



the art of natural sound

Beethoven Reference Series™ – Owners Manual

Thank you very much for your trust in our advanced loudspeaker design! We have worked tirelessly to design and develop this loudspeaker system to bring the maximum joy of musical experience to your home. To achieve this new level of performance, special care has been taken in the construction, the materials and the execution of this entirely new design.

Please read this manual carefully and utilize the setup suggestions discussed. Ultimately, the most important part of the process is to listen to music and enjoy. Our suggestions are just that, suggestions. If you find in your listening environment that a slightly different adjustment in setup results in a more enjoyable sonic picture, please follow it!

Please feel free to contact us or your local distributor with any setup related questions. It is our collective ambition to ensure that you achieve the best possible performance out of this sophisticated product.

Thank you again and happy listening!

Sincerely,
Your Vienna Acoustics Team

TECHNOLOGY

The Beethoven Reference Series™ loudspeakers feature an extensive list of new technologies. Beginning with the new patented Flat-Spider-Cone™ midrange and bass drivers, special care has been taken with the choice of materials and crafting. This driver is created from a compound of several thermal plastic polymers as well as added glass fibers. This material composition offers both a considerable stiffness to mass ratio, the cone material itself is virtually silent eliminating the need for notch type filters in the cross-over. The goal is to eliminate the problem of cone resonances before they begin. Added to the special material composition is the new flat design which further removes the sonic signature of the driver by eliminating the cone diffraction of the cone walls most often referred to as horn-loading. It is through the process of concentrating on both physical construction or forming and with special quiet materials that we are able to achieve this new level of performance that is free of the normal mechanical limitations as well as resonances present in most conventional cone designs.

The Beethoven Reference Series™ is the result of a many year development project working to further advance our patented Flat-Spider-Cone™ coincident driver system first used in our flagship model, The Music, as well as throughout the rest of the Klimt Series™ as well as Liszt™.

By concentrating on driver development, in both the mechanical domain and the material domain, we are left with the ideal of a highly sophisticated cross-over. As with our other designs, we begin with a first order cross-over. This we believe allows us to achieve the most seamless integration of all of the drivers into a single, cohesive whole.

Our crossovers are configured as an organic whole, intended to optimize every known aspect of driver integration.

This is in part why we have chosen to offer only the purest and simplest hook up interface of single-wire terminals. Special care has also been taken with the formulation of the alloys used in these propriety Vienna Acoustics speaker terminals to ensure the quietest connection interface between speaker and speaker wire.

In addition to this entirely new flat driver technology, we have installed a special, handcrafted double-coated silk dome textile dustcap in its middle or pole location.

The development of this dustcap was inspired by our in-house designed Scandinavian silk dome tweeters.

With a complete speaker system of such mass, it was also natural to develop special hardware that not only would allow for the fine adjustment in final setup but one that is substantial enough to physically support it.

Each individual spiked foot features an oversized threaded center core with a large specially formed head allowing for easy adjustment. Additionally, there are four lock ring nuts

that allow for the final locking of each spiked foot after proper setup has been completed. In the event these speakers are installed on fine wood or stone floors, specially created floor protectors are also supplied.

Caution: *We strongly recommend to install the base hardware for optimal performance.*

Please make sure to put the loudspeaker on a soft cloth/ carpet, to protect the piano lacquer/real wood veneer surface!

Accessories Base-Kit:

ALUMINIUM BRACKETS: 2 pcs.

SPIKES with LOCKING NUTS: 4 pcs.

PROTECTION PLATES for SPIKES: 4 pcs.

HEXAGON BOLTS for fixing the BRACKETS: 6 pcs.

HEXAGON TOOL (Allen Wrech Key): 1 pce.

GLOVES: 2 pcs.

CABINETS

Our speaker designs feature massive and inert cabinet construction. Vienna Acoustics cabinets are designed with the latest computer modelling techniques and use a combination of amorphous materials in order to ensure that they are both stiff and well damped. Additionally, our designs feature massive front baffles, carefully manufactured by handcrafted veneer-wrapping technology.

The combination of precise build construction using finest furniture grade finishing techniques as well as complex internal bracing and damping, assures a design, capable of exceptional sound performance.

CONNECTIONS

The massive Vienna Acoustics gold/copper input terminals are designed to accept banana plugs, spade terminals or bare wire connection. Please make certain that all connections are well tightened since flawless contact between speaker cable and input connector is essential for best sound quality.

Please regularly clean all connections in your system. We use gold terminals which do not oxidize, but contaminants or surface build-up on your speaker cables and connectors may degrade sound quality.

CABLING

We encourage and recommend the use of high quality speaker cables and believe them to be an interesting tool for the enthusiast in obtaining maximum enjoyment from their music reproduction system. High quality cabling is capable of finetuning a system for performance. As with any purchase, please listen carefully and allow your ears to guide you.

It is beyond the scope of this manual to provide a useful compendium concerning cables, or to make specific brand or model recommendations. A number of magazines do in fact list cable recommendations.

AMPLIFICATION

The most common question asked of a speaker manufacturer is whether valve amplification or solid state amplification is preferred. The simple answer to this question is that we require good electronics. There are many fine examples of both amplifier technologies that will work perfectly with this loudspeaker system. We as designers and manufacturers have done all we can to insure the greatest flexibility in amplifier selection.

There are a couple primary considerations that should be kept in mind when selecting a proper paired amplifier for this loudspeaker system. First, what are your listening habits? Do you listen to extremely dynamic material at high volume levels? If so, you should consider a more powerful amplifier. Second, do you have an unusually large space that these speakers are being installed in? If so, again you should consider a higher powered amplifier. Otherwise, our recommendation is to select the finest sounding quality amplifier in the fifty and above wattage range. This can be either valve or solid state. The sonic differences in these designs are of personal preference.

BURNING OR BREAKING IN NEW LOUDSPEAKERS

Your loudspeakers contain a large number of precision built moving parts. These parts require playing time initially to develop their maximum smoothness and extension. Very audible improvements can be observed during about 30 hours of playing. Additional improvements will be evident after 100

hours of playing time, at which point the speakers have reached their full musical potential.

POSITIONING

Room acoustics and positioning of the speakers within the room have an important effect on sound quality. To find the optimal position for your speakers we offer the following hints:

FREE AIR SET-UP

If your room is large and space permits, please allow a minimum of one meter away from the rear wall (behind the speakers). Small movements of the speaker forwards and backwards will establish where a speaker is placed most comfortably. Find the location that gives a full balance without sounding heavy.

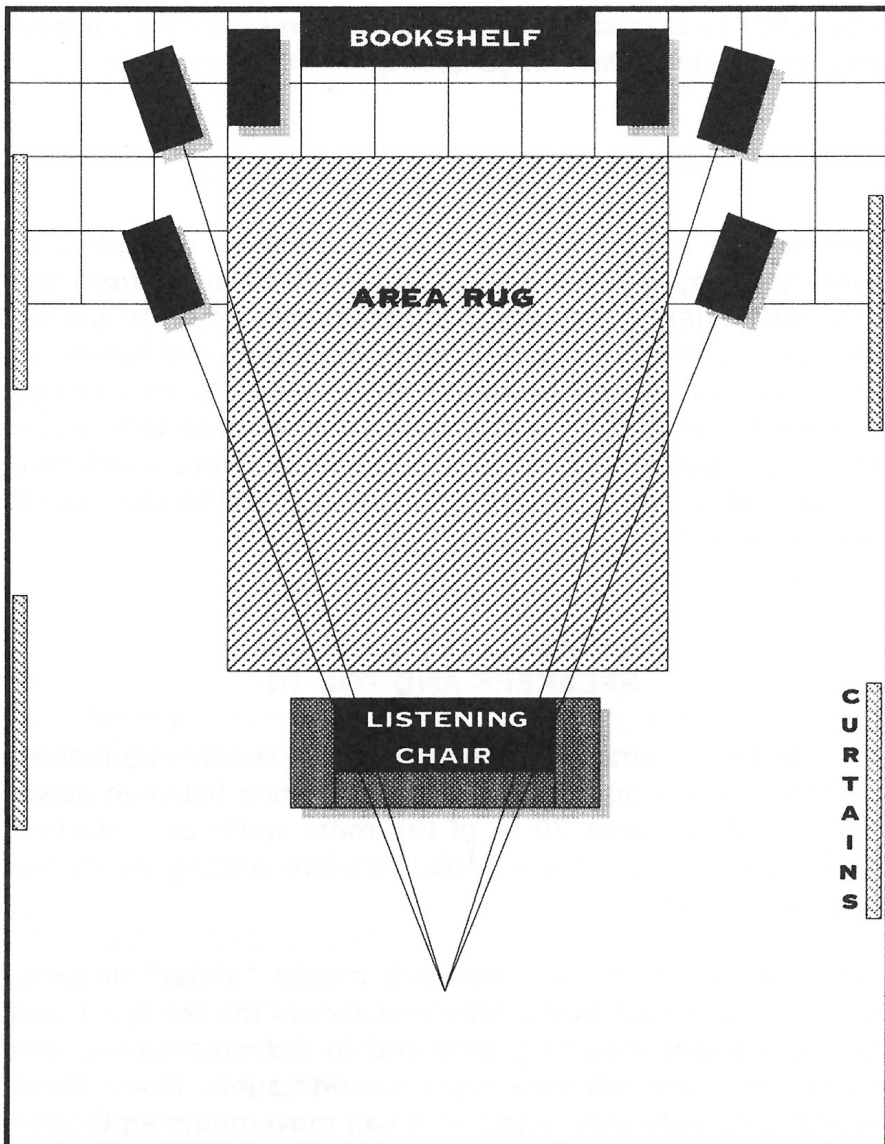
Please remember, in free air set-up the distance from the rear wall determines how low the speaker will go in a room and also the depth of image. Positioning too close to a rear wall may boost the middle bass frequencies and rob the speaker of some transparency and precision. In general it is best to avoid corner placement of speakers since the bass tends to become exaggerated and corners rarely are an optimal placement for image quality.

DISTANCE BETWEEN THE SPEAKERS AND TOE-IN

Most stereo systems are set-up with their speakers too close together. As a rough guideline, the distance between speakers should be about 70 % of the room width as a starting point, assuming that your speakers are aiming down the length of the room.

Too close together they might create double images that blur clarity and focus. Too far apart they may begin sounding thin and in extreme cases, will create separate left and right soundstages.

Please move them inwards and outwards, again in small movements as though you were adjusting the image on a pair of binoculars until a single well-unified image is obtained.



Toe-In: In an ideal room, the speakers may be set-up so that the speakers fire directly forward. For the rest of us, some degree of toe-in, that is rotating the speakers cabinets until they point at the listener, is desirable. Toe-in reduces sidewall reflections of the mid and upper frequencies. Though one might reasonably conclude that aiming a speaker at the listener would result in a brighter sound, this is mostly not the case. Toeing a speaker inward will result in a smoother, warmer and usually more focused sound.

Important Tip:

If a speaker loses clarity from toeing in, try increasing the distance between them slightly. This will have the effect of "opening up" the speaker and restoring clarity.

ROOM TREATMENT

Good sounding rooms are offering a well-balanced acoustic. This does not mean that your home should look like a recording studio.

Commonly found furnishing such as bookshelves, carpeting and furniture all exhibit beneficial amount of absorption and dispersion. Rooms with little furniture and carpeting will demonstrate less damping and may produce a hard, bright sound. As a general rule, it is helpful to have more of these sorts of things in the space immediately around the speakers than scattered throughout the space. A thick carpet or area rug mounted between your listening position and the speakers is of tremendous benefit in controlling reflections off the floor. Tapestries, hanging rugs and/or drapes on the side walls hung slightly ahead of the speaker position will damp reflections off these surfaces.

LISTENING

After having completed a thorough break-in and completing a full and comprehensive setup, listening can and should begin in full earnestness. As with the city we live, design, work and ultimately build this product in, Vienna is about music, music and music.

While most acclaimed for our classical music halls and performances, Vienna also has one of the most vibrant jazz scenes as well as rock and everything in between. Music comes in all colors and forms. We are not here to tell you what to listen to. We have done all we can to produce a product that is capable of reproducing the music that all of us at Vienna Acoustics listens to. What does that mean? Simply put, all music! Just listen and enjoy.

MAINTENANCE

Your speaker cabinets can be cleaned periodically with a soft, slightly damp cloth. It is not necessary to wax them. Our cabinets feature a smooth but strong finish. Still, please keep them out of direct sunlight and out of heat, since the colour of the veneer would pale. Should the bass drivers become dusty, it is safe to use a soft brush to clean the woofers.

Please never use aggressive cleaning compounds!

THE MUSIC COMPANY

Team spirit underlies all of our work at Vienna Acoustics, but when it comes right down to it, we achieve outstanding results because we are passionate.

About what? Music, music, and music.

Founded in 1989, Vienna Acoustics has been hand crafting loudspeakers of distinction in Vienna, Austria for over thirty years now.

Today as in the early beginnings, Vienna Acoustics is characterized by founder and chief designer, Peter Gansterer.

A great loudspeaker is a synthesis of the arts. It's an organic whole, whose sound derives from the harmony of countless sound-determinating parameters in combination, mirroring the composition of the truly harmonic high-end system of which it is a vital component.

Peter Gansterer understands this like no one else. Peter is a passionate devotee of music and its reproduction who came of age in Vienna, where he studied acoustical engineering.

Through his studies of the great concert halls of Vienna, Peter came to understand the dynamics of live music and, in a unique case of reverse engineering, develops loudspeaker designs that uncannily reproduce that experience.

Successfully combining the individual characteristics of a loudspeaker's many parts, the heart of design work, is a task of such complexity that it falls into the realm of an art: it's like crafting, tuning, and balancing a fine musical instrument. Only a very few people are gifted with such a talent.

Over the years, Vienna Acoustics speakers have secured a commanding place in the world market.

Our motto is team spirit, but the complex art of design falls to one exceptionally talented man.