



# *The Bose® 251™ Environmental Speakers*

*Owner's Guide*

*October 30, 2001*

*AM250811\_04\_V.pdf*

*For your records...*

Serial numbers are located on the label on the back of each 251™ environmental speaker.

Serial numbers: \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

We suggest you keep your sales slip and warranty card together with this owner's guide.



DECLARATION OF CONFORMITY

We, the offerer:

Bose® Corporation, The Mountain, Framingham, MA 01701-9168 USA  
acknowledge our sole responsibility, that the product:

Kind of equipment: Loudspeaker

Type designation: 251™ Environmental Speakers

in accordance with EMC Directive 89/336/EEC and Article 10(1) of the  
Directive, is in compliance with the following norm(s) or document(s):  
Technical regulations: EN50081-1, EN50082-1

Accredited by:

Bose Corporation, The Mountain, Framingham, MA 01701-9168 USA

15 Jan. 2000

Bose Products B.V.  
Nijverheidstraat 8, 1135 GE Edam  
The Netherlands

Nic Merks  
Vice President Europe  
Manufacturer's authorized EU  
representative

Where to find...

Setting Up

- Before you begin ..... 4
- Unpacking the carton ..... 4
- Tools required ..... 4
- Selecting the location for your speakers ..... 5

Installing Your 251™ Speakers

- Choosing the speaker wire ..... 6
- Installing the mounting brackets ..... 6
- Attaching the speakers to the brackets ..... 8
- Making the connections ..... 9

Maintaining Your 251™ Speakers

- Troubleshooting ..... 12
- Warranty period ..... 12
- Customer service ..... 12
- Cleaning your speakers ..... 12
- Protecting the speaker wire ..... 12

Product Information

- Technical information ..... 13

Bose® Corporation ..... inside back cover

### Before you begin...

Thank you for purchasing Bose® 251™ environmental speakers. These high-performance outdoor speakers are engineered to provide sound quality far beyond that of other environmental speakers. The 251 environmental speakers are designed to withstand nature's elements – so you can be confident they will perform for years to come.

### Unpacking the carton

Carefully unpack your speakers and save all packing materials for possible future use. Check that your system contains the parts identified in Figure 1. Do not attempt to use your speakers if any part of them appears damaged. Instead, notify Bose Corporation or your authorized Bose dealer immediately.

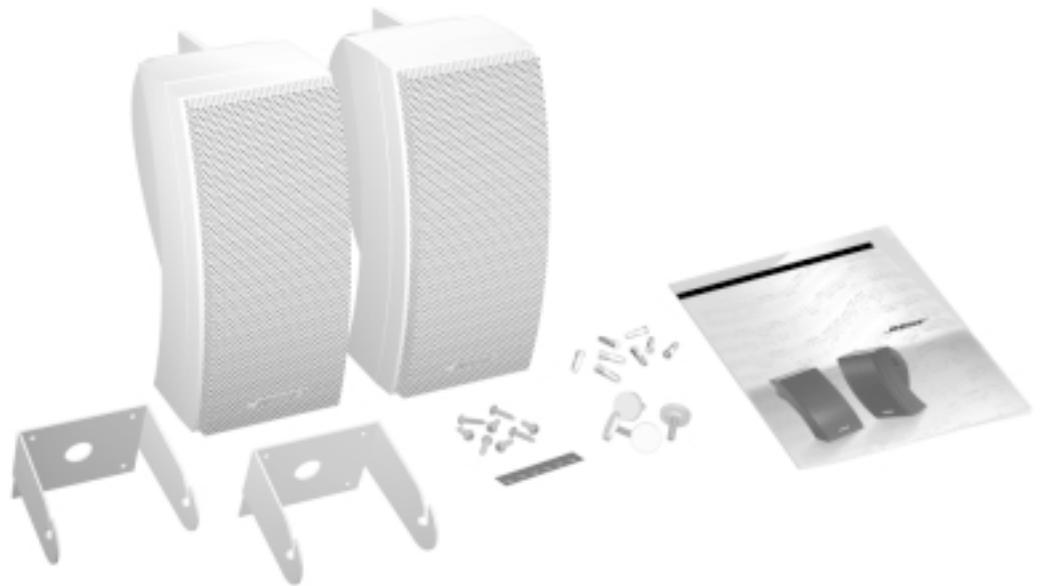


**WARNING:** To avoid danger of suffocation, keep the plastic bags out of the reach of children.

Figure 1

#### Packaging contents:

- Two 251 speakers
- Two mounting brackets
- Mounting hardware (8 screws and 8 plastic anchors)
- Six rubber feet
- Four knobs
- One owner's guide



### Tools required

You need the following items to complete this installation:

- Speaker wire (see “Wire recommendations” on page 13)
- Phillips-head screwdriver (#2)
- A drill with the following bits:
  - A  $\frac{3}{32}$  inch diameter (2,5 mm) bit is preferred, or you can use a  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch diameter (3,0 mm) bit. For concrete, a  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch (6,0 mm) diameter masonry bit can be used.
- Eye and ear protection
- Dust mask



**CAUTION:** Failure to follow the instructions in this owner's guide voids all warranties on your speakers. If you are unsure of your ability to complete this process, consult a professional installer. Please read this owner's guide completely before beginning installation.

## Selecting the location for your speakers

For best results, mount both speakers on the same wall, facing the listening area. Make sure they do not face each other. (Outdoors, if you are not using an existing wall, consider the length of your listening area as your “wall.”)

The 251™ speakers should be placed at least 7 feet (2 m) apart.

Please consider the following before mounting your speakers:

- Measure the length of speaker wire you need to connect each speaker to your receiver or amplifier. To determine the wire gauge you will need, refer to the “Wire recommendations” on page 13.
- It is important that the speaker wire not be tripped over, pinched, or pulled. Determine the best route to protect the wire.



*CAUTION: Do not mount on surfaces that are not sturdy enough, or that have hazards concealed behind them, such as plumbing or electrical wire. If you are unsure about installing these speakers, contact a qualified professional installer.*

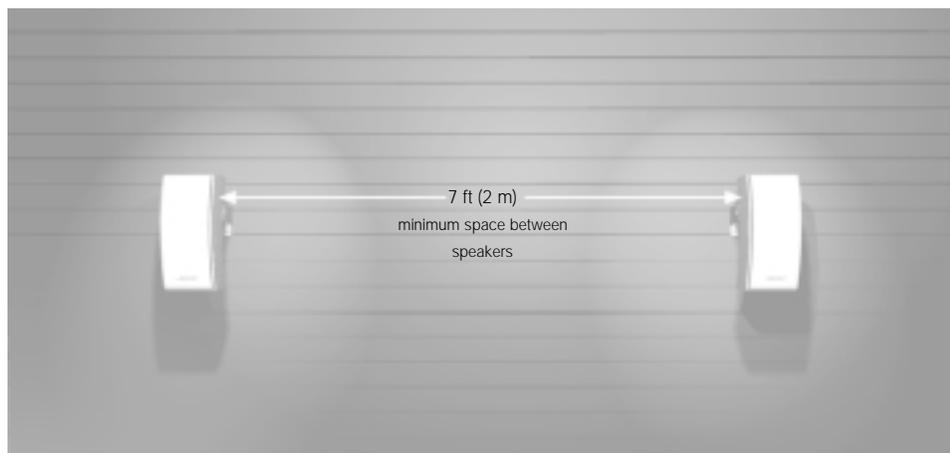
- Regardless of where you place your speakers, make sure they cannot fall and cause injuries.
- Bose® 251 speakers are not magnetically shielded. Keep them at least 9 inches (23 cm) from any video screen or monitor.



*Note: This product is not intended for use in areas where it will be subject to high vibration. If you are unsure about installing these speakers, contact a qualified professional installer.*

Figure 2

Speaker placement guidelines



## Choosing the speaker wire

Be sure to use the proper gauge (thickness) of speaker wire. Standard zip cord (2-conductor, 18-gauge wire found at electrical and hardware stores) works for most applications. If your speakers will be more than 30 feet (9 m) from the receiver or amplifier, see the “Wire recommendations” under “Technical Information” on page 13. Or check with your authorized Bose® dealer.

If you decide to run the speaker wire through a wall or underground, check your local building code requirements, or contact an electrical installer before proceeding.



*Note: Be sure to cut enough wire to reach from the receiver to each speaker.*



**CAUTION:** Before making any connections, turn off your receiver or amplifier and unplug it from the outlet (the AC power mains).

## Installing the mounting brackets

The 251™ speakers should be mounted using the supplied brackets. They can be mounted onto the exterior of a house or onto a deck railing or table. If you choose not to use the supplied brackets, be sure to position your 251 speakers on a sturdy surface.



**CAUTION:** If you do not use the supplied brackets, choose a level surface for the speakers. Vibration can cause the speakers to move, so it is important that you install the supplied rubber feet before using the speakers on a surface. Refer to “Attaching the rubber feet” on page 11.

### Installing the brackets onto the exterior of a house

The 251 speakers should be mounted in a vertical position to achieve the best musical performance. Figure 3 illustrates how the mounted speaker will look once the installation is complete. To begin, mark four holes to indicate where you want to install the speaker bracket (Figure 4). For wood, drill four starter holes using a  $\frac{3}{32}$  inch (2,5 mm) drill bit (Figure 5). For cement, drill four starter holes using a  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch (6,0 mm) drill bit (Figure 5).

Figure 3

251 environmental speaker mounted onto the exterior of a house



Figure 4

Marking four holes on the exterior of a house

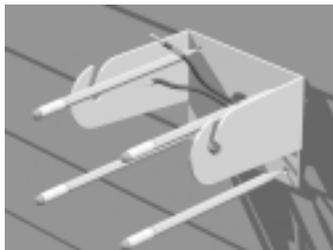
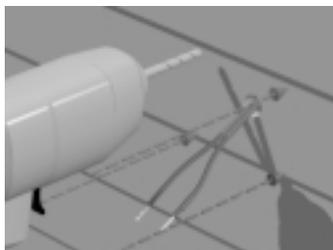


Figure 5

Drilling four holes on the exterior of a house



## Installing the mounting brackets (cont.)

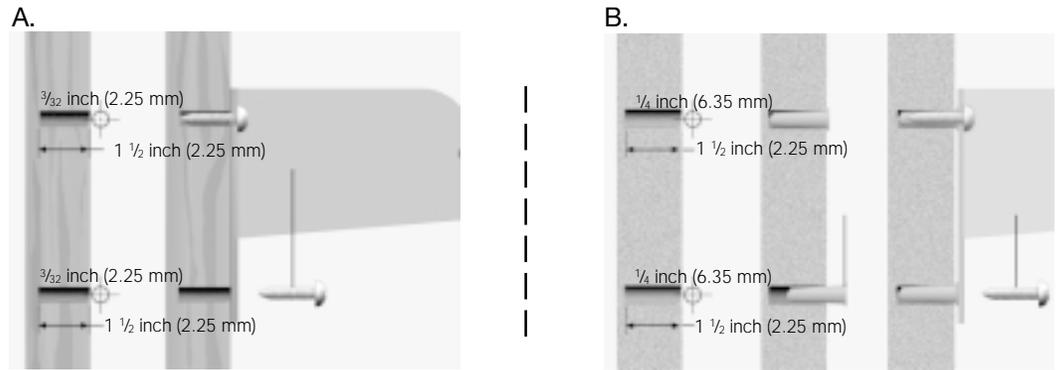
### Installing the brackets onto the exterior of a house (cont.)

For mounting onto wood, install the supplied screws using a Phillips-head screwdriver (Figure 6A). For concrete use, first install the supplied plastic inserts. Then, using a Phillips-head screwdriver, install the screws (Figure 6B).

Figures 6A and 6B

Installing the hardware

- A. Wood
- B. Concrete



### Installing the brackets onto a deck railing or table

The 251™ speakers should be mounted in a vertical position to achieve the best musical performance. Figure 7 illustrates how the mounted speaker will look once the installation is complete. To begin, mark four holes to indicate where you want to install the speaker bracket (Figure 8). Then, drill four starter holes using a  $\frac{3}{32}$  inch (2,5 mm) drill bit (Figure 9).

Figure 7

251 environmental speaker mounted onto a deck railing or table



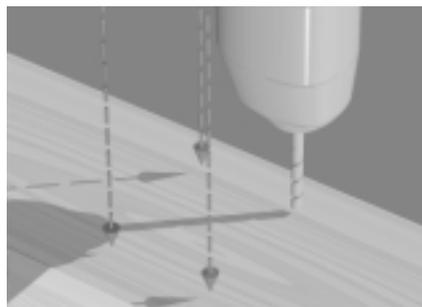
Figure 8

Marking four holes on a deck railing or table



Figure 9

Drilling four holes on a deck railing or table



## Installing the mounting brackets (cont.)

### Installing the brackets onto a deck railing or table (cont.)

Finally, install the four screws using a Phillips-head screwdriver (Figure 10).

Figure 10

Installing the bracket onto a deck railing or table



Note: If you are mounting your 251™ speakers on a deck railing or table, you will need to rotate the Bose logo. Refer to “Rotating the Bose logo” on page 11 for instructions on how to do this.

## Attaching the speakers to the brackets

Once the brackets are installed, carefully follow these steps to attach the speakers to the brackets. First, insert the knobs into each side of the speakers. Be sure to turn each knob two full rotations (Figure 11). Then, carefully slide the speakers into the brackets (Figure 12). Finally, temporarily tighten the speaker in a position that will allow you to easily connect the speaker wire (Figures 13A and 13B).

Figure 11

Installing the knobs



two full rotations

Figure 12

Sliding the speakers into the brackets

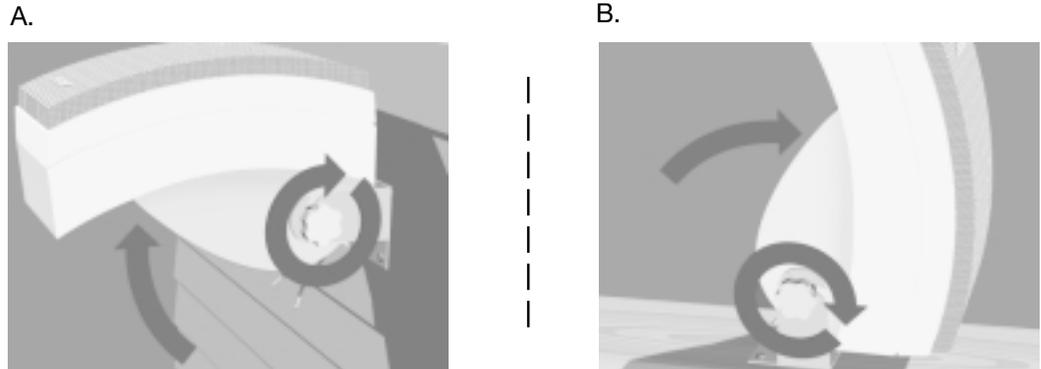


## Attaching the speakers to the brackets (cont.)

### Figures 13A and 13B

Temporarily tighten the speakers to the brackets

- A. Exterior of the house  
B. Deck railing or table



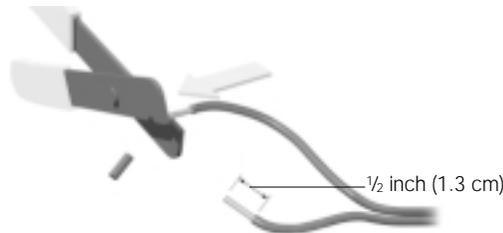
## Making the connections

### Preparing the speaker wire (not provided)

Speaker cord consists of two insulated wires. The insulation around one wire is striped, collared, or ribbed. This marked wire is positive (+). The plain wire is negative (-). These correspond to the red (+) and black (-) terminals on the back of the speaker, receiver, or amplifier. Be sure to connect each wire to the proper terminal (positive to positive, negative to negative).

### Figure 14

Preparing the ends of each wire



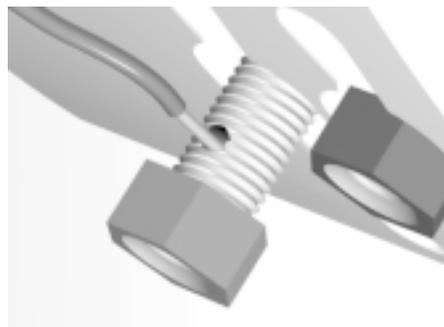
At the ends of each cord, strip approximately 1/2 inch (1.3 cm) of insulation from both wires (Figure 14). Next, twist the ends of each wire so there are no loose strands.

### Connecting the speaker wire to the speakers

At the back of your speaker, unscrew the hex knobs on the terminal posts. This reveals a small opening through each post (Figure 15). Using the wire guides, insert the marked wire into the red (+) terminal. Then insert the plain wire into the black (-) terminal. Tighten the knobs to secure the wires. See Figures 16A and 16B on page 10.

### Figures 15

Unscrewing the hex knob



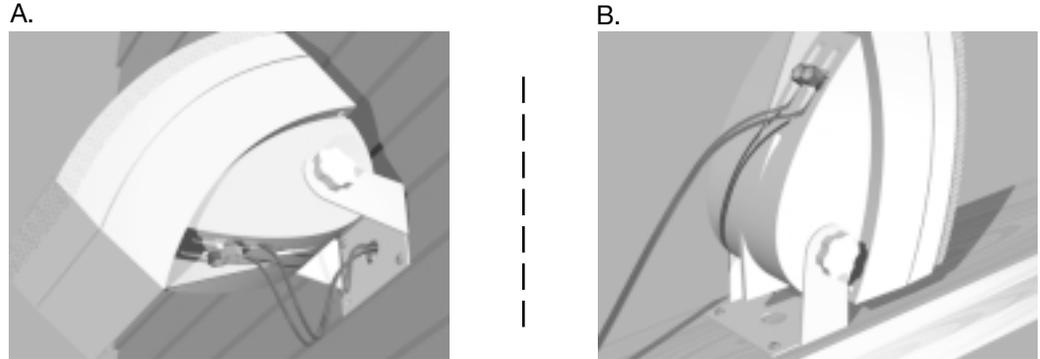
## Attaching the speakers to the brackets (cont.)

Figures 16A & 16B

Connecting the speaker wire

A. Exterior of a house

B. Deck railing or table



### Connecting the speaker wire to the receiver or amplifier

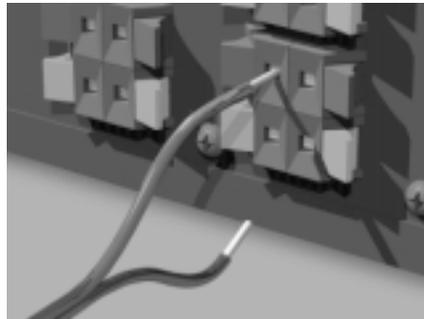
1. Connect the speakers on the left side of the listening area to the left channel of your receiver or amplifier (Figure 17).
  - a. Attach the marked wire to the red (+) terminal.
  - b. Attach the plain wire to the black (-) terminal.
2. Connect the speaker on the right side of the listening area to the right channel of your receiver or amplifier, following the same procedure above (Figure 17).



*Note: If your 251™ speakers are being connected as a secondary set of speakers to your receiver or amplifier, be sure to make the appropriate connections to the “B” channel.*

Figure 17

Connecting the speaker wire



### Checking the connections

Check the speaker connections carefully. Make sure no loose strands of wire touch across terminals. This could create short circuits that can damage an amplifier or receiver.

Tighten any loose connections before you plug in the receiver or amplifier.

### Testing the connections

To make sure your speakers operate correctly, follow these steps:

1. Set the balance control on your receiver or amplifier to normal (centered).
2. Play some deep bass passages of music through the speakers.

The sound should seem to come from a point between the two speakers. The bass should be full and natural. If not, your connections may be reversed, causing the speakers to play out of phase. Refer to “Making the connections” on page 9. To correct the problem, make sure all the wires are connected positive to positive (+ to +) and negative to negative (- to -). Then repeat steps 1 and 2 to re-test the speakers.

## Making the connections (cont.)

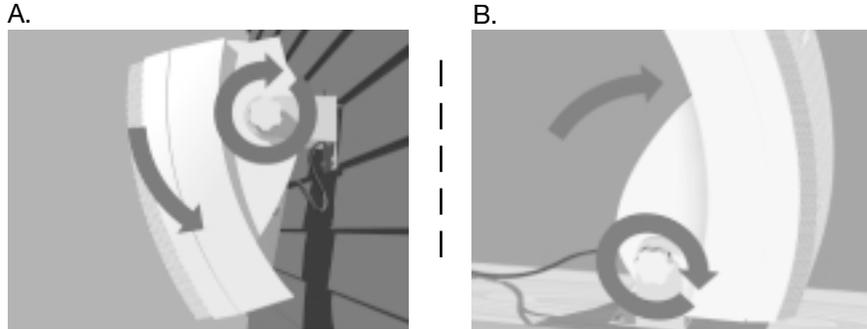
### Putting the speakers in the final location

Loosen the knobs on each speaker to rotate the speakers into the desired position. Then, tighten the knobs to secure the speaker in its final position (Figures 18A and 18B).

Figures 18A and 18B

Putting the speaker in the final position

- A. Exterior of the house
- B. Deck railing or table



### Attaching the rubber feet

If you do not plan to use the supplied brackets to mount your 251 environmental speakers, you can place them on a sturdy, level surface. They should be standing in the vertical position. Be sure to attach the rubber feet before using your speakers. For proper balance be sure to place the feet in the position shown in Figure 19.

Figure 19

Attaching the rubber feet



### Rotating the Bose logo

Mounting the speakers on a deck railing or table will require you to rotate the Bose logo. Using your fingers, gently lift the logo, taking care not to detach it from the speaker, about 1/4 inch (.24 cm) and turn it 180°.

Figure 20

Rotating the Bose logo



## Troubleshooting

<i>Problem</i>	<i>What to do</i>
Neither speaker plays	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Check the settings on your receiver or amplifier. Refer to the owner's guide that came with it for instruction on settings.</li><li>• If your 251™ speakers are connected as a second set of speakers to your receiver or amplifier, check that the connections have been made to the "B" terminals and that the "B" speakers are selected to play.</li></ul>
The bass or treble is weak	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Check the tonal balance setting on your receiver or amplifier.</li></ul>
Only one speaker plays	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Check the balance control on your receiver or amplifier and make sure it's centered.</li><li>• Check the wires connected to the speaker that does not play. Make sure the wires are in good condition and are firmly connected. Review the "Making the connections" section on page 9.</li></ul>
Only one speaker still plays	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Disconnect the working speaker from the receiver or amplifier.</li><li>• Switch the cord of the "faulty" speaker from its original receiver or amplifier jacks to the other set of jacks (the working speaker was originally attached to those jacks).<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- If the speaker now works, the problem is in your receiver or amplifier. Reconnect your speakers to a working unit.</li><li>- If there is still no sound from the speaker, continue below.</li></ul></li><li>• Remove the cord from the working speaker and connect it to the "faulty" speaker.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- If the speaker now works, the problem was in the original speaker cord.</li><li>- If there is still no sound, the problem is in the speaker.</li></ul></li><li>• If trouble persists, contact your authorized Bose® dealer, who will arrange for service. Or, contact Bose customer service. See the inside back cover of this owner's guide for a list of phone numbers.</li></ul>

## Warranty period

Bose 251 environmental speakers are covered by a limited five-year transferable warranty. Details of coverage are on the warranty card that came with your speakers. Please fill out the information section, detach, and mail it to Bose.

## Customer service

For additional help in solving problems, contact Bose Customer Service. See the inside back cover for offices and phone numbers.

## Cleaning your speakers

Use a cloth dampened in mild detergent and water to remove dust or dirt from the outside of your 251 speakers. Or use a hose to rinse them thoroughly with fresh water. Do not use enough pressure to force water behind the grille and into the drivers or the acoustic ports.

## Protecting the speaker wire

The bare ends of the speaker cord can be affected by exposure to the elements. This is especially true of saltwater exposure. You may use a silicone caulking material, such as RTV adhesive, to protect the connections. It is commonly available at hardware stores. If you do use caulking, apply it only after the wires are connected and the knobs tightened down. Check the connections annually, and reapply as needed.

## Technical Information

### Protective features

- Galvanized powder coated steel grille
- Environmentally resistant hardware
- Polymer fiber composite drivers
- Nickel-plated brass connection terminals
- Syncom® computer quality control

### Driver complement

- Two (2) 2½" environmental Twiddler™ drivers per speaker
- One (1) 5¼" environmental woofer per speaker

### Enclosure

- Dual-port molded polypropylene composite
- Black or white

### Dimensions

- 13½" H x 5¾" W x 8" D (34.29 cm x 14.6 cm x 20.32 cm)

### Compatibility

- Compatible with amplifiers or receivers rated 10-200 watts per channel/rated 4 to 8 ohms
- 100W IEC continuous power handling; rated 6 ohms

### Environmental Capabilities

- Designed to withstand:
  - salt fog, sun, high humidity (100%RH)
  - temperature extremes (-40°F to 158°F; -40°C to 70°C)

### Wire recommendations

- Based on a maximum frequency response deviation of  $\pm 0.5$  dB

<i>Gauge</i>	<i>Length</i>
18 (0.75 mm <sup>2</sup> )	30 ft (9 m) maximum
16 (1.5 mm <sup>2</sup> )	45 ft (14 m) maximum
14 (2.0 mm <sup>2</sup> )	70 ft (21 m) maximum

### Weight

- 8 lb (3.63 kg) each



## USA

Bose Corporation, The Mountain  
Framingham, MA 01701-9168  
1-800-367-4008  
Phone hours - ET (eastern time):  
Weekdays 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.  
Saturdays 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

## Canada

Bose Ltd., 1-35 East Beaver Creek Road  
Richmond Hill, Ontario L4B 1B3  
1-800-465-2673  
Phone hours - ET (eastern time):  
Weekdays 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## European Office

Bose Products B.V., Nijverheidstraat 8  
1135 GE Edam, Nederland  
TEL 0299-390111 FAX 0299-390114

## Australia

Bose Pty Limited, 1 Sorrell Street  
Parramatta NSW, 2150  
TEL 02 9204-6111 FAX 02 9204-6122

## Belgique/België

Bose N.V., Limesweg 2, B-3700 Tongeren  
TEL 012-390800 FAX 012-390840

## Danmark

Bose A/S, Industrivej 7, 2605 Brøndby  
TEL 4343-7777 FAX 4343-7818

## Deutschland

Bose GmbH, Max-Planck-Straße 36d  
D-61381 Friedrichsdorf  
TEL 06172-71040 FAX 06172-710419

## France

Bose S.A., 6, rue Saint Vincent  
78100 Saint Germain en Laye  
TEL 01-30616363 FAX 01-30614105

## India

Bose Corporation India Private Limited  
W-16, Greater Kailash-II  
New Delhi 110 048  
TEL (011) 648 4462 FAX (011) 648 4463

## Ireland

Bose Corporation  
Carrickmacross, Co Monaghan  
TEL (042) 9661988 FAX (042) 9661998

## Italia

Bose S.p.A., Via della Magliana 876  
00148 Roma  
www.bose.it  
TEL 06-65670802 FAX 06-65680167

## Japan

Bose K.K., Shibuya YT Building  
28-3 Maruyama-cho  
Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 150  
TEL 3-5489-0955 FAX 3-5489-0592

## Nederland

Bose B.V., Nijverheidstraat 8  
1135 GE Edam  
TEL 0299-390111 FAX 0299-390109

## Norge

Bose A/S, Solheimsgate 11  
N-2001, Lillestrøm  
TEL 63-817380 FAX 63-810819

## Österreich

Bose Ges.m.b.H., Vienna Business Park Wienerbergstrasse 7  
(10. OG)  
A-1100 Vienna  
TEL 01-60404340 FAX 01-604043423

## Schweiz

Bose AG, Rüfenbergrasse 13  
4460 Gelterkinden  
TEL 061-9815544 FAX 061-9815502

## Sverige

Bose A/S, Johannefridsgatan 4  
S-43153 Mölndal  
TEL 31-878850 FAX 31-274891

## United Kingdom

Bose Limited  
1 Ambley Green  
Gillingham Business Park  
Gillingham, Kent ME8 0NJ  
TEL 0870-741-4500 FAX 0870-741-4545

## From other locations

Bose Customer Service, 1 New York Avenue  
Framingham, MA 01701-9168 USA  
TEL (508) 766-1900 FAX (508) 766-1919

## World Wide Web

www.bose.com

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