

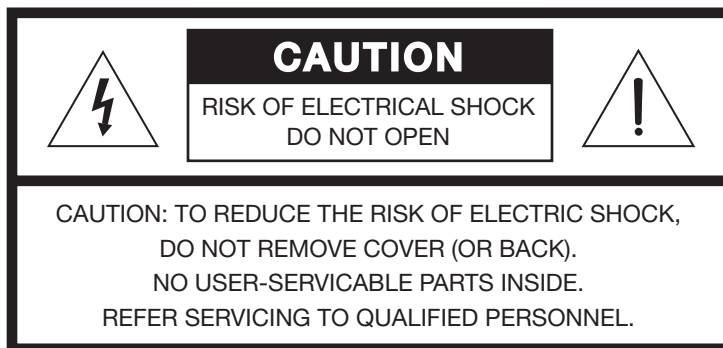


# **901<sup>®</sup> Powered Speaker System**

**Owner's Guide**  
**November 19, 2001**

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



These CAUTION marks are located on the back of the pedestal of the powered (left) speaker of your 901® powered speaker 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 speakers, is intended to alert the user to the presence of important operating and maintenance instructions in this owner's guide.

 **CAUTION:** To prevent electric shock, match wide blade of plug to wide slot, insert fully.

 **WARNING:** No naked flame sources, such as lighted candles, should be placed on the apparatus.

### **Additional safety information**

See the additional safety information on the **Important Safety Instructions** sheet enclosed in the shipping carton.

### **Please read this owner's guide**

Please take the time to read this owner's guide carefully. It will help you set up and operate your 901 powered speaker system properly. Save your owner's guide for future reference.

## **Where to find...**

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Setting Up                                      | 4  |
| Before you begin                                | 4  |
| Unpacking the speakers                          | 4  |
| Placing the speakers                            | 5  |
| Connecting the speakers to a music/media center | 6  |
| Connecting the speaker system to power          | 8  |
| Operating Your 901® Powered Speaker System      | 9  |
| Listening to your 901 powered speaker system    | 9  |
| Adjusting the sound quality                     | 9  |
| Treble and bass controls                        | 9  |
| Compensating for room acoustics                 | 9  |
| Reference                                       | 10 |
| Cleaning your speakers                          | 10 |
| Troubleshooting                                 | 10 |
| Customer service                                | 10 |
| Warranty information                            | 10 |
| Technical information                           | 11 |

## **For your records**

Serial numbers are located on the back of each speaker.

901 powered (left) speaker serial number: \_\_\_\_\_

901 accessory (right) speaker serial number: \_\_\_\_\_

Dealer name: \_\_\_\_\_

Dealer phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Purchase date: \_\_\_\_\_

Bose® recommends that you keep your sales receipt and warranty card together with this owner's guide.

### Before you begin

Thank you for purchasing the 901® Direct/Reflecting® powered speaker system. The 901 speakers are the finest speakers produced by Bose®. Their legendary status is the result of our research commitment to reproduce lifelike and spacious music along with elegant and sleek styling.

Please take the time to read this owner's guide carefully. It will help you set up and operate your 901 speakers properly. Save your owner's guide for future reference.

### Unpacking the speakers

Carefully unpack the contents of each shipping carton (Figure 1):

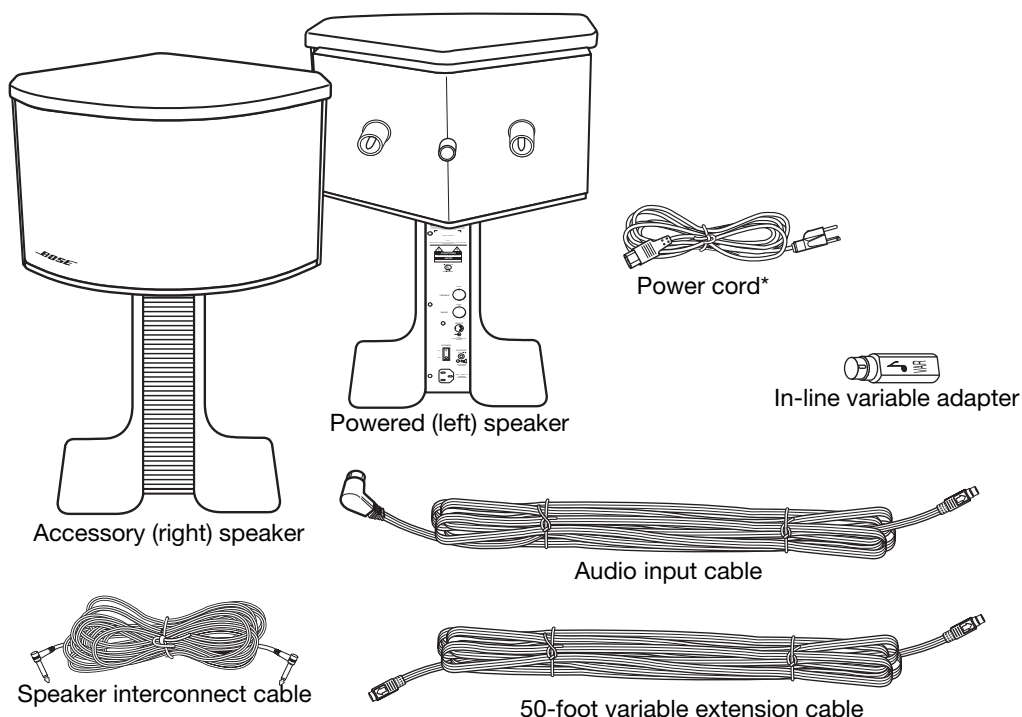
- Remove each speaker carefully.
- Retain all packaging material for possible future use.
- If either speaker appears damaged, do not use it. Repack each speaker in its original carton and notify your authorized Bose dealer immediately.

**WARNING:** To avoid danger of suffocation, keep the plastic bags that wrap these speakers out of the reach of children.

**WARNING:** Each speaker weighs 52 lb (23.6 kg). Use good lifting practice to avoid injury.

**Figure 1**

Items included in your 901 powered speaker system



\* Power cord shown is for USA/Canada/Japan. Dual voltage systems include 2 power cords. Other power cords are as follows:



## Placing the speakers

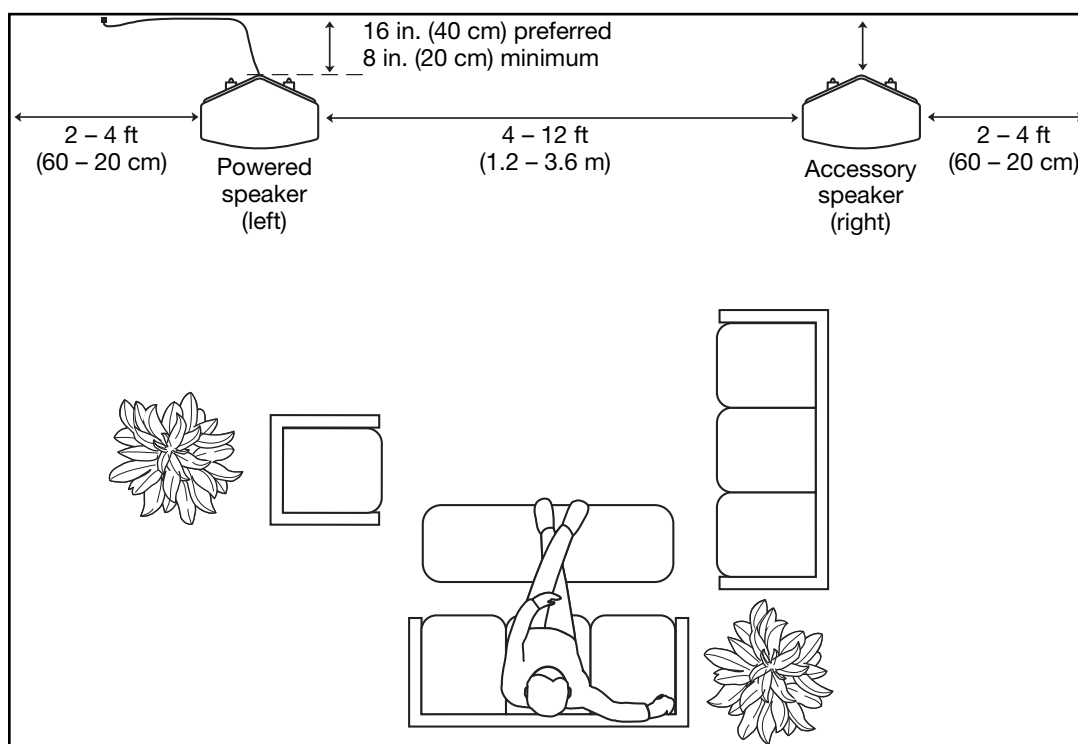
Place your 901® powered speaker system according to the following guidelines (see Figure 2):

**⚠ CAUTION:** To protect the high gloss finish, do not place a LIFESTYLE® media/music center or other objects on top of the speakers.

- For good stereo separation, place the powered speaker on the left and the accessory speaker on the right, along one wall of your room, spaced 4 to 12 feet (1.2–3.6 m) apart. Place the left speaker within reach of an electric outlet.
- Aim the V-shaped rear panel of each speaker toward the wall behind it. Do not aim the “V” toward a corner. Ideally, the tip of the “V” should be placed 8 to 16 inches (20–40 cm) from the wall.
- Place the speakers 2 to 4 feet (60–120 cm) from the side walls.
- Place the speakers at least 2 feet (60 cm) or more from any sound-absorbent furnishings.

**Figure 2**

*Recommended speaker placement*



When your speakers are placed properly, their sound energy will reflect off the walls of your room in a pattern that will provide a distinct stereo image throughout the listening area. Bose® Direct/Reflecting® speakers are designed to produce the proper balance of reflected and direct sound energy to approach concert hall realism in your home. Bose 901 speakers perform best when there is space around the speaker cabinets to allow sound to flow freely around the room.

The acoustics of your room will have a significant effect on the sound reproduced by your 901 powered speaker system. Hard materials – wood, brick, glass, wallboard, and paneling – reflect sound most effectively. Upholstered furnishings and heavy drapes are more sound absorbent. For more discussion of room acoustics, see “Listening to your 901® powered speaker system” on page 9.

## Connecting the speakers to a music/media center

Once you have selected locations for your speakers, connect them to your Bose® model 20 music center (see Figure 3) or model AV28 media center (see Figure 4):

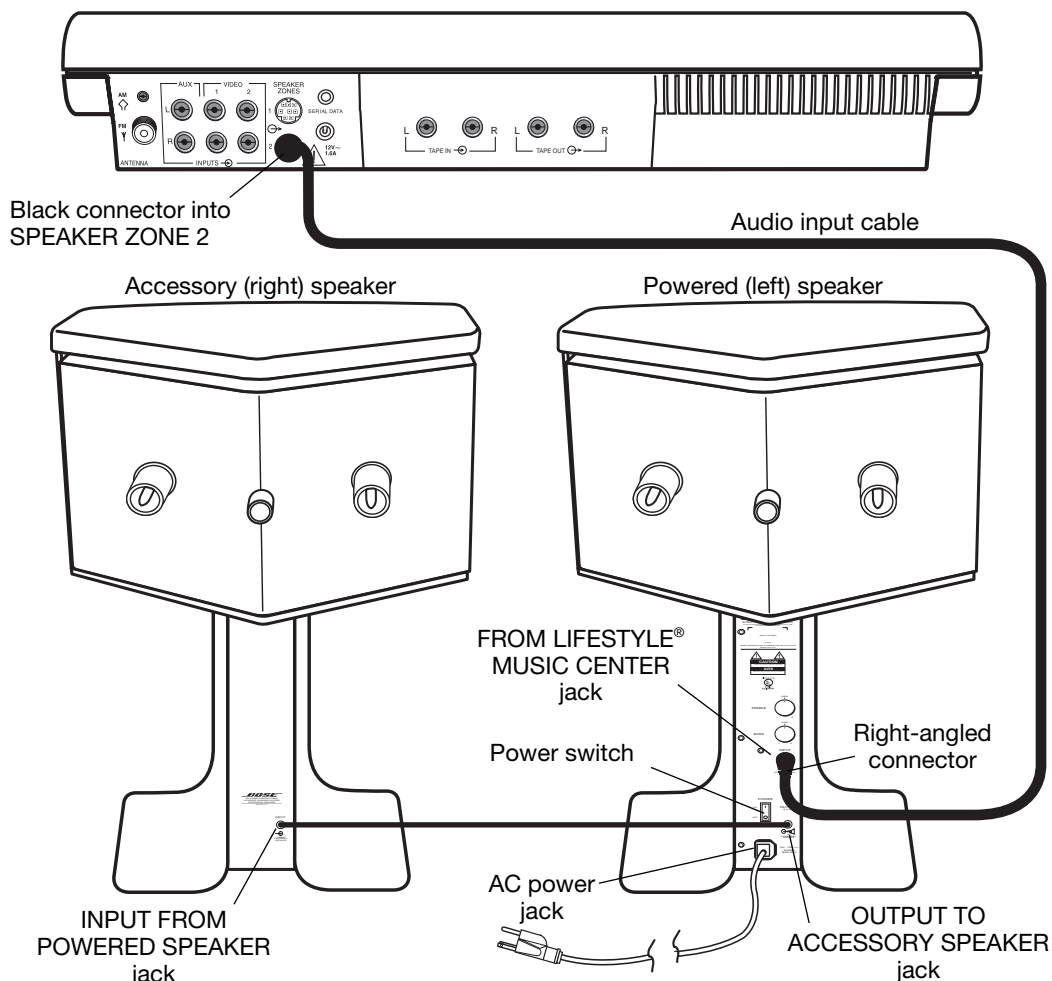
**CAUTION:** Make sure all components of your system are unplugged from the AC power (mains) source before you begin connecting them.

1. Plug the small multi-pin connector on the audio input cable into the jack marked "SPEAKER ZONE 2" on the back of the media/music center. If you are connecting to an AV28 media center, make sure you use the in-line variable adapter.
2. Plug the right-angled multi-pin connector on the other end of the audio input cable into the jack marked "FROM LIFESTYLE® MUSIC CENTER" on the back of the pedestal of the powered (left) speaker. If you need more cable length, use the 50-foot extension cable.
3. Plug one end of the 30-foot speaker interconnect cable into the jack marked "OUTPUT TO ACCESSORY SPEAKER" on the back of the pedestal of the powered (left) speaker.
4. Plug the other end of the speaker interconnect cable into the jack marked "INPUT FROM POWERED SPEAKER" on the back of the pedestal of the accessory (right) speaker.

**Note:** Be sure that all connectors are inserted completely into each jack.

**Figure 3**

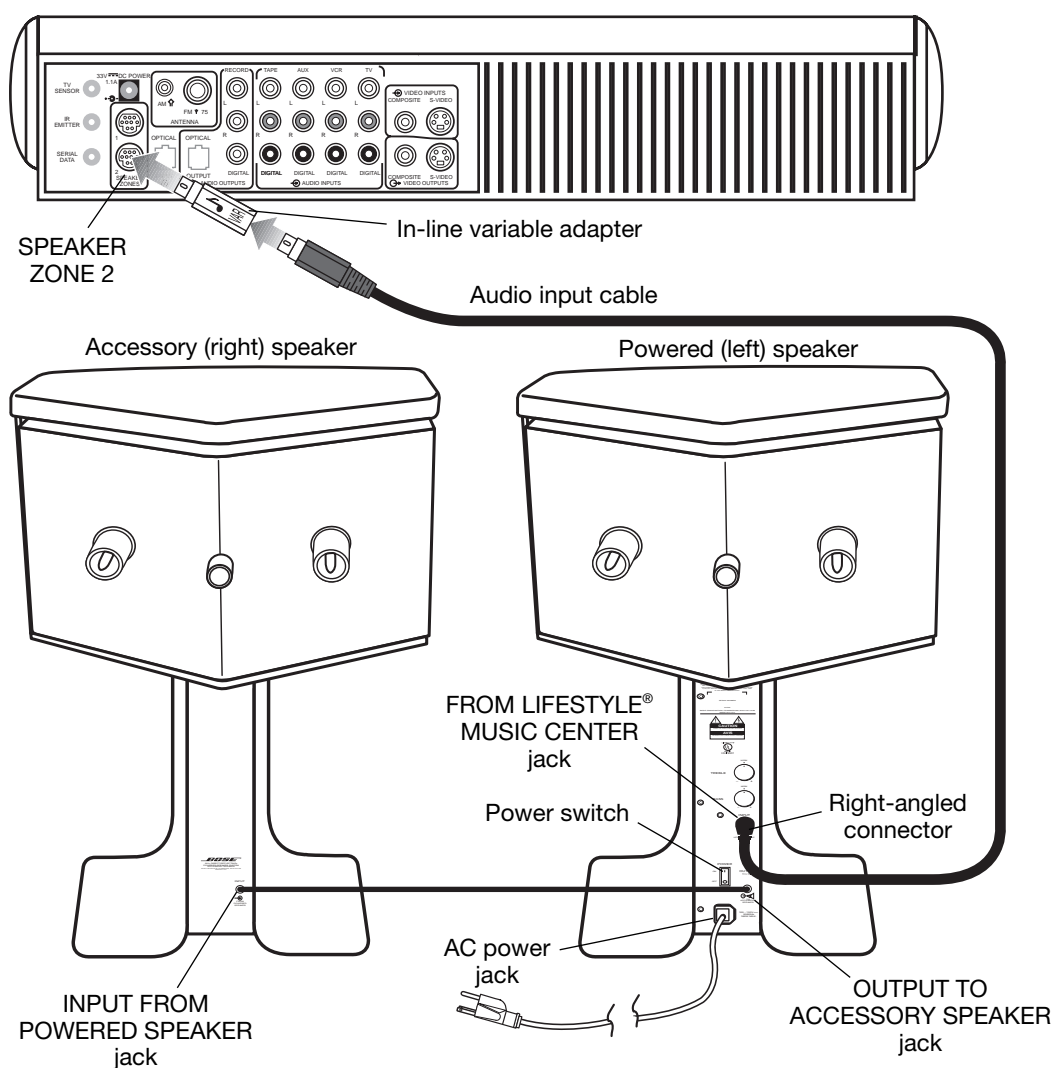
Connecting the speakers to a model 20 music center



**CAUTION:** If you have a dual-voltage system, make sure that the voltage selector switch (115V/230V) on the bottom of the pedestal of the powered speaker is in the proper position for the voltage supplied by your local electric utility. See "Connecting the speaker system to power" on page 8.

**Figure 4**

Connecting the speakers to a model AV28 media center



**⚠ CAUTION:** If you have a dual-voltage system, make sure that the voltage selector switch (115V/230V) on the bottom of the pedestal of the powered speaker is in the proper position for the voltage supplied by your local electric utility. See "Connecting the speaker system to power" on page 8.

## Connecting the speaker system to power

**⚠ CAUTION:** DO NOT plug the power cord into an AC (mains) outlet until you complete all connections.

**⚠ CAUTION:** If you have a dual-voltage system, make sure that the voltage selector switch (115V/230V) on the bottom of the powered (left) speaker is in the proper position for the voltage supplied by your local electric utility. See step 1 and Figure 5.

1. **If you did not purchase a dual-voltage system**, go to step 2.

**If you purchased a dual-voltage system**, set the 115V/230V voltage selector switch on the bottom of the pedestal of the powered (left) speaker (Figure 5) to the correct position for your region:

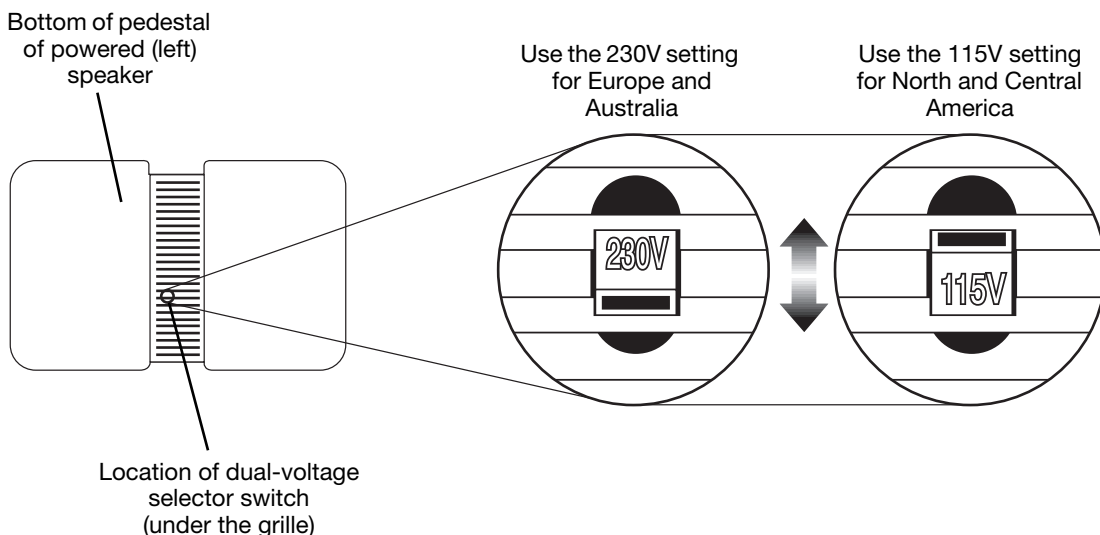
| North & Central<br>America | Europe &<br>Australia |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 115V                       | 230V                  |

If you are not sure about what setting to use, contact your local electric utility for the appropriate voltage setting.

2. Plug one end of the AC power cord into the AC power jack located on the back of the pedestal of the left speaker.
3. Plug the other end of the power cord into an AC (mains) outlet.
4. Turn the power switch to ON (I). It is recommended that you leave this switch in the ON position. The powered speaker system uses less than 11 watts in standby mode.

**Figure 5**

Dual-voltage selector switch settings





## Listening to your 901® powered speaker system

The 901 powered speaker system is intended to be used as a ZONE 2 speaker system. A ZONE 2 remote control is recommended. Please see your LIFESTYLE® system's owner's guide for complete instructions or contact Bose® customer service for assistance. See the address and phone number list included with your system.

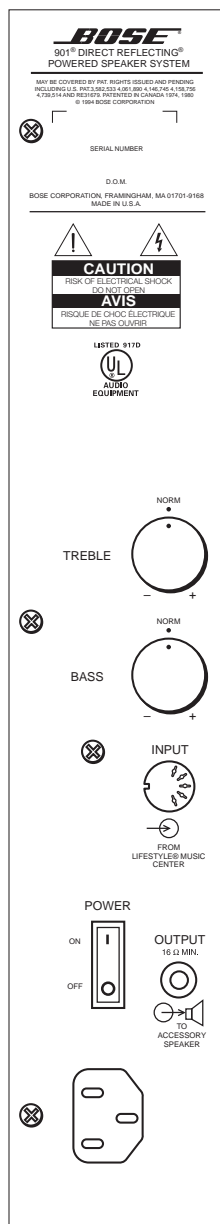
## Adjusting the sound quality

In most situations, placing your speakers according to the guidelines given in "Placing the speakers" on page 5, will result in excellent sound quality.

You do not need to adjust tone settings for different volume settings. Bose patented signal processing technology provides a natural tonal balance over the full range of volume settings. If you wish to fine-tune the tonal balance further, use the TREBLE and BASS controls.

**Figure 6**

Powered (left) speaker control panel



### Treble and bass controls

The TREBLE and BASS controls are located on the powered speaker pedestal (Figure 6). They allow you to adjust the treble (high frequencies) and bass (low frequencies). In the normal setting, the dot on each control is in the 12 o'clock position. You can also locate the normal setting by feeling when the control settles into the notch at this position. Turn the controls clockwise to increase, or counterclockwise to decrease the amount of treble or bass.

### Compensating for room acoustics

The acoustics (sound qualities) of your room can affect the overall sound quality of any speaker system. In general, you can reduce many problems with acoustics by the cautious use of the TREBLE and BASS controls.

#### Too much or too little treble

Rooms with few sound-absorbing furnishings, especially those with bare floors and walls, may sound overly shrill or "bright". Turning down the treble control (toward -) decreases treble sound.

Rooms with a lot of sound-absorbing furnishings, such as upholstered furniture, wall-to-wall carpet, or heavy drapes, may reduce the treble sound of your system. Moving speakers farther away from soft furnishings increases treble. You can increase treble sound by slightly turning up the treble control (toward +).

#### Too much or too little bass

You can decrease bass sound by turning down the bass control (toward -). To increase bass, turn up the bass control (toward +).

Speaker placement affects the amount of bass you hear. Placing the speakers closer to the corners of the room will increase bass. Keep the speakers within 2 to 4 feet (60–120 cm) of the side walls (see "Placing the speakers" on page 5). If you want to increase bass further, starting at 16 inches from the back wall, move the tips of the V-shaped rear panels slightly closer to the wall (but no closer than 8 inches).

### Cleaning your speakers

- Clean the surface of your 901® speakers only with a soft, damp cloth.
- You can use an ammonia-free window cleaner on a soft cloth to maintain the finish.
- DO NOT use any sprays near your speaker system.
- DO NOT use any solvents, chemicals, or cleaning solutions containing alcohol, ammonia, or abrasives.
- DO NOT allow liquids to spill into any openings.
- If necessary, you may vacuum the speaker grille panels carefully.

### Troubleshooting

| Problem            | What to do  |
|--------------------|---|
| No sound           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If you have a dual-voltage system, make sure that the voltage selector switch on the bottom of the pedestal of the powered (left) speaker is set in the right position for your region. See “Connecting the speaker system to power” on page 8.</li><li>• Make sure the power cord is plugged securely into the left (powered) speaker and the other end of the cord is plugged securely into an operating AC (mains) outlet. Also, make sure the power switch on the back of the left speaker is set to ON (I).</li><li>• Make sure the audio input cable is firmly seated in the media/music center zone 2 output jack and the right-angle multi-pin connector on the other end is firmly seated in the powered speaker FROM LIFESTYLE® MUSIC CENTER jack.</li><li>• Check the cable connections between the two speakers.</li><li>• Check the connections for any external components. Make sure you select the correct source for the desired input.</li><li>• Increase the volume.</li><li>• Check to see if MUTE is lit on the display of your Bose® media/music center. If it is, press the MUTE button on the remote control to unmute the sound.</li><li>• Disconnect any headphones from your Bose media/music center.</li><li>• Make sure that the power switch on the Acoustimass® module is set to ON (I).</li></ul> |
| Sound is distorted | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Make sure speaker cables are not damaged and the connections are secure.</li></ul>  |

### Customer service

For additional help in solving problems, contact Bose customer service. See the address and phone number list included with your system.

### Warranty information

Your 901 powered speaker system is covered by a transferable limited warranty. See your warranty card for details. Please be sure to fill out the information section on the card and mail it to Bose.

## Technical information

### **Speaker system power rating**

USA/Canada: 120V $\sim$  50/60 Hz 350W

Europe/Australia: 220-240V $\sim$  50/60 Hz 350W

Dual voltage: 115/230V $\sim$  50/60 Hz 350W

### **Dimensions**

21" W x 13" D x 31" H

(53.3 cm x 33 cm x 78.75 cm)

### **Weights**

Left (powered) speaker: 52 lb (23.6 kg)

Right speaker: 52 lb (23.6 kg)

### **Finish**

Speakers: Black, high gloss piano finish on medium density fiberboard; black cloth grille

Pedestals: Black anodized aluminum sides

### **Driver complement**

Nine (9) 4.5" (114 mm) full-range helical voice coil drivers in each cabinet

### **Energy dispersion**

89% by reflection, 11% by direct radiation

### **Enclosure**

14-element Acoustic Matrix™ enclosure with three reactive air columns

### **Compensation Controls**

Bass:  $\pm 6$ dB at 225 Hz

Treble:  $\pm 6$ dB at 3 kHz

### **Distortion**

Less than 0.1% at 1W, 30 Hz to 15 kHz



***BOSE***<sup>®</sup>  
***Better sound through research***<sup>®</sup>

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The Mountain, Framingham, MA 01701-9168  
264271 AM Rev.00 JN20605