutions suggested below; most problems usually involve other components, not the speakers.

Problem:

The left cube speaker doesn't play or sounds distorted.

Solution:

Turn off the amplifier or receiver. Check the wiring connecting the cube speaker to the Acoustimass module and the wiring connecting the module to the amplifier or receiver. If you can't see anything wrong, disconnect the left *and* right wires from the back of the amplifier or receiver. Now, connect the left speaker wires going to the Acoustimass module to the right amplifier terminals. Turn the balance control on the receiver or amplifier completely to the right and turn the power on. If the left cube speaker now works properly, the left channel of your amplifier or receiver is probably defective. **CAUTION: Do not connect the other cube speaker to the channel in question at this time. If the amplifier or receiver channel is defective, you could damage your Acoustimass®-3 system.**

Problem:

The right cube speaker doesn't play or sounds distorted.

Solution:

Use the same procedure as above for the left cube speaker, substituting the words "left" for "right" and "right" for "left."

Problem:

The whole Acoustimass-3 system does not play or sounds distorted.

Solution:

Turn off the receiver or amplifier and disconnect the Acoustimass system. Reconnect the speakers

to another receiver or amplifier that you know is working properly. If the Acoustimass-3 system now works properly, the problem is in your amplifier or receiver. **Note:** If this is the case, check all user accessible fuses on your receiver or amplifier, referring to the appropriate owner's guide for help. If the fuses blow again, have the amplifier or receiver checked by qualified personnel.

If, after trying the above solutions, you are still having trouble with your Acoustimass-3 system, contact your authorized Bose® dealer. He will verify any defects and arrange for service by an authorized service agency or by the Bose factory. Bose Corporation will make every effort to remedy any problem within the terms of the warranty at minimum inconvenience to you.

Accessories

Bose offers a variety of mounting accessories to enhance the flexibility of your Acoustimass-3 system, including wall/ceiling mounting brackets and table stands. For information and ordering instructions, contact your local Bose dealer, or call Bose, toll free, at 1-800-444-BOSE in the USA; or 1-800-465-BOSE in Canada.

Technical Information

Features

Acoustimass® speaker design

Syncom® computer quality assurance program

Automatic protection circuitry

Driver Complement

Two magnetically shielded 2½" long-throw, wide-range transducers in cube speakers

One 5¼" woofer in Acoustimass enclosure

Impedance

Nominal IEC standard

5 ohms

Compatible with receivers or amplifiers rated from 4-8 ohms

Power Handling

50 watts, IEC standard. Compatible with receivers or amplifiers from 10-100 watts per channel.

Finish

Acoustimass® module: Scratch resistant black and white satin finish

Cube speakers: Black polymer, painted

Dimensions

Acoustimass module: 8" H x 8" W x 14" D
(20 x 20 x 36 cm)

Cube speaker: 4½" H x 4½" W x 3½" D
(11 x 11 x 9 cm)

Weight

Acoustimass module: 14 lb

Cube speakers: 18 oz. each

Limited Warranty Bose Product

What is covered: All parts defective in material workmanship.

For how long: 5 years from the Acoustimass-3 system purchase date.

What we will do: We will repair or replace, at our sole option, free of charge, any defective parts.

What we will not do: Pay shipping or transportation charges from you to us.

What you must do:

1. Return product personally with original proof of purchase from an authorized Bose dealer to your authorized Bose dealer, or
2. Return product personally with original proof of purchase from an authorized Bose dealer to the nearest authorized Bose Service Agency, or

3. Return product with original proof of purchase from an authorized Bose dealer directly to the Bose factory. If you elect to return the product directly to the Bose factory,

- a. Call the Bose Service Department at (508) 366-9896, and ask to be assigned a return authorization number and shipping instructions;
- b. Properly pack the product in the original carton for shipping. If you need a new carton, contact Bose Corporation for a new carton available at nominal charge.
- c. Label and ship, freight prepaid, to the address provided by the Bose® Service Department, and
- d. Place your return authorization number prominently on the outside of the carton. (Cartons not bearing a return authorization number will be refused.)

Other conditions: This warranty is fully transferable provided the current owner furnishes the original proof of purchase from an authorized Bose dealer. ANY IMPLIED WARRANTIES EXPIRE AT THE EXPIRATION DATE OF THIS WARRANTY. WE SHALL NOT BE LIABLE FOR INCIDENTAL OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES. This warranty does not cover a defect that has resulted from improper or unreasonable use or maintenance, accident, improper packing, or unauthorized tampering, alteration or modification as determined solely by us. This warranty is void if the label bearing the serial number has been removed or defaced.

Other Law Rights: This warranty gives you specific legal rights, and you may also have other rights which vary from state to state or country to country. Some places do not allow the exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages, so the above limitation or exclusion may not apply to you. Contact your local authorized Bose dealer or distributor for warranty information if you purchased product outside the United States.

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Better sound through research.

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