



# *The Bose® Acoustimass® 3 Series IV Speaker System*

*Owner's Guide*

*October 22, 2001*



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## Thank you

We appreciate your choice of the Bose® Acoustimass® 3 speaker system. It will provide you with many years of listening enjoyment. Your system features new third generation Acoustimass cube speakers, a product of the continuous research and development at Bose Corporation. These cube speakers deliver more lifelike sound and better overall performance, yet are smaller than their predecessors.

## Please read this owner's guide

The setup and operation of your Acoustimass 3 speaker system is significantly different from other speakers. Please take the time to read this owner's guide carefully. It will help you set up and operate your system properly and enjoy all of its features. Remember to save your owner's guide for future reference.

<b>Declaration of Conformity</b>		
We, the offerer: Bose® Corporation, The Mountain Framingham, MA 01701-9168 USA acknowledge our sole responsibility, that the product:		
Kind of equipment:	<b>Loudspeakers</b>	
Type designation:	<b>Acoustimass® 3 Speaker System</b>	
in accordance with EMC Directive 89/336/EEC and Article 10(1) of the Directive, is in compliance with the following norm(s) or document(s):		
Technical regulations:	<b>EN50081-1, EN50082-1</b>	
Accredited by Bose Corporation		
5 June 1999		
Bose Products B.V., Nijverheidstraat 8, 1135 GE Edam, The Netherlands	Nic Merks Vice President, Bose Europe Manufacturer's authorized EU representative	

- 1. Read these instructions** – for all components before using this product.
- 2. Keep these instructions** – for future reference.
- 3. Heed all warnings** – on the product and in the owner's guide.
- 4. Follow all instructions.**
- 5. Do not use this apparatus near water or moisture** – Do not use this product near a bathtub, washbowl, kitchen sink, laundry tub, in a wet basement, near a swimming pool, or anywhere else that water or moisture are present.
- 6. Clean only with a dry cloth** – and as directed by Bose® Corporation. Unplug this product from the wall outlet before cleaning.
- 7. Do not block any ventilation openings. Install in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions** – To ensure reliable operation of the product and to protect it from overheating, put the product in a position and location that will not interfere with its proper ventilation. For example, do not place the product on a bed, sofa, or similar surface that may block the ventilation openings. Do not put it in a built-in system, such as a bookcase or a cabinet that may keep air from flowing through its ventilation openings.
- 8. Do not install near any heat sources, such as radiators, heat registers, stoves or other apparatus (including amplifiers) that produce heat.**
- 9. Do not defeat the safety purpose of the polarized or grounding-type plug. A polarized plug has two blades with one wider than the other. A grounding-type plug has two blades and a third grounding prong. The wider blade or third prong are provided for your safety. If the provided plug does not fit in your outlet, consult an electrician for replacement of the obsolete outlet.**
- 10. Protect the power cord from being walked on or pinched, particularly at plugs, convenience receptacles, and the point where they exit from the apparatus.**
- 11. Only use attachments/accessories specified by the manufacturer.**
- 12. Use only with the cart, stand, tripod, bracket or table specified by the manufacturer or sold with the apparatus. When a cart is used, use caution when moving the cart/apparatus combination to avoid injury from tip-over.**
- 13. Unplug this apparatus during lightning storms or when unused for long periods of time** – to prevent damage to this product.
- 14. Refer all servicing to qualified service personnel. Servicing is required when the apparatus has been damaged in any way: such as power-supply cord or plug is damaged; liquid has been spilled or objects have fallen into the apparatus; the apparatus has been exposed to rain or moisture, does not operate normally, or has been dropped** – Do not attempt to service this product yourself. Opening or removing covers may expose you to dangerous voltages or other hazards. Please call Bose to be referred to an authorized service center near you.
- 15. To prevent risk of fire or electric shock, avoid overloading wall outlets, extension cords, or integral convenience receptacles.**
- 16. Do not let objects or liquids enter the product** – as they may touch dangerous voltage points or short-out parts that could result in a fire or electric shock.
- 17. See product enclosure for safety related markings.**

## Information about products that generate electrical noise

If applicable, this equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class B digital device, pursuant to Part 15 of the FCC rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference in a residential installation. This equipment generates, uses, and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with the instructions, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. However, this is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation. If this equipment does cause harmful interference to radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning the equipment off and on, you are encouraged to try to correct the interference by one or more of the following measures:

- Reorient or relocate the receiving antenna.
- Increase the separation between the equipment and receiver.
- Connect the equipment to an outlet on a different circuit than the one to which the receiver is connected.
- Consult the dealer or an experienced radio/TV technician for help.

*Note: Unauthorized modification of the receiver or radio remote control could void the user's authority to operate this equipment.*

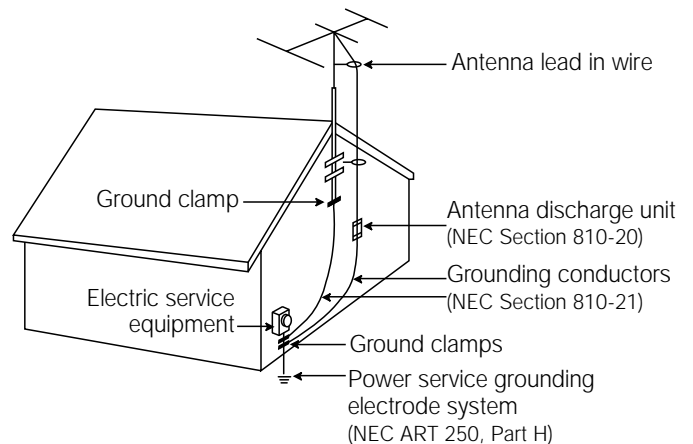
This product complies with the Canadian ICES-003 Class B specifications.



- 18. Use proper power sources** – Plug the product into a proper power source, as described in the operating instructions or as marked on the product.
- 19. Avoid power lines** – Use extreme care when installing an outside antenna system to keep from touching power lines or circuits, as contact with them may be fatal. Do not install external antennas near overhead power lines or other electric light or power circuits, nor where an antenna can fall into such circuits or power lines.
- 20. Ground all outdoor antennas** – If an external antenna or cable system is connected to this product, be sure the antenna or cable system is grounded. This will provide some protection against voltage surges and built-up static charges. Section 810 of the National Electrical Code ANSI/NFPA No. 70 provides information with respect to proper grounding of the mast and supporting structure, grounding of the lead-in wire to an antenna discharge unit, size of grounding conductors, location of antenna-discharge unit, connection to grounding electrodes, and requirements for the ground electrode. Refer to the antenna grounding illustration on this page.

## Antenna grounding

Example of antenna grounding as per National Electrical Code, ANSI/NFPA 70.



## Note to CATV system installer

This reminder is provided to call the CATV system installer's attention to Article 820-40 of the NEC (of USA) that provides guidelines for proper grounding. In particular, it specifies that the cable ground shall be connected to the grounding system of the building, as close to the point of cable entry as is practical.

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*For your records*

Serial numbers are located on the connection panel of the 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® Acoustimass® 3 speaker system. Its quality construction and advanced technologies result from years of ongoing research at Bose.

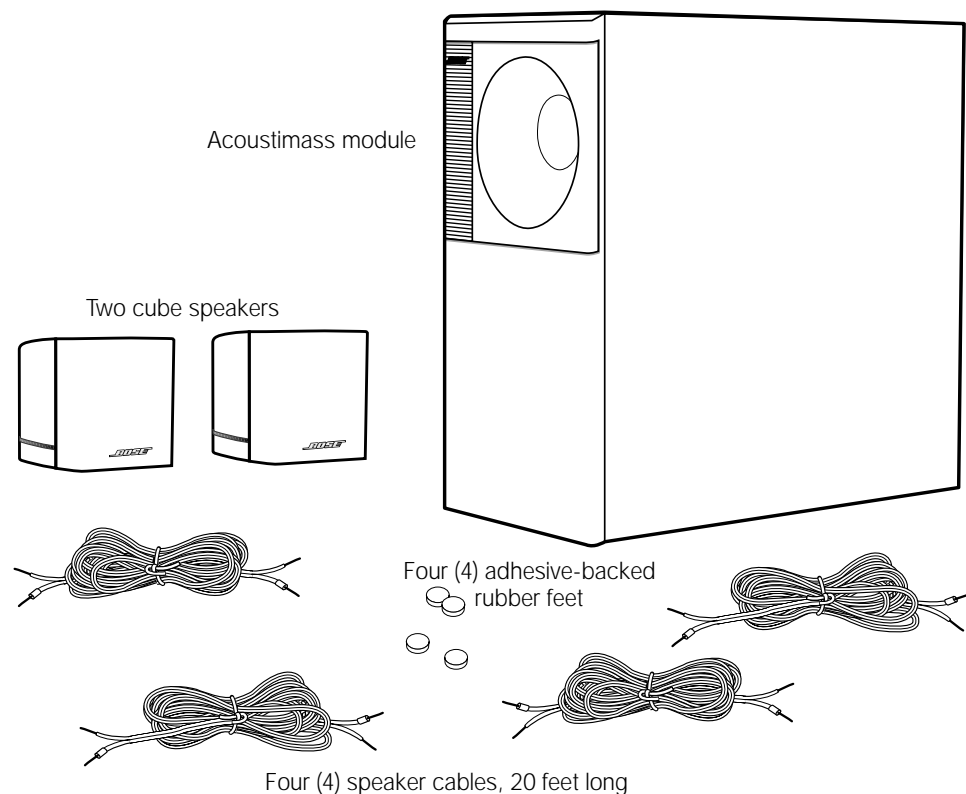
Bose patented Acoustimass speaker technology delivers full, natural audio performance and, for all of the sound it produces, this Virtually Invisible® system takes up very little space. The tiny cube speakers fit almost anywhere, while the Acoustimass module is designed to be hidden behind drapes, under furniture, or in the corner of the room.

## Unpacking the system

Unpack the system carefully. Avoid setting the module down on its connection panel, which could scratch a surface. (Save the carton and packing materials in case you ever want to ship the system.) If any parts appear damaged, do not attempt to use the system. Repack all parts in the original carton and notify your authorized Bose dealer immediately.

Figure 1

What the carton contains



## Selecting locations for the cube speakers

You can place the cube speakers anywhere from 3 to 15 feet (0.9 - 4.6 m) apart. For the most natural sound in average sized rooms, place them 6 to 12 feet (1.8 - 3.7 m) apart. Magnetic shielding allows you to place them close to a video screen without causing interference.

Bose mounting accessories, including wall/ceiling mounting brackets, floor stands, and table stands, add to your choice of where to place the cube speakers. For more information or to order accessories, contact your Bose dealer or call Bose Customer Service directly. Refer to the list of phone numbers inside the back cover.

## Selecting a location for the Acoustimass® module

The Acoustimass module can be hidden almost anywhere in a room. Leave at least 2 inches (5 cm) of space between the opening (port) and the wall. To prevent interference, keep the module at least 2 feet (0.6 m) from any video screen.

For a balanced sound in most rooms, place the module along a wall within 5 feet (1.5 m) of the corner. To increase bass response, move the module closer to a corner without blocking the opening. To decrease the bass, place the module farther from the corner.


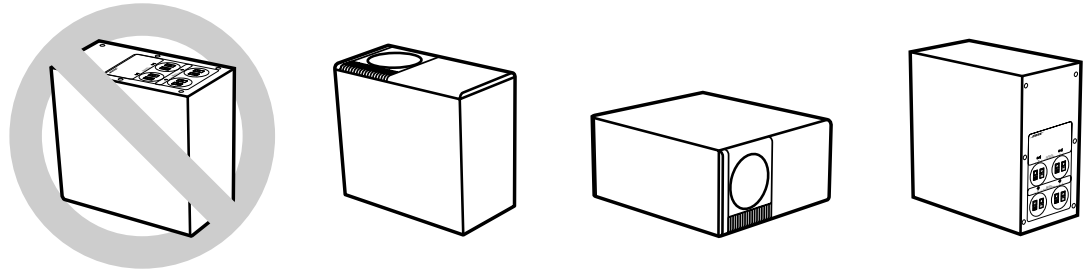
 **Note:** When you decide how you will position the module, attach the rubber feet to the bottom surface to protect the module and the floor.


Figure 2

Choices on how to position the module



## Using the cables correctly

Use the supplied cables to connect the cube speakers to the module and the module to your amplifier or receiver.

 **CAUTION:** Be sure all components are turned off and unplugged from the power outlet before making the connections.

To place these components more than 20 feet (6.2 - 9.2 m) apart, you will need to splice in a length of 18-gauge speaker cable. To place them more than 30 feet (9.2 m) apart, you will need heavier gauge wire. (See the wire recommendations on page 10.) You can get additional speaker cable at electrical and hardware stores or by calling Bose Customer Service. (See the list of phone numbers inside the back cover.)

Speaker cables consist of two insulated wires. The insulation around one wire is marked with a band or stripe. This marked wire is always positive (+). The plain wire is always negative (-). These correspond to the red (+) and black (-) terminals on the back of the speaker, amplifier, or receiver. Be sure to connect each wire to the proper terminal (positive to positive, negative to negative).

## Connecting the cube speakers to the Acoustimass® module

Use the following steps to connect the cube speakers to the rear panel of the Acoustimass module:

1. Select one pair of wires, and locate the terminal tab on the rear of the left cube speaker.
2. Press the terminal tab on the back of the speaker and insert the marked wire into the red (+) terminal and the plain wire into the black (-) terminal (Figure 3).
3. Release the terminal tab to secure both wires.
4. Repeat this process with the other pair of wires and the right cube speaker.

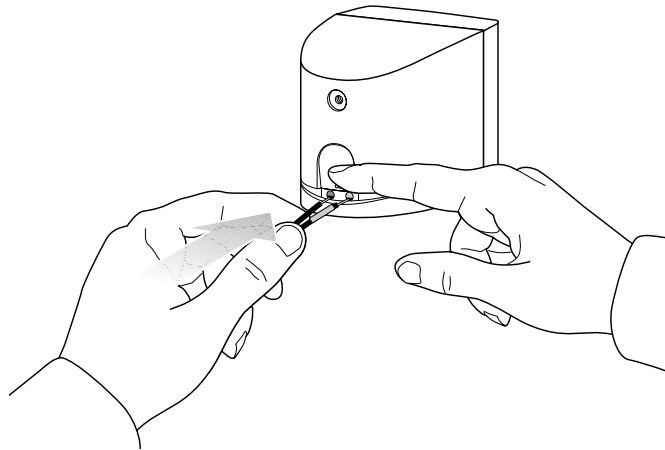


**CAUTION:** Do not connect your amplifier or receiver directly to the cube speakers. Cube speakers must be connected directly to the Acoustimass module or damage will result.

5. Locate the terminals marked OUTPUTS TO CUBE SPEAKERS on the rear panel of the Acoustimass module (Figure 4).
6. Connect the free end of the left cube speaker cable to the left (L) pair of terminals. Make sure that the marked wire is connected to the positive (+) terminal and the plain wire is connected to the negative (-) terminal.
7. Repeat step 6 for the right cube speaker cable, connecting its wires to the right (R) pair of terminals.

Figure 3

Connecting the speaker cable to the cube speaker



## Connecting the Acoustimass module to your receiver or amplifier

Use the following steps to connect your Acoustimass module to your receiver or amplifier:



**CAUTION:** Correct wiring is important. Incorrect wiring will result in little or no bass output and could potentially damage the system.

1. Locate the terminals marked INPUTS FROM AMP OR RECEIVER on the rear panel of the Acoustimass module (Figure 4).
2. Connect either end of one of the remaining speaker cables to the left (L) pair of input terminals. Make sure that the marked wire is connected to the positive (+) terminal and the plain wire is connected to the negative (-) terminal.
3. Connect either end of the final speaker cable to the right (R) pair of input terminals. Make sure that the marked wire is connected to the positive (+) terminal and the plain wire is connected to the negative (-) terminal.



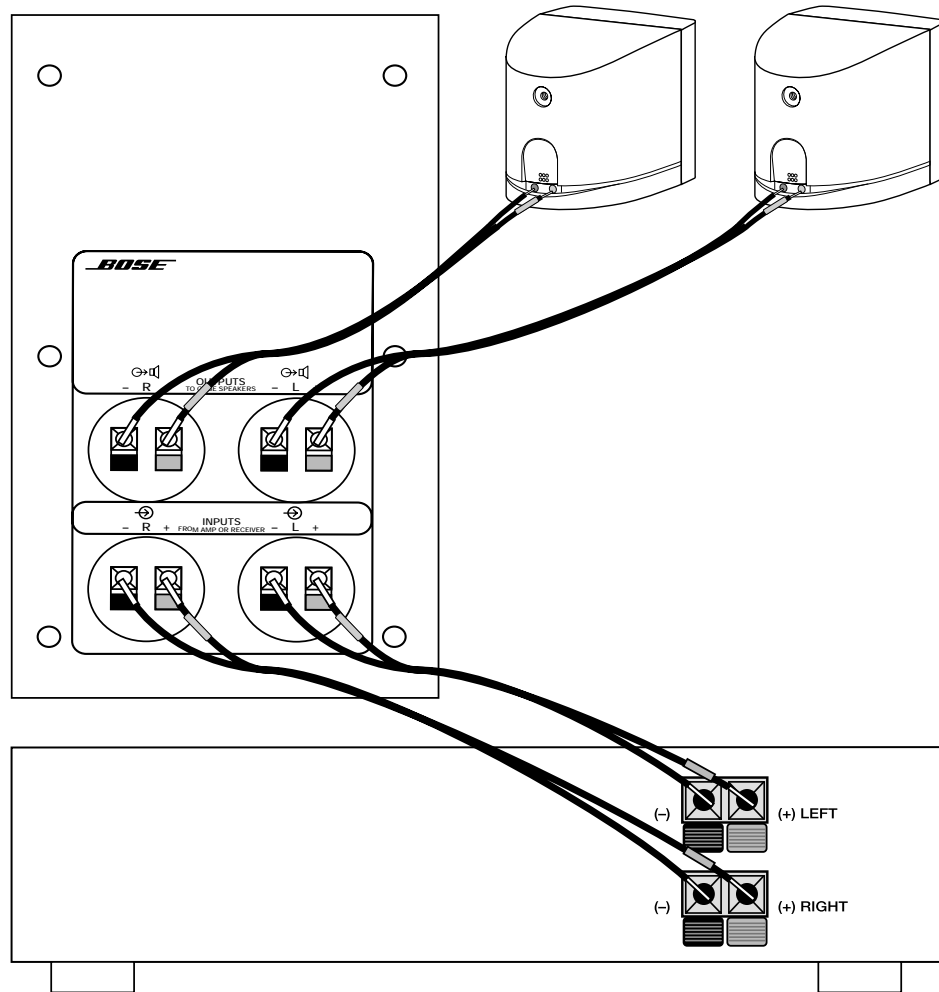
4. Connect the free end of the left (L) INPUTS cable to the LEFT speaker terminals of your amplifier or receiver. Connect the marked wire to the positive (+) terminal and the plain wire to the negative (-) terminal.
5. Connect the free end of the right (R) INPUTS cable to the RIGHT speaker terminals of your amplifier or receiver. Connect the marked wire to the positive (+) terminal and the plain wire to the negative (-) terminal.



**CAUTION:** 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.

Figure 4

Completed connections



### Checking your connections

To avoid damaging your speakers, check all connections and correct any problems before plugging in and turning on the amplifier or receiver. Make sure the cube speakers are connected to the module and not directly to the amplifier or receiver.

## Checking the system

Make sure your system is working properly by following these steps:

1. Turn on your amplifier or receiver.
2. Turn the balance control on your amplifier all the way to the left. You should hear music from the left cube speaker only, although you may detect a faint sound from the other cube speaker. You should also hear the module.
3. Turn the balance control all the way to the right. Now you should hear music from the right cube speaker only, although you may also hear a faint sound from the left cube speaker. You should also hear the module.
4. Now play music that includes some deep bass passages. Listen with the balance control in the center position. Compare that sound to what you hear with the balance control in the far left position. Then compare the sound in the center balance position with sound when the control is in the right position. The bass should be the same or louder with the control in the center. Be sure to return the balance control to the center position when you are finished.

If your system does not respond as described, check all the wires for proper positive to positive and negative to negative connections. If your system still doesn't respond properly, see "Troubleshooting" on page 9.

## Understanding automatic system protection

When played at high volume, the Acoustimass® 3 system's automatic protection circuit activates to prevent damage to the system from electrical stress or overload. When this happens, you may notice a slight decrease in volume, which is normal. It indicates that the power input may have exceeded safe levels. Setting the volume at or above this level for sustained periods is not recommended.


## Cleaning your speakers

Clean the cabinets of your Acoustimass® 3 system using a damp cloth. If necessary, use a mild detergent such as dish soap. Do not use any solvents, chemicals, or cleaning solutions containing alcohol, ammonia, or abrasives. Do not allow liquids to spill through the speaker grilles or enter the Acoustimass module.

You can vacuum the speaker grilles. To avoid damaging the drivers located directly behind the grille cloth, use light pressure only.

## Troubleshooting

If you have a problem with your Acoustimass 3 speaker system, turn off the amplifier or receiver and check all the connections between the cube speakers, the module, and amplifier or receiver. Since problems are likely to originate with components other than speakers, you may want to refer to your amplifier or receiver owner's guide.

Problem	What to do
The left cube speaker does not play or sounds distorted.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disconnect both speaker cables from the amplifier or receiver. Reconnect the cable from the bass module's L INPUTS to the amplifier or receiver's RIGHT speaker terminals. Set the amplifier or receiver's balance control all the way to the right and turn on the power.</li> <li>• If the left cube speaker now plays properly, your amplifier or receiver's left speaker channel is probably defective.</li> </ul> <p> <b>CAUTION:</b> DO NOT connect the other cube speaker to the channel in question. If the channel is defective, it could damage your Acoustimass 3 system.</p>
The right cube speaker does not play or sounds distorted.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow the above steps, reconnecting the cable from the module's R INPUTS to the amplifier or receiver's LEFT speaker terminals.</li> </ul>
The entire Acoustimass 3 system does not play or sounds distorted.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disconnect the amplifier or receiver from the bass module. Reconnect the module to another amplifier or receiver that is working properly.</li> <li>• If the system now works, the problem is in your amplifier or receiver. Refer to your receiver or amplifier owner's guide for further suggestions.</li> <li>• If trouble persists in your Acoustimass 3 speaker system, contact your authorized Bose® dealer who will verify any defects and arrange for service by an authorized agency or by the Bose factory. Bose will make every effort to remedy any problem within the terms of the warranty at minimum inconvenience to you.</li> </ul>

## Technical information

### Features

Virtually Invisible® speaker design  
Acoustimass® speaker technology  
Identical magnetically shielded cube speakers  
Syncom® computer quality control  
Automatic system protection circuitry

### Driver Complement

Acoustimass module: One 5.25" (13.3 cm) dual voice coil low-frequency driver  
Cube speakers: One 2.5" (6.4 cm) magnetically shielded wide-range driver per cube

### Compatibility

Compatible with receivers or amplifiers rated from 4 – 8 ohms  
Compatible with receivers or amplifiers rated from 10 – 100 watts per channel  
IEC rating: 50 watts per channel

### Finish

Acoustimass module: Scratch-resistant black or white satin finish  
Cube speakers: Black or white polymer finish, cloth grilles

### Wire Recommendations

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

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

### Size/Weight

Acoustimass module: 7.5"W x 14"H x 12.6"D (18.4 x 35.6 x 32.0 cm)  
Cube speaker: 3.1"H x 3.1"W x 3.2"D (7.9 x 7.9 x 8.1 cm)  
Total shipping weight: 16.5 lb (7.1 kg) in shipping carton

## Warranty period

The Bose® Acoustimass 3 speaker system is covered by a limited five-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.

## Customer service

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







## *USA*

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

## *Canada*

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

## *European Office*

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

## *Australia*

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

## *Belgique/België*

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

## *Danmark*

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

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D-61381 Friedrichsdorf  
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78100 Saint Germain en Laye  
TEL 01-30616363 FAX 01-30614105

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New Delhi 110 048  
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Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 150  
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Bose A/S, Solheimsgate 11  
N-2001, Lillestrøm  
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## *Österreich*

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

## *Schweiz*

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

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S-43153 Mölndal  
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Gillingham Business Park  
Gillingham, Kent ME8 ONJ  
TEL 0870-741-4500 FAX 0870-741-4545

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Framingham, MA 01701-9168 USA  
TEL (508) 766-1900 FAX (508) 766-1919

## *World Wide Web*

www.bose.com





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