

PHOENIX GOLD

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H O M E



Owner's Manual

Installation Guide For
SSi623 Bipole / Dipole
SnapSound Speakers

Congratulations!

You have purchased Phoenix Gold's all-new SnapSound audiophile-grade in-wall speakers. These are the highest quality, best sounding, and easiest to install systems available today. The SnapSound speaker family is designed with easy-to-mount snap-in cam locks to facilitate a fast and simple install. While addressing the major components of a custom home theater installation, the SnapSound family offers front stage, center channel, and rear fill options for your basic systems, as well as a unique, switchable Bi-Pole/Di-Pole in-wall speaker. The SnapSound family of speakers is timbre-matched to ensure that no matter what combination of speakers you choose, they will be voice-matched, and blend well with one another. These speakers are perfect for everything from a music source in the kitchen, to a full surround theater system. As a result, it is important to us that the speakers sound as good as they look. To ensure this, we use the latest computer assisted engineering (CAE/FEA/CAD/CAM) to design them. We recommend that you read this manual thoroughly to ensure proper installation, and also suggest you keep this manual, along with your receipt, in a safe and secure location for future reference.

Unpacking

1. Remove all packaging and verify the condition of each speaker and grille. If there is damage from transit, please contact the shipper immediately. Phoenix Gold is not responsible for shipping damage. Any shipping damage should be noted on bill of lading upon receipt.
2. Keep both shipping cartons and packaging should the need arise to return the speakers for any reason. This will ensure a safe return shipment.
3. Verify that all components are present and ready to install.

Planning the Installation

When exploring possible locations for installation, keep the following points in mind:

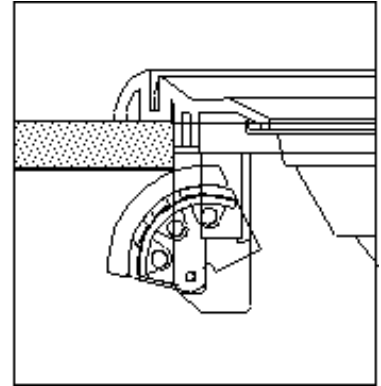
1. Due to the speaker's in-wall design, you will need to ensure that there is no stud behind your desired cutout location. Additionally, make sure there is no HVAC, plumbing, or electrical pipes, conduit, etc that might obstruct your installation.
2. The maximum wall thickness for the cams to properly lock the speaker securely in place is 5/8" wallboard. If the thickness of your mounting surface exceeds 5/8 inch, call Phoenix Gold Tech Support at **503.286.9300** for a solution.
3. For the best stereo imaging, place the speakers no more than 8 to 10 feet apart, and approximately the same distance from each speaker to the ideal listening position. See additional information later in this manual.
4. Ensure that your speaker wire can be run to the areas you have designated for your speaker before cutting any holes.
5. Try to avoid placing speakers close to adjacent walls. It is suggested that you leave 2 to 3 feet of space between the speaker's location and the wall nearest to it.
6. All wall mounted speakers should have the tweeter at approximately ear level in height for best results. This could require mounting the speaker in an inverted configuration.

Tools Needed

1. Drywall saw, jigsaw, or other wallboard cutting device.
2. Medium standard screwdriver (only needed to dismount the speaker)
3. 2 conductor stranded speaker wire in at least 16 gauge to 18 gauge for up to 30 feet, and 12 gauge to 14 gauge for 30 feet or more.
4. A 'fish tape' or other wire pulling device
5. Bubble Level (optional)

Installing SnapSound Speakers

SnapSound speakers use a built-in locking cam system, which automatically engages when the speaker is pushed into a prepared location of proper depth and hole size. The speaker can be removed by using a medium standard screwdriver to push and rotate the brass cam screws on the front face of the speaker (behind the grille). Approximately three turns are required to lock the cams in the open position to remove the speaker from its mounting location. The beauty of the SnapSound installation is that it literally takes longer to attach the wires than it does to mount the SnapSound speaker, because it truly "snaps" into place in the wall. It even dismounts in a fraction of the time it takes to install a conventional in-wall speaker.



1. After choosing the installation site, use the enclosed template to mark the cutout on the wall. You should use a level to ensure square and true mounting.
2. Remember specs are subject to change, so measure twice cut once!
3. Mask and paint the speaker grilles and frame if desired, being very careful not to get paint on the speakers themselves! This will negatively impact the sound quality of your speakers. Always mask the front of the speakers completely to ensure proper operation.
4. Remove the wallboard from inside the cutout area with the drywall saw, jigsaw, etc.
5. Run the wire to the desired location using the fish tape, or other such wire pulling device to hide the wire inside the wall.
6. Fill the cutout cavity behind the speaker with poly fill (available at craft stores, fabric stores etc.) to improve low-frequency response (Optional, but recommended).
7. Strip the wire ends approximately 3/8" - 1/2" from the ends. Connect the speaker wires to the correct terminals on the back of the speaker, being careful to observe correct polarity.
8. Carefully push all excess wiring into the hole, and then gently align the speaker with the cutout and push. The speaker will click into place when you have inserted it fully into the wall.

Caution: If the speaker does not lock into place, your wall surface may be too thick, or you may not have sufficient depth within the wall to install the speaker. Make sure that the cams are not locked out of position preventing them from engaging the wall surface.

Installing SnapSound Speakers (continued)

9. You will need to decide whether you will be using the SSI623 as a Bi-pole, or Dipole speaker. For further explanation of the difference between Bi-pole and Dipole, please read the next section entitled “Bi-pole or Di-pole?”
10. Place the grille into the frame of the speaker squarely, using your hands to gently push the metal grill into the outer edge of the speaker frame.
11. Wasn't that a “Snap”?

Bipole or Dipole?

The SSI623 is capable of being configured for use as either a Bi-pole or a Dipole speaker. When used as a Bi-pole speaker, both of the smaller speakers on the SSI623 are ‘in phase’, or moving the same direction at the same time. In other words the tweeters and the midrange drivers all move in and out together in the same direction at the same time. This creates a direct sound field around the speaker, as in a normal speaker, causing a broad dispersion pattern from the speaker. This allows the speaker’s sound to be more localized for in the listening area.

When used as a Di-pole speaker, the tweeter and midrange speakers on one side move in the opposite direction from the tweeter and midrange on the other side, i.e.- one speaker is moving outwards while the other moves inwards. This is called ‘out of phase’. This creates a more diffuse sound field around the speaker while causing a cancellation or ‘null’ in the space directly in front of the speaker. This allows the speaker’s sound to be less localized for the listening area.

The switch to choose either configuration is located on the front of the speaker, behind the grille. You will likely want to experiment with both configurations to decide which is appropriate for your application. It is recommended that the Dipole configuration only be used when the SSI623 speakers are used as right and left side speakers and mounted on the sidewalls of the listening area.

Note: Each SSI623 speaker system is marked with a callout tag on the woofer magnet, designating which speaker is to be placed on the “left” or “right” side of the installation. This is to maintain proper acoustic polarity with the front speakers when used in the Di-pole configuration.

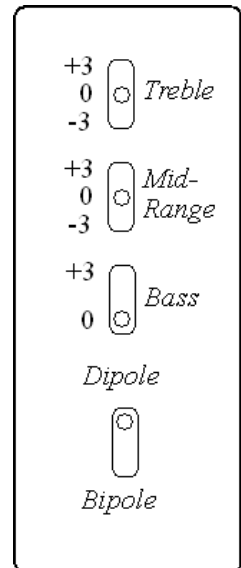


Controls:

Other controls are provided on the SSI623 to accommodate differences in installation location and environment appointments.

Treble: Each of the SnapSound SSI623s has a Treble switch on the front labeled "+3, 0, -3". This adjusts the tweeter volume **relative** to the midrange volume. If the installation is such that the tweeter is quite loud or 'bright', you may reduce the tweeter output by switching this selector to "-3". If the tweeter is not bright enough or lacks definition, you may turn it up to +3. Any adjustments beyond this will be made at the amplifier.

Midrange: Each of the SnapSound SSI623 speakers has a Midrange switch on the front labeled "+3, 0, -3". This adjusts the midrange volume **relative** to the overall speaker volume. If the installation is such that the midrange is quite loud or 'forward', you may reduce the output by switching this selector to "-3". If the midrange is dull, or lacks presence, you may turn it up to +3. "0" is the baseline for the entire SSI623 speaker. Any adjustments beyond this will be made at the amplifier.



Bass: Each of the SnapSound SSI623 speakers has a Bass switch on the front labeled, "0, +3". This adjusts the woofer volume **relative** to the overall speaker volume. If the installation is such that the woofer seems weak, you may increase the output by switching this selector to "+3". If the woofer seems thick, or is placed very near multiple boundaries, you may turn it to 0. "0" is the baseline for the entire SSI623 speaker. Any adjustments beyond this will be made at the amplifier.

Removing SnapSound Speakers

1. Locate the brass screws located in the holes on the front face of the speaker frame.
2. Push each brass screw firmly in, and rotate clockwise three to four complete turns one at a time to lock each support cam in the open position.
3. When all brass screws are turned, and cams are locked open, pull gently until the speaker is released. If the speaker does not release, check to make sure all cams are locked open.
4. Disconnect the wires, being careful not to let them touch each other, or any bare metal. It is recommended that the system be turned off during speaker removal or installation.
5. You will need to rotate the brass cam lock screws counter-clockwise to release the cams before re-mounting the speaker.



What amplifier should I use?

The SnapSound speakers are designed for use with a high-powered home amplifier. Check the specifications page at the end of this paragraph to ensure your amplifier is within the specified range. Always make all connections with power off to eliminate damage from surges and risk of harm. Do not operate your amplifier with tone controls maximized, as the excessive boost of certain frequencies can damage your speakers.

SSi623

Power Handling: 200 watts RMS, 300 peak

Frequency Response: 50-20kHz

Woofers: DVC 6.5 Inch Polypropylene

Midrange: Dual 3" Polypropylene

Tweeter: Dual 1 Inch Aluminum Dome

Impedance: 8 ohm Nominal

Sensitivity: 91dB 1 Watt/1M

Outer Dimensions: 8.13" W x 10.38" H

Cut-Out Dimensions: 7.13" W x 9.38" H

Mounting Depth: 3.38"

Extends from wall: 2.75"

In case of problems

Contact your Phoenix Gold dealer for proper handling of any warranty claims, additional troubleshooting or suggestions. If there is no authorized dealer close to you, please contact Phoenix Gold Tech Support at 503.286.9300 or write to:

Phoenix Gold International, Inc.

9300 North Decatur

Portland, OR 97203

NOTE: Do not ship your speakers to the factory without obtaining an RA, or Return Authorization Number. Make sure you also enclose a copy of your original, dated sales receipt. For complete warranty details, see the last page of this manual.

Warranty Information

LIMITED WARRANTY

Phoenix Gold International, Inc. (or "Phoenix Gold") warrants its products against defects in materials and workmanship for a limited period of time. For a period of one year from date of original purchase, we will repair or replace the product, at our option, without charge for parts and labor. Customer must pay all parts and labor charges after the limited warranty period expires. The limited warranty period for factory refurbished products expires after ninety (90) days from date of original purchase. This limited warranty applies only to purchases from authorized Phoenix Gold Electronics/Speaker retailers. This limited warranty is extended only to the original purchaser and is valid only to consumers in the United States.

Consumers are required to provide a copy of the original sales invoice from an authorized Phoenix Gold dealer when making a claim against this limited warranty. This limited warranty only covers failures due to defects in materials or workmanship that occur during normal use. It does not cover failures resulting from accident, misuse, abuse, neglect, mishandling, misapplication, alteration, faulty installation, modification, service by anyone other than Phoenix Gold, or damage that is attributable to Acts of God. It does not cover costs of transportation to Phoenix Gold or damage in transit.

This warranty will become void if the serial number identification has been wholly or partially removed, altered or erased. Repair or replacement under the terms of this warranty does not extend the terms of this warranty. Should a product prove to be defective in workmanship or material, the consumer's sole remedies will be repair or replacement as provided under the terms of this warranty. Under no circumstances shall Phoenix Gold be liable for loss or damage, direct, consequential or incidental, arising out of the use of or inability to use the product. There are no express warranties other than described above.