

**The Bose® Lifestyle® 900 System**

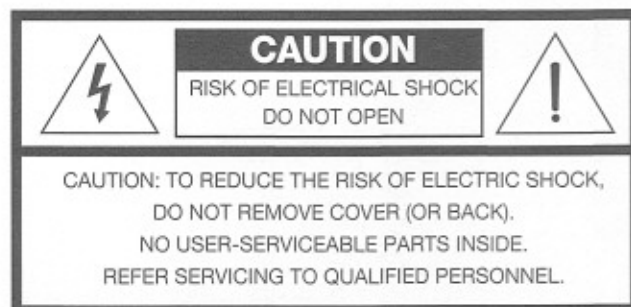
Owner's Guide

**BOSE**





**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 panel and bottom of your Lifestyle® music center and the bottom panel of your Acoustimass® module:



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.

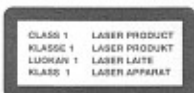


The exclamation point within an equilateral triangle, as marked on the system, is intended to alert the user to the presence of important operating and maintenance instructions in this owner's guide.



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

### Class 1 laser product



This compact disc player is classified as a CLASS 1 LASER product. The CLASS 1 LASER PRODUCT label is located on the bottom of the unit.



**CAUTION:** Use of controls or adjustments or performance of procedures other than those specified herein may result in hazardous radiation exposure. The compact disc player should not be adjusted or repaired by anyone except properly qualified service personnel.

### Class B emissions limits

This Class B digital apparatus meets all requirements of the Canadian Interference-Causing Equipment Regulations.

### Batteries

Please dispose of used batteries properly, following any local regulations. Do not incinerate.

### Additional safety information

See the additional instructions on the *Important Safety Information* page enclosed with this owner's guide.

### Please read this owner's guide

Please take the time to follow this owner's guide carefully. It will help you set up and operate your system properly, and enjoy all of its advanced features. Save your owner's guide for future reference.

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**For your records**

Serial numbers are located on the bottom of the music center and the bottom panel of the Acoustimass® module.

Music center serial number: \_\_\_\_\_

Acoustimass module serial number: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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


### Before you begin

Thank you for purchasing the Bose® Lifestyle® 900 system. This complete audio home entertainment system offers superb sound, elegance, technology, and simplicity for music and home theater.

Your system includes:

- A Lifestyle® music center with built-in AM/FM radio and compact disc (CD) player
- Inputs for a video sound source, an auxiliary source, and a tape deck
- Powered Acoustimass® speakers with a hide-away Acoustimass module
- An easy-to-use remote control

Bose Videostage® decoder technology enables the Lifestyle® 900 system to reproduce the realism of movie sound especially for a home environment. When a movie soundtrack or CD is produced in a surround sound format, specially encoded sound is sent to any or all of the available speakers. Dialogue is usually sent to the front speakers. Sounds from the left or right side of the picture are sent to left or right front speakers. Ambient sounds or special effects may be sent to the surround (rear) speakers. Bose Videostage circuitry automatically directs the sound to the correct speakers.

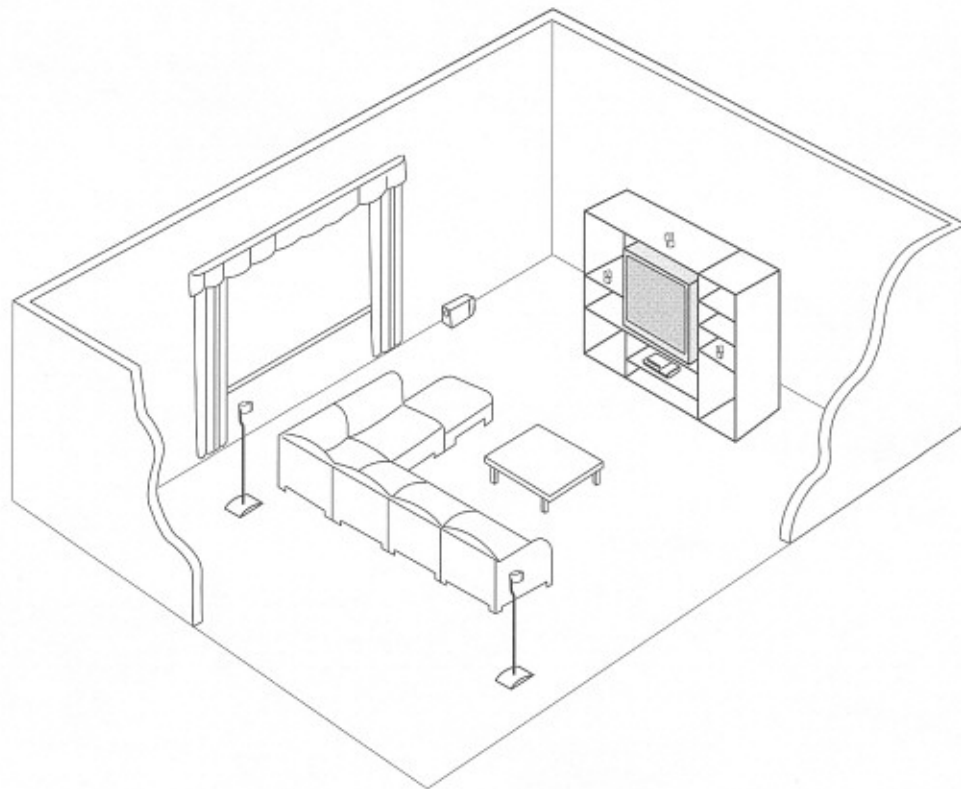
To select surround-encoded material, look for any of the terms Surround, Dolby Surround, or the double-D symbol \* on tapes and discs, and the word "surround" preceding a TV broadcast.

When sound is recorded in stereo, but not surround-encoded, Videostage decoder technology directs it to the most appropriate speakers based on the signals received. When viewing older movies or listening to other monaural programs on your Lifestyle® 900 system, Videostage circuitry directs sound so it appears to come from the center of the TV screen.

You can listen to any program material in SURROUND (5-speaker) mode, whether the program is surround-encoded, stereo, or monaural. You will not hear sound from all five speakers all of the time. Even with surround-encoded material there are times when no sounds are directed to the surround speakers. You can select the speaker mode that sounds best to you for each particular program.

**Figure 1**

*A typical home theater setup*



\* Dolby and the double-D symbol are trademarks of Dolby Laboratories Licensing Corporation.



## Unpacking the carton

Carefully unpack your system. Save all packing materials for possible future use. The original packing materials provide the safest way to transport your Lifestyle® 900 system. If any part of the product appears damaged, do not attempt to use the system. Notify Bose® or your authorized Bose dealer immediately.

Check to be sure your Lifestyle® 900 system contains the parts identified in Figure 2.

**Note:** Find the serial numbers on the bottom panel of the Acoustimass® module and the bottom of the music center. Then write them on your warranty card and in the spaces provided on page 3.

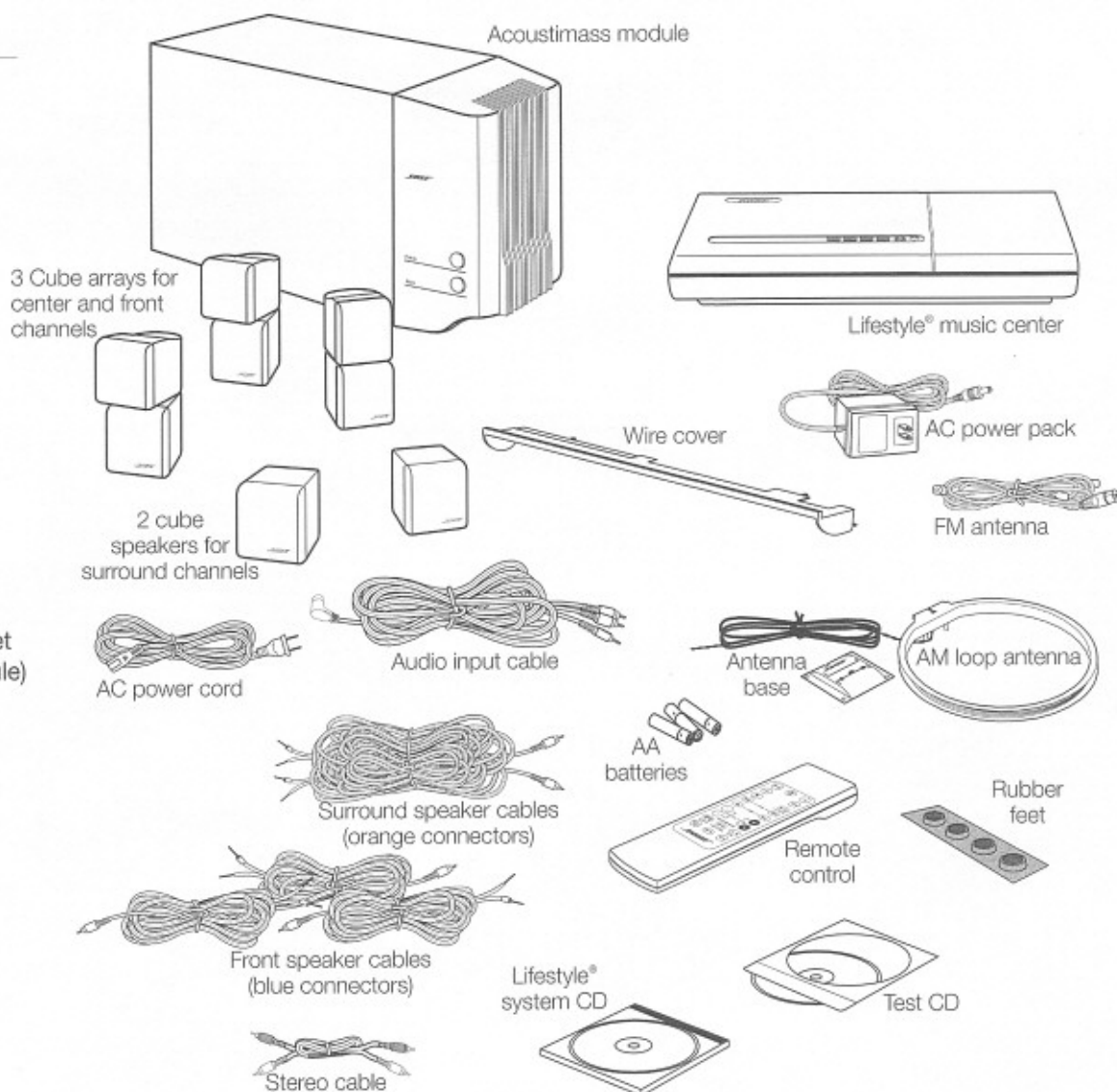
**WARNING:** The Acoustimass module weighs 28 pounds (12.6 kg). Use good lifting practice to avoid injury.

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

**Figure 2**

What comes with your Lifestyle® 900 system:

- Lifestyle® music center
- AC power (mains) pack
- Wire cover
- FM antenna
- AM loop antenna
- AM antenna base
- Remote control
- 3 AA batteries
- Acoustimass module
- 3 cube speaker arrays
- 2 cube speakers
- AC power (mains) cord
- Audio input cable
- 5 speaker cables (2 surround and 3 front)
- 4 self-adhesive rubber feet (for the Acoustimass module)
- Stereo cable
- Lifestyle® system CD
- Test CD



### Select the locations for your Lifestyle® 900 system

When you place your speakers according to the guidelines below, they provide the audio atmosphere of a home theater. You may experiment with the placement and orientation of the cubes to produce the sound most pleasing to you. For the best surround effect, adjust the speakers so you cannot pinpoint where the sound comes from. It is preferable not to aim the cubes directly at the listener. For more discussion of speaker placement and room acoustics, see "Fine-tuning your system" on page 23.

#### Speaker locations

Follow these guidelines to select locations that provide the maximum home theater effect from your Lifestyle® 900 system (Figures 3 and 4).



**CAUTION:** Choose a stable and level surface for your speakers. Vibration can cause the speakers to move, particularly on smooth surfaces like marble, glass, or highly polished wood. For additional stability, you can add rubber feet to your speakers. You may obtain rubber feet (part no. 178321), free of charge, from Bose®. Contact Bose Customer Service (see listings on the inside back cover).

#### Left and right front speakers

The sound from the left and right front speakers should seem to appear at the edge of the picture, so that the acoustic image is close to the size of the visual image (Figure 3). The front speaker cables allow up to 20 feet (6.1 m) distance from the Acoustimass® module.

1. Place the cube arrays on line with the horizontal center of the TV screen.
2. Place them up to 3 feet (1 m) from the edge of the TV screen.

We recommend a maximum distance of 3 feet (1 m) so that the sound does not become too separated from the picture. You may wish to vary this distance based on room conditions and personal preference.

3. Direct one cube of each array forward. Direct the other cube toward the wall or in a different direction to create reflected sound. (See the illustration of reflected sound patterns in Figure 4.)



**Note:** The cube speakers are magnetically shielded so you can place them close to the TV without affecting picture quality.

### Center speaker

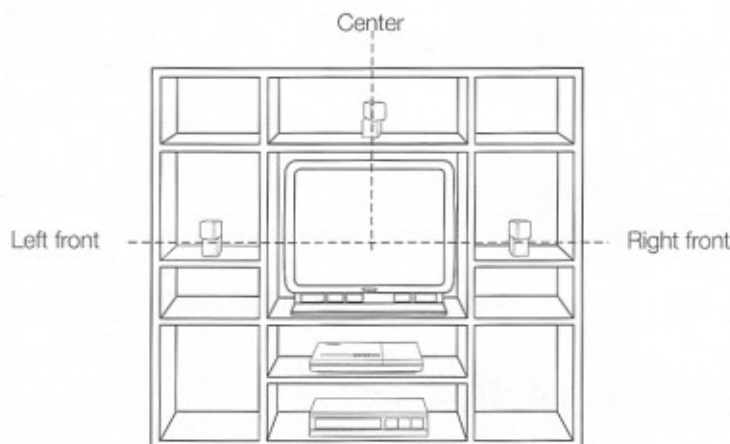
The sound from the center speaker should appear to come directly from the center of the picture (Figure 3). The center speaker cable allows up to 20 feet (6.1 m) distance from the Acoustimass® module.

1. Place the speaker on line with the vertical center of the screen, above or below (whichever is closer to the screen), or the closest convenient location.
2. Place the speaker in line with the front of the screen (not pushed to the back of the TV).
3. Direct each of the cubes slightly away from center, to create a wider area of direct sound (Figure 3).

🎵 **Note:** If you put the speakers in a bookcase unit, be sure to place each one at the front edge of the shelf. Placing speakers in an enclosed space can change the tonal quality of the sound. This effect is minimized if the shelves are filled with books.

**Figure 3**

Recommended front speaker locations

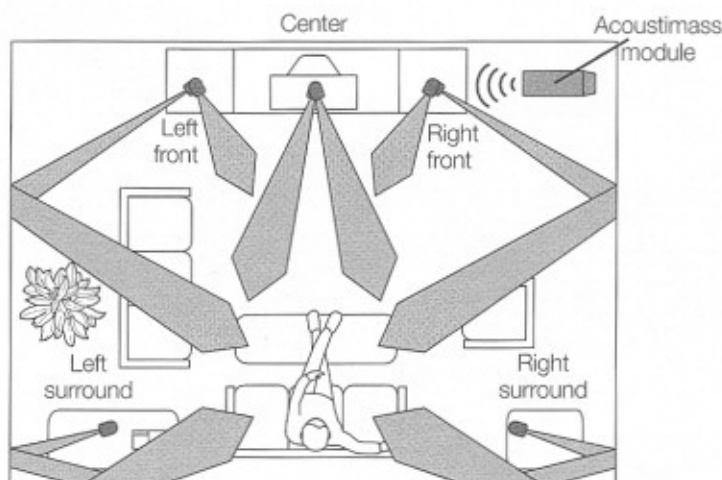


### Surround speakers

The surround (rear) speakers create an area of sound around the listener. Place them in the back half of your room. Direct the cubes so that you do not pinpoint the exact location of the sound source (Figure 4). The surround cables allow up to 50 feet (15.2 m) distance from the Acoustimass module.

**Figure 4**

Speaker placement



1. Place the speakers at ear height or higher, if possible.
2. Direct the cubes to reflect sound off one or more surfaces. The longer the path from the speaker to your ear, the better.
3. Do not direct the sound straight at the listener.

## Acoustimass® module

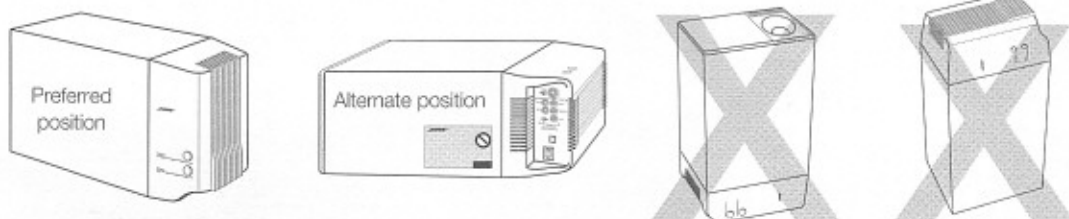
Follow these guidelines to select a location for the Acoustimass module.

🎵 **Note:** To avoid interference with the TV picture, place the Acoustimass module at least 18 inches (45 cm) from the TV.

1. Place the Acoustimass module along the same the wall as the TV, or close to the same end of the room as the front speakers (see the example along the front wall in Figure 4).
2. Select a convenient location – under a table, behind a sofa. Do not allow furniture or drapes to block the ventilation openings of the module.
3. Place the Acoustimass module within reach of the audio input cable, speaker cables, and an AC power (mains) outlet.
4. Select a position for the Acoustimass module (Figure 5). For proper ventilation, place it on the long edge, with the connectors facing the floor. An alternate position is on its largest side, with the bass and treble controls facing up. Do not place the module on either end, as shown by the last two views in Figure 5.

**Figure 5**

Acoustimass module positions



5. Once you have selected a position for the module, place the four self-adhesive rubber feet near the corners of the bottom surface. The rubber feet provide increased stability and protection from scratches.
6. Aim the port (the round opening) into the room or along the wall to avoid blocking the port or creating too much bass. In any event, the port should be at least 2 - 3 inches (5-8 cm) from a wall or corner.
7. For best bass performance, do not place the port at equal distances from any two walls or from a wall and the ceiling.

⚠ **CAUTION:** Do not cover the ventilation openings of the Acoustimass module. The slots on the end provide ventilation for the built-in electronic circuitry, and should not be blocked.

## Music center

Select a location for the music center.

1. Allow enough room to open the CD player cover.
2. Place the music center close enough to the sound sources (TV, VCR, etc.) to allow for cable length. If you need additional audio and/or video cables to connect all of your components, see your dealer or call Bose®.
3. Place the music center within 30 feet (9.1 m) of the Acoustimass module (the length of the audio input cable).



## Connect the speakers and Lifestyle® music center



Once you have selected locations for your music system, connect the speakers.

**CAUTION:** Make sure all components are unplugged from the power outlet before you begin hooking up the system.

### Connecting the cube speakers to the Acoustimass® module

Each speaker cable contains two wires. The wire marked with a red collar is positive (+) and the plain one is negative (-). These wires match the positive (red) and negative (black) terminals on the back of each speaker. To lengthen the cable, use standard RCA extension cables or splice in 18-gauge or thicker cord (connecting + to + and - to -). To purchase cables, see your dealer, electronics store, or call Bose® customer service.

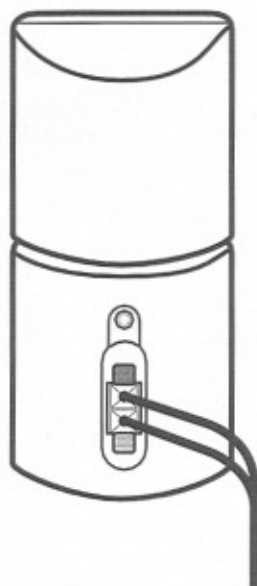


**Note:** The surround cables are joined together for your convenience, providing an easy-to-use cable for connecting the surround speakers. To run the cables in different directions from the Acoustimass module, simply pull apart the cables as needed.

1. Match the correct cable to the corresponding speaker location.
  - Front speaker cables have blue connectors at one end, with L, R, and C molded into the connectors. The red collars on the + wire are labeled LEFT, RIGHT, and CENTER.
  - Surround speaker cables have orange connectors at one end, with L and R molded into the connectors. The red collars on the + wire are labeled LEFT and RIGHT.
2. Connect the wire end of one speaker cable to the terminals on the rear of the matching cube speaker.
  - a. Push each terminal tab down, then insert the end of the appropriate wire into the exposed hole. Release the tab to secure the wire. Connect each wire to its corresponding terminal, positive to positive (+ to +) and negative to negative (- to -).
  - b. Repeat this step for each of the five cube speakers. (See Figure 6.)

**Figure 6**

Speaker cable connections to the cube speaker



**CAUTION:** Make sure no strands of wire from any terminal touch any other terminal. Bridged wires create short circuits that affect proper operation of your system.

3. Connect each cable to the corresponding jack on the Acoustimass module.
  - a. Plug the blue connectors into the matching left front, center, and right front jacks.
  - b. Plug the orange connectors into the matching left surround and right surround jacks.

## Connecting the Acoustimass® module to the Lifestyle® music center

Connect the Acoustimass module to the music center with the audio input cable (Figure 7).

1. Insert the three connectors at one end of the audio input cable into the jacks on the rear panel of the music center:
  - Black connector into the SYSTEM CONTROL 1 jack
  - Red connector into the R (right) FIXED OUTPUT jack
  - White connector into the L (left) FIXED OUTPUT jack

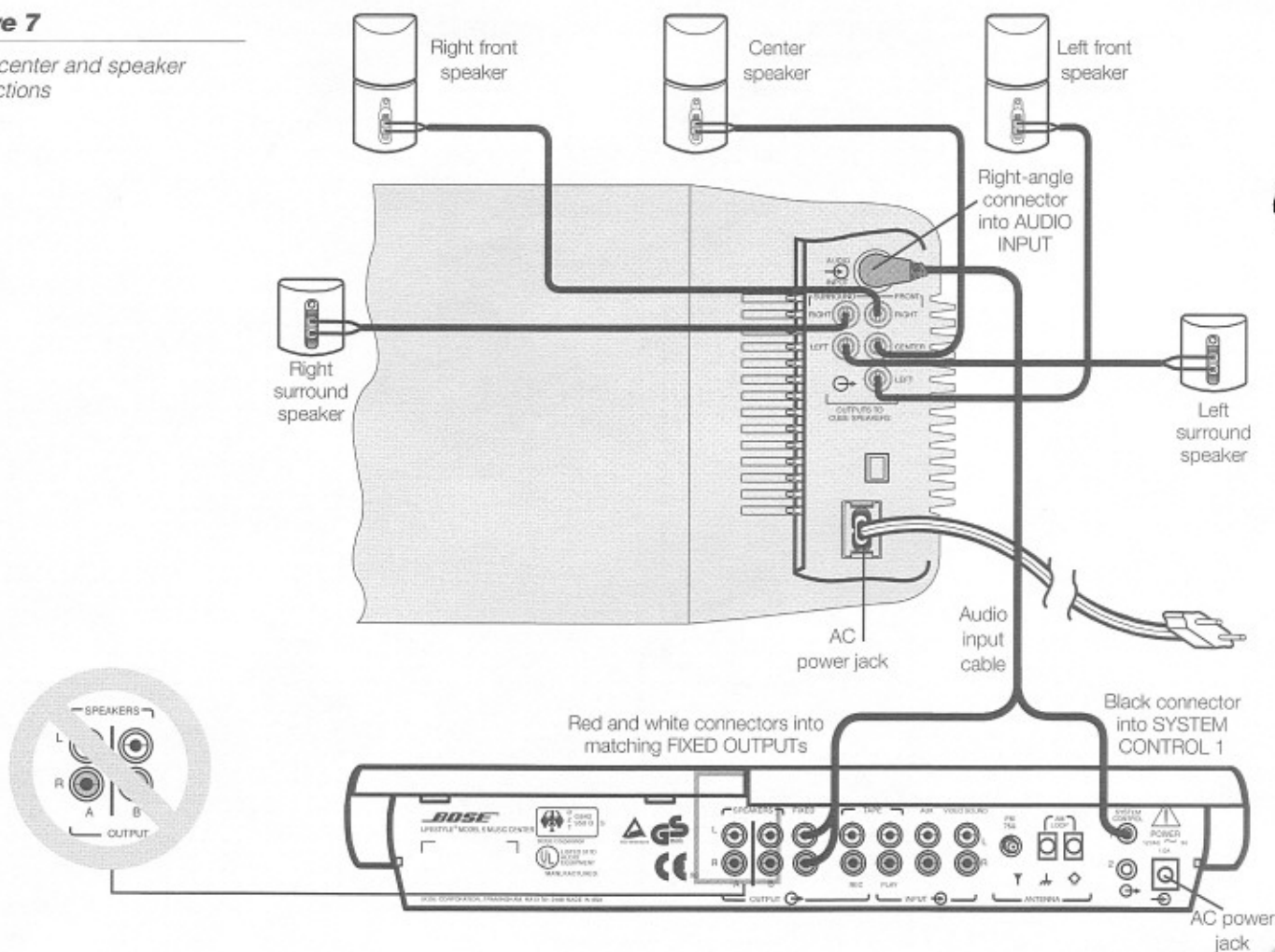
♪ **Note:** Be sure the connectors are fully inserted into each of the jacks. If the black connector is not inserted fully into the SYSTEM CONTROL jack, you will hear no sound.

♪ **Note:** Do **not** connect the audio input cable to the SPEAKERS A or SPEAKERS B outputs (Figure 7). The speakers in your Lifestyle® 900 system are designed to work properly with the fixed level audio output available from the FIXED OUTPUT jacks.

2. Insert the single right-angle multi-pin connector on the other end of the audio input cable into the AUDIO INPUT jack on the Acoustimass module. Align the connector at the angle shown in Figure 7.
3. Extend the audio input cable as much as possible, since it includes an antenna for the remote control.

**Figure 7**

Music center and speaker connections



**Connecting the Acoustimass® module power (mains) cord**

1. Plug the small end of the power (mains) cord into the Acoustimass module AC power jack.

♪ **Note:** Do **not** plug the AC power cord into a power outlet until all component connections are complete.

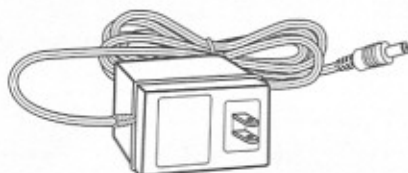
**Connecting the music center AC (mains) power pack**

The Lifestyle® music center comes with a 120VAC (mains) power pack for use in the USA and Canada.

⚠ **CAUTION:** Using the wrong power pack may damage the power pack or your music center.

**Figure 8**

The AC power pack



1. Firmly insert the small connector on the end of the AC (mains) power pack cable into the AC POWER jack on the back of the Lifestyle® music center.
2. Make sure that the power pack reaches an AC (mains) outlet.

♪ **Note:** Do **not** plug the AC power pack into a power outlet until all component connections are complete.

## Connecting your home theater components to the Lifestyle® 900 system

There are many variations of equipment in a home theater. A basic home theater system might include a stereo or mono TV and stereo VCR with the Lifestyle® 900 system. Your home theater can include many other combinations of equipment, including cable TV, laserdisc players, DVD players, CDI players, additional VCRs, and satellite decoder.

**Note:** A mono TV only serves as a display for the video, not as a source for the audio.

In order for the Lifestyle® 900 system to provide home theater effects, the program material must be in stereo or surround-encoded, and the device playing the material must be stereo. Look for the word "surround" on the tape, CD, or preceding the TV broadcast. To hear stereo or surround sound from encoded video tapes, you must have a stereo (HiFi) VCR. While not all VCRs are stereo devices, all CD, DVD, and CDI players and nearly all laserdisc players are stereo.

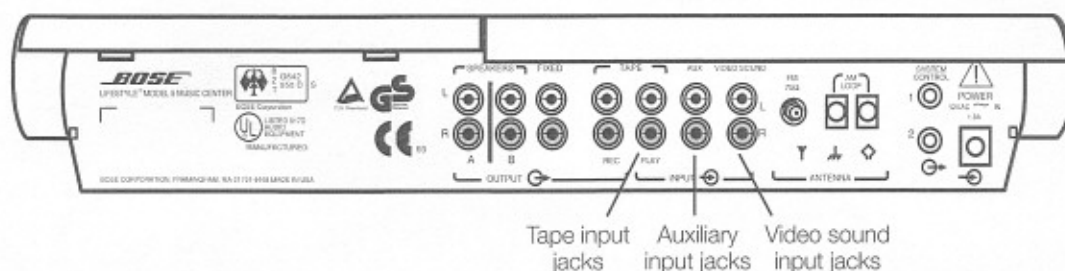
**Note:** Line level outputs from most VCRs or laserdisc players are fixed. If your VCR, laserdisc player, or other video sound source has fixed and variable outputs, use the fixed outputs.

### Setting up the primary video sound source

The Lifestyle® 900 system has one set of video inputs for the primary source (Figure 9).

**Figure 9**

Music center connectors

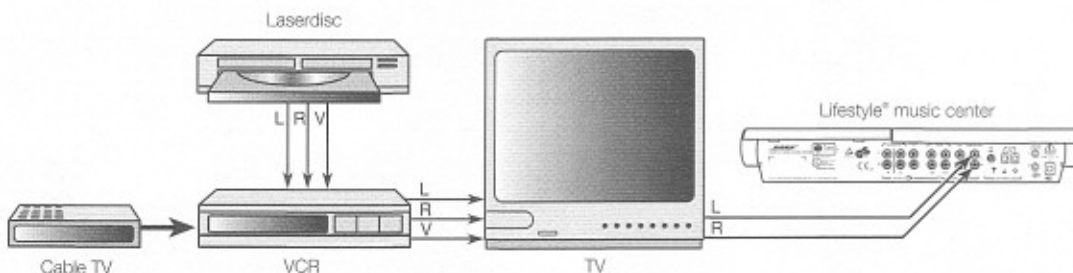


**Note:** Your Lifestyle® 900 system includes one 6-foot (1.8 m) stereo cable to connect the right (R) and left (L) audio outputs from a component to the music center inputs. Cables may also be supplied with your components. If needed, audio cables are available at many electronics stores, or call Bose®. Most audio cables are color coded. Match red connectors to right (R) jacks and black or white connectors to left (L) jacks.

There are three basic methods for setting up your home theater. It is easiest to use a stereo TV as the switching center to select the sound source. The next easiest option is to use a stereo VCR as the switching center. The third option is to connect components directly to the Lifestyle® 900 music center, and select the source from the Lifestyle® 900 remote or control panel.

**Figure 10**

Connecting components through your TV





**(1) To direct your video sound sources through your TV**

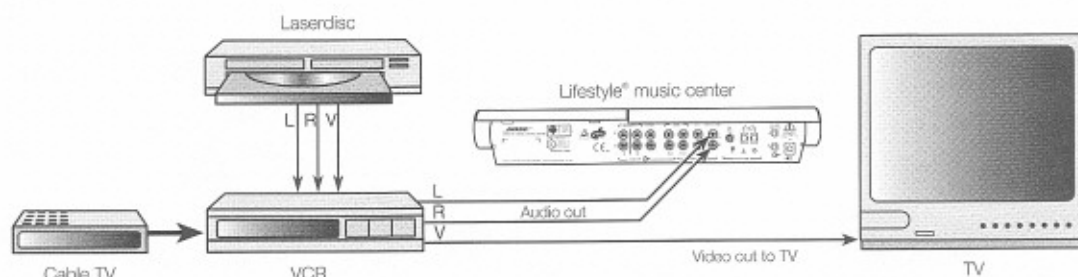
If your stereo TV has fixed audio outputs (the audio signal level doesn't change), and it allows you to select the source of the signal (VCR, laserdisc, cable, etc.):

- Connect your home theater components (VCR, cable box, laserdisc player, etc.) to the appropriate TV inputs. (See Figure 10.)
- Connect the fixed audio outputs to the VIDEO SOUND INPUTs of the music center.
- Turn the TV speakers off or the volume all the way down.  
(If there is an internal/external speakers switch, select external speakers. Do not connect any speakers to the TV.)
- Set the TV balance control to the center of the dial or range.
- Set tone controls to flat or the middle position (neutral).
- Set TV to the stereo position.

🎵 **Note:** If necessary, as a second choice, you can use variable audio outputs from your stereo TV. Turn off or disconnect the TV's speakers and leave the volume control up – close to the maximum setting.

**Figure 11**

Connecting components through your VCR

**(2) To direct your video sound sources through your VCR**

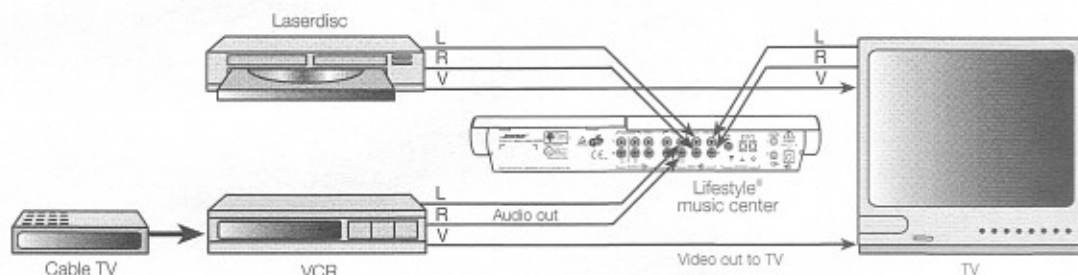
If your TV is not a stereo model, or does not have the appropriate outputs, connect your stereo VCR to the music center. Use the VCR as a tuner and to select other connected sound sources. (See Figure 11.)

- Connect your home theater components to the appropriate VCR inputs.
- Connect the VCR video signal to the TV through VIDEO IN or composite video input. You can also use the RF or antenna input.
- Turn the TV speakers off or the volume all the way down.  
(If there is an internal/external speakers switch, select external speakers. Do not connect any speakers to the TV.)
- Connect the VCR fixed audio outputs to the VIDEO SOUND INPUTs of the music center.

🎵 **Note:** To ensure proper stereo or surround sound, connect the L and R audio outputs from your stereo VCR directly to your music center L and R VIDEO SOUND inputs, as shown in Figure 11. If you prefer to connect the audio outputs from your TV to the music center, be sure to use the L and R audio outputs from the VCR to the TV, instead of using coaxial cable. If the audio signal passes through two coaxial cable connections (like the connection from a cable TV box), in some cases the stereo or surround encoding may be lost.

**Figure 12**

Connecting components to the Lifestyle® 900 system inputs



### (3) To connect components directly to the Lifestyle® 900 system

If you cannot (or do not choose to) use your TV or VCR to select the sound sources, connect up to three sound sources directly to the Lifestyle® 900 system. For example, connect a VCR into TAPE PLAY IN, a laserdisc to AUX IN, and a TV's fixed audio outputs to VIDEO SOUND IN on the music center. (See Figure 12.) By pressing one of these keys (TAPE, AUX, or VIDEO) on the music center control panel or remote control, you choose which sound source to hear. Select between TAPE, AUX, or VIDEO for the most pleasing sound quality for each particular program.

- 🎵 **Note:** Selecting VIDEO on your Lifestyle® 900 system automatically selects SURROUND (5-speaker) mode, and selecting AUX or TAPE automatically selects STEREO (2-speaker) mode. If you wish, you can change the speaker mode after you select the source.

### About the video source

Your TV is the display for the video (picture) signal. Therefore, the video signal must be connected directly to the TV. The video signal should not be connected to the Lifestyle® 900 system.

- 🎵 **Note:** For assistance with video connections, see your video components manuals.
- 🎵 **Note:** There is no video signal input (usually a yellow-coded jack) on the music center. The VIDEO SOUND INPUT jacks are for audio from a video source.

## Other connections

### Tape deck

To use an external tape recorder (analog audio cassette, analog open reel, digital audio tape, Digital Compact Cassette, or MiniDisc), connect the inputs (REC) from the tape deck to the music center TAPE REC jacks. Connect the outputs (PLAY) from the tape deck to the music center TAPE PLAY INPUT jacks, matching the red plug to R (right) and black or white plug to L (left).

### CD changer, DVD player, or laserdisc player

To use one of these components, connect its audio outputs to the music center AUX INPUT jacks, matching the red plug to R (right) and black or white plug to L (left).

### Turntable

To connect a turntable, you need a phono preamplifier (with RIAA equalization). Consult your dealer for the appropriate model. Connect the audio outputs of the phono preamplifier to the music center AUX INPUT jacks, matching the red plug to R (right) and black or white plug to L (left).

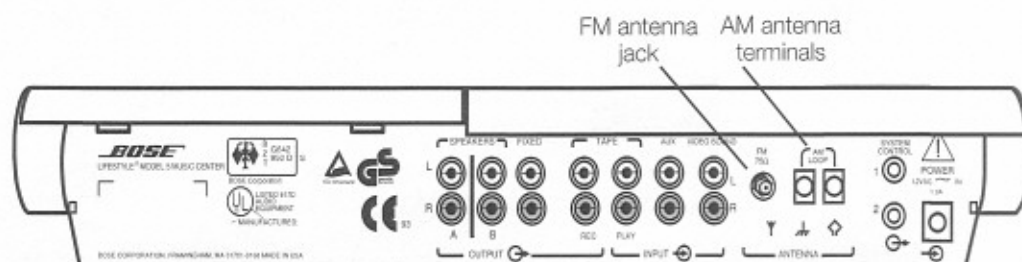
♪ **Note:** The Lifestyle® 900 system cannot control the operation of a connected component.

## Connect the antennas

The rear panel of your Lifestyle® music center provides connections for AM and FM antennas (Figure 13). Unwind each antenna's wires. Antennas provide better reception when their wires are not bundled.

**Figure 13**

The antenna connections



**Figure 14**

The FM dipole antenna



### FM antenna connections

1. Plug the antenna connector into the FM ANTENNA jack on the back of the Lifestyle® music center.
2. Spread out the antenna arms. Experiment with both the placement and the angle of this antenna to provide optimum FM reception.

### AM antenna connections

**Note:** To install the AM antenna on a wall, follow the instructions enclosed with the antenna.

1. Loosen the AM ANTENNA screw terminals on the back of the Lifestyle® music center.
2. Slide the wire connectors around the screw terminals. Tighten the screws over the connectors.
3. Stand the loop antenna on the base, following the instructions enclosed with the antenna.
4. Move the loop part of the antenna at least 20 inches (50 cm) from the music center. Experiment with the orientation of the loop for optimum AM reception.

**Note:** Outdoor antennas may be used with the music center antenna connections. To install an outdoor antenna, consult a qualified installer. Follow all safety instructions.

### Connecting to a cable radio signal

To connect your system to the FM signal available from some cable TV companies, contact your cable provider for assistance. The connection is made to the FM 75Ω EXTERNAL antenna connector on the back of the system.

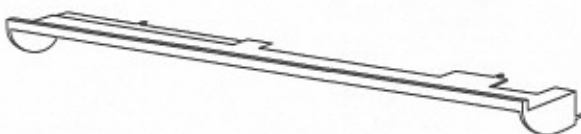
**CAUTION:** Be certain that the installation includes a signal splitter so that only the FM band, not the cable TV band, is transmitted to the system. It is necessary to use a splitter that filters the signal to prevent any re-emissions of the TV spectrum through the system.

## Attach the wire cover

To hide the wires and jacks from view, after all the connections are completed, attach the wire cover to the music center. The five tabs on the wire cover snap into matching slots on the music center back panel.

**Figure 16**

The wire cover





## Set up the remote control

### Install the batteries

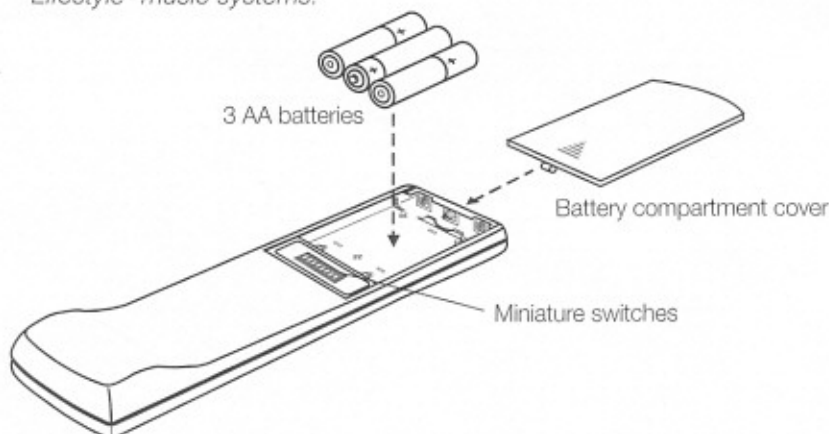
1. Slide open the battery compartment on the back of the remote (Figure 17).
2. Insert 3 AA or IEC-R6 1.5V batteries, or the equivalent, as shown. Match the + and – symbols on the batteries with the + and – markings inside the compartment.
3. Slide the battery compartment cover back into place.

Replace the batteries when the remote control stops operating or its range seems reduced. Alkaline batteries are recommended.

🎵 **Note:** Do not change the settings of the factory-preset miniature switches. See "Changing the house code settings" on page 24 for information on how to prevent conflicts with other Lifestyle® music systems.

**Figure 17**

Installing the remote control batteries



## Turn on the music center

Plug the Acoustimass® module power cord into an AC (mains) outlet. Then plug in the music center power pack.

🎵 **Note:** Your speakers will not operate unless you complete all cable and power connections before turning on the music center.

🎵 **Note:** If your system will be unattended for a few days, you may want to unplug your music center to prevent a neighbor's Lifestyle® remote control or your pets from accidentally turning it on. In addition, see "Changing the house code settings" on page 24.

You are ready to enjoy your new Lifestyle® system. Refer to the following pages for information on operating the music center controls and the Lifestyle® remote control.

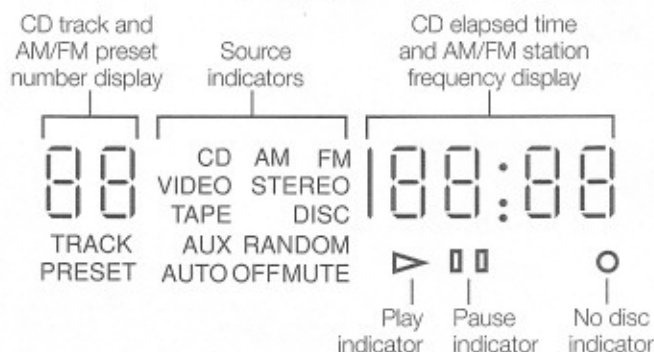
Play the Test CD, following the instructions on page 22. Listen to the instructions on the CD to verify your system setup.

## The music center display

This music center display (Figure 18) provides information on the music center functions.

**Figure 18**

The music center display



## The system controls

### Function

### Remote Control

### Music Center

**VIDEO** - Selects a video sound source connected to the VIDEO inputs, and turns the system on (in SURROUND speaker mode and enhanced bass).



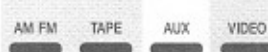
**AM/FM** - Selects the radio and turns the system on (in STEREO speaker mode). When the radio is on, switches between AM and FM.



**CD** - Selects the built-in CD player and turns the system on (in STEREO speaker mode).



**AUX** - Selects a CD changer or other component connected to the AUX inputs, and turns the system on (in STEREO speaker mode).



**TAPE** - Selects a tape deck or component connected to the TAPE inputs, and turns the system on (in STEREO speaker mode).



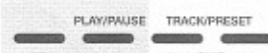
**■ STOP** - Stops the CD player.



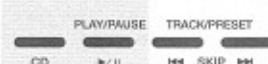
**▶/|| PLAY/PAUSE** - Begins or pauses play of the CD. When held down for two seconds, stops play of a CD.



**◀◀▶▶ SKIP** - Selects the previous or next CD track, or the previous or next preset radio station.



**◀◀▶▶ SKIP** - Press and hold to scan a CD. When these two keys on the music center are pressed simultaneously, plays CD tracks in random order.



**◀◀▶▶ SEEK** - Searches backward or forward through a CD. Seeks the previous or next strong AM or FM station.



**VOLUME ▲ \ ▼** - Raises or lowers the system volume.



**AUTO OFF** - Sets a 15-minute delay before the system shuts off. Each additional key press increases the time until shutoff by 15 minutes (up to 75 minutes).



**MUTE** - Silences the speakers. Also restores volume to muted speakers.

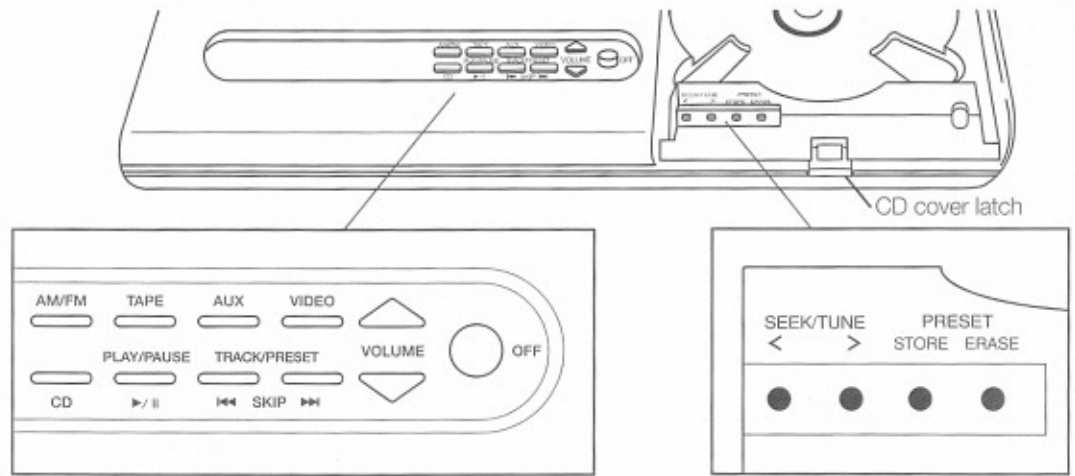


**OFF** - Turns the system off.



**Figure 19**

The music center controls



## The music center controls

Use the special keys on the music center to manually tune the radio and set station presets. The CD cover latch opens the CD cover for loading and unloading a CD.

**SEEK/TUNE < / >** - Lowers or raises the frequency setting of the radio (stations).

**PRESET STORE/ERASE** - Adds or removes radio station presets.

## The Lifestyle® remote control

**Figure 20**

The remote control



**Note:** Some types of buildings create "dead spots" where the remote will not operate.

Simply move the remote a foot or two and try again. You can also move the music center a few feet to a location with better remote response.

Special keys on the remote control select the speaker mode (2, 3, or 5 speakers), and adjust the surround (rear) volume and the center speaker volume.

**SPEAKER MODE** - Selects SURROUND (5-speaker), STEREO+CENTER (3-speaker), or STEREO (2-speaker) mode.

- When you press VIDEO, the system automatically selects SURROUND mode.
- For other sound sources (AM/FM, CD, AUX, TAPE), the system selects STEREO mode.
- Each time you change to another sound source, the system selects the factory-set speaker mode for that source (SURROUND for VIDEO, STEREO for all others).
- While the system is playing, you can change to any other speaker mode (SURROUND, STEREO+CENTER, STEREO).

**SURROUND + / -** - In SURROUND mode, raises or lowers the volume of the surround speakers. In STEREO+CENTER mode, raises or lowers the volume of the center speaker.

- Each time you select SURROUND mode, the surround and center speaker volumes return to the last settings used. Each time you select STEREO+CENTER mode, the center speaker volume returns to the last setting used.
- To return to the factory-set SURROUND or STEREO+CENTER volume, hold the SURROUND or STEREO+CENTER key for 10 seconds.
- While in STEREO (2-speaker) mode, pressing SURROUND + selects SURROUND (5-speaker) mode.

## Listening to your Lifestyle® 900 system

Your Lifestyle® 900 system offers the option of listening in 2, 3, or 5-speaker mode. The system turns on in SURROUND (5-speaker) mode when VIDEO is selected and in STEREO (2-speaker) mode for AM/FM, CD, TAPE, or AUX. You can change to the speaker mode that sounds best to you for each particular program.

You can listen to any program material in SURROUND mode, whether the program is surround-encoded, stereo, or monaural. You will not hear sound from all 5 speakers all of the time. Even with surround-encoded material there are times when no sounds are directed to the surround speakers. For most video material (mono, stereo, or surround), listening in 3 or 5-speaker mode helps anchor the dialogue to the picture while providing a fuller sound. See additional discussion about selecting program material on page 4.

The system's Videostage® decoding technology directs the sound from surround-encoded program material to the appropriate speakers to create the home theater effects. Monaural program material is directed to the front speakers, primarily the center. For stereo material, sounds encoded as left are directed to the left front, right to the right front, and both left and right directed primarily to the center. Some sounds which are not specifically left or right may also be directed to the surround speakers. Decide if the particular material sounds better to you in 3 or 5-speaker mode.

### Adjusting the volume

- Use the VOLUME ▲ (up) or ▼ (down) keys to raise or lower the volume.
- For SURROUND mode, use the SURROUND + or - keys to raise or lower the sound level directed to the surround speakers.
- For STEREO+CENTER mode, use the SURROUND + or - keys to raise or lower the sound level directed to the center speaker.

### Turning the system off

- Press the OFF key on the remote or the console.
- To turn off your music system automatically after 15 minutes, press the AUTO OFF key on the remote. Each additional press of AUTO OFF increases the time until shutoff by 15 minutes (up to 75 minutes). The display indicates AUTO OFF is set and flashes the amount of time set.

## Listening to video sound

### Turning the video components on

Turn on the TV, VCR, laserdisc, DVD, or CDI player, or other video source. If you are viewing video from a VCR, laserdisc, DVD, or CDI player, load a tape or disc.

### Turning the system on and choosing video sound


Press the VIDEO key on the remote or the console to turn your music system on to play video sound. The system turns on in SURROUND mode.

If your video component is connected to the music center AUX or TAPE jacks, press AUX or TAPE to select the source. The system turns on in STEREO mode. Select SURROUND or STEREO+CENTER mode, if desired.

### Using enhanced bass for movie soundtracks

Pressing VIDEO turns the system on in enhanced bass mode, a bass level specially designed for proper playback of movie soundtracks. Press VIDEO again to alternate between enhanced bass for movies and standard bass for other listening.

Pressing AUX or TAPE turns the system on in standard bass mode. Press AUX or TAPE again to alternate between standard bass for other listening and enhanced bass for movies.

 **Note:** You may not hear a difference between enhanced and standard bass when listening to movie soundtracks that do not have much very low bass content.



## Listening to the radio

### Turning the system on and choosing the radio

Press the AM/FM key on the remote or the console to turn your music system on to the most recently heard AM or FM station. The system turns on in STEREO mode. Select another speaker mode, if desired.

🎵 **Note:** If the system is on and the radio is already selected, this key switches between the AM and FM bands.

### Tuning

#### Seeking the strongest stations

- Press and release the SEEK ►► (forward) or ◄◄ (reverse) key on the remote to seek and stop at the next strong signal. If you hold these keys down, the radio continues to seek without stopping at any station.
- Or, press SEEK/TUNE > or < (under the CD cover) on the music center.
- To stop seeking in one direction, briefly press the opposite direction key.

#### Switching between AM and FM

Press the AM/FM key to switch to the other band.

#### Manual tuning

If you want to tune the radio to a distant or weak station that the radio cannot seek, use the SEEK/TUNE keys, located under the CD cover.

1. Hold down the > or < key to scan through the stations.
2. Release the > or < key to stop at a selected station.
3. As soon as the scan stops, tap the > or < key to tune one channel at a time.

#### Setting a station preset

Your Lifestyle® music center can store up to 20 AM and FM stations in any combination.

1. Select a radio station you wish to store as a preset.
2. Press the STORE key (located under the CD cover). The station is stored in the lowest available preset location.
3. If you decide not to store the displayed station in the displayed preset location:
  - a. Press and hold the STORE key.
  - b. Press the SKIP ►► (forward) or ◄◄ (reverse) key to select a different preset number for this station.
  - c. Release the STORE key. The frequency of the preset station flashes.

🎵 **Note:** You cannot store a station in an already-occupied preset location without erasing that preset station first (see "Erasing a preset station" below). If you attempt to store more than 20 stations, the preset display will flash '— —'.

#### Selecting a preset station

Once you set one or more station presets, press the SKIP ►► (forward) or ◄◄ (reverse) key to select the next or the previous preset station.

#### Erasing a preset station

1. Use the SKIP ►► (forward) or ◄◄ (reverse) keys to select the preset station you wish to erase.
2. Press the ERASE key (located under the CD cover). The preset number is no longer lit.

## Listening to a CD

### Loading a CD into the music center

Press the latch on the CD cover, and place a CD onto the spindle, label-side up. Close the CD cover.













### Turning the system on and choosing the CD player

Press the CD key on the remote or the console. If the music system is already on, pressing one of these keys selects the CD player and the CD indicator lights. The system turns on in STEREO mode. Select another speaker mode, if desired.

If a CD has been loaded, it begins to play. If no CD is loaded, the No Disc  indicator lights.


### Using the CD player

The following operations apply to keys on both the remote control and the music center, except where noted:

- To play a stopped or paused CD, press  PLAY/PAUSE.
- To pause a CD, press .
- To stop a CD, hold the  key on the music center for two seconds, press the  STOP key on the remote, or open the CD cover.
- To skip tracks, press SKIP  (forward) to go to the next track or SKIP  (reverse) to go to the beginning of the current or previous track.
- To move through a track, on the remote control press SEEK  (forward) to move forward or SEEK  (reverse) to move back, on the music center press and hold SKIP  or SKIP .
- To play tracks in random order, (using the music center controls only) press the SKIP  and  keys simultaneously. To continue playing the tracks in their regular order, press these keys again.

## Using the system with an external component



Follow the instructions for connecting a component before proceeding. To begin, make sure the component is turned on and a tape, CD, DVD, laserdisc, etc. is loaded.

 **Note:** The Lifestyle® 900 system cannot control the operation of a connected component.


### Turning the system on and selecting the component

Press the TAPE, AUX, or VIDEO key on either the remote or the console to turn the system on and select the component connected to that input. If the system is already on, press one of these keys to select the component. If you choose TAPE or AUX, the Lifestyle® 900 defaults to STEREO mode; if you choose VIDEO, the Lifestyle® 900 plays in SURROUND mode. Choose another speaker mode, if desired. The appropriate display indicator lights when the system is on and the component is selected.

### Using a tape deck, CD changer, or other connected component

Turn on your component directly or by using its remote control. Use the VOLUME  (up) or  (down) key on the Lifestyle® 900 remote control or music center to raise or lower the volume. Control all other functions at the source, referring to its owner's manual if necessary. To record to a connected tape deck, play the source (AM/FM, CD, AUX, VIDEO) you wish to tape. Set the tape unit to record.

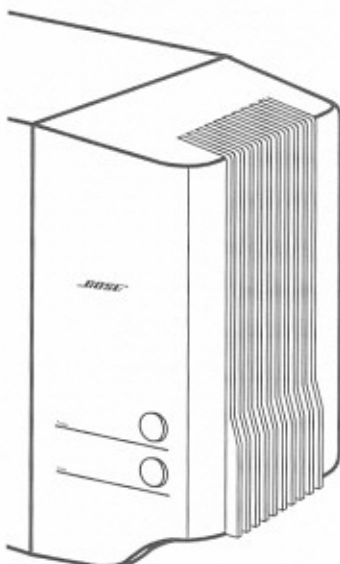
### Using headphones

For headphone listening, use the stereo mini headphones  jack on the left side of the music center. While this jack accepts most headphone models, you can get an adapter at Bose® dealers and most electronics stores, if needed. Connecting headphones automatically shuts off speakers connected to the FIXED OUTPUTS and SPEAKERS A.

## Fine-tuning your system

**Figure 21**

Bass and treble controls



In most situations, you only need to follow the speaker placement guidelines (see "Setting Up" on pages 6-8) for your system to provide excellent sound quality.

You do not need to adjust tone settings for changes in volume, since Bose® patented signal processing technology provides a natural tonal balance over the full range of volume settings.

If desired, you can further fine-tune your system as described here.

### Adjusting speaker controls

The Lifestyle® 900 system TREBLE and BASS controls are located on the Acoustimass® module (Figure 21). They allow you to adjust the treble (high frequencies) and bass (low frequencies). In the normal setting, the dots on each control are 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, and 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 too 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 further 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 +).

Acoustimass module placement affects the amount of bass you hear. Placing the module closer to the corner of the room increases bass. Moving the module away from the corner decreases bass.

### Compensating for movie soundtracks

When a movie soundtrack is played in a motion picture theater, its bass is enhanced by electronic compensation to the full level intended by the movie's sound designer. To perform the same way in your home, your Lifestyle® 900 system restores the bass to this level when you select VIDEO. In VIDEO, AUX, or TAPE mode, you can choose between standard and enhanced bass.

In VIDEO mode, the system turns on enhanced bass for movies. Press VIDEO again to change to standard bass.

In AUX or TAPE mode, the system turns on in standard bass. Press AUX or TAPE again to change to enhanced bass for movies.

## Changing the house code settings

Each Lifestyle® remote control uses a system of matching house codes to communicate with its corresponding music center. If your remote's commands ever conflict with those of another nearby Lifestyle® system, you can easily set a new house code for your system and its remote control(s) by following the procedures below.

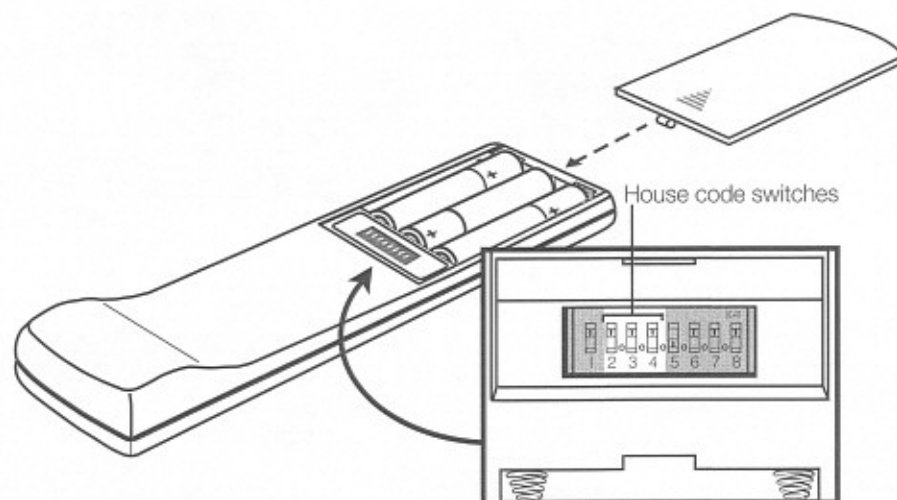
1. Open the remote control battery cover.
2. Locate the miniature switches (Figure 22). Change the position of switch 2, 3, or 4 by moving it in the opposite direction from its current setting.

♪ **Note:** Do not change any other switches at this time.

3. Replace the battery cover on the remote control.
4. Press the OFF key on the console.
5. Open the CD cover.
6. Press the STORE key. The display will begin to flash '— —'.
7. Within two seconds while the display is flashing, press any key on the remote control.  
The display stops flashing and momentarily shows '— —' to confirm recognition of the house code. The system will remain off.
8. If you have additional remote controls, open the battery cover of each one and change the switches to match those of the first remote control. It is not necessary to repeat steps 4–7.

**Figure 22**

Miniature switches for setting house codes and speakers





## Adding speakers

Your Lifestyle® 900 system provides high quality audio for a single listening area. However, your music center also provides connections (SPEAKERS A or SPEAKERS B) for adding a pair of powered speakers in a second room. In the second room, you can listen to the sound source that is playing in the main room.

You can purchase an additional remote control to keep in the second room.

Keep the following considerations in mind if you choose to connect secondary speakers.

*Using speakers connected to the B outputs:*

- You must use a second remote control, set to B (see instructions below), to turn on the B speakers.
- Adjusting volume with this second remote adjusts volume for only the B speakers.
- Using the mute key on the second remote mutes or unmutes the second room speakers only.

*Using speakers connected to the A outputs:*


- The music center controls operate speakers connected to FIXED and A outputs.
- Adjusting volume from the music center control panel or with the remote control that came with the system adjusts volume for speakers connected to FIXED and A outputs.
- Using the mute key on the main remote mutes or unmutes speakers connected to FIXED and A outputs.

### Setting a second remote for additional speakers

You need a second remote control, set to B, to operate speakers connected to the SPEAKERS B outputs. When you purchase a second remote control, it is shipped set to A, to control your main speakers. It will also control secondary speakers connected to SPEAKERS A.

To set your second remote to control speakers connected to B, follow these steps:

1. Open the remote control battery cover.
2. Locate miniature switch 5. Slide the switch down (Figure 23).
3. Locate miniature switch 6. Slide the switch up (Figure 23).
4. Make sure that the house code switches match those on your first remote (see page 20).
5. Replace the battery cover on the remote control.

 **Note:** Switches 7 and 8 are not for current system use.

**Figure 23**

Speaker code switch settings



Set to SPEAKERS A



Set to SPEAKERS B

## Troubleshooting

<b>Problem</b>	<b>What to do</b>
System does not function at all	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make sure the power connector is plugged securely into the music center, the Acoustimass® module power cord is plugged securely into the module, and the power pack and power cord are plugged into operating AC wall outlets.</li> <li>• Be sure to select a source (CD, AM/FM, etc.).</li> <li>• Unplug the music center power pack for a minute, then reconnect it. This allows the unit to reset itself after a power surge or power interruption.</li> </ul>
No sound	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make sure the audio input cable is connected to the music center FIXED outputs, the black connector is fully seated in the music center SYSTEM CONTROL 1 jack, and the multi-pin connector is firmly seated in the Acoustimass module jack.</li> <li>• Turn the music center off for ten seconds, then on again, to reestablish communication between the music center and the speakers.</li> <li>• Check the connections for any external components. Make sure to select the correct source for the desired input.</li> <li>• Check the speaker connections.</li> <li>• Be sure the CD is placed correctly, label-side up, in the music center, and the cover is closed.</li> <li>• Increase the volume.</li> <li>• Check to see if MUTE is lit in the display. Press the MUTE button on the remote to unmute the sound.</li> <li>• Disconnect any headphones.</li> <li>• Connect the FM and AM antennas.</li> </ul>
No sound from center speaker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make sure that the center cube cable is connected at both ends.</li> <li>• Select STEREO+CENTER (3-speaker) or SURROUND (5-speaker) mode.</li> </ul>
Too much sound from center speaker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In STEREO+CENTER mode, press SURROUND <b>—</b>, to decrease center speaker volume.</li> <li>• Press and hold the STEREO+CENTER (3-speaker) mode key for 10 seconds to restore the factory preset center volume setting.</li> </ul>
No sound from surround speakers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Select SURROUND (5-speaker) mode.</li> <li>• Press SURROUND <b>+</b>.</li> <li>• Make sure the video sound source is stereo and surround-encoded, and the component used (TV, VCR, DVD or laserdisc player) is stereo.</li> </ul>
Surround speakers are too loud	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In SURROUND mode, press SURROUND <b>—</b>.</li> <li>• Make sure that the left and right front speakers are connected to the front speaker jacks and the left and right surround speakers are connected to the surround speaker jacks.</li> <li>• Press and hold the SURROUND (5-speaker) mode key for 10 seconds to restore the factory preset surround volume setting.</li> </ul>
Remote control is inconsistent or does not work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Check batteries and their polarity (+ and -).</li> <li>• Operate the remote control closer to the music center.</li> <li>• Make sure the remote control house code matches the music center code. Follow steps 4-7 on page 24 to match the house code settings.</li> </ul>
Unit turns on and off by itself, or acts erratically	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Change the house code setting to prevent signals from conflicting with another nearby Lifestyle® system. See page 24 for instructions on setting the house code.</li> </ul>

<b>Problem</b>	<b>What to do</b>
CD does not play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make sure the music center CD cover is closed.</li> <li>• Check to see if the play symbol ► in the display is lit.</li> <li>• After pressing the CD key, wait a few seconds before pressing PLAY.</li> <li>• Check to see if there is a disc in the player, label-side up.</li> <li>• The disc may be damaged. Try another disc.</li> <li>• There may be dirt or dust on the laser pickup or on the CD. Clean the CD. Do not touch the laser pickup.</li> <li>• The music center cannot play a DVD disc.</li> </ul>
Radio does not work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make sure antennas are connected properly.</li> <li>• Adjust antenna position to improve reception.</li> <li>• You may be in an area of weak signal coverage.</li> </ul>
FM sound is distorted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adjust antenna position to reduce interference.</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> <li>• Reduce the output level from any external components connected to the music center.</li> </ul>
Volume control is too sensitive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Check to be sure the audio input cable is connected to the music center FIXED OUTPUTS, not to SPEAKERS A or B.</li> </ul>
No tape, CD, VCR, or TV sound	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Check the connections.</li> <li>• Refer to the component owner's manual.</li> </ul>

## **Warranty period**

The Bose® Lifestyle® 900 system is covered by a limited 1-year transferable warranty. Details of the warranty are provided on the warranty card that came with your system. Please fill out the information section on the card and mail it to Bose.

## **Customer service**

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

## **Cleaning the Lifestyle® 900 system**

The only maintenance needed is cleaning the system and replacing batteries for the remote control.

For information on replacing the remote control batteries, see "Install the batteries" on page 17.

### **Cleaning the music center**

Use only a soft cloth to clean the outside of the Lifestyle® music center.

Do not use any solvents, chemicals, or cleaning solutions containing alcohol, ammonia, or abrasives. Do not allow liquids to spill into any openings. Do not use any sprays near the system.

### **Cleaning the CD player lens**

Clean the CD player lens carefully, and only if necessary. If the lens is dusty, blow the dust away using a cold blower or camera lens brush. To remove fingerprints from the lens, wipe it gently with a lens tissue moistened with lens cleaning solution. Make sure no solution enters the unit; it may cause damage.

♪ **Note:** Do **not** apply excessive pressure on the lens, which could be damaged.

### **Cleaning the speakers and Acoustimass® module**

Clean the surface of your speakers with a soft damp cloth. Do not use any sprays near the system. Do not use any solvents, chemicals, or cleaning solutions containing alcohol, ammonia, or abrasives. Do not allow liquids to spill into any openings.

The speaker grille panels require no special care, although you may vacuum them carefully with a soft-bristled attachment, if necessary.

⚠ **CAUTION:** If liquids get into the product, turn the system off and allow it to air dry. Then turn it on again. If you notice any problems with its functioning, turn it off and contact Bose® customer service.



## Technical information

### **Music center power pack power rating**

120V~ 60 Hz 25VA

### **Speaker system power rating**

120V~ 50/60 Hz 350W

### **Music center inputs**

TAPE: 3V maximum

AUX, VIDEO SOUND: 4V maximum

FM antenna: 75Ω

AM antenna: 12 μH

POWER: 12V~, 1.0 A

### **Outputs**

Variable audio: SPEAKERS A and B

Fixed audio: FIXED, TAPE

Headphone: 32Ω minimum impedance

SYSTEM CONTROL: for use with Bose® powered speakers and accessories

### **Remote control range**

65 feet (20 m)

### **Finish**

Music center

Simulated aluminum, Polymer

Cube speakers

Polymer, painted

Acoustimass module

Vinyl veneer, Polymer

### **Dimensions**

Music center:

15.0"W x 7.8"D x 2.5"H  
(38.1 cm x 19.8 cm x 6.4 cm)

Cube arrays:

3.0"W x 4.8"D x 6.0"H  
(7.6 cm x 12.2 cm x 15.2 cm)

Cube speakers

3.0"W x 4.8"D x 3.0"H  
(7.6 cm x 12.2 cm x 7.6 cm)

Acoustimass® module

20"W x 7.5"D x 14.0"H  
(50.8 cm x 19.0 cm x 35.5 cm)

### **Weights**

Music center: 4.0 lb (1.7 kg)

Cube arrays: 2.0 lb (1.0 kg)

Cube speakers: 1.0 lb (0.5 kg)

Acoustimass module:

28 lb (12.6 kg)

Total shipping weight:

56 lb (25.2 kg)

## Accessories

To find out about mounting brackets, stands, and additional remote controls, contact your Bose dealer. Or call Bose directly (see inside back cover for phone numbers).

**A**

Acoustimass® module 2-11, 17, 23, 28, 29  
 AM antenna 5, 16, 26, 29  
 AM/FM 4, 18-22, 26  
 ANTENNA 16  
 antenna 5, 13, 16, 26, 27, 29  
 audio input cable 5, 8, 10, 26  
 AUTO OFF 18, 20  
 AUX 14, 18, 19, 22, 29  
 auxiliary 4

**B**

BASS control 23  
 batteries 5, 17, 26, 28

**C**

cable 5-13, 26, 27  
 cable box 13  
 cable radio signal 16  
 cable TV 12  
 CD 4, 8, 12, 18, 19, 21, 22, 24, 26-28  
 CD player cover 8  
 CDI player 12, 20  
 center speaker 7, 26  
 compact disc 17  
 connections 9-11, 14-16, 25-27  
 controls 2, 8, 13, 18, 19, 23, 24, 29  
 cube speakers 6, 29  
 customer service 6, 9, 27

**D**

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