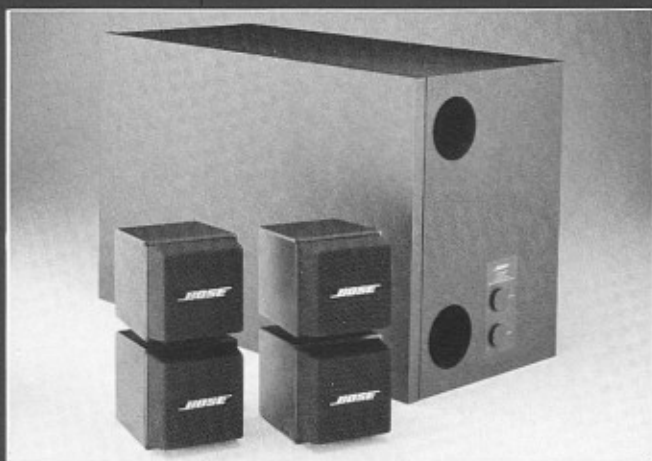


**THE  
BOSE  
ACOUSTIMASS<sup>®</sup>  
POWERED  
SPEAKER  
SYSTEM  
OWNER'S  
MANUAL**



**BEDIENUNGSANLEITUNG  
NOTICE D'EMPLOI  
MANUAL PARA USUARIOS**

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***BOSE***<sup>®</sup>

## WARNING

To reduce the risk of fire or electric shock, do not expose this system to rain or moisture.

## CAUTION

To reduce the risk of shock, do not remove the cover of this system. There are no user-serviceable parts inside. Refer servicing to qualified service personnel.

The CAUTION marks shown on this page are located on the back of your system.



The lightning flash, with arrowhead symbol within an equilateral triangle, is intended to alert the user to the presence of uninsulated "dangerous voltage" within the system enclosure that may be of sufficient magnitude to constitute a risk of electric shock.



The exclamation point within an equilateral triangle as marked on the system is intended to alert the user to the presence of important operating and maintenance instructions in this owner's guide.

CAUTION	
RISK OF ELECTRICAL SHOCK—DO NOT OPEN	
TO PREVENT ELECTRICAL SHOCK, DO NOT REMOVE COVER. NO USER-SERVICEABLE PARTS INSIDE. REFER SERVICING TO QUALIFIED PERSONNEL.	
TO PREVENT FIRE OR SHOCK HAZARD, DO NOT EXPOSE THIS UNIT TO RAIN OR MOISTURE.	
AVIS	
RISQUE DE CHOC ELECTRIQUE—NE PAS OUVRIR	
AFIN DE PREVENIR UN CHOC ELECTRIQUE NE PAS ENLEVER LE COUVERCLE ARRIERE. IL NE SE TROUVE A L'INTERIEUR AUCUNE PIECE POUVANT ETRE REPARÉE PAR L'USAGER. S'ADRESSER A UN REPARATEUR COMPETENT.	

## Safety Instructions

Be sure to read these instructions first, before proceeding with the setup and connection of your Bose® Acoustimass® powered speaker system. Careful attention to safety will ensure the carefree use and long-lasting enjoyment of your new system.

- 1. Read Instructions**—Read all the safety and operating instructions before the unit is operated.
- 2. Retain Instructions**—Retain the safety and operating instructions for future reference.
- 3. Heed Warnings**—Adhere to all warnings on the unit and in the operating instructions.
- 4. Follow Instructions**—Follow all operating and other instructions.
- 5. Water and Moisture**—Do not use the unit near water—for example, near a bathtub, washbowl, kitchen sink, laundry tub, in a wet basement, or near a swimming pool, etc.
- 6. Carts and Stands**—Do not place this unit on an unstable cart, stand, tripod, bracket, or table. The unit may fall, causing serious injury to a child or adult, and serious damage to the unit. Use only a cart, stand, tripod, bracket, or table recommended by Bose Corporation.

a. A unit and cart combination should be moved with care. Quick stops, excessive force, and uneven surfaces may cause the unit and cart combination to overturn.

### PORTABLE CART WARNING



S3125A

- 7. Wall or Ceiling Mounting**—Mount the unit to a wall or ceiling only as recommended by Bose Corporation.

- 8. Ventilation**—Situating the unit so that its location or position does not interfere with its proper ventilation. For example, the unit should not be situated on a bed, sofa, rug, or similar surface that may block the ventilation, or placed in a built-in system, such as a book-case or cabinet that may impede the flow of air over the metal surface.
- 9. Heat**—Situating the unit away from heat sources such as radiators, stoves, or other appliances (including amplifiers) that produce heat.
- 10. Power Sources**—Connect the unit to a power (mains) supply only of the type described in the operating instructions or as marked on the unit.
- 11. Power-Cord Protection**—Route power supply (mains) cords so that they are not likely to be walked on or pinched by items placed upon or against them, paying particular attention to cords at plugs, convenience receptacles, and the point where they exit from the unit.
- 12. Cleaning**—Clean the system only as directed by Bose Corporation.
- 13. Nonuse Periods**—Unplug the power (mains) cord of the unit from the outlet when left unused for a long period of time.
- 14. Object and Liquid Entry**—Take care so that objects do not fall into and liquids are not spilled into the inside of the unit.
- 15. Damage Requiring Service**—The unit should be serviced by qualified service personnel when:
- A:** The power-supply (mains) cord or the plug has been damaged; or
  - B:** Objects have fallen, or liquid has been spilled into the unit; or
  - C:** The unit has been exposed to rain; or
  - D:** The unit does not appear to operate normally or exhibits a marked change in performance; or
  - E:** The unit has been dropped, or the cabinet damaged.

- 16. Servicing**—Do not attempt to service the unit in any way beyond those means described in the operating instructions. All other servicing should be referred to qualified service personnel.

### CAUTION

**Do not connect the Acoustimass® powered speaker system to the speaker terminals of any receiver or amplifier.**

#### FOR OPERATION IN THE UNITED KINGDOM:

### IMPORTANT

As the colours of the wires in the mains lead of this appliance may not correspond with the coloured markings identifying the terminals in your plug, proceed as follows:—

The wire which is coloured blue must be connected to the terminal which is marked with the letter N or coloured black.

The wire which is coloured brown must be connected to the terminal which is marked with the letter L or coloured red.

**The wires in this mains lead are coloured in accordance with the following code:**

**Blue : Neutral**

**Brown : Live**

## Before You Begin...

We would like to thank you for purchasing the Bose® Acoustimass® powered speaker system. We are confident that the advanced technology and quality construction of this system will provide you with years of musical listening pleasure. The Acoustimass powered speaker system is designed to be used with the Bose Lifestyle™ music system. You may also use these speakers with another source that has line-level variable output and a volume control.

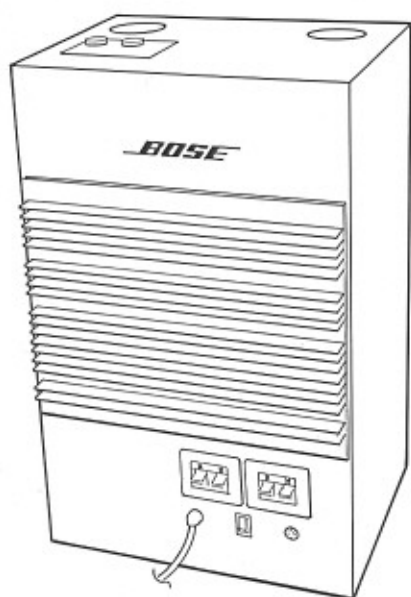
**Because the operating principles, wiring configuration, and placement options of the Acoustimass powered speaker system are significantly different from those of conventional speakers, please take the time to read this owner's manual.** It begins with instructions for arranging your system components and hooking them up in five easy steps, so you can begin to enjoy your Acoustimass powered speaker system as soon as possible. We've also included some additional information and suggestions that will allow you to take advantage of the system's flexibility and help you to get the best quality performance possible.

## Unpacking Your System

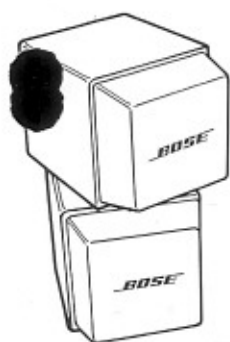
Everything you need to hook up your Acoustimass powered speaker system is contained in its shipping cartons. Remove all packaging material and carefully lift out all system components. Inside you will find (see Figure 1):

- 1 Acoustimass bass module (larger unit)
- 2 cube arrays (small speakers, two cubes each)
- 1 audio input cable
- 2 speaker cables

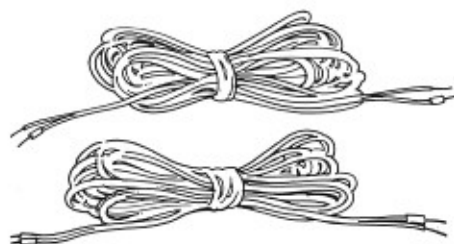
Be sure to save all the cartons and packaging material in case you need to transport your system at any time. If any of the components appear damaged, **do not attempt to use the system.** Instead, repack the system in its original cartons and notify your authorized Bose dealer immediately.



Acoustimass® bass module



Speaker cube arrays



Speaker cables



Audio input cable

**Figure 1.**

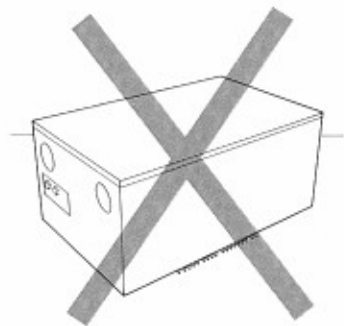
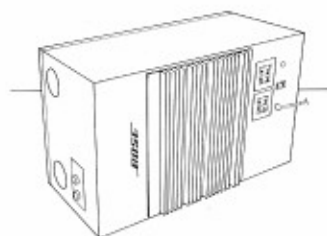
The components of Acoustimass powered speaker system

# Setting Up Your Acoustimass® Powered Speaker System

**CAUTION:** Be sure all components (Life-style™ music center or other source, and Acoustimass bass module) are unplugged from the power outlet before you begin hooking up the system.

## 1

**Set up the components.** Place one cube array on the left side of the room, the other on the right side, and the Acoustimass bass module in whatever spot is most convenient (see Figure 2 for module positioning options). Do not cover the side with the two round openings; leave at least 2 inches (5 cm) of space in front of them, and keep the amplifier side exposed. If the cube arrays are more than 20 feet (6 m) from the bass module (the length of the supplied speaker cables), you will need to splice in additional speaker cable before you can hook up the system. (To do so, use similar gauge or thicker wire, and make sure you connect them properly, positive to positive, negative to negative.) If the bass module is more than 30 feet (9 m) from the music center, you will need a Bose® audio input extension cable; contact your authorized Bose dealer.



**Figure 2.**

Bass module placement options

## Connect the Acoustimass® bass module to the music source.

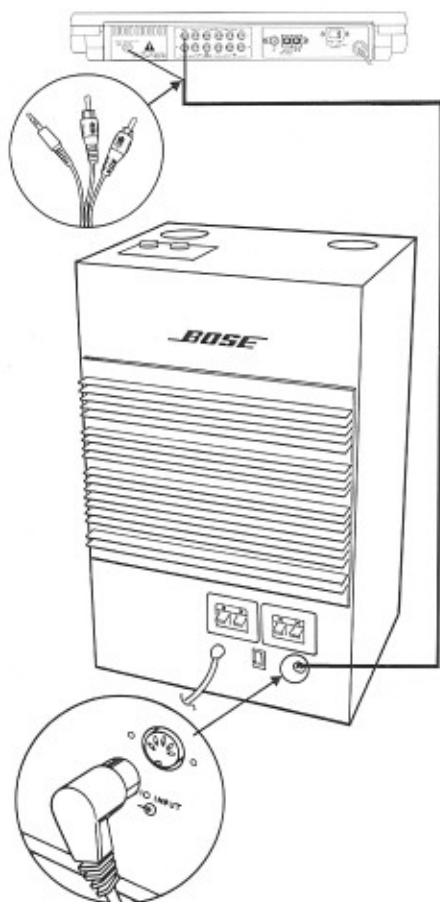
### Connect the Lifestyle™ music center (Figure 3):

- Insert the three connectors located at one end of the audio input cable into the jacks on the rear of the music center as follows:
  - Black connector into the SERIAL DATA OUTPUT jack
  - Red connector into the ZONE 1, R (right) jack
  - White connector into the ZONE 1, L (left) jack
- Insert the "DIN" connector located at the other end of the audio input cable into the AUDIO INPUT jack on the Acoustimass bass module, aligning the five pins on the connector with the five holes on the jack.

### To another source:

**Note:** Remember, any other music source you use (e.g., tuner or tuner/preamp) must have a line level variable output and must also have a volume control. There is no volume control on the Acoustimass® powered speaker system.

- Locate the audio output jacks on your music source, and the three connectors located at one end of the supplied audio input cable. Insert the white connector into the jack for the left channel, and the red connector into the jack for the right channel. **Note:** The black connector is not used and can remain hanging. It will not affect the operation of the Acoustimass® powered speaker system.
- Insert the "DIN" connector located at the other end of the audio input cable into the AUDIO INPUT jack on the Acoustimass bass module (see Figure 3), aligning the five pins on the connector with the five holes on the jack.



**Figure 3.**

Connecting the Acoustimass bass module to the Lifestyle music center



### Connect the cube arrays to the Acoustimass® bass module.

Look at the two supplied speaker cables. Each cable has two wires. The positive (+) wire will be indicated by one of the following:

- Ribbed surface
- Red collar
- Stripe

The solid wire is negative (-). The positive and negative wires correspond respectively to the positive (red) and negative (black) terminals on the backs of the cube arrays and the Acoustimass bass module (Figure 5). The wires should always be connected to their corresponding terminals, positive to positive, negative to negative.

- a. Connect the end of one speaker cable to the terminals on the rear of the right cube array, and the other end of the cable to the OUTPUT terminals on the rear of the Acoustimass bass module marked TO RIGHT CUBE ARRAY. To do so, simply push each terminal tab down, insert the end of the appropriate wire into the exposed hole, and release the tab to secure the wire into place (see Figure 4).
- b. Repeat to connect the left cube array to the OUTPUT terminal on the Acoustimass bass module marked TO LEFT CUBE ARRAY.
- c. Check all your connections to make sure they are wired positive to positive (+ to +) and negative to negative (- to -). Incorrect wiring will affect the stereo image. 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 may damage your Acoustimass powered speaker system.**

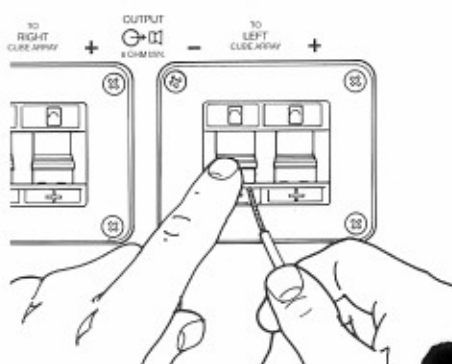
Figure 5 illustrates a finished system hookup.

**Plug in the AC power (mains) cord from your Lifestyle™ music center (or other music source).**

### Set the voltage selector switch

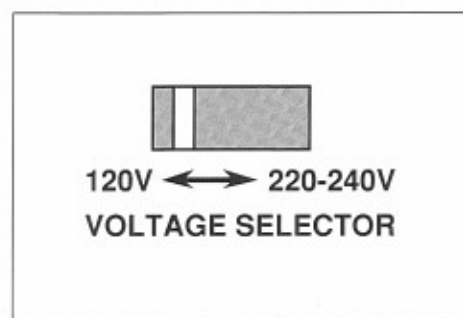
(on International models of the Acoustimass powered speaker system) to the correct voltage setting for your area (Figure 4A).

**Plug in the Acoustimass bass module's power (mains) cord.** On models equipped with a POWER switch (Figure 6), turn this switch ON (I) at this time. Turn on the music and enjoy!



**Figure 4.**

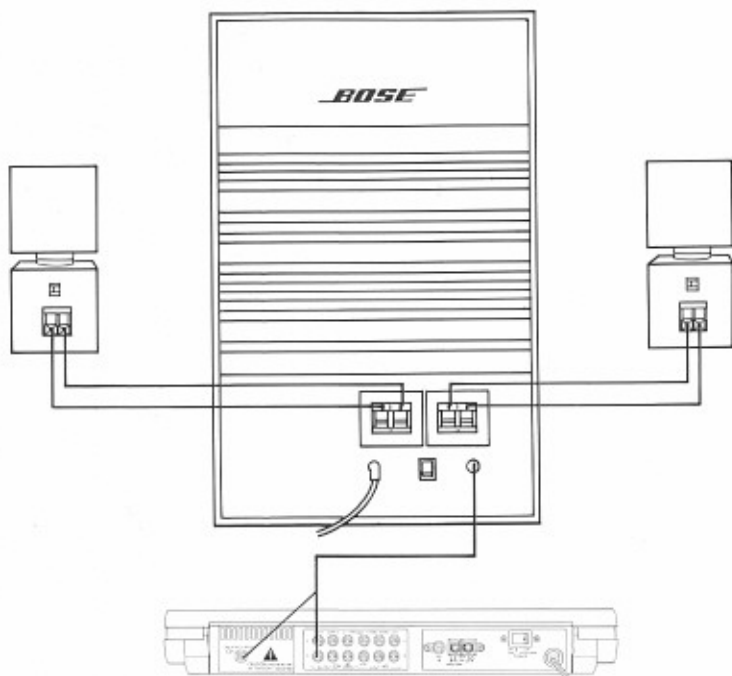
How to properly connect wires to a terminal



**Figure 4A.**

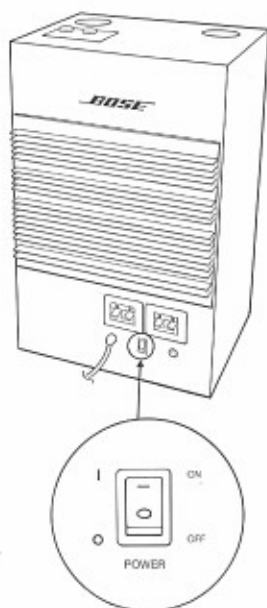
**Important:** The voltage selector switch must be set correctly for your area. Use 120V for North and Central America, and 220-240V for Europe, UK, and Australia.





**Figure 5.**

Complete system hookup

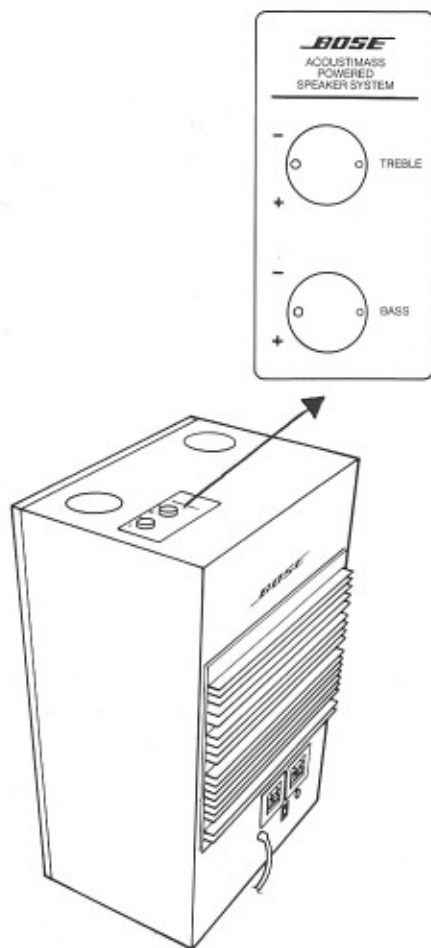


**Figure 6.**

Power switch (for 220V, 240V units only)

## Room Compensation Controls

The Acoustimass® powered speaker system features two room compensation controls (located on the bass module, Figure 7) that allow you to adjust the treble (high frequencies) and bass (low frequencies) as desired. In the normal setting, as illustrated, the red dots on each control face the center right. Rotate the controls clockwise to increase and counterclockwise to decrease the amount of treble or bass. A raised dot is provided on each control as a finger guide.



**Figure 7.**

Room compensation controls

## Getting the Best Sound from Your Acoustimass® Powered Speaker System

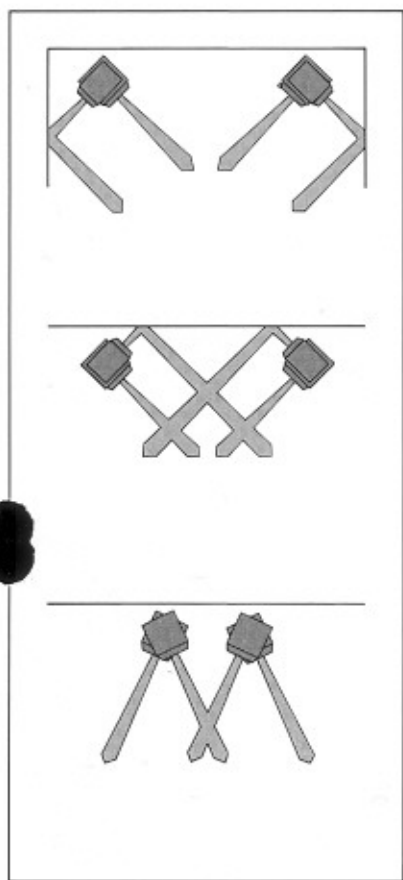
The Acoustimass powered speaker system offers many built-in and user-selectable features not available from a conventional speaker system. The cube arrays adjust to deliver the optimal combination of reflected and direct sound for any listening environment. Plus, the compact size of the cube arrays and the almost unlimited placement options for the Acoustimass bass module make the Acoustimass powered speaker system easily adaptable to any size room and any decor. Below are descriptions of these features and some tips on placing and adjusting the system components to help you get the best sound possible from them.

### **Bose Dynamic Equalization Circuitry.**

Patented built-in Bose® Dynamic Equalization circuitry eliminates a problem common to conventional audio systems—loss of bass at low volume levels. The ear is less sensitive to low bass at low listening levels and cannot hear parts of the musical spectrum—even entire instruments—on a conventional system when it is operated at a low volume level. The proprietary Bose Dynamic Equalization technology, developed after 10 years of acoustic and psychoacoustic research, solves this problem by continuously (dynamically) adjusting the level of bass produced depending on the volume level chosen—without distorting the spoken voice. This also eliminates the need to readjust tone controls every time the volume level is turned up or down. Music always sounds full and rich, whether the system is played very softly or loudly.

**Distance Between Cube Arrays.** In average-sized listening rooms, you get the best stereo sound with the cube arrays placed 6 to 12 feet (approximately 1.8-3.6m) apart.

**Adjusting the Combination of Direct and Reflected Sound.** The cube arrays are adjustable (each cube swivels) to provide a combination of reflected and direct sound, resulting in a balanced, lifelike stereo image throughout the listening area. With one cube in each array angled toward a wall (for reflected sound) and the other cube in each array facing directly into the room, as illustrated in Figure 8, the music doesn't appear to come directly from the speakers, but rather, from a musical sound stage that surrounds you.



**Figure 8.**

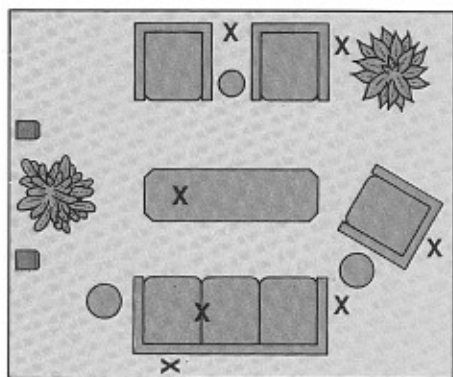
Adjusting the combination of reflected and direct sound (cube arrays not to scale). Feel free to experiment with the setting that sounds best in your listening room.

Experiment with the angles of the cubes until you find the arrangement that sounds best in your room and best suits your musical taste. There is no "correct" position for the cube arrays or the angle between them, although the most lifelike sound will be achieved by providing a balance of reflected and direct sound. Remember that when you are using a balance of reflected and direct sound, you may also use the room compensation controls to help you achieve the desired sound effect.

You can also use the cube arrays with both cubes facing forward. While this position eliminates the benefits of combining reflected and direct sound, it may be appropriate for very small listening areas (such as desks or cubicles). For video applications, angling the top half of each array inward slightly will improve on-screen localization. The cube arrays are magnetically shielded, and will not affect TV picture quality.

**Location/Position of the Acoustimass® bass module.** The unique Acoustimass speaker technology of your Acoustimass powered speaker system allows the Acoustimass module to produce room-filling bass from virtually anywhere in your listening room.

Feel free to hide the bass module in a corner, under a table, or even behind a sofa (Figure 9), in either a horizontal or vertical position. Just be sure to allow at least 2 inches (approximately 5 cm) of open space between the two round openings in the end of the module and the wall or other surface. Also, do not block the built-in amplifier mounted on the rear of the bass module. The amplifier generates some heat (not dangerous to the touch) and needs open air to keep the heat from building up.



**Figure 9.**

Some possible locations for the Acoustimass® bass module

Generally, you should locate the bass module at the same end of the room as the cube arrays. However, because the bass produced by the Acoustimass bass module is nondirectional, this is not mandatory. If you do place the bass module at the opposite end of the room from the cube arrays, try to place it further away from the listener than the cube arrays.

Unlike conventional floorstanding or bookshelf speakers, you can fine-tune the tone of the bass from your Acoustimass powered speaker system, without compromising accurate stereo imaging, just by changing the location of the Acoustimass bass module within your listening room. **The most bass is generally produced with the bass module located in the corner of a room.** Generally, we recommend that you place the module along a wall, 3 to 5 feet (approximately 1 to 1.5 meters) from a corner. This provides a normal balance of frequencies from your Acoustimass powered speaker system. To increase the amount of bass, move the module closer to the walls and/or corners of your room. For 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.

**Compensating for Room Acoustics.** The acoustics (sound properties) of your listening room can affect the overall sound quality of your speaker system. In general, many problems with acoustics can be solved by the judicious use of your room compensation controls, as in the common situations listed below. Note, however, that using these controls in their maximum output position reduces the maximum volume level that the Acoustimass® powered speaker system can produce.

- 1. Not enough treble sound.** Rooms with a lot of sound-absorbing furnishings, such as stuffed furniture, wall-to-wall carpet, or heavy drapes, may reduce the treble sound of your Acoustimass powered speaker system. The missing treble sound can be restored by slightly turning up the treble control.
- 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" because of too much treble. Turning down the treble control will usually solve this problem.
- 3. Too much or too little bass.** If your system seems to have too much or too little bass, you can adjust it using the bass control. You may also move the Acoustimass bass module closer to a wall and/or corner to increase bass, or closer to the center of the room to decrease it (see the paragraph on Location/Position of the Acoustimass bass module in the previous section, for details).

## Automatic Turn-on/ Shutoff Feature

When plugged in (and with the bass module's POWER switch, if so equipped, in the ON (I) position), the Acoustimass powered speaker system will automatically shut off power to the bass module if no audio signal is received in 2 minutes. The system remains in a ready-to-play state, however, and automatically restores power to the system and begins playing when it receives an audio signal.

## Cleaning Your System

The cabinets of your Acoustimass® powered speaker system can be easily cleaned with a damp cloth. Do not attempt to clean your Acoustimass powered speaker system with any solvents or chemicals. The grille assemblies on the cube arrays may be carefully vacuumed, if necessary. Please note that the drivers are located directly behind the grille cloth and are easily damaged if reasonable care is not taken. Avoid applying any pressure with the vacuum nozzle.

Do not allow liquids to spill or objects to drop into the openings or amplifier on the Acoustimass bass module, or to enter the grille assemblies of the cube arrays.

## Accessories

The cube arrays can be mounted on a wall bracket, which can enhance the flexibility of your Acoustimass powered speaker system. For information and ordering instructions, contact your local authorized Bose® dealer.

## In Case You Have a Problem

If you have a problem connecting and using your Acoustimass® powered speaker system, try the following guidelines to determine if the problem can be easily corrected. The majority of problems usually occur in components other than the speakers. (If your speakers are not connected to a Bose Lifestyle™ music center, substitute the words "music source" for "music center.")

### Problem:

The whole Acoustimass powered speaker system does not play or sounds distorted.

### Solution:

1. Make sure all connections are made and that the music center is plugged in and a selection (radio or CD) is playing. Make sure that the speaker wire strands are not touching each other, causing a short circuit.
2. If your bass module is equipped with a Power switch, be sure it is in the "on" (I) position.
3. Increase the volume on the music center. (Refer to your music center's owner's manual.)

If, after trying the above solutions, there is no sound, turn off the Lifestyle music center, disconnect the Acoustimass powered speaker system, and contact your local authorized Bose dealer for further assistance.

**Problem:**

The right or left cube array doesn't play or sounds distorted.

**Solution:**

Check the wiring of the Lifestyle™ music center. Check the wiring connecting the cube array to the Acoustimass® bass module and make sure that the five-pin DIN connector is pushed in all the way into the back of the bass module. If no visible problem is found, disconnect the speaker cables from the back of the Lifestyle music center and reconnect them in the opposite terminals. If the cube array now works properly, the corresponding channel of the music center may be defective. Call your local authorized Bose® dealer.

**Problem:**

Not enough bass sound is being produced.

**Solution:**

Make sure the round openings on the Acoustimass bass module are not covered.

If, after trying the above solutions, you are still having trouble with your Acoustimass powered speaker system, contact your authorized Bose dealer, who 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

maximum inconvenience to you.

## Technical Information

**Features**

Direct/Reflecting® speaker design  
Acoustimass® speaker system  
Dynamic Equalization  
Built-in amplification  
Syncom® II computer quality assurance program  
Automatic protection circuitry  
Bi-amplified system  
Automatic turn-on/shutoff

**Driver Complement**

Two 6" (15.2cm) low-frequency drivers  
Four 2.5" (6.4cm) wide-range, magnetically shielded drivers in cube arrays

**Finish**

Acoustimass® module: Scratch-resistant vinyl veneer  
Cube array: Polymer finish

**Dimensions**

Acoustimass module: 46.4 cm H × 32.1 cm W × 25 cm D (18 1/4" × 12 5/8" × 9 7/8")  
Cube array: 18.7 cm H × 9.2 cm W × 11.7 cm D (7 3/8" × 3 5/8" × 4 5/8")

**Weight**

43 lb (19.5 kg), in shipping carton

**Power (Mains) Supply**

120 volts ~ 60 Hz	USA/Canada
220 volts ~ 50 Hz	Europe except UK
240 volts ~ 50 Hz	United Kingdom/ Australia

120/220-240 volts ~ 50/60 Hz International



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