EDUCATION

Bose Cinemate Series Ii Installation Guide

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Bose Cinemate Series II Installation Guide: A Step-by-Step Walkthrough

The Bose Cinemate Series II is a popular home theater system known for its rich, immersive sound and sleek design. Whether you are a seasoned audiophile or a first-time user, setting up this system correctly can make a significant difference in your audio experience. This comprehensive Bose Cinemate Series II installation guide will walk you through every phase—from unboxing to fine-tuning the sound settings. By following these steps, you will ensure your system is optimized for movies, music, and gaming.

What Comes in the Box?

Before you begin, it is helpful to confirm that all components are present. The typical package for the Bose Cinemate Series II includes:

- Acoustimass module (the powered bass unit)
- Two Jewel Cube speakers
- Media console (which serves as the control center and amplifier)
- Remote control
- Cables and adapters (including power cords, speaker wire, and an optical audio cable)
- Quick setup guide (though this article will serve as your detailed alternative)

Carefully inspect each item. If anything is missing, contact Bose support before proceeding.

Step 1: Choosing the Right Location

Placement is crucial for achieving the best soundstage. The Acoustimass module should be positioned on the floor, near a power outlet, and at least a few inches away from walls to avoid vibration. The Jewel Cube speakers are designed to be placed on shelves, stands, or mounted on walls. For optimal surround effect, position the left and right speakers roughly at ear level when seated, and equidistant from your primary listening area. The media console should be placed near your TV and connected sources.

Wall Mounting the Jewel Cubes (Optional)

If you prefer a clean, clutter-free look, the Bose Cinemate Series II supports wall mounting. Use the keyhole slots on the back of each cube to hang them on screws anchored into the wall. Ensure the speakers are angled slightly toward the seating area. When mounting, always use a stud finder and appropriate hardware for your wall type. This installation guide strongly recommends marking the desired height and checking cable reach before drilling.

Step 2: Connecting the Speakers to the Acoustimass Module

The Acoustimass module connects to the Jewel Cube speakers via supplied speaker wire. Follow these steps:

1. Strip about 1/2 inch of insulation from the ends of the speaker wire using a wire stripper.
2. Twist the exposed strands to avoid fraying.
3. On the Acoustimass module, locate the left and right speaker terminals (usually labeled).
4. Insert the wire into the appropriate terminal—red for positive, black for negative. Press the tab to secure.
5. Repeat the process on each Jewel Cube speaker. Ensure polarity matches (red to red, black to black) for

proper phase alignment.

Once connected, gently tug each wire to confirm it is secure. Loose connections can cause intermittent sound or static.

Step 3: Connecting the Media Console to the TV

The media console acts as the brain of the system. It receives audio from your TV and sends processed sound to the speakers. The preferred connection method is via optical digital audio cable (Toslink). Here is how:

- Insert one end of the optical cable into the Optical Out port on your TV.
- Connect the other end to the Optical In port on the Bose media console.
- If your TV lacks an optical output, you can use the analog audio output (RCA) with the included stereo cable. Connect the red/white jacks from the TV to the corresponding inputs on the media console.

Note: For the best audio quality, optical digital is recommended. The Bose Cinemate Series II supports Dolby Digital, which is only transmitted over optical or coaxial connections.

Alternative: Using HDMI – What You Should Know

The Cinemate Series II does not have an HDMI input; it only has an HDMI output for video pass-through if you connect a source (like a DVD player) to the media console. However, most users connect sources directly to the TV and then send audio back to the Bose system via optical. If you have an older TV without an optical port, the analog connection will work, but you may lose surround sound capability.

Step 4: Powering On and Syncing the Remote

Plug all components into a surge protector. The Acoustimass module and media console each have their own power cords. Turn on the TV, then press the power button on the Bose media console or the remote. The system will automatically go through a startup sequence. To sync the remote with your Bose Cinemate Series II:

1. Insert batteries into the remote (check polarity).
2. Press and hold the AUX button on the remote for about five seconds until the LED blinks twice.
3. On the media console, press and hold the AUX button on the front panel until the light on the console turns green.
4. Release both buttons. The remote should now control the system's volume and input selection.

If the remote does not respond, repeat the process and ensure you are within 10 feet of the console without obstructions.

Step 5: Configuring Audio Settings on Your TV

After physical connections, you need to adjust your TV's audio output to work with the Bose system. Go to your TV's settings menu and locate the sound or audio section. Make the following changes:

- Set audio output to External Speaker or Audio System (not TV speakers).
- Change the digital audio format to Bitstream or Dolby Digital (not PCM if possible). This ensures the Bose system receives a 5.1-channel signal.
- If your TV has an Audio Delay feature, set it to 0 ms initially; you can adjust later if needed.

Once these settings are saved, play any content with surround sound (like a Blu-ray or streaming movie). The LED on the media console should light up to indicate Dolby Digital decoding. If it shows PCM or stereo, revisit the TV settings.

Step 6: Fine-Tuning the Bose Cinemate Series II Sound

With the system running, you can tailor the sound to your room and preferences. The remote offers basic controls: volume, mute, and input selection. For deeper adjustments, use the buttons on the media console:

- Volume + / – changes overall loudness.
- Audio button cycles through surround modes: Dialog, Standard, Cinema (each emphasizes different frequencies).
- Bass adjustment: Hold the Audio button for three seconds, then use volume buttons to increase or decrease bass. The console light will flash to indicate the level.

Experiment with the settings while playing content. For dialogue-heavy shows, Dialog mode clarifies voices. For action movies, Cinema mode delivers a wider soundstage. Adjust the bass so it is present but not overpowering. A good starting point is bass level 3 or 4.

Room Calibration Tips

Unlike some modern Bose systems, the Cinemate Series II does not have an automatic calibration microphone. Manual calibration is required. Walk around the room while playing a test tone (available on many Blu-rays or YouTube). Listen for consistent volume everywhere. If one speaker seems dominant, slightly reposition the Jewel Cubes. Placing the Acoustimass module in a corner can increase bass response, while moving it away from walls reduces boominess.

Step 7: Connecting Additional Devices

The media console has a few inputs besides the main optical connection. You can connect a cable box, gaming console, or streaming device directly to the console using the auxiliary analog input (3.5mm) or the two sets of stereo RCA jacks. To add a device:

1. Connect the device’s audio output to the appropriate input on the media console.
2. Press the AUX button on the remote to cycle through the inputs (AUX 1 for the front 3.5mm jack, AUX 2 for the rear RCA jacks).
3. You may also use the Input button on the media console itself for the same purpose.

Note that these inputs are stereo only; they will not produce surround sound. For full surround, always use the optical input from the TV.

Troubleshooting Common Issues

Even with a careful installation, you might encounter problems. Here are solutions based on typical scenarios from this Bose Cinemate Series II installation guide:

- No sound from the speakers: Check all cable connections. Ensure the media console and Acoustimass module are powered on. Verify that the TV’s audio output is set to external speakers.
- Sound cuts out intermittently: This may be caused by a loose optical cable. Try reseating it. Also, check for interference from other wireless devices (the system uses a proprietary wireless link between the modules).
- Remote not working: Replace batteries and repeat the syncing process. If using a universal remote, ensure the correct code for Bose Cinemate Series II is entered (code 249 or 293 are common).
- Bass is too weak or too strong: Adjust the bass level as described earlier. Also, try moving the Acoustimass module to a different location. Avoid placing it inside a cabinet.
- No Dolby Digital indicator: Confirm your TV is sending a bitstream signal and the content is encoded in 5.1.

Some streaming apps default to stereo; check the app’s audio settings.

Maintenance and Long-Term Care

To keep your Bose Cinemate Series II performing well, dust the media console and speakers regularly with a soft, dry cloth. Avoid using cleaning sprays directly on the units. The speaker grilles can be gently vacuumed with a brush attachment. Ensure ventilation around the Acoustimass module and media console—do not cover them with cloth or paper. If you ever need to relocate the system, follow this installation guide in reverse: disconnect all cables, pack components in original boxes if available, and avoid tugging on wires.

Conclusion

Setting up the Bose Cinemate Series II does not have to be a daunting task. With the right location, proper cable connections, and a few adjustments to your TV’s audio settings, you can enjoy a cinematic experience at home. This Bose Cinemate Series II installation guide has covered every essential step—from unboxing to troubleshooting—so you can get the most out of your system. Remember to take your time with speaker placement and sound calibration—the results will be well worth the effort. Now, sit back, relax, and let the Bose Cinemate Series II transform your living room into a personal theater.

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