



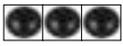
User's Manual



Model

SB3

Bookshelf Loudspeaker



Thank you for your purchase of the NHT SB3 Super Bookshelf loudspeaker.

Like all NHT loudspeakers, the SB3's development has been guided by the study of human hearing, its design rigorously tested, and its components optimized to deliver clean, clear musical sound.

Since the quality of your speakers is one of the most important factors in maximizing the sound you'll get from your music and home theater system, we're sure that you'll find your purchase of the SB3 a good investment, and invite your comments.

If you find your experience with SB3 speakers as satisfying as we believe you will, and wish to expand into a larger surround system, you'll find specifications for their sonically matched companions on the back of this manual.

Background

The Model SB3, based on our newest generation of bookshelf speaker technology, is a diminutive two-way system offering a detailed level of clarity in the mid and high frequency ranges and a broad three-dimensional soundstage.

Its acoustic suspension design offers remarkably deep bass response down to 39Hz, eliminating the necessity of a subwoofer in many systems. The SB3 also features NHT's proprietary tweeter technology, which employs a neodymium magnet tweeter, which can be placed far closer to the woofer, improving sonic coherence and overall frequency response. And attached to the rear of the tweeter is a massive heat sink, which both improves power handling and strengthens the cabinet to minimize resonance.

The result of these design enhancements is a compact system that not only reproduces recorded music with superb frequency response and remarkable accuracy, but also offers startling realism with video soundtracks.

Please take a few minutes to read through this owner's manual before setting up your speakers; this information will help you get the most out of them. Also, please keep the SB3's packaging to use in case you move or transport them.

If you have questions at any time during setup or use, feel free to call your NHT dealer or our Toll-Free Customer Hotline at 1-800-NHT-9993.

Placement

The SB3's compact size of allows them to be used in virtually any (indoor only) placement: on shelves, on cabinets, on speaker stands, or mounted on walls (see Placement Accessories, below).

Please remember that small changes in speaker position can have a significant effect on sound: moving speakers nearer to walls or corners will increase bass output, but

also may add "boom." Placing them farther away tends to decrease bass output, but can give tighter imaging.

Room furnishings also play an important role. Soft furnishings (sofas, carpets and curtains) absorb midrange and high frequencies, potentially dulling the sound, while hard surfaces and emptier rooms brighten it.

Experimenting with the effects of different placements in your own listening/viewing room is the key to finding the sound you like best.

Placement Tips

Ideally, you'll usually get the best sound when your speakers are:

- 1.5 times as far away from you as from each other
- L and R speakers are equidistant from the listener
- both at the same height (tweeters close to ear level)

Note: the SB3 is not designed to be oriented on it's side.

Once you've placed them, finish by moving them around so that they're:

- Near the front edge of shelves and cabinets
- Greater than 1 foot from back walls, 2½ feet from side walls, if on stands
- Pointing inward a bit toward your ears

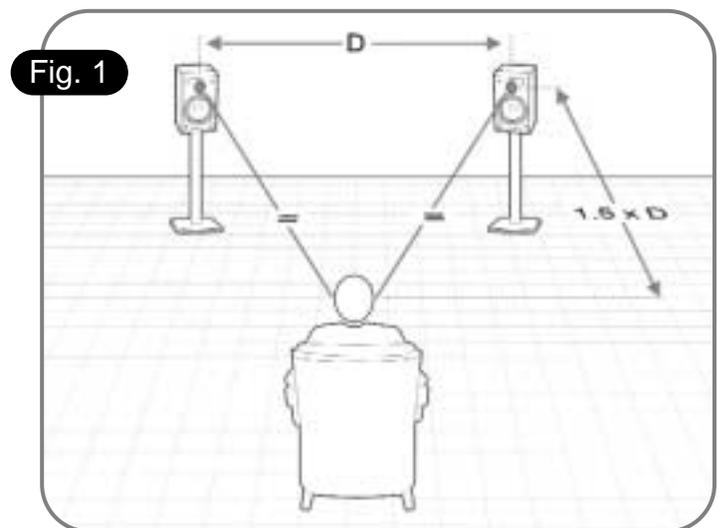


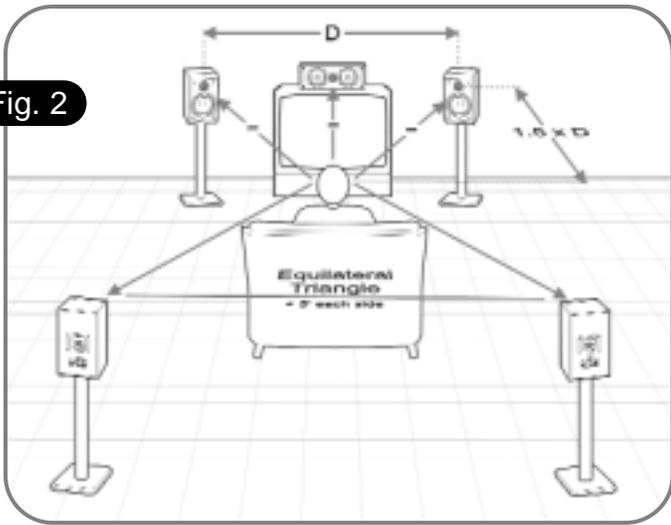
Fig. 1

Taking these steps -- all shown in Figure 1 -- will give you the smoothest response, and put you right in the center of the stereo image at its most well-defined point.

For five-channel music and home theater systems, use the same basic setup -- all shown in Figure 2 -- and when possible, set up the system so that:

- The center speaker is right above or below the TV
- The rear speakers are in an equilateral triangle with the listening position, the speakers at least 5 feet apart
- The rear speakers are at the same height or slightly higher than the fronts

Fig. 2



In many situations, it won't be possible to place the rear speakers in their ideal positions. If this is the case in your room, try to place the rear speakers equidistant from the center of the main seating area. If you must place the rear speakers close to the main seating area, position them so that they are above the ear height of the tallest listener, and toe them in so that imaginary lines coming from the center of each speaker cross in front of the main seating area. You can add time delay to the rear channels with your surround sound processor to make the rear speakers seem farther from the seating area than your room setup will allow.

Placement Accessories

Sometimes, current furniture and where it's placed won't allow the speaker placement you prefer. Two quick ways around this are to use speaker stands, or to mount them on walls.

NHT offers a stand - the Last Stand - specifically matched for the SB3, available through your NHT Dealer. The SB3 has threaded inserts for wall mounting. You may use the Omnimount Systems model ST-MP 50. To use this bracket, you must purchase two 1/4"-20 x 5/8" pan head machine screws per loudspeaker. For more information visit the Omnimount Systems web site at www.omnimount.com or call them at 1-800-668-6848.

Connections

Before connecting your SB3 loudspeakers to your system, turn off the power to your amplifier / receiver to avoid damaging the components or the speakers.

First, please take a look at the five-way binding posts on the back of your speakers. They'll accept raw wire, banana plugs or spade plugs. Note that posts should be tightened by hand, since pliers can strip or break them. Next, choose your speaker wires. Like all wires, speaker wires are rated by a guage number representing how many fit in an inch-thick tube, so the numbers getting smaller as the wire gets thicker. Thicker wires transmit more signal easily; we recommend 16-guage for shorter runs, and thicker for runs longer than ten feet

(your authorized NHT dealer can help with wire). Equal lengths of wire for all speakers is ideal, but not absolutely necessary.

Prepare the wires by stripping 1/4" to 3/8" of insulation from the ends and, if the wire is stranded rather than solid, tightly twisting the exposed wire strands.

Finally, connect your speakers to your amplifier or receiver, connecting all conductors "in-phase;" that is, the same half of the wire-pair to the positive / red amplifier terminal and the positive / red speaker terminal. Similarly, connect black outputs and inputs. If you have trouble following which wire half is which, look closely, and you'll see that your speaker wires have some sort of marking -- lettering, ridges, or color difference -- to help.

Before powering up your amplifier or receiver, separate different kinds of cables to minimize noise. Keep speaker wires at the maximum practical distance from line-level, digital, and power cables, and if they must cross, keep them at right angles.

Operation

The NHT SB3's are compatible with virtually all quality amplifiers, and are designed to handle a wide range of listening levels.

Every speaker, however, has limits, and it's important to listen for them. Speaker damage most often results not from brief loud musical peaks, but from sustained high volume levels in some or all frequencies. For this reason, extreme volume settings and excessive bass, treble or equalizer boosts are not recommended.

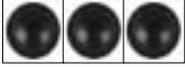
If you hear unusual distortion or breakup, or notice heat coming from either your woofer or tweeter, decrease volume immediately, neutralize any excess bass, treble or equalizer boosts, and avoid setting any controls to similar extremes again.

Maintenance

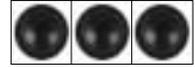
Your speakers require no or minimal maintenance under normal use, as long as you avoid exposing them to direct sunlight, high temperatures, or moisture. Clean cabinets, when necessary, using a damp cloth or a mild, non-abrasive cleaner; to clean grilles, remove from speaker and use a soft brush or a vacuum on its lowest setting. Do not attempt to clean the actual drivers.

Satisfaction

Your satisfaction with your new NHT SB3 loudspeakers is important to us. Please note the matched products and accessories we provide for them, and your warranty, printed on the back of this manual. And again, if you have any questions regarding your speakers' use, feel free to call NHT at 1-800-NHT-9993. Enjoy your listening and viewing! 



Limited Warranty Valid Only in the U.S.A.



Warranty Period

For a period of 5 years for parts and 5 years for labor (1 year parts and 90 days labor for electronics) from the date this product is first purchased from an authorized NHT dealer, Now Hear This (NHT) warrants that if it fails to function properly due to a manufacturing defect, despite its being installed and operated according to these instructions and used under normal conditions, it will be either replaced or repaired with new or rebuilt parts (both at NHT's option) with a unit of comparable value without charge to you.

What's Not Covered

Altered, defaced or removed serial numbers void this warranty.

This warranty does not cover any product used in trade, business, industrial or commercial applications.

This warranty also does not cover the cabinet or appearance factors, or costs, defects or damage resulting from misuse, abuse, accident, improper maintenance, alterations or modifications not authorized in writing by NHT, or parts or labor from any source other than an authorized NHT service location.

Damage due to power exposure in excess of the speaker's published power ratings; ie, overpowering, lightning or power surges, are also not covered.

Your Rights

This warranty gives you specific legal rights, and you may have other rights which vary from state to state.

NHT limits this warranty to the purchase price of the product, excludes incidental or consequential damages, and limits its obligations under any implied warranties under state laws to a period not exceeding their warranty periods. As some states do not allow the above limitations, however, they may not apply to you.

To Obtain Service

NHT has appointed a number of authorized service companies throughout the USA who can provide warranty service upon your presenting your sales receipt showing place and date of original owner's transaction.

To find the name and address of the nearest authorized NHT service location, call or write:

AB Tech Services, 17C Airport Drive, Hopedale, MA 01747. 1-800-225-9847
info@abtechservices.com

For your future convenience, please keep this warranty with your sales receipt, and record date and place of purchase for further reference.



Specifications

All Super Series products are sonically matched for seamless integration into multichannel systems.

Super Series



SB1

SB2

SB3

ST4

SC1

SW10

System Type

2-Way
Acoustic
Suspension

2-Way
Acoustic
Suspension

2-Way
Acoustic
Suspension

3-Way
Acoustic
Suspension

2-Way
Acoustic
Suspension

Vented /
Powered - 150 watts
Class AB Amplifier

Driver Complement

Tweeter-

1" fluid cooled aluminum dome tweeter with neodymium magnet structure

Woofers-

Video Shielded Unless Noted

5.25"
Polypropylene

6.5"
Polypropylene

6.5"
Polypropylene

6.5" and 8"
Polypropylene
(8" Not Video Shielded)

(2) 4.5"
Polypropylene

10"
Polypropylene
(Not Video Shielded)

Response

68Hz - 22kHz
+/- 3dB

51Hz - 22kHz
+/- 3dB

39Hz - 22kHz
+/- 3dB

31Hz - 22kHz
+/- 3dB

78Hz - 22kHz
+/- 3dB

31Hz - 180Hz
+/- 3dB

Crossover Frequency

2.6 KHz

2.7 KHz

2.4 KHz

135 Hz
2.6 KHz

2.3 KHz

Speaker level and line level high pass 100Hz
Continuously variable low pass: 40Hz -180Hz

Sensitivity

86dB / 2.83v

Impedance

8 ohm nominal

Recommended Amplifier Power

Minimum 15 watts

Maximum 125 watts

Maximum 150 watts

Maximum 175 watts

Maximum 200 watts

Maximum 150 watts

Weight (each)

8 lbs.

13 lbs.

16 lbs.

47.5 lbs.

11 lbs.

43 lbs.

Dimensions

Length" x Width" x Height"

6.75 x 6.25 x 10.25

8.75 x 7.5 x 11.85

10 x 8 x 13

12 x 8 x 38

6.63 x 16.54 x 5.63

14.5 x 14.5 x 14.5

Finish

White or Black
High Gloss Piano
Finish

White or Black
High Gloss Piano
Finish

Black
High Gloss Piano
Finish