

## Helpful Tips

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*These few handy tips can make a considerable difference to the performance of your system, often at little or no cost. Sounds too good to be true? Read on...*

### Tip # 1 Location, Location!

Experimenting with the position of your speakers can produce amazing results. Many people place their speakers too close to both the end and side walls. The bass frequencies are accentuated or increased when the speakers are placed close to an end wall, but the 'realism' is diminished. If you place speakers too close to the side walls, the sound may become confused and lack presence. This is because walls, especially hard



surfaces reflect sound and this changes or "colours" what you hear, something that is best minimised. Try to place your speakers at least a metre from the

side walls and a minimum of 30cm from the rear wall. Go on, start experimenting!

### Tip # 2 Burn Baby Burn!

If you have ever owned a brand new motor car, then you will have noticed the improved performance after the 'running-in' period. It is just the same with new electronic equipment which sounds better after 'running-in' or as many call it—'burn-in'. This can take anywhere from 50 hours to well over 200 hours!

The differences are more pronounced on loudspeakers, with many of our customers who are unaware of this phenomena, often giving our staff vague looks when we make mention at time of purchase. Results include more detail and better, tighter bass, but most of all the music is more relaxed and coherent. We have had some customers insist that the manufacturer 'burn-in' their speakers before delivery, but you can get the same result just by playing them at home. If you can't wait, why not play them while you're at work! At least that way your neighbours can also enjoy.

### Tip # 3 No Good Vibrations!

Sound is quite literally, vibrations through a medium – usually air. Our ears pick these often minute vibrations

with amazing accuracy. Unfortunately, even small vibrations from, say your speaker cabinet or room, can end up travelling through electronic components, affecting sound quality. This is especially true with items such as turntables, and other low level sources such as CD players.



Ideally, all sources should be isolated as much as possible from the floor, each other and cabinetry. This can be achieved a number of ways. The first is to use spikes on your speakers, as vibrations from your speaker cabinet to the floor are greatly reduced. This can be achieved even on floor-boards or tiles by using spikes with matching 'cups'. Secondly, a dedicated equipment rack with independent, separated shelves will help considerably. Finally, isolating equipment from their shelves will help with even minute vibrations. This can be achieved with equipment spikes / feet, or even (to a lesser extent) Blu-Tac. Try these few isolating tips, and you'll be amazed at the difference it can make!

#### Tip # 4 Noise You Don't See!

Electronic and magnetic noise is evident throughout the air, especially in today's modern homes, which we cannot see. If we could, we probably wouldn't be able to see inches ahead! The point is, this noise severely affects performance of video and sound. Components and cabling, especially interconnects and power cables are very susceptible to stray EM noise. Higher end components use more extensive shielding both on the chassis and certain internal components. Also, well shielded and designed cables go a long way to rejecting this noise. This is, in part, the reason for huge differences in cable prices. Each cable also produces its own EMF (electro-magnetic field) when current passes through it, and hence, should be kept away from each other.



As a minimum, keep power cables away from interconnects and speaker cables. Even re-organising that spaghetti mess behind your system can improve your picture and sound quality – so what are you waiting for!

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