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BOSE®
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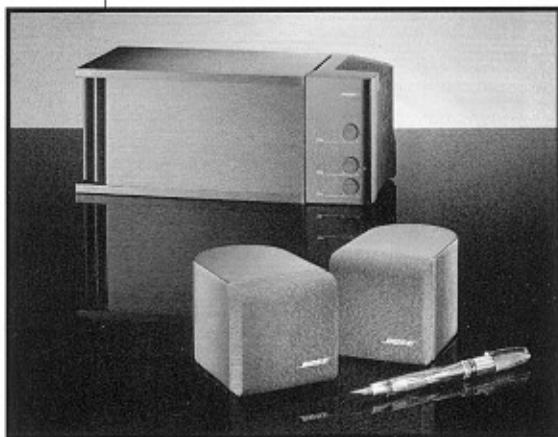
POWERED
—

ACOUSTIMASS®-3
—

SERIES II
—

SPEAKER SYSTEM
—

OWNER'S MANUAL
—



—
BEDIENUNGSANLEITUNG
—

GUIA DEL USUARIO
—

NOTICE D'UTILISATION
—

MANUALE DELL'UTENTE
—

GEBRUIKERSHANDLEIDING
—

BRUKSANVISNINGEN
—

BOSE®

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: TO PREVENT ELECTRIC SHOCK, MATCH WIDE BLADE OF PLUG TO WIDE SLOT, FULLY INSERT.

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.

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Safety instructions

Be sure to read these instructions first, before proceeding with the setup and connection of your Bose® powered Acoustimass®-3 Series II speaker system.

- 1. Read All Instructions** – Read the complete safety and operating instructions before using this product.
- 2. Save The Instructions** – Save the safety and operating instructions for future reference.
- 3. Pay Attention To Warnings** – Observe all warnings on the product and in the owner's guide.
- 4. Follow The Instructions** – Follow all operating and other instructions.
- 5. Do Not Use Near Water** – Do not use this product near a bathtub, washbowl, kitchen sink, laundry tub, in a wet basement, near a swimming pool, or anywhere else that water is present.

6. Be Careful With Carts And Stands

Do not put this product on an unstable cart, stand, tripod, bracket, or table. The product may fall, causing serious injury to a person or damage to the product. For advice on use of a particular cart, stand, tripod, bracket, or table, contact Bose Corporation.



If you must move your product and cart combination, do so very carefully. Quick stops, excessive force, and uneven surfaces may cause it to overturn.

7. Use Care With Wall Or Ceiling Mounts

Mount the product to a wall or ceiling only as recommended by Bose Corporation.

8. Maintain Proper Ventilation

Put the product in a position and location that will not interfere with its proper ventilation. For example, do not place the product on a bed, sofa, or similar surface that may block the ventilation openings. Do not put it in a built-in system, such as a bookcase or a cabinet that may keep air from flowing through its ventilation openings.

9. Avoid Excessive Heat

Do not put the product near heat sources such as radiators, stoves, or other appliances (including amplifiers) that produce heat.

10. Use Proper Power Sources – Plug

the product into a proper power supply (mains), as described in the operating instructions or as marked on the product.

11. Do Not Change The Plug – If this product has a polarized alternating current line plug, one blade is wider than the other. Such plugs fit into the power outlet only one way, as a safety feature. If you have trouble inserting it, try reversing the plug. If the plug still does not fit, your outlet may be obsolete and needs to be replaced. Contact an electrician. Do not change the plug to defeat this polarized safety feature.

12. Protect The Power Cord – Route all power supply (mains) cords so that they are not likely to be walked on or pinched. Pay particular attention to cords at plugs, at outlets on the product, and at the point where the cord connects to the product.

13. Clean The Product Carefully –

Clean the product only as directed on page 15.

14. Take Precautions When Product Is Not In Use – If the product will not be used for an extended period, unplug its power cord from the outlet.

15. Do Not Let Objects Or Liquids

Enter The Product – Take care to prevent objects from falling and liquids from spilling into the product.

16. Obtain Service When It Is

Indicated – The product should be serviced only by authorized service personnel when:

- A.** the power supply cord or the plug has been damaged, or
- B.** objects have fallen or liquid has spilled into the product, or
- C.** the product has been exposed to rain, or
- D.** the product does not appear to operate normally or exhibits a marked change in performance, or
- E.** the product has been dropped or the cabinet damaged.

17. Obtain Authorized Service – Do not attempt to service this product yourself. All servicing should be provided by authorized service personnel only.

CAUTION: Do not connect the powered Acoustimass®-3 Series II speaker system to the speaker terminals of any receiver or amplifier.

CAUTION: Do not place the bass module under furniture or behind drapes if this interferes with ventilation.

Your new powered Acoustimass®-3 Series II speaker system

Thank you for purchasing this Bose® powered Acoustimass-3 Series II speaker system.

Your powered Acoustimass-3 speaker system is designed to be used with the Bose Lifestyle® music system and other Bose music sources. You may also use this speaker system with other sources that have line-level outputs, such as a preamplifier, certain TV's and personal portable tape or CD players.

The operating principles, wiring configuration, and placement options of the powered Acoustimass-3 speaker system are considerably different from those of conventional speakers. Please take the time to read this owner's manual. It will help ensure

proper installation and includes information and guidelines that will allow you to take advantage of the system's flexibility and help you to get top sound quality.

The shipping carton contains everything to complete your speaker system setup (see Figure 1):

- One (1) Acoustimass bass module (larger unit)
- Two (2) cube speakers
- One (1) audio-input cable
- Two (2) speaker cables
- One (1) detachable AC power (mains) cord

Carefully unpack all system components, saving the carton and packing material for possible future use. If any of the components appears damaged, *do not attempt to use the system*. Instead, repack the system in its original carton and notify your authorized Bose dealer immediately.

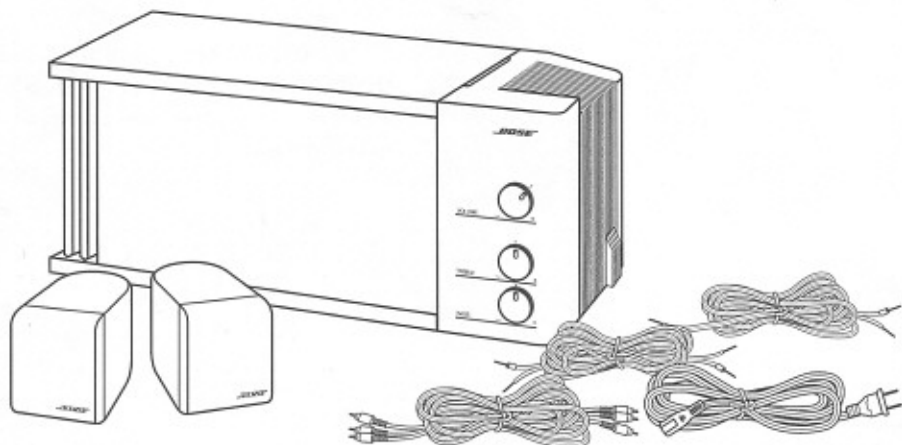


Figure 1

Bose® powered Acoustimass-3 Series II speaker system

Setting up the components

Cube speakers

Place one speaker on the left side of the room, and one on the right side. In average-sized rooms, you get the best stereo sound with the left and right cube speakers placed 6 to 12 feet (approximately 2 to 4 m) apart. However, you can get excellent sound with the speakers as close as 3 feet (1 m) or as far apart as 15 feet (5 m). The supplied speaker cable is long enough to extend 20 feet (6 m) from the bass module.

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 increase your options; refer to the "Accessories" section for details.

Acoustimass® bass module

General positioning guidelines.

Figure 2 illustrates alternatives for placing the Acoustimass bass module. With a few exceptions, you can place the module wherever it is most convenient – in a corner, under a table, or even behind a sofa (Figure 3).

CAUTION: Do not cover the ventilation openings of the bass module. The slots on the top, bottom, and side provide ventilation for the built-in electronic circuitry and should not be blocked.

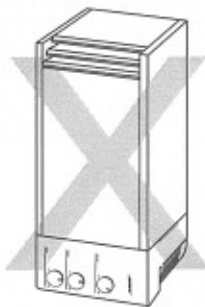
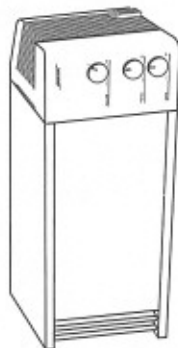
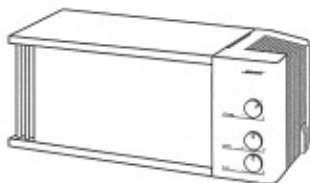


Figure 2

Bass module positioning choices

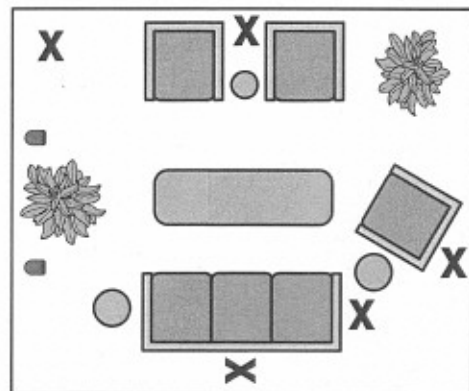


Figure 3

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 speakers. However, this is not mandatory because it is not easy for the human ear to locate where bass sound originates. If you do place the bass module at the opposite end of the room from the cube speakers, try to place it farther from the listener than the cube speakers are from the listener. The supplied audio cable is long enough to extend 30 feet (9 m) from the music source.

The bass module will ordinarily produce the most bass when it is placed in the corner of a room. We therefore 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 powered Acoustimass-3 speaker system.

For more bass, move the bass module closer to the walls and/or corners of your room; for less bass, move it toward the center of your room. It should be easy to find a location that is both convenient and provides a pleasing level of bass.

Maintaining adequate ventilation.

Do not cover the plastic end of the bass module. The slots on the top, bottom, and side provide ventilation for the built-in electronic circuitry and should not be blocked. During normal operation, this end of the bass module will be warm to the touch; it needs open air to keep the heat from building up. Do not place the bass module under furniture or behind drapes *if this interferes with ventilation*. You should also keep the bass module away from sources of heat (radiators, baseboards, quartz heaters, etc.) to prevent the unit from overheating. As with any electronic product, the life of the powered Acoustimass-3 system will be shortened by operation at extreme temperatures.

For longer distances. If the cube speakers are more than 20 feet (6 m) from the bass module (the length of the supplied speaker cables), you will need additional speaker cable (similar gauge or thicker) to hook up the system. 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.

Connecting the cables from the cube speakers to the bass module

CAUTION: Be sure all components (Lifestyle® music center or other source and the Acoustimass® bass module) are unplugged from the power outlet before you begin hooking up the system.

Note that each of the two supplied speaker cables has two wires. The wire marked with a stripe or a red collar is always positive (+), and the plain one is always negative (-). These

correspond to the positive (red) and negative (black) terminals on the backs of the speakers and the Acoustimass® bass module. Always connect the wires to their corresponding terminals (positive to positive, negative to negative). If you need to lengthen the supplied speaker cable, splice in similar gauge or thicker cable, taking care to make the connections properly, positive to positive, negative to negative.

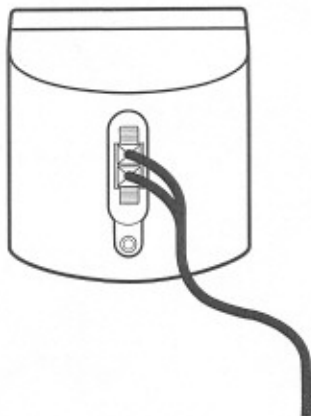


Figure 4

Connect the wires to terminals on back of the cube speaker

1

Connect one end of the first speaker cable to the terminals on the rear of the left cube speaker (Figure 4), and the other end to the left ("L") terminals on the rear of the Acoustimass bass module marked "OUTPUTS TO SPEAKERS."

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 in place (Figure 5).

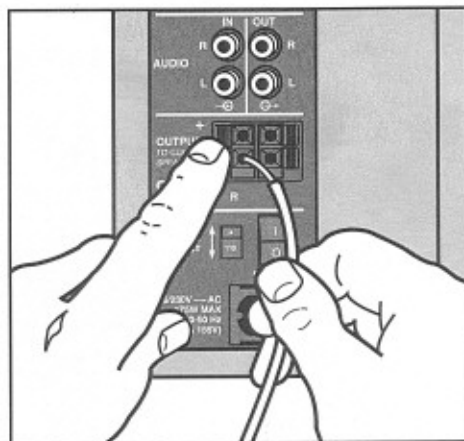


Figure 5

Properly connecting wires between the cube speakers and the Acoustimass module terminals

2

Check all connections to be sure they are positive to positive (+ to +), and negative to negative (- 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 powered Acoustimass-3 speaker system.

3

Repeat steps 1 and 2 to connect the right cube speaker to the right ("R") terminals on the rear of the Acoustimass bass module.

Connecting the bass module to the music source (Figure 6)

1

The audio-input cable has three connectors at each end: red, white, and black. The black connectors are for use only with a Bose® music source.

Connect one end of the audio-input cable to the jacks on the back of the bass module. The red connector goes into the "R" (right) AUDIO IN jack; the white connector into the "L" (left) AUDIO IN jack. *Be sure to insert the black connector into the bass module's SYSTEM CONTROL IN jack if you are using a Lifestyle® music center or other Bose music source.*

Leave the black connectors disconnected at both ends if you are hooking up the bass module to a portable CD or tape player, CD player-changer, tape deck, tuner or television.

2

Now connect the other end of the audio-input cable to your music source, inserting the red connector into the "R" jack for the right channel; the white connector into the "L" jack for the left channel.

Insert the black connector into the SERIAL DATA OUTPUT or SYSTEM CONTROL jack on your Lifestyle® music center or other Bose source. *If you are not using a Bose music source, leave the black connector disconnected.*

Refer to Figure 7 for a finished system hookup illustration.

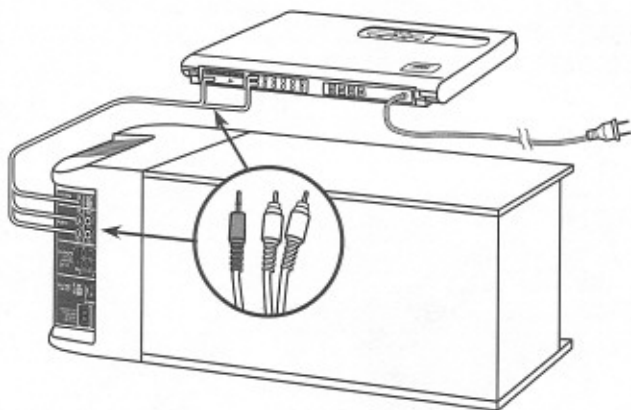


Figure 6

Use the black connectors only when connecting the Acoustimass® module to a Lifestyle® music center or other Bose sound source

Completing system setup

1

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

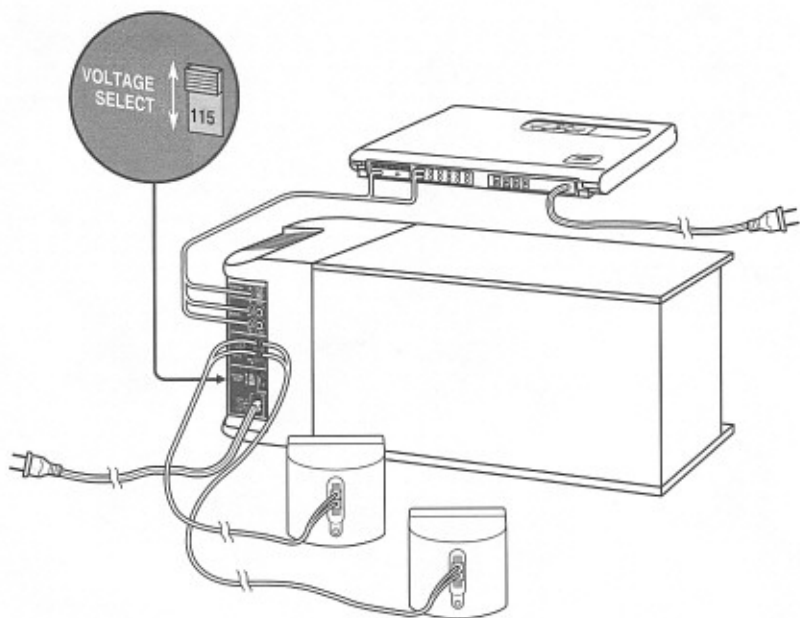
2

Make sure the voltage selector switch on the back of the Acoustimass® bass module is

properly set for your area (Figure 7). Connect the detachable power (mains) cord to the power jack on the back of the bass module and then to the AC (mains) outlet.

3

Turn the POWER switch ON (I), select your favorite music, and enjoy the lifelike sound.

**Figure 7**

Finished system hookup

Getting the sound you prefer

After you have listened to your powered Acoustimass®-3 speaker system, you may want to make some adjustments to achieve what you believe is the best sound. There are two ways to do this: use the volume and room compensation controls located on the front of the Acoustimass bass module (Figure 8) and/or change the position of the system components.

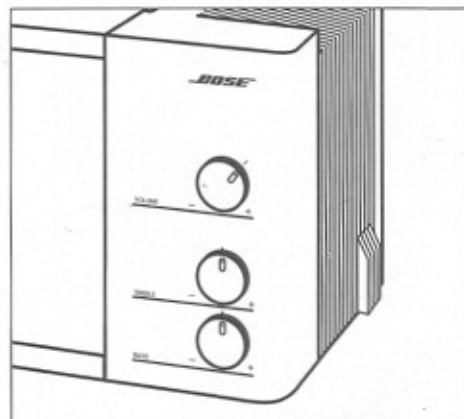


Figure 8
User-adjustable controls

Using the volume control

A volume control is provided on the front of the Acoustimass bass module. To increase the music volume, rotate the knob clockwise; to decrease the volume, rotate it counterclockwise. If the volume will be controlled primarily at the music source, it is best to leave the speaker's volume control at a high setting.

If your powered Acoustimass-3 speaker system is connected to the Bose® Lifestyle® music center or other music source with its own level control, you may set the speaker's volume control once and then leave it alone; a small dot near the volume control knob marks the recommended setting for this use. If you are using other equipment, experiment with different levels to select an optimum setting.

You may also use the Acoustimass bass module volume control when the remote control for the Lifestyle® music center is not handy, or when you are using multiple speaker systems. If you choose to turn the volume all the way down, remember to set the knob back to its normal position before you want to listen again.

Using the room compensation controls

The two room compensation controls on the bass module allow you to adjust the treble (high frequencies) and bass (low frequencies) as desired. Small dots near each control knob mark the normal settings, as illustrated. Rotate the controls clockwise to increase, and counterclockwise to decrease the amount of treble or bass.

Compensating for room acoustics

The acoustics (sound properties) of your listening room can affect the overall sound quality of any speaker system. Some problems, as listed below, may be improved by slightly adjusting your room compensation controls. Note, however, that using these controls in their maximum position may reduce the maximum volume level that the powered Acoustimass®-3 speaker system can achieve.

Weak 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 powered Acoustimass-3 speaker system. Treble sound can be increased by turning up the treble control slightly.

Excessive treble sound. Rooms with too few sound-absorbing furnishings, especially those with bare floors and walls, may sound too shrill or "bright" because of too much treble. Turning down the treble control will provide a reduction.

Too little or too much bass. Rotate the bass control clockwise to increase bass, counterclockwise to decrease it. This may be done in addition to, or instead of repositioning the bass module in your room.

Your system's unique features

The compact size of the cube speakers and the almost unlimited placement options for the Acoustimass bass module make the powered Acoustimass-3 speaker system easily adapted to any size room or decor. In addition, it offers many features not available from a conventional speaker system.

Bose® Dynamic Equalization circuitry

Bose patented, automatic Dynamic Equalization circuitry eliminates a problem common to conventional audio systems: loss of perceived bass at low volume levels. Music always sounds full and rich, whether the system is played very softly or loudly.

Connecting other components to your powered Acoustimass®-3 Series II speaker system

AUDIO and SYSTEM CONTROL outputs are provided on the back of the bass module (Figure 9) to provide signals to another Bose® powered speaker system or to an existing stereo system. You may connect an audio-input cable from these outputs to another powered Acoustimass-3 speaker system (or a stereo system's AUX inputs) in another room. Up to six Bose powered speaker systems can be connected in this fashion without degrading the audio quality.

The signals provided by the AUDIO and SYSTEM CONTROL output jacks are identical to those originating at the music source, and are unaffected by the volume, treble, and bass controls.

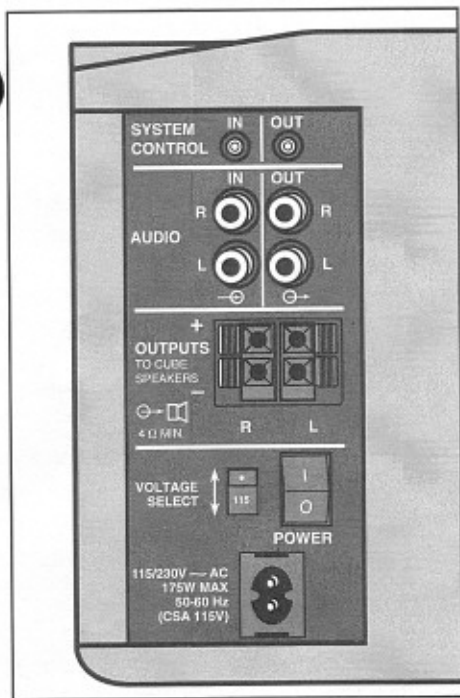


Figure 9

Acoustimass® bass module rear panel

Cleaning your system

The cabinets of your powered Acoustimass-3 speaker system can be easily cleaned with a damp cloth. Do not attempt to clean them with any solvents or chemicals. The grille assemblies on the cube speakers 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 on the Acoustimass bass module, or to enter the grille assemblies of the cube speakers.

Accessories

Bose® offers a variety of mounting accessories to enhance the flexibility of your powered Acoustimass-3 speaker system. These include wall/ceiling mounting brackets, table stands, and floor stands. For information and ordering instructions, contact your local authorized Bose dealer or the Bose factory (see "For information or service").

In case of difficulty

If you experience any of the following problems with your powered Acoustimass®-3 speaker system, try the solutions suggested below. Most problems typically originate with other components, not your speakers. (If your speakers are not connected to a Lifestyle® music center, substitute the words "music source" for "music center.")

The powered Acoustimass-3 Series II speaker system does not play

- 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.
- Increase the volume on the music center. (Refer to your music center owner's manual.)
- Make sure that the power switch is in the ON (I) position.

If there is still no sound after trying the above solutions, turn off the Lifestyle® music center, disconnect the powered Acoustimass-3 speaker system, and contact your local authorized Bose® dealer for further assistance.

The powered Acoustimass-3 Series II speaker system sounds distorted

- The music may be too loud. Decrease the volume at the music center or with the volume control on the bass module.

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

- Turn off the Lifestyle® music center and powered Acoustimass-3 speaker system.
- Check the wiring connecting the cube speaker to the Acoustimass bass module, and make sure that the audio connectors are inserted all the way into the jacks on the back of the music center and bass module. If no visible problem is found, disconnect the audio cables from the back of the Lifestyle® music center and reconnect them to the opposite terminals (left to right and right to left). Turn on the music center and the speaker system. If the cube speaker now works properly, the corresponding channel of the music center may be defective. Call your local authorized Bose® dealer.

Not enough bass sound is being produced

- Make sure the two large openings on the Acoustimass bass module are not covered.
- Verify that the bass room-compensation control is not set fully counterclockwise.

If, after trying the above solutions, you are still having trouble with your powered Acoustimass-3 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 minimum inconvenience to you.

For information or service

USA

Call 1-800-444-BOSE (1-800-444-2673)
8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. ET (eastern time)

Canada

Call 1-800-444-BOSE (1-800-444-2673)
9 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET (eastern time)

European Office

Bose B.V., Nijverheidstraat 8,
1135 GE Edam, The Netherlands
TEL 02993-71055 FAX 02993-68163

Australia

Bose Australia, Inc., 11 Muriel Avenue,
Rydalmere, N.S.W. 2116
TEL 02 684-1022 FAX 02 684-1665

Belgium

Bose N.V., Essenestraat 15,
1740 Ternat
TEL 02-5826200 FAX 02-5823717

Denmark

Bose A/S, Industrivej 7,
2605 Brøndby
TEL 43437777 FAX 43437818

France

Bose S/A, 6, rue Saint Vincent,
78100 Saint Germain en Laye
TEL 01-30610461 FAX 01-30614105

Germany

Bose GmbH, Max-Planck-Straße 36,
Postfach 1125, 61381 Friedrichsdorf
TEL 06172-71040 FAX 06172-710419

Holland

Bose B.V., Nijverheidstraat 8,
1135 GE Edam
TEL 02993-66661 FAX 02993-68166

Ireland

Bose Ltd., Castleblayney Road,
Carrickmacross, Co Monaghan
TEL 042-61988 FAX 042-61988

Italy

Bose S.p.A., Via Luigi Capucci 12,
00147 Rome
TEL 06-5127641/2 FAX 06-5115438

Norway

Bose A/S, Kirkegt 1, Box 374,
N-2001, Lillestrøm
TEL 63-838703 FAX 63-838704

Sweden

Bose A/S, Blandsådgatan 2D,
43146 Mölndal
TEL 031-878850 FAX 031-274891

Switzerland

Bose A.G., Rünenbergerstrasse 13A,
4460 Gelterkinden
TEL 061-995544 FAX 061-995502

United Kingdom

Bose U.K. Ltd., Trinity Trading Estate,
Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 2PD
TEL 0795-475341/5 FAX 0795-427227

Other Locations

Bose Service, Otis Street Park,
Building 3, PO Box 5045,
Westborough, MA 01581-5045 USA
TEL (508) 229-8484 FAX (508) 229-3891

Warranty period

The Bose® powered Acoustimass®-3 Series II speaker system is covered by a limited one-year transferable warranty.

Technical information

Features

- Acoustimass® speaker technology
- Dynamically Equalized™ speakers
- Built-in amplification
- Active Equalization
- Bi-amplified system
- Automatic protection circuitry
- Automatic turn-on/shut-off
- Syncom® computerized quality control

Driver Complement

- Two (2) magnetically shielded 2.5" (6.4 cm) long-throw, wide-range transducers in cube speakers
- One (1) 5.25" (13.3 cm) woofer in Acoustimass enclosure

Power Rating

- USA/Canada: 115V; 50/60 Hz; 175W
- International: 230V; 50/60 Hz; 175W

Finish

- Acoustimass® module: Scratch-resistant, satin-finished vinyl
- Cube speakers: Painted polymer finish

Dimensions

- Acoustimass module: 7 1/2"H x 18 1/2"W x 8 1/2"D (20 x 47 x 22 cm)
- Cube speaker: 3"H x 3"W x 4 3/4"D (7.9 x 7.9 x 12.1 cm)

Weight

- 27 lb (12.3 kg), in shipping carton

BOSE[®]
Better sound through research.

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