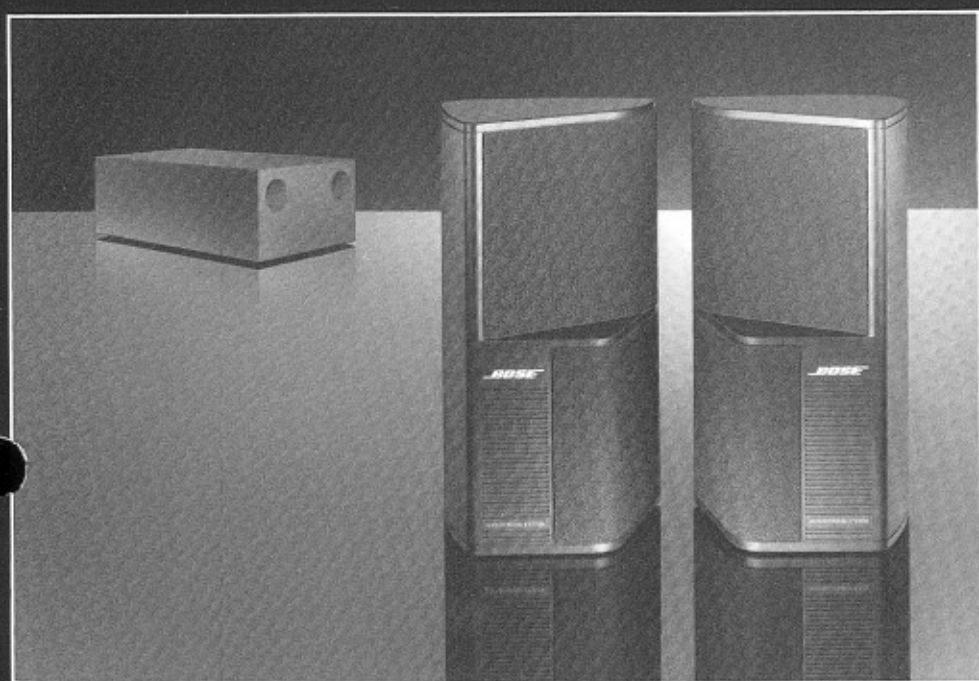


The Bose®  
Acoustimass® SE-5  
Speaker  
System

Owner's Guide



**BOSE**

## Before You Begin . . .

We would like to thank you for purchasing the Bose® Acoustimass® SE-5 speaker system. This product combines two Bose technologies to create a versatile system that will allow you to experience the full realism and impact available from the most demanding sound sources, including compact discs. Patented Acoustimass speaker technology offers the benefits of purer sound and virtual invisibility, while Direct/Reflecting® speaker design allows you to hear full balanced stereo throughout your listening room. We are confident that these advanced technologies and the quality construction of the SE-5 system will provide you with many years of trouble-free listening pleasure.

The operating principles and wiring configuration of the SE-5 system are significantly different from those of conventional speakers. This not only allows the SE-5 system to provide you with great sound, but also offers placement flexibility not available from conventional speakers. For best results, and easy installation, **please take the time to read this owner's guide.**

**Please Note:** The Acoustimass speaker technology used in the SE-5 system *significantly* reduces audible distortion. Because of this, you may be *less* likely to notice the distinctive distorted sounds produced when a speaker is driven beyond its limits. Exercise caution when playing the SE-5 system at high volume levels.

## Unpacking the SE-5 System

After opening the carton, remove all packing material and carefully lift out the components of the SE-5 system. Save all the cartons and packing material in case the system needs to be transported at a later time. If any of the components appear damaged, **do not attempt to use the system.** Instead, repack the system in its original carton and notify your authorized Bose dealer immediately.

## Setting Up the System

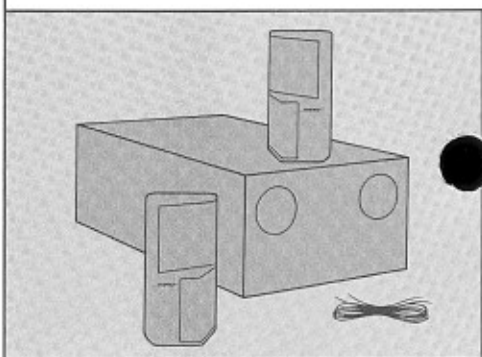
Before you can install and adjust the system's components, take a minute to familiarize yourself with them. Your system should include:

- 2 Stereo Targeting® arrays
- 1 Acoustimass® module (the larger black cabinet)
- 4 wires

The SE-5 system offers many advantages not available from a conventional speaker system, among them, remarkable freedom of placement. Acoustimass speaker technology allows you to place the Acoustimass module almost anywhere, even under furniture. The compact Stereo Targeting arrays can also be positioned in your listening room wherever they create the best balance of higher frequency sound. Below are some guidelines for setting up your system.

- A. Select the location where you intend to place the left and right Stereo Targeting arrays. Note that wires from the arrays connect to the Acoustimass module, so you should locate the Stereo Targeting arrays so that the wires will reach the location you have chosen for the module.

**Note:** While the wires provided are adequate for most installations, you may increase the distance between the Stereo Targeting® arrays and the Acoustimass module by splicing in additional wire. If you do so, use similar gauge (16 or 18 gauge) or thicker wire, and make sure you maintain the correct phase ("+" to "+" and "-" to "-"), and properly connect the wires.



The Bose® Acoustimass® SE-5 system.

- B. Position the Stereo Targeting® arrays with your audio or video system to suit your musical taste and location preferences. In average-sized listening rooms, the best stereophonic effects result when the left and right Stereo Targeting arrays are spaced 6 to 12 feet apart (approximately 1.8–3.6 m). However, you can still achieve excellent results with separation as great as 15 feet (approximately 4.5 m).

**Note:** For video applications, separation will vary to allow the Stereo Targeting® arrays to be located on each side of a TV or monitor. For more information on video applications, see Part D of this section.

- C. The Acoustimass® module can be located virtually anywhere in your listening room (Figure 1) in either a vertical or horizontal position. Its unique Acoustimass speaker technology delivers room-filling bass from almost anywhere. Feel free to hide the Acoustimass module under a bed or table, or even behind a sofa. Just remember not to block the two round openings in the end of the unit. You should allow at least 2 inches (approximately 5 cm) of open space between these openings and the wall or other surface.

Unlike conventional floorstanding or bookshelf speakers, you can fine-tune the bass response of your SE-5 system without compromising accurate stereo imaging. Just change the location of the Acoustimass module within your listening room. For typical listening environments, positioning the module along a wall 3 to 5 feet (approximately 1 to 1.5 meters) from a corner provides a normal balance of frequencies from your SE-5 system. Moving the module closer to the walls and/or corners of your room will increase bass response, while moving it toward the center of your room will decrease it. In most rooms, it should be reasonably easy to choose a location which is convenient, yet provides pleasing bass response.

The Stereo Targeting arrays of your SE-5 system are magnetically shielded for use with video systems. This allows you to position the arrays close to your TV or monitor without adversely affecting the picture quality (as happens with conventional, nonshielded speakers). Refer to Figure 2.

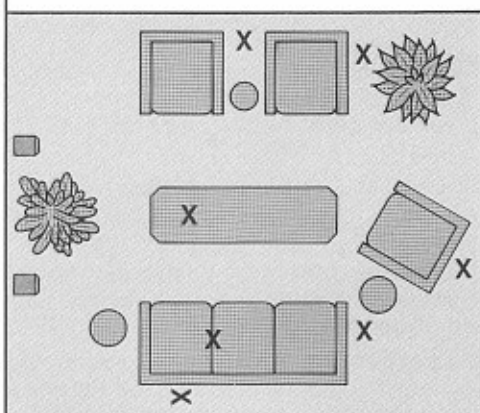
**Note:** The Acoustimass module itself is *not* magnetically shielded and should be placed at least three feet away from your monitor to avoid interference.

## Connecting the SE-5 System to Your Stereo

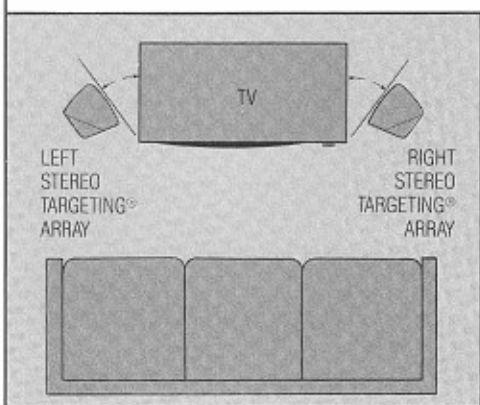
**Caution:** Before attempting to connect the SE-5 system, unplug your receiver or amplifier from the wall outlet.

**Note:** While the SE-5 system is rated at 6 ohms the speaker's impedance actually averages between 6 and 9 ohms over most of its operating range.

- A. Locate the wires which were packed with the system. You will find four identical sets. Two sets connect the Stereo Targeting arrays to the Acoustimass module, while the other two sets connect the Acoustimass module to your receiver or amplifier.
- B. Examine the ends of the wires. For each set, one wire will have a red marker. For each connection you make, always connect the wire with the red marker to the "+" terminal.
- C. Locate the terminals on the rear of the left Stereo Targeting array. Depress the red ("+") tab, insert the lead with the red marker (Figure 3), and release the tab. The lead should be held snugly in place by the terminal. Repeat the process for the black terminal and the other lead.



**Figure 1.** Some of the possible locations for the Acoustimass® module.



**Figure 2.** Use of Stereo Targeting® arrays with a video system.

- D. Locate the terminals marked "OUTPUTS TO STEREO TARGETING<sup>®</sup> ARRAYS" on the rear of the Acoustimass module (Figure 4). Connect the other end of wires from the left Stereo Targeting array to the pair of terminals marked "L". Make sure that the lead with the red marker is connected to the "+", and the other lead to the "-" terminal.
- E. Repeat steps C and D for the right array.
- F. Locate the left channel terminals on the Acoustimass<sup>®</sup> module marked "INPUTS FROM AMP OR RECEIVER." Depress the red ("+") tab, insert the lead with the red marker, and release the tab. Repeat the process for the black terminal and the other lead.
- G. Locate the speaker outputs on your amplifier or receiver. Connect the other ends of the wire from the left channel of the Acoustimass module to the terminals marked "L" or "LEFT." Make sure that the lead with the red marker is connected to the "+" and the other lead is connected to the "-" terminal.
- H. Repeat steps F and G for the right channel.
- I. Before you plug in your receiver or amplifier, make sure that no strands of wire from any terminal are brushing against any other terminal. Such **"bridged" wires create short circuits which can damage your receiver or amplifier.**
- J. Plug in your receiver, turn on your system, and enjoy your music!

### Checking the System

Once you have begun listening to your SE-5 system, the following test will help you make sure that the system is working properly:

- A. Turn the balance control on your receiver or amplifier completely to the left. If you have connected the Stereo Targeting<sup>®</sup> arrays properly, you will hear music from the left array, but not the right one.
- B. Next, turn the balance control completely to the right. If your system is connected properly, you will now hear music from the right Stereo Targeting array, but not the left one.
- C. Return the balance control to the center position. Play a selection with good, deep bass, and listen to the music. Now, turn the balance control all the way to the left and listen, and then turn the balance all the way to the right and listen. If the system is connected properly, the center position should exhibit the same or greater bass response than either the left-only or right-only position. If it exhibits less, then your speakers are wired out of phase. Check to make sure that your receiver or amp is properly connected to the module.
- D. Return the balance control to the center position.

If your system does not appear to be working properly, refer to the section entitled "In Case You Have a Problem."

### Using the SE-5 System

Once your SE-5 system is set up and connected properly, it will require very little attention. However, observing the following guidelines will help you get the most from your investment.

- A. **Fusing**—Your Bose<sup>®</sup> SE-5 system incorporates automatic protection circuitry, which guards against most types of electrical stress. However, any speaker can be damaged if the amplifier driving it should fail. Fusing will provide additional protection from amplifier failure, and is not required but is recommended for maximum protection.

1. Insert a fuse holder "inline" between the "+" terminal of the left input on the Acoustimass<sup>®</sup> module and the "+" terminal of the left output on your receiver or amplifier (Figure 5).

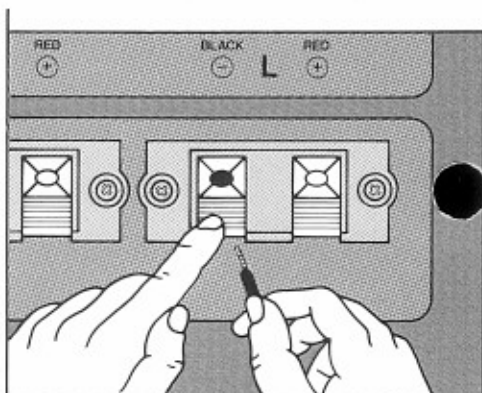


Figure 3. Properly connecting wires to a terminal.

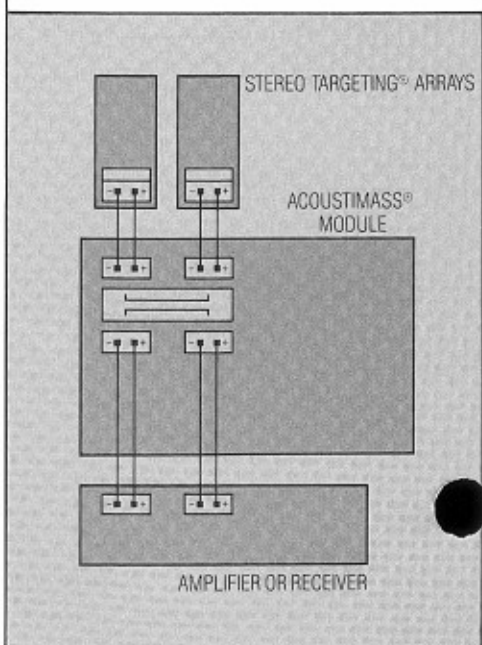


Figure 4. Connecting the components of the system to your amplifier or receiver.

2. Repeat Step 1 for the right channel.
3. Insert fuses into the fuse holders; the fusing protection system is complete. A 2-ampere, fast-blow AGC Series or Littelfuse AG Series fuse is recommended.

A fuse kit containing fuses and holders is available from the Bose Customer Service Department for \$7.50. Call 1-879-7330 and ask for Part No. 108938-2 (USA only) or consult your distributor.

**B. Room Acoustics**—As with any speaker system, the acoustics (sound properties) of your listening room can affect the overall sound quality of your SE-5 system. The following tips will give you some control over the system's sound:

1. Rooms with a lot of sound-absorbing furnishings, such as stuffed furniture, wall-to-wall carpet, or heavy drapes, may reduce the treble sound (high frequencies) of your SE-5 system. The missing treble sound can be restored by slightly turning up the treble control on your amplifier or receiver. If convenient, you may instead remove some of the sound-absorbing furnishings.
2. 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 or adding sound absorbers such as throw carpets or drapes will usually solve this problem.
3. If your system seems to have too much or too little bass (low frequencies), you can adjust it using the bass control on your amplifier or receiver. As described previously, you may also move the Acoustimass® module closer to a wall and/or corner to increase bass, or closer to the center of the room to decrease it.

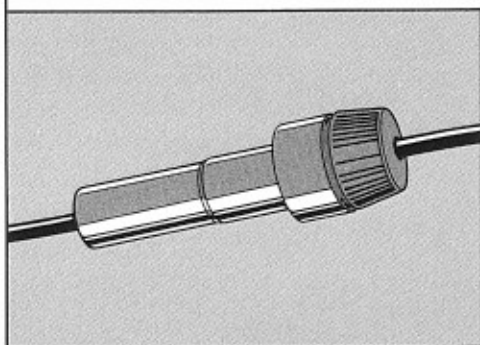
In general, many problems with acoustics can be solved by the judicious use of your tone controls. Remember, though, that the use of these controls (especially when turned all the way up) may put greater power demands on your receiver or amplifier.

**Excessive tone control use can cause an amplifier or receiver to run out of power and distort, potentially damaging your system.**

5. External signal processors (such as graphic and parametric equalizers), while not recommended, can be used with your SE-5 system if a greater degree of acoustic control is desired. Consult your Bose® dealer for advice.
- C. Maintenance**—The cabinets of your SE-5 system can be easily cleaned with a damp cloth and, if necessary, a mild detergent such as dish soap. Do not allow liquids to spill through the grille assemblies of the Stereo Targeting® arrays, or in any way attempt to enter the Acoustimass® module.

Do not attempt to clean your SE-5 system with any solvents or chemicals.

The grille assemblies on the Stereo Targeting® 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.



**Figure 5.** When fusing your speakers, insert the fuse holder between the "+" terminals of the Acoustimass® module and the "+" speaker terminals of your amplifier or receiver.



## In Case You Have a Problem

If you have a problem connecting and using your SE-5 system, try the procedures listed below. The majority of problems usually occur in components other than the speakers.

### Problem:

The left Stereo Targeting<sup>®</sup> array doesn't play or sounds distorted.

The right Stereo Targeting<sup>®</sup> array doesn't play or sounds distorted.

The whole SE-5 speaker system does not play or sounds distorted.

If trouble persists in your SE-5 system, contact your authorized Bose<sup>®</sup> dealer. The dealer 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.

## Technical Information

### Features

- Acoustimass<sup>®</sup> speaker technology
- Direct/Reflecting<sup>®</sup> speaker design
- Syncom<sup>®</sup> computer quality assurance program
- Automatic protection circuitry

### Driver Complement

- Two 6" (15.2 cm) low-frequency drivers
- Four 2.5" (6.4 cm) magnetically shielded, wide-range drivers in Stereo Targeting<sup>®</sup> arrays

### Nominal Impedance

6 ohms

### Amplifier Power Requirements (measured by IEC standard)

- Minimum: 15 watts
- Maximum: 100 watts

### Finish

- Acoustimass<sup>®</sup> module: Scratch-resistant black satin finish
- Stereo Targeting<sup>®</sup> arrays: Black polymer finish

### Dimensions

- Acoustimass<sup>®</sup> module: 7<sup>9</sup>/<sub>16</sub>" H × 12<sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub>" W × 20<sup>3</sup>/<sub>16</sub>" D  
(19.2 × 32.1 × 51.3 cm)
- Stereo Targeting array: 8<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>" H × 4<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub>" W × 3<sup>9</sup>/<sub>16</sub>" D  
(10.9 cm H × 12.3 cm W × 9 cm D)

### Weight

33 lb (15 kg), in shipping carton

### Solution:

Turn off the amplifier or receiver. Check the wiring which connects the Stereo Targeting array to the Acoustimass<sup>®</sup> module, and the wiring which connects the module to the amplifier or receiver. If no visible problem is found, disconnect the wires at the back of the amplifier or receiver. Now connect the left wires from the module to the right amplifier terminals. Turn the balance control on the receiver or amplifier completely to the right, and turn the power on. If the left Stereo Targeting array now works properly, the left channel of your amplifier or receiver is probably defective.

**CAUTION: Do not connect the other Stereo Targeting array to the channel in question. If the amplifier or receiver channel is defective, damage to your SE-5 system might occur.**

**CAUTION: Never connect a Stereo Targeting array directly to a receiver/amplifier's speaker terminals.**

Use the same procedure as given for the left Stereo Targeting array, but substitute the words "left" for "right" and "right" for "left".

Turn off the receiver or amplifier and disconnect the SE-5 system. Reconnect the SE-5 system to another receiver or amplifier known to be working properly. If the SE-5 system now works properly, the problem is not in the SE-5 system.

**Note:** If this is the case, you should check all user accessible fuses on your receiver or amplifier (see the appropriate owner's guide for help). If the fuses blow again, have the amplifier or receiver checked by qualified personnel.

## Full 5-Year Warranty

Bose® Corporation warrants this unit to be free from defects in materials and workmanship for a period of five years from the original date of purchase. During that period, Bose will remedy all such defects without charge for parts or labor, on return of the unit together with the original sales receipt, or other proof of purchase, to Bose, or to an authorized Bose Service Agency. This warranty does not extend to damage resulting from improper installation, misuse, neglect or abuse. This warranty is fully transferable.

### In no event shall Bose be liable for incidental or consequential damages.

This warranty gives you specific legal rights, and you may also have other rights which vary from state to state. Some states do not allow the exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages, so this limitation may not apply to you.

Should this unit fail within the warranty period, contact your authorized Bose dealer. This dealer will tell you which one of the following procedures you should follow.

1. Return unit with proof of purchase to dealer, OR
2. Return unit with proof of purchase to the nearest authorized Bose Service Agency, OR
3. Return unit with proof of purchase directly to the Bose factory.

If procedure 3 above is taken, please follow the instructions below:

1. Call the Bose Customer Service Department at (508) 879-7330, and ask to be assigned a return authorization number and shipping instructions.
2. Pack the unit in the original carton for shipping. If you need a new carton, you may order one from Bose Customer Service. **Note:** Any damage in transit due to improper packing is not covered by the warranty and will not be recognized as an insurance claim by transportation companies.
3. Label and ship, freight prepaid, to the address provided by Customer Service.
4. Make sure your return authorization number appears prominently on the outside of the carton.

Your unit will be repaired and returned to you at Bose Corporation's expense. If the defects cannot be repaired after a reasonable number of attempts by Bose to do so, you may elect to receive a refund or a replacement, but only if the unit is returned to Bose free and clear of all liens and other encumbrances.

The foregoing warranty applies only to products sold within the United States of America, its territories and possessions, and to sales at overseas military post exchanges. For information regarding warranty coverage in other areas, consult the Bose subsidiary or authorized dealer nearest to you.

### Please Retain This Warranty Information

Record your serial numbers and purchase information on this card and retain it in your records along with proof-of-purchase.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker Model

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Purchased

\_\_\_\_\_  
Serial Number (on Acoustimass® Module)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dealer Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dealer Address

***BOSE***  
**Better sound through research.**

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