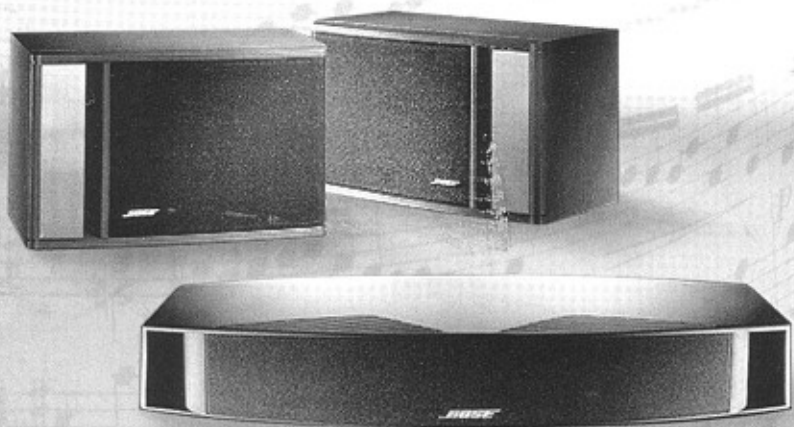


**Bose® VCS-300™ Home Theater
Upgrade Package**

Owner's Guide

BOSE



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Bose® Corporation	
Address information	inside back cover

For your records

Serial numbers are located on the back of your center speaker and on the back of each surround speaker.

Center speaker serial number: _____

Surround speaker serial numbers: _____ & _____

Dealer name: _____

Dealer phone: _____

Purchase date: _____

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

*Dolby is a trademark of Dolby Laboratories Licensing Corporation.

Before you begin

Thank you for choosing Bose® home theater speakers. The VCS-300™ speaker system is engineered specifically for use with video soundtracks. It is designed to make the most of audio for video (A/V) surround sound receivers or amplifiers with five amplified speaker outputs.

The center speaker is magnetically shielded, which allows you to put this speaker directly on, above, or below your video screen without causing screen discoloration. There it will deliver clear, crisp soundtrack reproduction from the center channel. Other speakers at the front of your room provide the left and right video sound.

In addition to the center speaker, the VCS-300 system includes two unshielded surround speakers. They are designed for use at the rear of your room.

Please read and follow the instructions in this guide. They will help you set up and use your new home theater speakers for the fullest listening and viewing enjoyment.

Unpack the carton

Carefully unpack the carton and save all packing materials for possible future use. Inspect the contents (Figure 1).

If any speaker appears damaged, do not use it. Instead, repack all parts in the original carton and notify Bose® or your authorized Bose dealer immediately.

Note: Now is a good time to record the serial numbers found on the back of each speaker. Write them on your warranty card and on page 2 of this owner's guide.

CAUTION:

To avoid danger of suffocation, keep the plastic bags that wrap these speakers out of the reach of children.

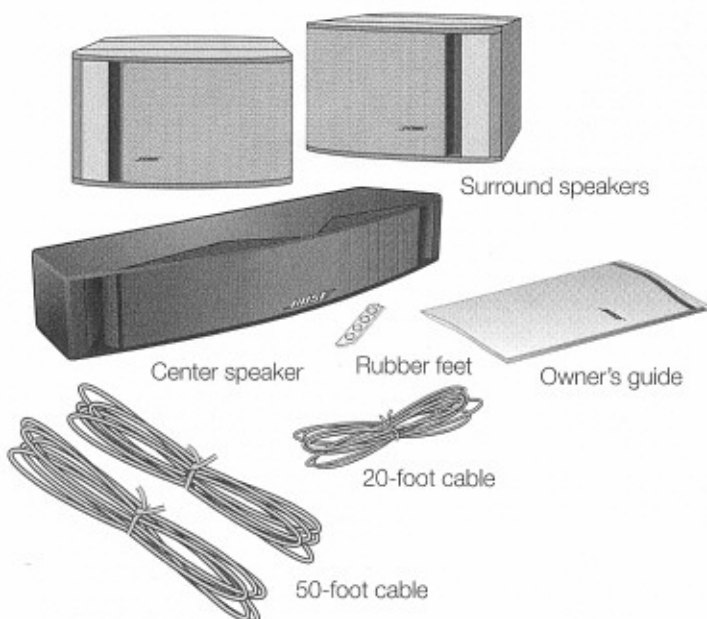
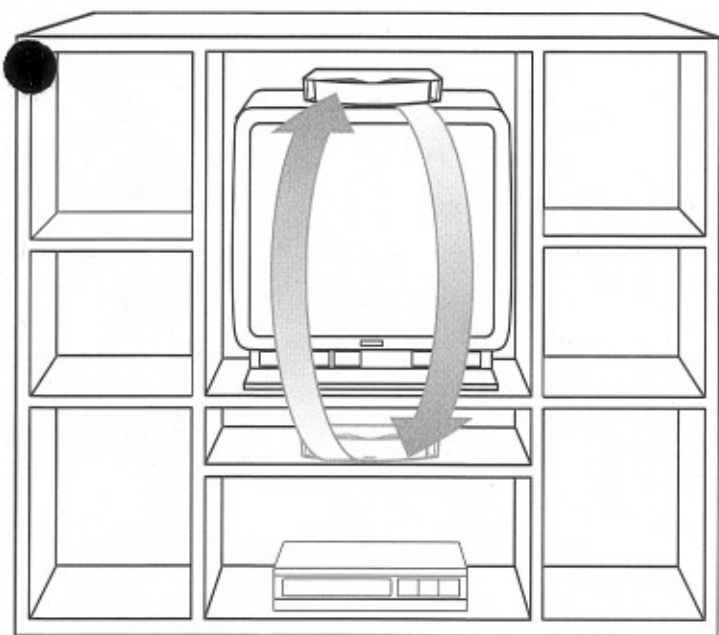


Figure 1

Carton contents:

- 2 surround speakers
- Center speaker
- 4 rubber feet
- 3 speaker cords:
 - 1 20-foot (6 m) cord for center speaker
 - 2 50-foot (15 m) cords for surround speakers
- Owner's guide

**Figure 2**

Alternate choices for placing the center speaker

CAUTION:

The center speaker is not designed to be set on end in a vertical position, mounted on a wall, or to support the additional weight of items placed on top of the speaker, which could also hamper its performance. Use care not to allow debris or water from plants, or other items on a shelf above, from falling onto the speaker.

Place the center speaker

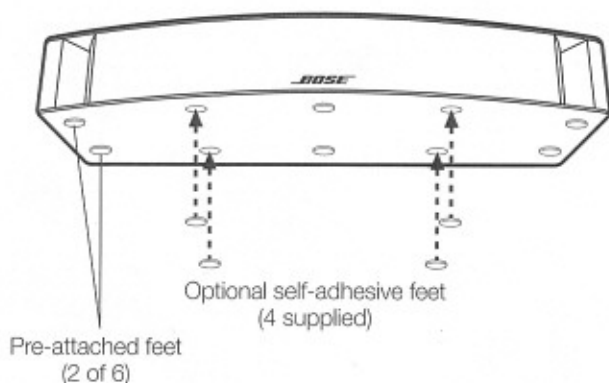
The center speaker provides center channel surround sound performance while taking up very little space. The slim, low-profile design allows it to fit directly on, above, or below your television (Figure 2). Rubber feet ensure stable positioning and magnetic shielding prevents video screen discoloration.

For full enjoyment, follow these placement guidelines:

- Place the speaker on, or very close to, your television set and center it with the screen.
- Be sure to set it on a level surface.
- Apply additional rubber feet farther in from the edges, as needed, for greater stability (Figure 3).

CAUTION:

Be sure the center speaker is in a stable position and does not extend beyond the edges of its support. Use additional rubber feet as needed to prevent it from tipping or falling from a television surface that is not completely level.

**Figure 3**

Adding optional self-adhesive feet to the bottom of the center speaker

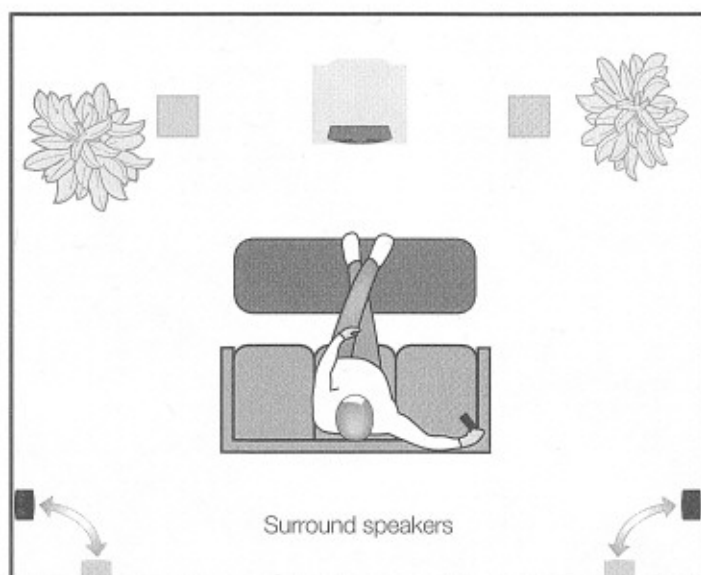


Figure 4

Alternate choices for placing the surround speakers

Position your surround speakers

The VCS-300™ surround speakers provide surround sound effects from the rear of your viewing area (Figure 4).

Set the speakers on a table or shelf. Or, if you prefer, use the T-nuts on the bottom of each speaker enclosure to mount the speakers using Bose® brackets.

Note: Bose WB-10 wall brackets are designed for use with VCS-300 surround speakers. For information, or to order the brackets, contact Bose as listed on the inside back cover.

For accurate surround sound:

- Place these speakers behind the general viewing area, along the rear wall or to the rear of side walls.
- Do not aim them at the listeners.
- Make sure they are at least 2 feet (.6 m) from your video screen.
- Place both speakers at the same height.
- Place the speakers as far apart as your room allows.

CAUTION:

Do not place the surround speakers within two feet (.6 m) of your video screen. They are not magnetically shielded and will cause serious video screen discoloration if placed too close to the screen.

Connect the speakers

Note: Before running speaker cord through a wall or under a floor, check your local building code requirements and safety regulations. You may want to contact an electrical installer for this information.

If your receiver's center channel is not amplified, you must connect an amplifier to the receiver. Use an RCA cable to connect the center channel RCA-type output on the receiver to the RCA-type input on the amplifier. The speaker will then connect directly to the amplifier instead of to the receiver.

Use the supplied cord

Use the supplied 20-foot (6 m) cord to connect the center speaker. Use the two 50-foot (15 m) cords to connect the surround speakers placed at the rear of your room.

Note: To place the surround speakers more than 50 feet (15 m) from the receiver or amplifier, splice in 18-gauge (0.75 mm²) or thicker wire. Make sure to attach the wires positive to positive and negative to negative.

Each cord consists of two insulated wires. The insulation around one wire is marked (striped, collared, or ribbed). This marked wire is always positive (+). The plain wire is always negative (-). These wires correspond to the red (+) and black (-) terminals on the speaker and the receiver or amplifier.

Note: It is sometimes difficult to distinguish wire markings. Inspect both wires carefully.

CAUTION:

Before making any connections, turn off your receiver or amplifier and unplug it from the AC power (mains) outlet. Not doing so may result in damage to your system.

CAUTION:

Never use broken or frayed wiring, which can result in damage to your components.

Make the connections

At the connection end of the speaker, slide or push one terminal lever and insert the appropriate wire (Figure 6).

1. Connect one end of the speaker cord to your speaker.
 - a. Attach the marked wire to the red (+) terminal.
 - b. Attach the plain wire to the black (-) terminal.
2. Connect the other end of the same cord to your receiver or amplifier (Figure 7).
 - a. Attach the marked wire to the red (+) terminal.
 - b. Attach the plain wire to the black (-) terminal.
 - The center speaker connects to the CENTER SPEAKER outputs on the receiver. Some surround sound receivers have two sets of center channel speaker outputs. Use either set.
 - The left surround speaker connects to the LEFT SURROUND SPEAKER outputs.
 - The right surround speaker connects to the RIGHT SURROUND SPEAKER outputs.

Center speaker

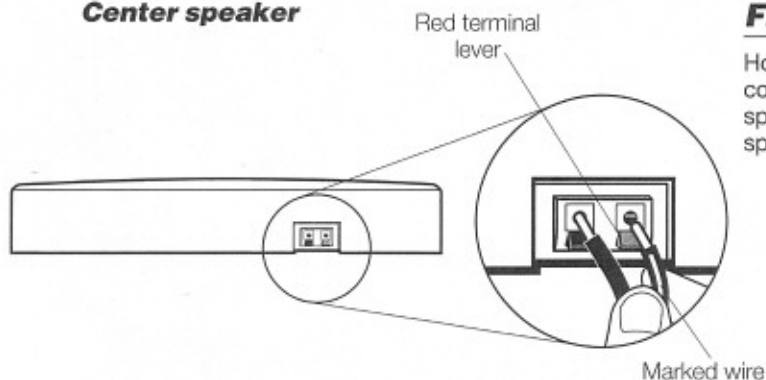
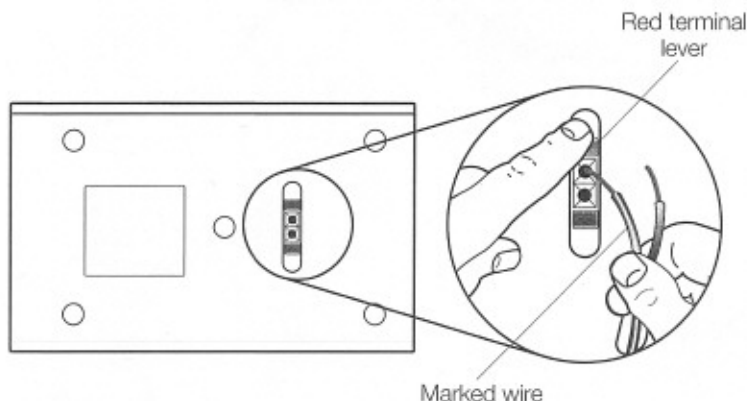


Figure 6

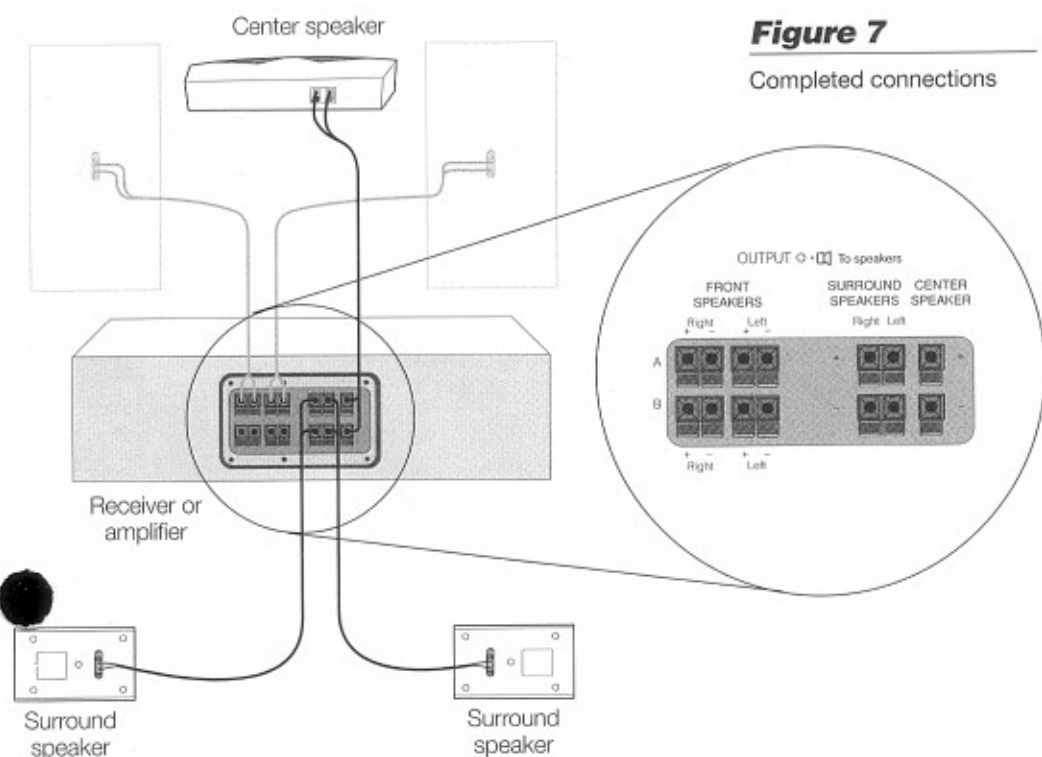
How to make terminal connections to the center speaker and surround speakers

Surround speaker



Check the connections

Make sure each connection is made positive to positive (+ to +) and negative to negative (- to -). Check to be sure that no loose strands of wire touch across terminals. Bridged wires can short-circuit and damage the electrical components. Tighten any loose connections before you plug in the receiver or amplifier and turn it on.



For realistic home theater sound

Each speaker produces only the sound directed to it by your surround sound receiver. During a surround sound program, the front and center speakers will emit sound almost constantly, while the surround speakers may be silent at times.

How to set your Pro-Logic receiver

For use in video applications, be sure the SURROUND SOUND *center mode* setting of your receiver is on NORMAL (Figure 8). You may press in the button labeled Loudness (Bass Boost or Super Bass on some receivers) to see if you prefer that video sound.

Use the test tone on your receiver to further verify connections and to adjust the volume level of the speakers.

To use the test tone

1. Press *test tone* ON at the receiver remote.
2. Listen and confirm that each speaker reproduces sound as the tone moves from speaker to speaker. One tone should come from both SURROUND speakers at the same time.
3. Adjust the volume levels of the CENTER and SURROUND speakers so all of the speakers sound equally loud in your main listening area.

Instructions for this process vary, depending on the receiver brand and model you are using. Follow your receiver owner's guide instructions for more details on using the test tone.

To balance the bass and treble

Upholstered furniture, wall-to-wall carpets, or heavy drapes can muffle treble (high notes), making your speaker system sound bass heavy. Bare floors and walls and hard surface furniture can make your speaker system sound too shrill. After listening to your speakers, you may want to adjust the balance of bass and treble. You can use the bass and treble controls on your receiver.



Figure 8

The receiver or amplifier set for NORMAL surround sound mode

How to set your Dolby Digital receiver

Our VCS-300™ speakers are compatible with the output from Dolby Digital (AC-3) receivers. Take special care to set the channel output on the Dolby Digital screen menu to SMALL for both the center speaker and surround speakers.

Receiver channel output	Proper setting
--------------------------------	-----------------------

Center	SMALL
--------------	-------

Left and Right Surround	SMALL
-------------------------------	-------

(For VCS-300 surround speakers)

Follow the receiver owner's guide instructions for using the receiver test tone to verify your connections and to adjust the volume levels of the speakers.

If the sound is interrupted

The VCS-300 center channel speaker features an advanced automatic electronic protection circuit to prevent speaker damage due to an overload.

When it detects an overload, the protection circuit intermittently shuts down and resets the speaker a fraction of a second later, until the overload is cleared. Intermittent play will continue for the duration of the overload.

If you hear this interruption, turn down the volume to relieve the overload. You will hear the speaker resume normal play when the volume is set at a safe level.

Note: The overload problem described here should occur only if the receiver is overdriven and sending a distorted signal, or when the center speaker is driven by an amplifier rated well above the 100 watts per channel maximum listed in "Compatibility" on page 13.

Troubleshooting

Problem	What to do
No sound	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Check the volume control.• Make sure the receiver (or amplifier) is plugged in and turned on.• Check all connections (see pages 8-9).• Make sure the receiver is not on Mute.• Make sure headphones are not connected to the receiver.
Center or surround speaker does not work	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Make sure your receiver has amplified center and surround channels.• Be sure your receiver is set properly (refer to pages 10-11).• Check the audio source material to be sure it is encoded for surround sound.• Check the speaker connections. Refer to "Make the connections" on page 8.• If your surround sound receiver is Pro-Logic, be sure an RCA stereo cable connects the receiver to a stereo sound source (TV, VCR, laserdisc, or DSS player).• If the receiver is connected directly to a stereo television, make sure that all other program sources (VCR, laserdisc, or DSS player) are connected to the TV using RCA stereo cable as well.• If your surround sound receiver is Dolby Digital (AC-3), be sure the sound source (DSS, laserdisc, or DVD player) is connected directly to your receiver as described in your receiver owner's guide.
Center speaker intermittently shuts down	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduce the volume until that speaker returns to normal play. Automatic electronic protection circuitry may have engaged to prevent an overload.• Check the power rating of your receiver (see "Compatibility" on page 13.)• Make sure your receiver is set for NORMAL surround sound center mode.
Sound is distorted	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Check the speaker cord for damage.• Reduce the output level from your TV or other components connected to the receiver.

Customer service

To arrange for service, contact your authorized Bose® dealer. Or, to contact Bose directly, refer to the listing on the inside back cover.

Cleaning speakers

Wipe the outside of your VCS-300™ speakers by wiping each speaker with a damp cloth. If necessary, use a mild detergent, like dish soap, being careful not to allow any liquid to spill through the cloth grille or the ventilation slots of the speaker. No other maintenance is required.

Warranty period

Bose® VCS-300 speakers are covered by a limited 5-year transferable warranty. Details of the coverage are provided on the warranty card that came with your speakers. Please fill out the information section on that card, detach, and mail it to Bose.

Technical information

Features

- Ported speaker enclosures
- Magnetically shielded center speaker
- Compound Loaded™ drivers in center speaker
- Articulated Array® design of center speaker
- Automatic electronic protection circuitry in center speaker
- T-nut on the bottom of each surround speaker, for mounting with Bose WB-10 wall brackets
- Syncom® computer quality control

Driver complement per speaker

- Center speaker: Four (4) 2½" (6.3 cm) Twiddler™ drivers
- Surround speaker: One (1) StarDriver™ 4½" (11.4 cm) full-range driver

Compatibility

- Center speaker: Compatible with amplifiers or receivers with center channel outputs rated 10-100 watts per channel; rated 4-8 ohm
- Surround speakers: Compatible with amplifiers or receivers with surround channel outputs rated 10-100 watts per channel; rated 4-8 ohm

Enclosures

Black molded polymer with a tuned port

Size/Weight

- Center speaker: 3½"H x 21½"W x 6"D; 5.9 lb
(8.2 cm x 54.6 cm x 15.2 cm; 2.7 kg)
- Each surround speaker: 6"H x 9¾"W x 6½"D; 4.4 lb
(15.2 cm x 24.8 cm x 16.5 cm; 2 kg)

VCS-300 speakers, packed in carton: 28 lb (12.6 kg)

Optional accessories

Bose WB-10 wall brackets are designed for use with the VCS-300 surround speakers. For information, or to order the brackets, contact Bose as listed on the inside back cover.

CAUTION:

If liquids get into the product, disconnect the speaker from the receiver and allow it to air dry. Then reconnect the speaker and play it. If you notice any problems with how the speaker functions, disconnect it again and contact Bose customer service.

USA

Bose Corporation, The Mountain
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Saturdays 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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Weekdays 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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