

Revel[®] Concerta[™] S12 Loudspeaker

Owner's Manual





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DOCUMENTATION CONVENTIONS

This document contains general safety, installation, and operation instructions for the Revel Concerta S12 Surround-Effects Loudspeaker. It is important to read this document before attempting to use this product. Pay particular attention to safety instructions.

WARNING Calls attention to a procedure, practice, condition, or the like that, if not correctly performed or adhered to, could result in injury or death.

CAUTION Calls attention to a procedure, practice, condition, or the like that, if not correctly performed or adhered to, could result in damage to or destruction of part or all of the product.

Note Calls attention to information that is essential to highlight.

About the S12

Thank you for purchasing the Revel Concerta S12 Surround-Effects Loudspeaker. A wall-mountable surround loudspeaker, the S12 loudspeaker was designed to accommodate a wide variety of home theater setup possibilities. The S12 delivers impressively accurate multichannel music and film soundtrack reproduction.

The S12's transducers effectively cover a wide frequency spectrum. Dual 5-inch (127mm) woofers deliver impressive power-handling and precise imaging. Dual 1-inch (25mm) dome tweeters are mounted in Controlled Acoustic Impedance™ waveguides which dramatically improve off-axis response. The tweeters reproduce accurate high frequencies well above audible levels.

The Surround Mode Configuration control features three user-selectable settings: bipole, dipole and monopole dispersion modes. This control optimizes the S12 for any recording formats, multiple placement options and varying listener preferences.

Dual-speaker mode configures the S12 to function as two separate loudspeakers within a single enclosure. This results in the reproduction of two discrete surround-effects channels. The S12 loudspeaker's dispersion modes coupled with its versatility combine to create the perfect surround speaker for any 5.1-, 6.1- or 7.1-channel home theater installation.

Combining superior form and function, the S12 transducers feature a distinctive design that allows for smoother frequency response. The woofer cones and tweeter are constructed with Organic Ceramic Composite cone material to reduce distortion. The spiders are constructed with a high-strength cotton blend with optimized geometry for increased linearity.

An advanced woofer motor structure uses a high-grade Neodymium magnet placed at the center, inside the voice coil, for improved magnetic shielding. A black-plated steel cup facilitates heat dissipation for higher power handling.

The woofers are built with butyl rubber surrounds for large, linear excursion capabilities. The woofers also include copper round-wire voice coils wound on 1.5-inch (38mm) fiberglass bobbins which enable higher power handling. Vented center poles improve temperature cooling and minimize compression.

The tweeter domes are under-hung with copper-clad aluminum wire for low distortion. The tweeter magnets contain Ferrofluid® which helps to achieve high-power handling with reduced compression. Magnetic shielding prevents video monitor interference.

A high-order filter at 2.2kHz optimizes loudspeaker on-axis and off-axis response, helping to assure smooth octave-to-octave balance and timbral accuracy. Gold-plated binding posts accommodate heavy-gauge speaker cable.

The S12 cabinet is constructed with acoustically inert medium-density fiberboard (MDF) walls to reduce cabinet-induced colorations. The rear of the cabinet includes four keyholes for convenient wall-mounting which improves sonic performance and saves listening room space.

Since 1996, Revel has stood at the forefront of loudspeaker design and performance. Backed by Harman International's extensive research and design facilities, the Revel Concerta Series Loudspeakers benefit from cutting-edge development tools. A multi-channel listening lab provides for double-blind listening tests. A laser interferometer enables detailed driver and cabinet analysis. Real anechoic chambers provide for precise tests and measurements.

Finite element analysis allows for advanced loudspeaker modeling. A stereo lithography apparatus provides tight tolerances.

Adding to the proud lineage of Revel's Ultima and Performa Series Loudspeakers, the S12 solidifies Revel's reputation as the leading designer and manufacturer of high-quality, high-performance loudspeakers.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Proprietary dual 5-inch (127mm) Organic Ceramic Composite woofers
- Proprietary dual 1-inch (25mm) Organic Ceramic Composite dome tweeters
- Controlled Acoustic Impedance tweeter waveguides
- Surround Mode Configuration control
- High output with low distortion
- High-order filter network
- Gold-plated binding posts
- Advanced woofer motor structure
- Magnetic shielding
- Large voice coils for wide dynamic range without compression
- Rear keyholes for wall mounting
- Elegant cabinet design in black or white vinyl finishes

PRODUCT REGISTRATION

Please register the S12 within 15 days of purchase. To do so, register online at www.revelspeakers.com or complete and return the included product registration card. Retain the original, dated sales receipt as proof of warranty coverage.

UNPACKING

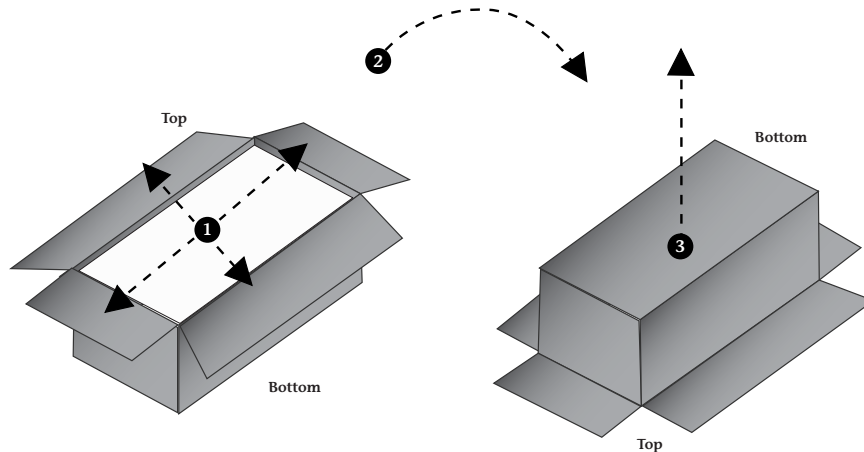
The S12 requires special care and handling during unpacking. Pay particular attention to the precautions that appear in this section and to other precautions that appear throughout this owner's manual.

When unpacking, save all packing materials for possible future shipping needs. Refer to the Obtaining Service section on page 19 for additional information.

To unpack the S12:

1. Fully open the top flaps of the packing carton as shown in Figure 1 (page 7).
2. With the top flaps folded back, carefully roll the carton over onto its exposed top pad as shown in Figure 1 (page 7).
3. Lift the packing carton off of the loudspeaker as shown in Figure 1 (page 7). Use caution to avoid damaging the cabinet. At this point, the loudspeaker will be upside down.

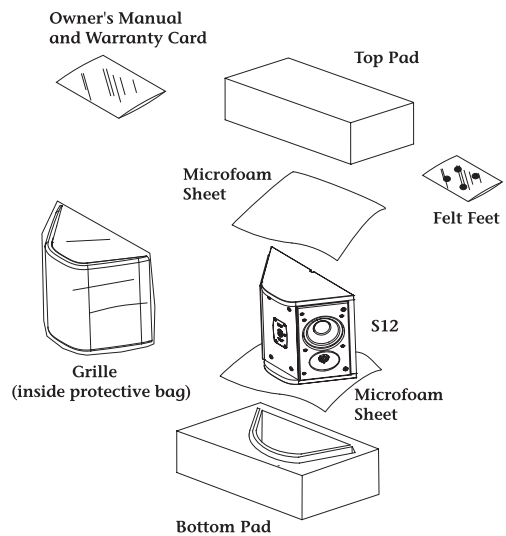
Figure 1: Unpacking the Outer Carton



Unpacking (continued)

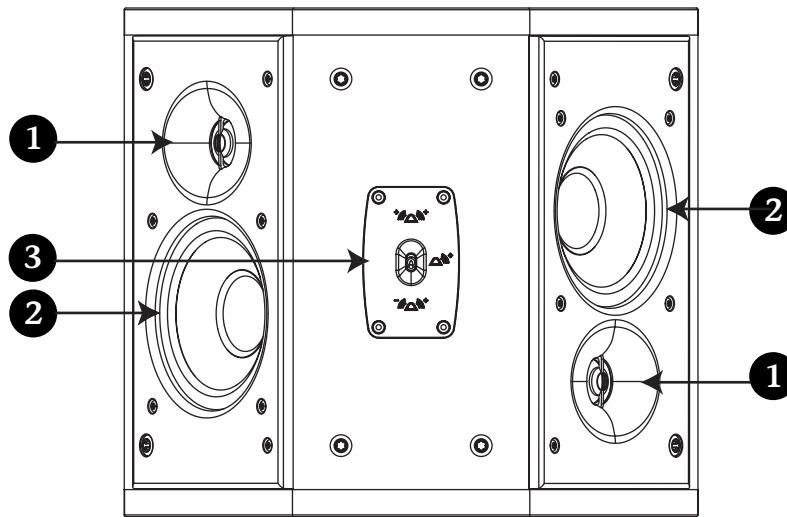
4. Remove the bottom pad and the grille. These items are identified in Figure 2 (right).
5. Grasping the sides of the cabinet, place the S12 in the upright position.
6. When the S12 is in the upright position, remove the Owner's Manual, Warranty Card and feet.
7. Remove the top pad and microfoam sheet.

Figure 2: Packing Materials



LOUDSPEAKER OVERVIEW

Figure 3: S12 Loudspeaker Front View



The numbers in Figure 3 (above) correspond with the numbered items in the Driver Complement section that begins below.

DRIVER COMPLEMENT

The numbers in Figure 3 (above) correspond with the numbered items in this section.

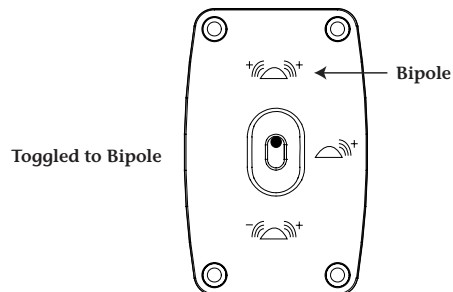
1. Tweeters
2. Woofers
3. Surround Mode Configuration Control

Optimizes the S12 loudspeaker's response to different system configurations, listening rooms, and program material.

- In **Bipole** mode, the S12's dual driver pairs operate in phase to produce a direct soundfield which is suitable for most surround applications.

Select the **Bipole** mode as shown in Figure 4 (right) for most home theater installations.

Figure 4: Bipole Mode



Select the **Bipole** mode when the S12 is configured as two independent loudspeakers.

- In **Monopole** mode, the S12 functions as a single two-way system as one of the driver pairs is deactivated. This mode produces superb imaging that is optimal for multi-channel music such as DVD audio and/or SACD. The **Monopole** mode is also suitable for 7.1-channel configurations.

Surround Mode Configuration

Control *(continued)*

- Select the **Monopole** setting as shown in Figure 5 (right) to compensate for less than ideal speaker placement, such as if the speaker is mounted in a corner of the listening room.
- In **Dipole** mode, the driver pairs work out of phase to produce a “null” directly in front of the speaker, which results in a diffuse dispersion pattern, creating a large and enveloping soundfield. This mode is suitable for film soundtrack reproduction.

Select the **Dipole** setting, as shown in Figure 6 (right) to lessen your ears’ ability to locate the speaker to help create a sense of ambience.

See the Loudspeaker Placement/Mode Configuration section beginning on page 10 for more information.

CABINET

The trapezoidal shape of the cabinet contributes greatly to S12 performance because its design allows for the driver pairs to be at 72 degree angles to each other to create the varying dispersion modes. Cabinet-induced colorations are reduced with MDF walls.

The cabinet vinyl finish does not require routine maintenance. However, cabinet surfaces that have been marked with fingerprints, dust, or other dirt can be cleaned using a soft cloth. The cabinet also includes an integral rear mounting system for direct wall placement. See the Wall-Mounting Instructions section on page 15.

Figure 5: Monopole Mode

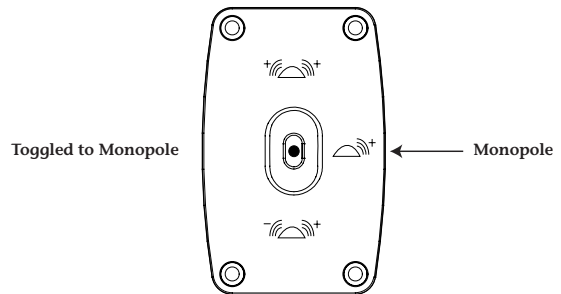
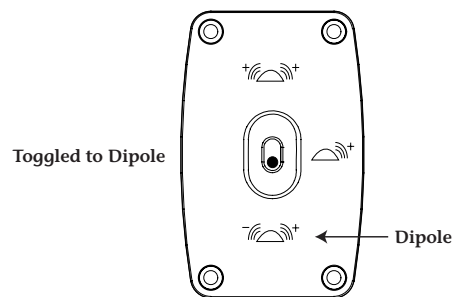


Figure 6: Dipole Mode



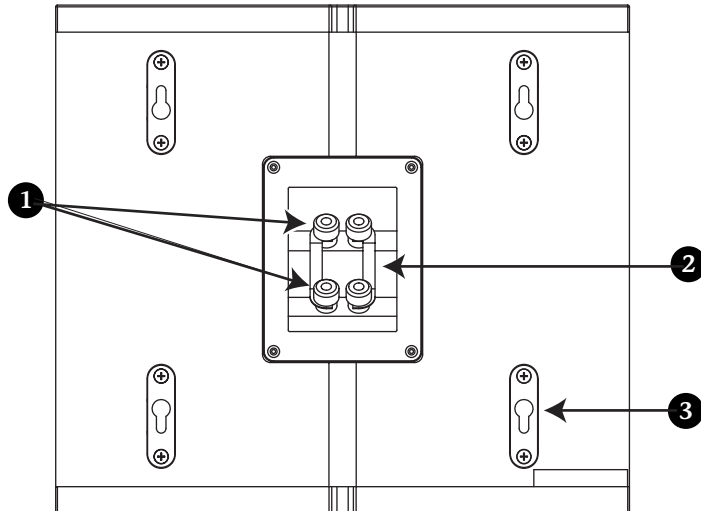
CAUTION

To prevent cabinet damage, do not use a cloth made with steel wool or use metal polish to clean the cabinet. Do not use any cleaning products or polishes on the cabinet or grille.

Filter Network

Optimizes loudspeaker on-axis and off-axis response with high-order filter at 2.2kHz, helping to ensure smooth octave-to-octave balance and timbral accuracy. Gold-plated binding posts accommodate heavy speaker cables.

Figure 7: S12 Loudspeaker Rear View



The numbers in Figure 7 (above) correspond with the numbered items in the Input Panel section that begins below.

INPUT PANEL

The numbers in Figure 7 (above) correspond with the numbered items in this section.

1. Input Connectors

Two “positive” and two “negative” gold-plated binding posts provide for connections from the associated power amplifier(s). Refer to the Making Connections section beginning on page 16 for additional information.

2. Shorting-Straps

Two gold-plated shorting-straps accommodate wired connections. The shorting-straps must be removed when a single S12 is used as dual discrete rear channels, or used as a side and rear channel. Refer to the Making Connections section beginning on page 16 for additional information.

3. Mounting Keyholes

For secure wall-mounting with wood screws.

LOUDSPEAKER PLACEMENT/MODE CONFIGURATION

Loudspeaker fidelity depends on the following three factors:

1. Loudspeaker accuracy
2. Loudspeaker placement
3. Loudspeaker mode configuration

Advanced Revel design features allow the S12 to achieve exceptional acoustical precision. Proper loudspeaker placement and experimentation with the Surround Mode Configuration control will have the most significant impact on the loudspeaker’s performance.

Loudspeaker Placement/Mode Configuration *(continued)*

CAUTION

Harman Specialty Group assumes no responsibility for proper selection and installation of hardware or for any personal injuries or product damages resulting from improper installation or a fallen loudspeaker.

The S12 is designed to offer excellent performance in any listening room or home theater system. Its uniquely rounded trapezoidal shape and angled pairs of drivers require specific placement and mode configuration considerations. Abide by the following suggestions for optimal results.

For all system configurations, the S12s should ideally be wall mounted at ear level up to 15 degrees above ear level. Check sight lines to ensure that the primary listening area is not obstructed by other rows of seating.

Side/Surround Channels

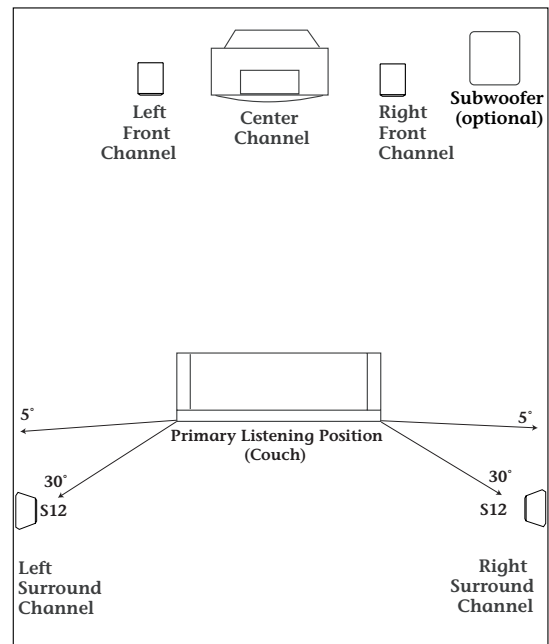
When mounted on a side wall as a side/surround speaker, one woofer and tweeter pair will be angled toward the front of the room and the other woofer and tweeter will be angled toward the rear.

The bulleted items that begin below indicate important loudspeaker placement and configuration considerations for side or surround installations.

When using the S12(s) as the surround channels in a 5-, 6- or 7-channel home theater:

- If using **Bipole** mode, the S12s should be placed behind the primary listening location, at an angle from 5 to 30 degrees behind the listening position, as shown in Figure 8 (right).

Figure 8: Bipole Mode for Side Channels in a 5-, 6- or 7-Channel System



- If there are several rows of seating, when using **Bipole** mode, place the S12s perpendicular to, or slightly behind, the last row of seating.

Note

Bipole mode provides a large ambient surround sound field while still allowing for precise localization of musical and special effects placed in the tracks.

- Set to **Monopole** to compensate for less than ideal placement, such as if the S12 is mounted in the corner of the listening room, or mounted less than three feet from the ceiling.

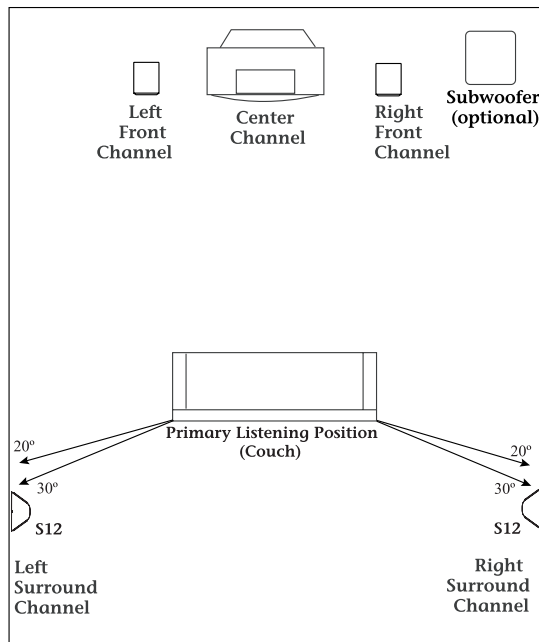
Loudspeaker Placement *(continued)*

Note

Monopole mode permits exact localization of sound effects because only one set of drivers (which should be angled toward the front of the room) are activated. Many listeners prefer this mode for high-resolution SACD and DVD Audio music recordings.

- In **Monopole** mode, the S12s should ideally be placed from 20 to 30 degrees behind the primary listening position as shown in Figure 9 (below).
- In **Monopole** mode, if there are several rows of seating, place the speakers perpendicular to the middle row of seating.

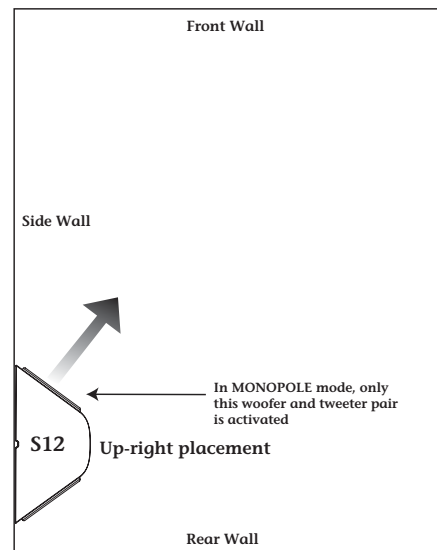
Figure 9: Monopole Mode for Side Channels in a 5-, 6- or 7-Channel System



Note

The set of drivers to the right of the **Monopole** setting indicator should be installed toward the front of the room as this is the system that will be activated, as shown in Figure 10 (below). An S12 used as a side channel mounted on the left wall (facing forward) must be mounted up-right. Conversely, an S12 on the right wall would have to be inverted. This will ensure proper operation and performance if the **Monopole** mode is selected.

Figure 10: Monopole Dispersion

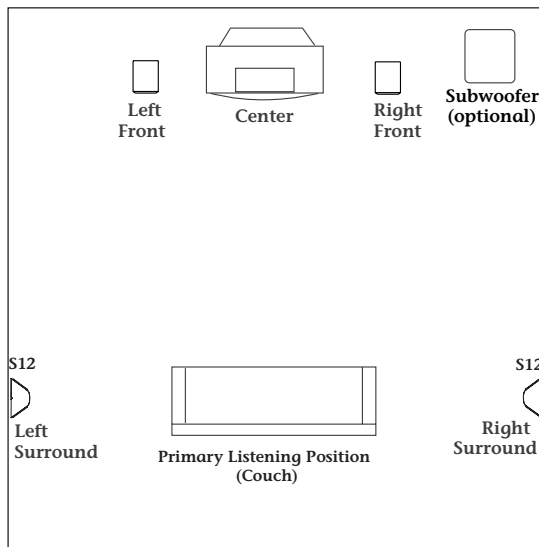


- In **Dipole** mode, if there is a single row of listeners, the S12s should be placed directly to the listeners' sides as shown in Figure 11 (below).
- In **Dipole** mode, if there are multiple rows of seating, the S12s should be placed directly at the sides of the middle of the listening area.

Note

*It may be desired to use the **Dipole** mode for film soundtracks as it creates a widely dispersed soundfield with limited localization. Set to **Dipole** if you are using a receiver/processor with a THX surround mode and have selected the THX surround mode. This is a matter of personal preference and can change depending on the individual film soundtrack. It is also recommended that the **Dipole** mode be used with older recordings that are only recorded with a Dolby Pro Logic (not the newer Dolby Digital) or DTS soundtrack.*

Figure 11: Dipole Mode for Side Channels in a 5-, 6- or 7-Channel System



Rear Channel(s)

The bulleted items that begin below indicate important S12 placement considerations for use as a rear speaker in 6- or 7-channel installations.

- If you are using a single S12 as a rear speaker, it should be mounted up-right on the rear wall facing the listening area between the side channel speakers and directly in the center of the rear wall as shown in Figure 12 (below).
- When using two S12s as rear speakers in a 6- or 7-channel home theater system, the speakers should be mounted on the rear wall facing the front of the room between the side channel speakers as shown in Figure 13 (page 14). Each rear speaker should be placed about one-third of the way into the room.

Figure 12: Single Rear Channel for 6- or 7-Channel System

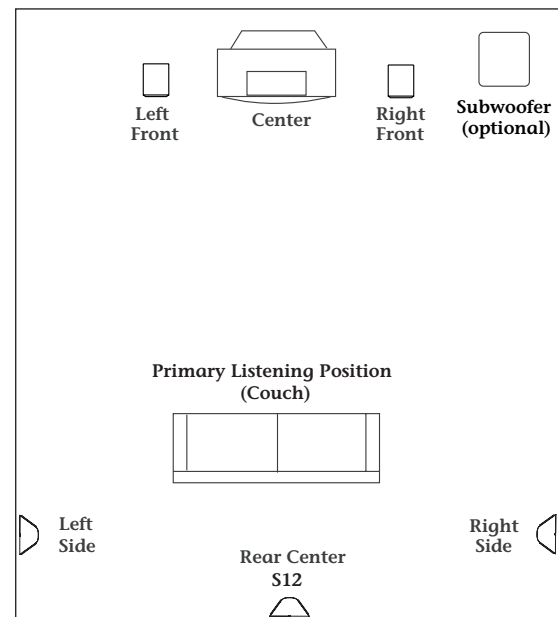
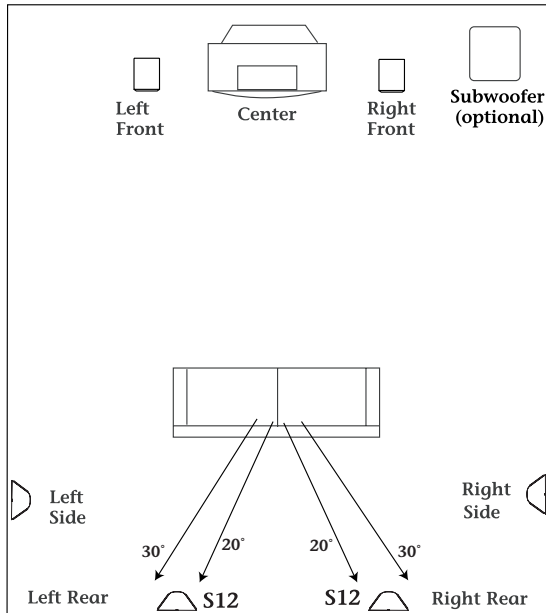


Figure 13: Two Rear Channels for 6- or 7-Channel System



Rear Channels (continued)

- When used in **Bipole** or **Dipole** mode, the rear channels should be placed at an angle from 20 to 30 degrees to the sides of the primary listening area as shown in Figure 13 (above). The exception occurs in narrow rooms where such an angle would result in placement too close to the side walls (less than 3 feet).

Note

When the S12 is used as part of a Dolby Digital or DTS multichannel home theater system, it is recommended that you set the side surround and rear surround (if present) to “small” or “high-pass.” In addition, some receivers/processors allow you to adjust the high-pass frequency for the “small” or “high-pass” setting. If your receiver/processor has this capability, it is recommended that you set the high-pass frequency to between 80Hz and 120Hz. Consult your receiver/processor owner’s manual for more information about these adjustments.

Dual Rear Discrete Channels

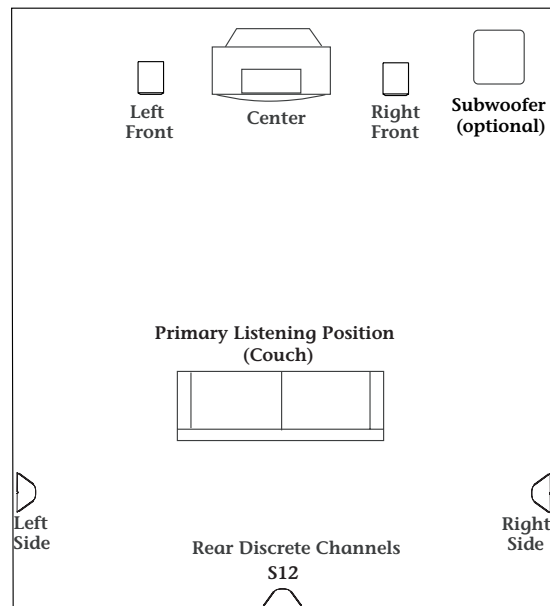
The S12 possesses the unique ability to function as two distinct loudspeakers housed in one enclosure. This allows you to use a single S12 to function as both the left and right rear (discrete) channels in a 7-channel surround system.

The bulleted items below indicate important placement considerations for use of a single S12 functioning as the left and right rear channels in a 7-channel installation.

- Mount the S12 in the center of the rear wall facing the front wall as shown in Figure 14 (below).
- Set to **Bipole**. In this application, the S12 must be mounted up-right, directly in the center of the rear wall. Use of the other dispersion modes for this configuration would not allow for proper operation.

Refer to the Dual-speaker Mode Connections section beginning on page 17 for instructions on connecting a single S12 being used as dual rear or side/rear discrete channels.

Figure 14: Two Rear Discrete Channels from a single S12 for 7-Channel System



Side and Rear Discrete Channels

The S12 also allows you to use a single S12 to function as both side and rear (discrete) channels in a 7-channel surround system.

The bulleted items below indicate important placement considerations for use of a single S12 functioning as side and rear channels in a 7-channel installation.

- Mount the S12s on the side wall(s) facing the opposite wall as shown in Figure 15 (below). Invert the S12 placed on the right wall.
- The S12s should be placed behind the primary listening location, at an angle from 5 to 30 degrees. If there are multiple rows of seating, place them directly behind the last row of seats.
- Set to **Bipole**. Use of the other dispersion modes for this configuration would not allow for proper operation.

Note

For this configuration, if the S12s are located very close to the rear walls, place the two S12s on the rear wall.

Figure 15: Two Discrete Channels Side Placement for 7-Channel System

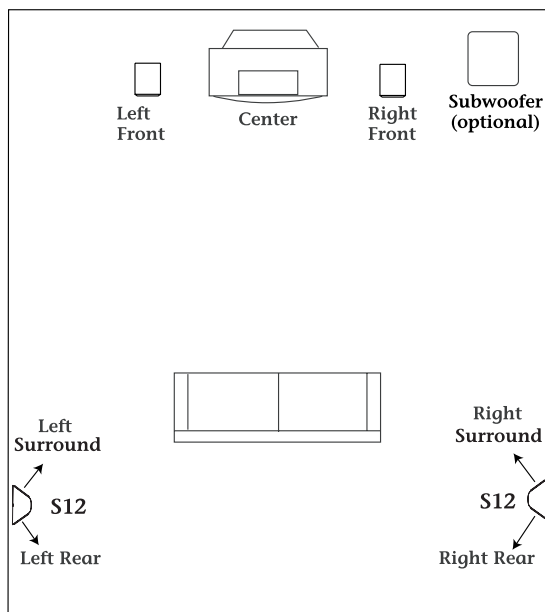
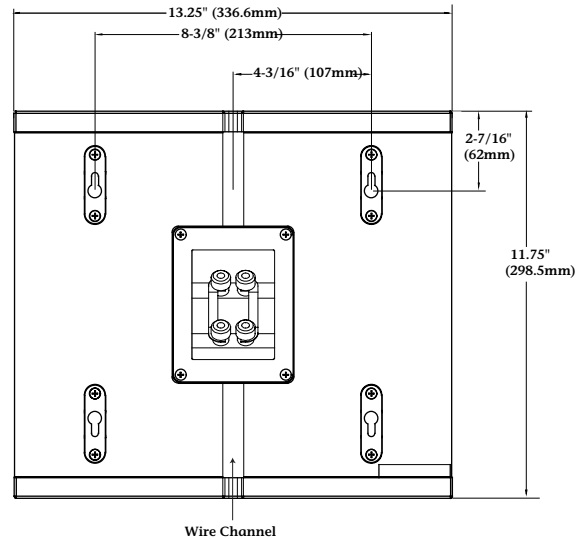


Figure 16: Wall Mounting Keyholes



WALL-MOUNTING INSTRUCTIONS

The S12 is designed for easy wall-mounting. The S12 features four rear keyholes, as shown in Figure 16 (above), which allow for either left- or right-side wall placement (either up-right or inverted). The following tools are required for the installation:

- (2) 1.5-inch (38mm) #8 wood screws
- Screwdriver
- Wall template (included)
- Pencil.

To mount the S12:

1. Locate wall stud. (If a stud is not available, use an appropriate wall anchor).
2. Position the supplied wall-mount template on the wall in the desired speaker location. Use a pencil to make two markings per speaker.
3. Drive wood screws into the wall using the markings placed in step 2 as a guide. Leave a 3/16-inch (5mm) space between the wall and screwhead.

Wall-Mounting Instructions *(continued)*

4. Make speaker connections, as described in the Making Connections section (below).
5. Place the speaker on the wall by aligning the upper two keyholes on the back of the speaker to the screwheads on the wall. Once positioned properly, the loudspeaker should slide down slightly and become securely mounted.

MAKING CONNECTIONS

The S12 features gold-plated binding posts that accommodate heavy-gauge speaker wire.

CAUTION

Never make or break connections unless all system components are powered off.

Before making connections, note the following:

- Make all connections observing the proper polarity, positive-to-positive (+) and negative-to-negative (-). Connections that do not observe the proper polarity will cause poor stereo imaging and diminished bass response.
- Review the owner's manuals for associated audio components to determine their connection procedures.
- If you have questions about the suitability of associated power amplifier components, contact an authorized Revel dealer for information.
- Use high-quality loudspeaker cable with a maximum total loop resistance of 0.07ohms or less (for each wire run). Refer to the table on the next page to determine the appropriate maximum wire gauge.

Maximum Wire Gauge

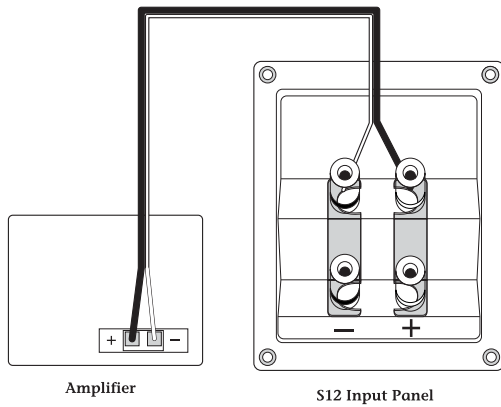
Gauge (AWG)	Length (Feet)	Length (Meters)
6	87	27
7	69	21
8	58	18
9	43	13
10	34	10
11	27	8
12	22	7
13	17	5
14	14	4
15	11	3
16	9	3
17	7	2
18	5	2

Note

High loop resistances that exceed 0.07ohms (for each wire run) will cause the filter network to mis-terminate, resulting in considerable degradation of sound quality.

- The standard connection method uses a single pair of input connectors with the shorting-straps in place. The S12 is equipped with two pairs of input terminals to allow for using a single S12 as two independent speakers (dual-speaker mode). Please note that when using a single S12 for discrete channels (dual speaker mode), you must remove the shorting-straps.

Figure 17: Standard Connections



STANDARD CONNECTIONS

Standard connections are made as shown in Figure 17 (above).

To make standard connections:

1. Leave the shorting-straps in place.
2. Connect one pair of loudspeaker wires to the S12 input connectors. Then, connect the same pair of loudspeaker wires to the desired power amplifier outputs.

Note

In addition to the polarity symbols underneath the terminals, the binding posts also have red (positive) and black (negative) inserts to indicate polarity. Be sure to observe proper polarity, especially when inverting the right side speaker(s), to ensure proper connections. In Figures 18 and 19 the polarity of the input connectors are all labeled for clarity.

DUAL-SPEAKER MODE CONNECTIONS

Dual-speaker mode connections are made as shown in Figure 18 (below) and 19 (next page).

To make dual-speaker mode connections when a single S12 is used as discrete left/right rear loudspeakers:

1. Remove the shorting-straps.
2. Connect one pair of loudspeaker wires to the top set of input connectors. Then, connect the same pair of loudspeaker wires to the left rear amplifier output.
3. Connect one pair of loudspeaker wires to the bottom set of input connectors. Then connect the same pair of loudspeaker wires to the right rear amplifier output as shown in Figure 18 (below).

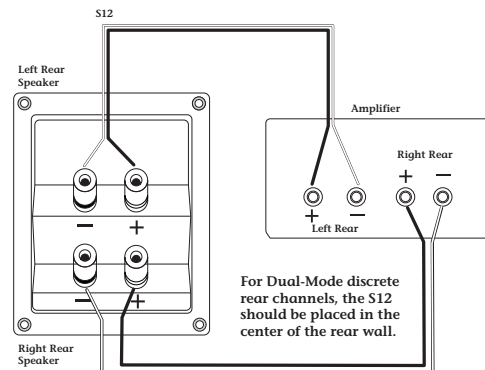
Note

Set the Surround Mode Configuration control to **Bipole** for proper operation.

CAUTION

Failure to remove the shorting straps may damage the associated power amplifier.

Figure 18: Dual-Speaker Mode Connection for a single S12 used as discrete rear channels



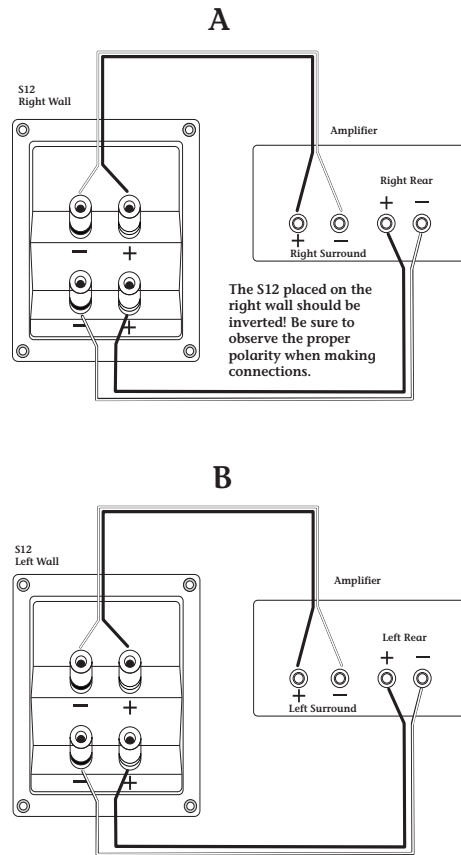
To make dual-speaker mode connections when a single S12 is used as discrete side and rear loudspeakers:

1. Remove the shorting-straps from both S12's input connectors.
2. For the S12 to be placed on the right wall, connect one pair of loudspeaker wires to the top set of input connectors. Then, connect the same pair of loudspeaker wires to the right surround amplifier output as shown in illustration A in Figure 19 (right).

Keep in mind that the S12 placed on the right wall will be inverted.

3. Connect one pair of loudspeaker wires to the bottom set of input connectors. Then connect the same pair of loudspeaker wires to the right rear amplifier output as shown in illustration A in Figure 19 (right).
4. For the S12 to be placed on the left wall, connect one pair of loudspeaker wires to the top set of input connectors. Then, connect the same pair of loudspeaker wires to the left surround amplifier output as shown in illustration B in Figure 19 (right).
5. Connect one pair of loudspeaker wires to the bottom set of input connectors. Then connect the same pair of loudspeaker wires to the left rear amplifier output as shown in illustration B in Figure 19 (right).

Figure 19: Dual-Speaker Mode Connection for a single S12 used as discrete side and rear channels



Note

Set the Surround Mode Configuration control to **Bipole** for proper operation.

CAUTION

Failure to remove the shorting-straps may damage the associated power amplifier.

OPTIMIZING PERFORMANCE

To optimize the S12 for best performance:

1. Set the Surround Mode Configuration control to the appropriate position. Refer to the Loudspeaker Placement/Mode Configuration section beginning on page 10 for information.
2. Begin playback of a familiar music or film source.
3. Listen from the primary listening position, increasing volume to a comfortable level.
4. Experiment with the Surround Mode Configuration controls (except when each S12 is configured to function as two independent loudspeakers) to determine the best setting(s) for your home theater installation, speaker placement and listening materials. Determine what is best for your particular system.

LOUDSPEAKER VOLUME LEVELS

High-order filters include steep cut-offs to reduce potential damage from “out-of-band” frequencies. Combined with carefully selected transducers and filter network components, this approach helps the S12 to maintain its performance under extreme operating conditions.

However, all loudspeakers have limits when it comes to continuous playback. To extend these limits, avoid playback at volume levels that distort or strain sound.

CAUTION

To avoid damage, reduce volume level immediately if loudspeaker sound is not clean and clear.

OBTAINING SERVICE

To obtain warranty or non-warranty service, contact your authorized Revel dealer. Refer to the included Revel Warranty Card for warranty information.

SPECIFICATIONS

Specification	Value
Frequency Response	60Hz-20Hz (± 3 dB)
Recommended Power Amplifier Range	10-150 watts
Sensitivity (2.83V @ 1 meter)	87dB
Nominal Impedance	8 Ω
Crossover Frequency	2.2kHz
Width	13.25 inches (33.66cm) (not including grille) 13.97 inches (35.48cm) (including grille)
Height	11.75 inches (29.85cm)
Depth	6.29 inches (15.98cm) (not including grille) 7.01 inches (17.81cm) (including grille)
Weight	12.25 pounds (5.56kg) (including grille)

Specifications are subject to change without notice.

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