

SabrinaX™

INSTALLATION AND CARE GUIDE

XILSON
AUDIO



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CONTENTS

SECTION 1—WASP SETUP 7

SECTION 1.1—WASP 8

 ZONE OF NEUTRALITY: LEFT AND RIGHT CHANNEL 8

 SPEAKER PLACEMENT VERSUS LISTENING POSITION 11

 SPEAKER ORIENTATION 13

SECTION 2—SABRINAX ASSEMBLY 15

SECTION 2.1—UNCRATING THE SABRINAX 16

 INITIAL CHECK..... 16

 UNCRATING THE SABRINAX 16

SECTION 2.2 – TOOLBOX CONTENT CHECKLIST 17

SECTION 3—SETUP OF SABRINAX 19

SECTION 3.1—SETTING UP SABRINAX..... 20

 PREPARATION 20

SECTION 3.2—SABRINAX SPIKES 20

 SPIKE/DIODE ASSEMBLY..... 20

 SPIKE INSTALLATION PROCEDURE..... 21

4 SABRINAX INSTALLATION AND CARE GUIDE

SECTION 3.3—LEVELING THE SABRINAX	22
SECTION 3.4—CONNECTING SABRINAX TO YOUR AMPLIFIER	23
SECTION 3.5—REMOVING THE PROTECTIVE FILM	24
SECTION 3.6—RESISTORS.....	24
WOOFER DAMPING (Q) RESISTOR.....	25
REPLACING AN OPEN RESISTOR.....	25
SECTION 4—SPECIFICATIONS.....	29
SECTION 4.1—SPECIFICATIONS.....	30
SECTION 4.2—GRAPHICAL DIMENSIONS.....	31
SECTION 4.3—SABRINAX PHASE CURVE.....	32
SECTION 4.4—SABRINAX IMPEDANCE CURVE.....	33
SECTION 5—WARRANTY	35
SECTION 5.1—WARRANTY DETAILS.....	36
LIMITED WARRANTY.....	36
CONDITIONS	36
REMEDY.....	37
WARRANTY LIMITED TO ORIGINAL PURCHASER	38
DEMONSTRATION EQUIPMENT.....	38
MISCELLANEOUS.....	39





SECTION 1—WASP SETUP

Section 1.1—WASP

An instructional video outlining the Wilson Audio Setup Procedure (WASP) can be found here: wilsonaudio.com/WASP. The proper positioning of your new SabrinaX within your room is critical in order to extract its formidable performance envelope. When carefully followed, the WASP has proven to be the most effective method for setting up Wilson loudspeakers. Your authorized Wilson dealer is trained in this process, and is the best resource for you to ensure your loudspeakers are set up properly.

Viewing the video is the best way to learn how to properly employ WASP, but we have also included an outline of it here.

Zone of Neutrality: Left and Right Channel

The “Zone of Neutrality” is an area in your room where the speakers will sound most natural. This location is where the speakers interact the least with adjacent room boundaries. It is important to have a clear working space while determining the Zone of Neutrality.

The following is a simple method to locate the Zone of Neutrality within your listening environment:

1. Stand against the wall BEHIND the location where you intend to position your loudspeakers. Speaking in a moderately loud voice and at a constant volume, project your voice out into



the room. Your voice will have an overly heavy, “chesty” quality because of your proximity to the rear wall.

2. While speaking, slowly move out into the room, progressing in a direction parallel to the sidewall. It is helpful to have another listener seated in the listening position to assist you during this process. Listen to how your voice “frees up” from the added bass energy imparted by the rear wall boundary. Also notice that your voice is quite spatially diffuse (to your assistant, your voice will sound spatially large and difficult to localize) as you begin to ease away from the rear wall.
3. At some point during your progression forward into the room, you will observe a sonic transition in your voice; it will sound more tonally correct and less spatially diffuse (your assistant can now precisely localize the exact origin of your voice). When you hear this transition, you have entered the inner edge of the Zone of Neutrality. Place a piece of tape on the floor to mark this location. Although it will vary from room to room, in most rooms the zone begins between two and a half to three feet from the rear wall.
4. Continue to walk slowly away from the rear wall. After some distance, usually one to two feet past the first piece of tape, you will begin to hear your voice lose focus and appear to

reflect (echo) in front of you. This is caused by the return of the room's boundary contribution; your voice is now interacting with the opposite wall. At the point where you begin to hear the reflected sound of your voice, you have reached the outer edge of the Zone of Neutrality. Place a piece of tape on the floor and mark this location. The distance between the "inner" and "outer" edge tape marks is usually between eight inches (for small, interactive rooms) and three feet (for large, more neutral rooms).

5. Now position yourself against the side wall perpendicular to the intended speaker location. Stand between the two tape marks. Using the same procedure as above, begin moving into the room toward the opposite sidewall, progressing between the two pieces of tape. As above, listen for the point in the room where your voice transitions from bass-heavy and diffuse to neutral. Mark this point with tape. Continue your progression until there is an obvious interaction with the opposite wall in front of you and mark this point with tape. The four pieces of tape now form a rectangle that establishes the Zone of Neutrality for the loudspeaker to be installed on that side of the room. Using the four marks as your guide, tape an outline to define the boundaries of the rectangle.

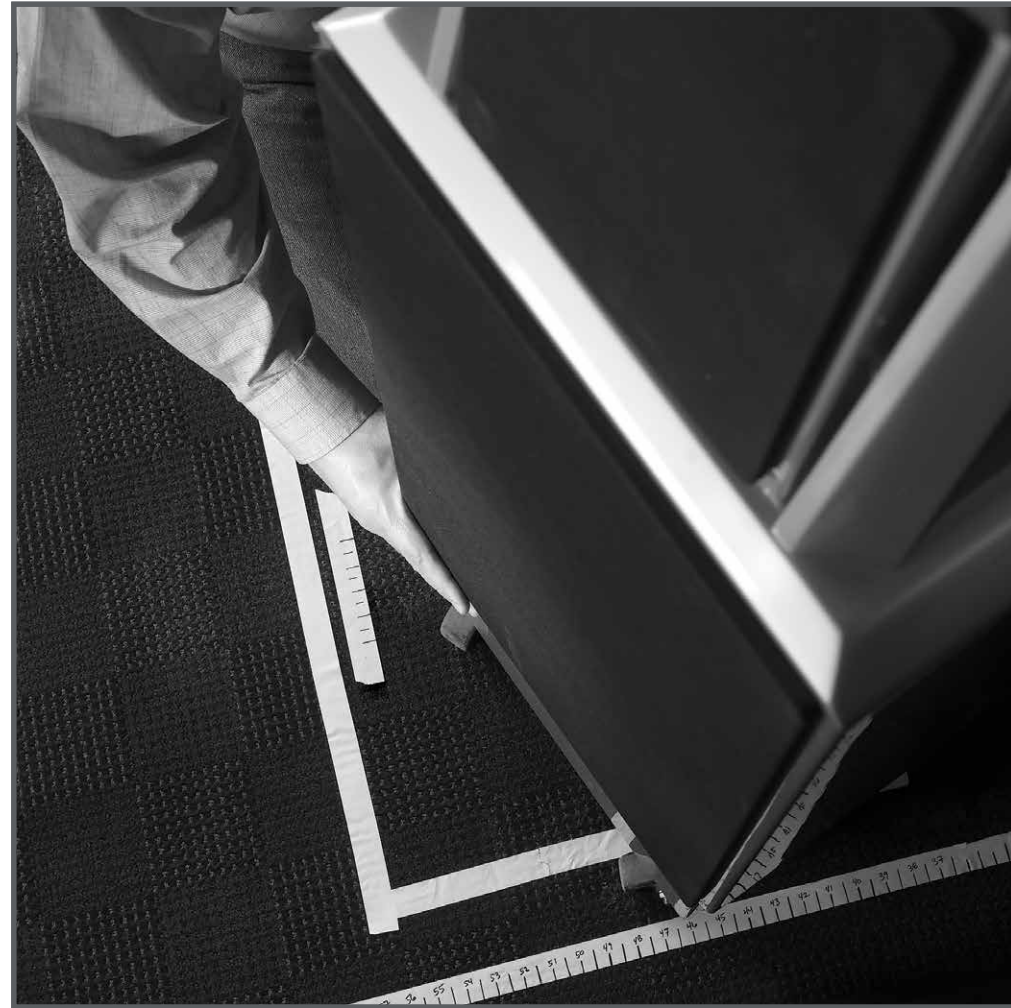
6. Repeat this process for each speaker location individually. These are your Zones of Neutrality, one for each channel.

Theoretically, the Zone of Neutrality for any room runs like a path, parallel to the walls all around the room. Adjacent to very large windows and open doors, the outer edge of the Zone of Neutrality moves closer to the wall and becomes wider. If you were to extend the inner and outer boundaries of the Zone for the sidewalls and the front wall (behind the speakers), they would intersect.

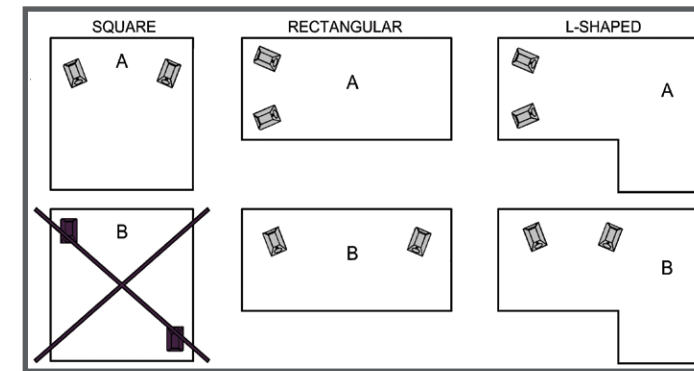
Speaker Placement Versus Listening Position

The location of your listening position is as important as the careful setup of your Wilson Audio loudspeakers. The listening position should ideally be no more than 1.1 to 1.25 times the distance between the tweeters on each speaker. Therefore, in a long, rectangular room of 12' x 18', if the speaker tweeters are going to be 9' apart, you should be sitting 9'11" to 11'3" from the speaker. This would be more than halfway down the long axis of the room.

Many people place the speakers on one end and sit at the other end of the room. This approach will not yield the finest sound. Carefully consider your listening position. Our experience has shown that any listening position that places your head closer than 14" from a wall will diminish the sonic results of your listening due to the deleterious effects of boundary interaction.



When carefully followed, the WASP has proven to be the most effective method for setting up Wilson loudspeakers.



Speaker Orientation

Speaker placement and orientation are two of the most important considerations in obtaining superior sound. The first thing you need to do is eliminate the sidewalls as a sonic influence in your system. Speakers placed too close to the sidewalls will suffer from a strong primary reflection. This can cause out-of-phase cancellations, or comb filtering, which will cancel some frequencies and change the tonal balance of the music. Adhering to the Wilson Audio Setup Procedure outlined in the previous section is the best method with which to position your loudspeakers.

A very important aspect of speaker placement is how far from the back wall to place the speakers. The closer a loudspeaker is to the back wall, the more pronounced the low bass energy and centering of the image will be. However, this comes at a definite reduction in stage size and bloom as well as a deterioration of upper bass quality. You must find the proper balance of these two factors, but remember, if you are partial to bass response or air and bloom, do not overcompensate your adjustments to maximize these effects. Overcompensated systems are sometimes pleasing in the short-term, but long-term satisfaction is always achieved through proper balance.



SECTION 2—SABRINAX ASSEMBLY

Note: In your listening room or home theater, clear out two spaces, one for your left and one for your right channel. Place the ODD numbered SabrinaX in the LEFT channel section and the EVEN in the RIGHT channel section.

Section 2.1—Uncrating the SabrinaX

Note: To avoid damaging the SabrinaX’s painted surface. Please remove any jewelry such as rings, watches, necklaces, and bracelets during this process.

Initial Check

The SabrinaXs are shipped in boxes. Upon receiving these boxes, please check their condition. If any of the boxes are damaged, please report it to the shipping company immediately for insurance verification.

The following items are recommended for this procedure:

- Box Cutter
- Tin Snips (for cutting bands)
- Masking tape (for use in speaker setup)

Uncrating the SabrinaX

A minimum of two strong adults is required to set up the SabrinaXs.

1. Using tin snips, carefully cut the metal bands around the box.
2. With the box facing up, carefully cut the tape securing the lid. Slide off the outer cardboard shell.

3. One box will contain the tool kit. Carefully remove the toolkit and the manual. Set these aside.
4. Carefully lift the box upright so that the SabrinaX is now vertical. With the SabrinaX’s bottom toward the floor and one person holding the box, the second person should reach in and gently slide the SabrinaX out of the box.
5. Place the SabrinaX with an odd serial number on the left side of the room and the SabrinaX with an even serial number on the right side of the room.

Note: The SabrinaXs are very heavy and care should be taken to prevent injury.

Section 2.2 – Toolbox Content Checklist

Now that you have unpacked your SabrinaX, you can inventory all the additional items in the boxes.

- Polishing Cloth
- 8x Spike with Nut
- 8x Spike Diodes
- 8x Aluminum Spike Pads
- Universal Handle
- 1/2” Nut Driver (binding posts)
- 1/4” Allen Wrench
- 3/4” Combo Wrench (spike nuts)
- 5/32” Ball-End Allen (driver screws)
- 1/8” Ball-end Allen head for bottom resistor panel



SECTION 3—SETUP OF SABRINAX

Note: Before setting up the SabrinaX, study carefully Section 1, “WASP Set-up.” It provides valuable information on determining the ideal room location for your speakers.

Section 3.1—Setting up SabrinaX

Preparation

You will need the following items:

- Supplied hardware kit
- Tape measure
- Known listening position

Your dealer is trained in the art and science of the Wilson Audio Setup Procedure (WASP) outlined in Section 1. Before the spike assemblies are attached to the bottom of your SabrinaXs, the set up and fine tuning of your loudspeaker should be completed. Before spiking your SabrinaXs, use masking tape to carefully mark their location.

Section 3.2—SabrinaX Spikes

Spike/Diode Assembly

1. The spike assembly consists of four elements: the diode, the spike, the all-thread post, and the locking nut. The spike and



nut are shipped assembled. Retrieve these items from the tool-kit.

2. On the spike, move the nut to about three threads from the point. This will allow for greater movement when leveling the loudspeaker system.
3. Screw the spikes into the diode until the nut is against the diode. Be careful that the nut does not turn while inserting and threading spikes into the diode.

Note: Do not tighten the nut on the assembled spikes. You will need to loosen them when you level the SabrinaX.

4. Screw the all-thread post into the diode until it just meets the spike. Make sure the Allen head portion of the all-thread faces toward the spike. Do not overtighten; doing so will prevent the spike from being adjusted for leveling.
5. Assemble the rest of the spikes/diode.

Spike Installation Procedure

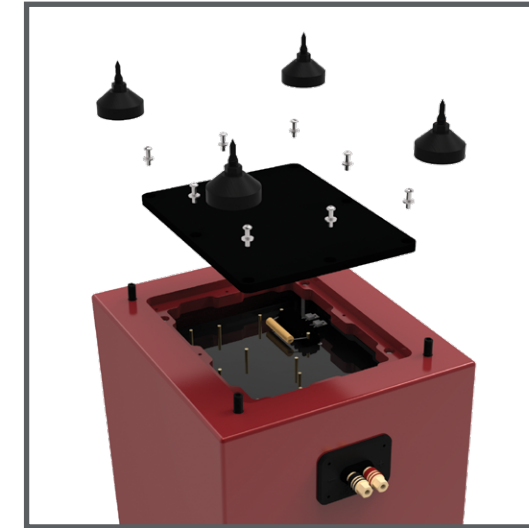
6. Carefully lay the SabrinaX on its side.
7. Insert the spike/diode assemblies into the four holes located on the bottom of each loudspeaker. Tighten until the top sur-

face of the diode touches the bottom surface of the “X” material plate.

Note: The spike receptacles are tapped directly into the “X” material plate on the bottom of the SabrinaX. Be very careful NOT TO CROSS THREAD the spikes.

Section 3.3—Leveling the SabrinaX

1. Place a level oriented vertically on the rear of the SabrinaX on the flat area above the speaker terminal. If it is level, move to Step 5.
2. You may rotate the spike tips in place by hand.
3. Lengthen the appropriate spike or spikes on that lower side until the SabrinaX is level.
4. If the speaker is leaning forward, lengthen both spikes on the front of the speaker. If the speaker is leaning back, lengthen the rear spikes. Lengthen the spikes incrementally, checking and rechecking the level until the SabrinaX is level front-to-back.
5. Once the SabrinaX is level front-to-back, place a level on the left-to-right axis, using the connector plate as your guide. If the SabrinaX is leaning one way or the other, following the



same process as above, lengthen the appropriate spikes on the left or right of the SabrinaX until it is level.

6. Sometimes, one spike will be out of sync with the other three. To find out which spike to lower, grasp the SabrinaX channel and gently rock it back and forth. This will identify the spike that is out of level from the other three. If there is movement, lengthen the appropriate spike until the SabrinaX sits solidly on the floor, but remains level. Make sure the spike is penetrating the carpet surface and is resting on the solid floor beneath.
7. Once all adjustments have been made, with the 3/4” wrench provided, tighten the nut on the spike to the diode. **DO NOT OVER-TIGHTEN!** “Snug” is tight enough.

Section 3.4—Connecting SabrinaX to your Amplifier

The Sabrina features Wilson-made, state-of-the-art binding posts to facilitate connecting SabrinaX to your amplifier. Locate the 1/2” nut driver from your tool kit. Attach the main output from the amplifier to the binding posts located on the bottom rear of the SabrinaX. Use the 1/2” nut driver to tighten the binding posts. **Do not over-tighten.**

Section 3.5—Removing the Protective Film

To protect the finish of the SabrinaX during final manufacture, shipment, and setup in your listening room, we have applied a removable layer of protective film over the finish. We recommend that this film be left in place until the speakers are in their final location in your listening room. Once you have determined their final position, remove the film by following this procedure:

1. Ensure the speaker surface is room temperature before removing the protective film. Removing the protective film when the speaker surface is cold can damage the paint surface.
2. Slowly remove the film from the top down, large sections at a time, gently pulling the film downward and outward. Tearing the film aggressively can damage the paint.
3. Take care in removing the protective film near edges and corners to prevent paint damage in these areas.
4. The protective film should not be left on the painted surface for extended periods of time nor exposed to heat sources and direct sunlight.

Section 3.6—Resistors

By removing the X-material cover on the bottom of your SabrinaXs, you may gain access to the resistor strip. These resistors serve several functions.

Note: Only Wilson Audio replacement resistors should be used in your SabrinaXs. Changing the value or brand of resistor will have a deleterious affect on the sonic performance of your loudspeakers and will void your Wilson Audio Warranty.

Midrange and Tweeter Resistors

The Midrange Level, which consists of two 4.2 ohm soldered resistors in parallel, and Tweeter Level, which consists of two 7.9 ohm resistors soldered in parallel. Resistors provide precise level matching for the midrange and tweeter drivers correspondingly. The resistors also act as ultra high quality fuses which open before a driver can be damaged by excess power.

Additionally, these resistors can be used to tailor the output of the corresponding driver to overcome tonal balance issues that result from room acoustics.

Woofers Damping (Q) Resistor

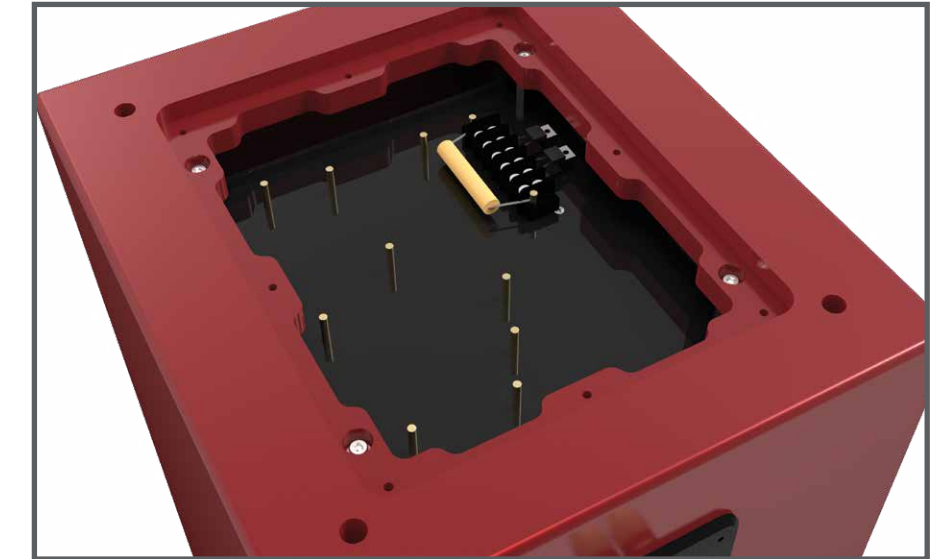
The Woofer Damping (Q) resistor affects the way the SabrinaX's woofers couple to the amplifier. These resistors are pre-installed and should not be changed.

Replacing an Open Resistor

The resistors are designed such that they will open before damage occurs to the corresponding driver. In the event a resistor is damaged, use the follow-

ing procedure to replace it.

- Power off the amplifier.
- Disconnect the speaker cable from the SabrinaX.
- Lay a terry cloth towel or soft blanket on the floor adjacent to the SabrinaX to cushion the painted side of the loudspeaker.
- Make sure to apply masking tape on the floor to mark the placement of your SabrinaX to ensure you can return them to their proper location.
- Carefully lay the SabrinaX on its side. You will now have access to the bottom access panel, under which is the crossover and resistor access.
- Remove the screws securing the crossover access panel with the provided 1/8-inch bit in the universal wrench.
- Identify the resistor that needs to be replaced.
- Using a flathead screwdriver, remove the screws securing the resistor to the plate. Take care to prevent the screws from dropping into the enclosure.
- Remove the heatsink from damaged resistor.
- Install the heatsink onto the replacement resistor.
- Re-install the resistor.
- Replace the access door.
- Take care to reposition the SabrinaXs in their original location, using the masking tape as the guide.



The resistors, located behind the plate on the bottom of the SabrinaX, act as an ultra-high-quality fuse which opens before a driver can be damaged by excess power.



SECTION 4—SPECIFICATIONS

Section 4.1—Specifications

Enclosure Type SabrinaX: Rear Ported

Woofers: 8 inches (20.32 cm) Paper Pulp

Tweeter: 1 inch Dome (2.54 cm) Doped Silk Fabric

Midrange: 5 3/4 inches (14.61 cm) Doped Paper Pulp

Sensitivity: 87 dB @ 1W @ 1m @ 1 kHz

Nominal Impedance: 4 ohms / 2.60 ohms minimum @ 135 Hz

Minimum Amplifier Power: 50 Watts per channel

Frequency Response: 31 Hz – 23 kHz: +/- 3 dB: Room Average Response [RAR]

Overall Dimensions: Height: 38 inches (96.46 cm)

Height with spikes: 40 5/16 inches (102.34 cm)

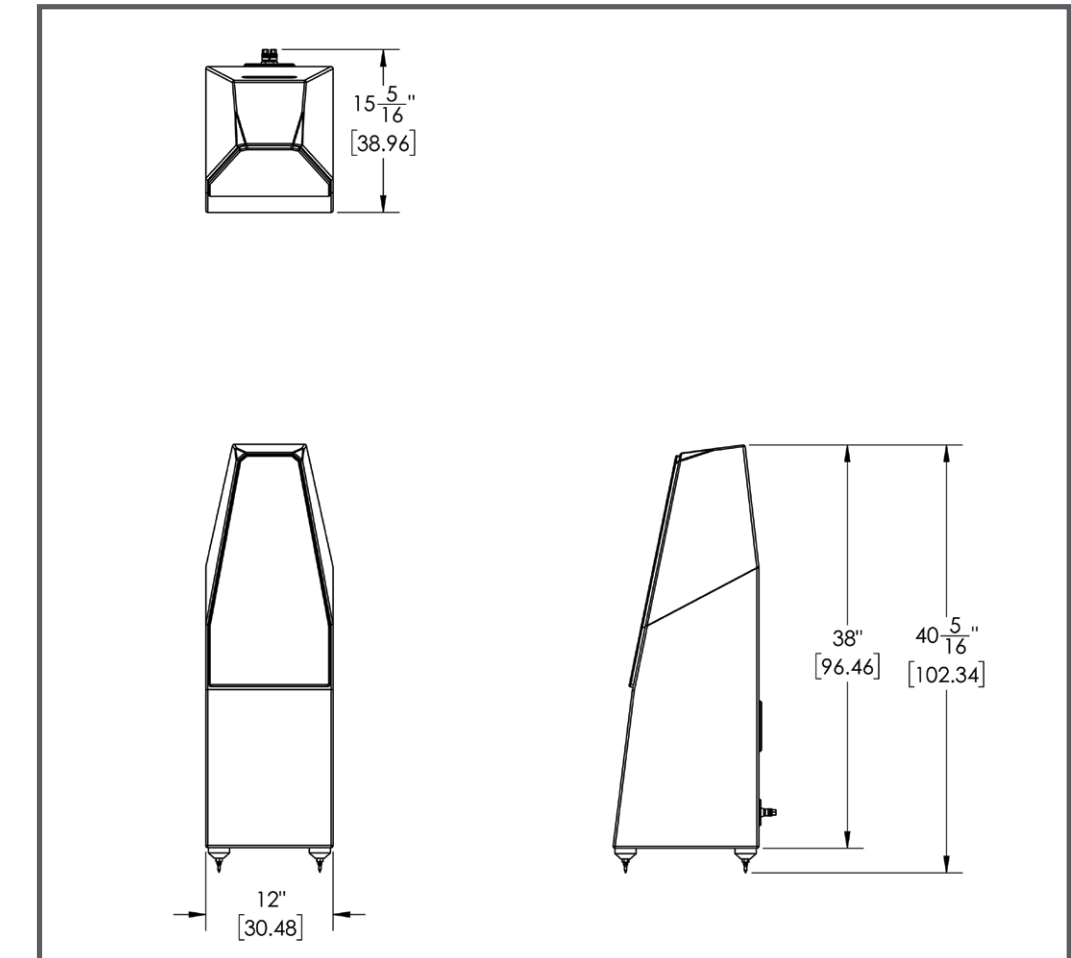
Width: 12 inches (30.48 cm)

Depth: 15 5/16 inches (38.96 cm)

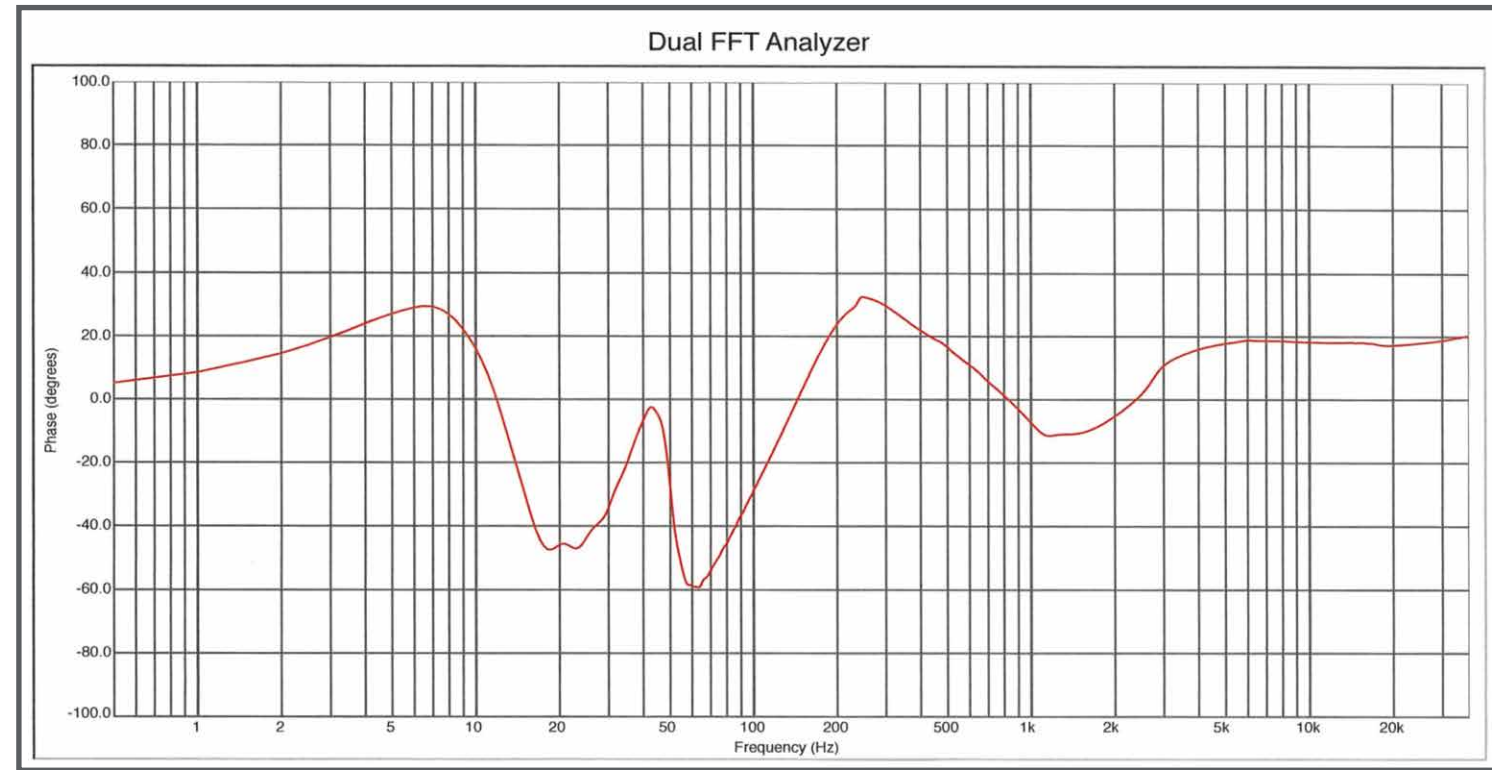
System Weight Per Channel: 112 lb (50.80 kg)

System Shipping Weight (approx.): 290 lbs (131.54 kg)

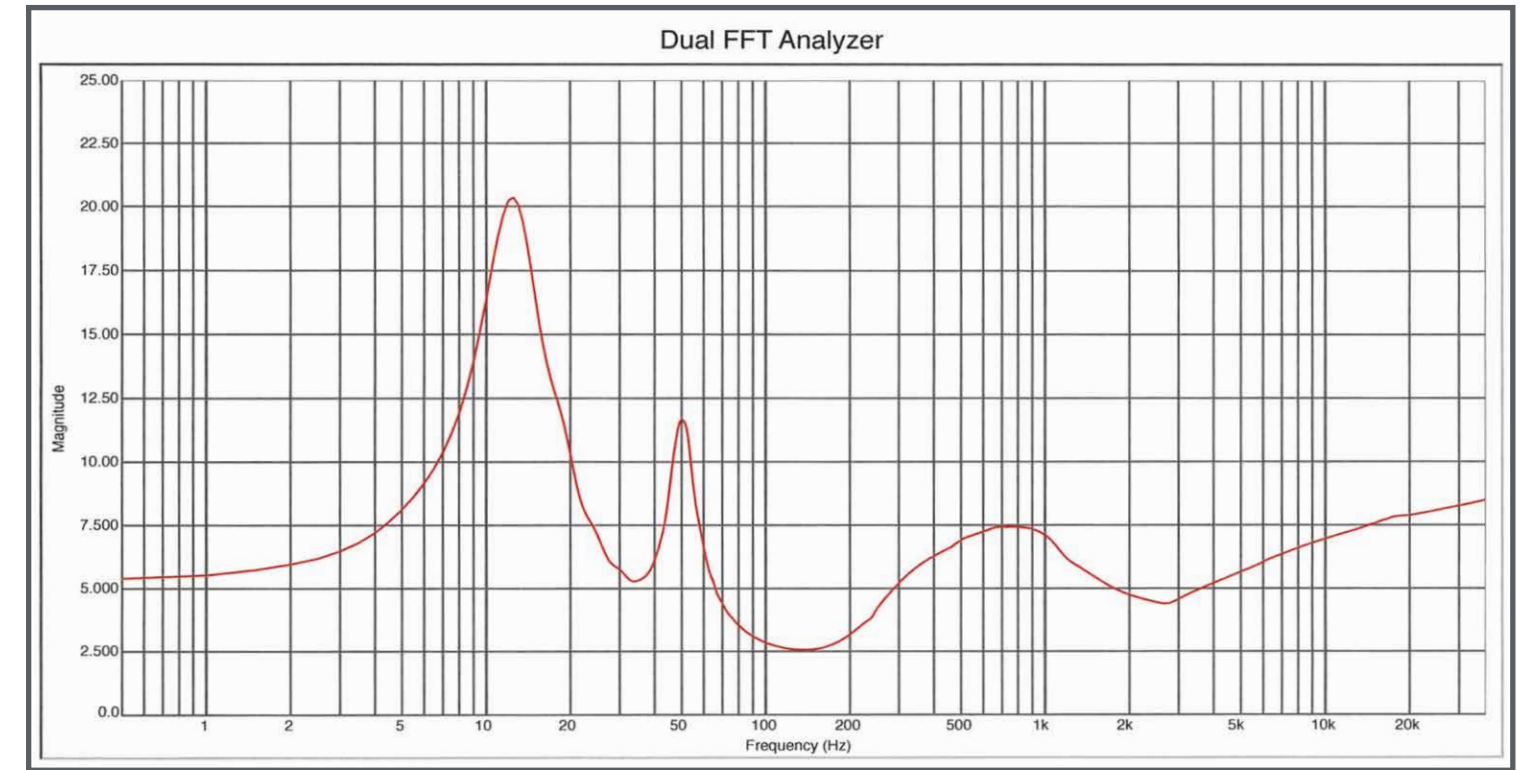
Section 4.2—Graphical Dimensions



Section 4.3—SabrinaX Phase Curve



Section 4.4—SabrinaX Impedance Curve





SECTION 5—WARRANTY

WILSON AUDIO SPECIALTIES

Section 5.1—Warranty Details

Limited Warranty

Subject to the conditions set forth herein, Wilson Audio warrants its electronics to be free of manufacturing defects in material and workmanship for the Warranty Period. The Warranty Period is a period of 90 days from the date of purchase by the original purchaser, or if both of the following two requirements are met, the Warranty Period is a period of five (5) years from the date of purchase by the original purchaser:

Requirement No. 1. No later than 30 days after product delivery to the customer, the customer must have returned the Warranty Registration Form to Wilson Audio. Alternatively, the warranty may be filled out on-line.

Requirement No. 2. The product must have been professionally installed by the Wilson Audio dealer that sold the product to the customer.

FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH EITHER REQUIREMENT NO. 1 OR REQUIREMENT NO. 2 WILL RESULT IN THE WARRANTY PERIOD BEING LIMITED TO A PERIOD OF 90 DAYS ONLY.

Conditions

This Limited Warranty is also subject to the following conditions and limitations. The Limited Warranty is void and inapplicable if the product has been used or handled other than in accordance with the instructions in the owner's manual, or has been abused or misused, damaged by accident or neglect or in

being transported, or if the product has been tampered with or service or repair of the product has been attempted or performed by anyone other than Wilson Audio, an authorized Wilson Audio Dealer Technician or a service or repair center authorized by Wilson Audio to service or repair the product. Contact Wilson Audio at (801) 377-2233 for information on Wilson Audio Dealers and authorized service and repair centers. Most repairs can be made in the field. In instances where return to Wilson Audio's factory is required, the dealer or customer must first obtain a return authorization. Purchaser must pay for shipping to Wilson Audio, and Wilson Audio will pay for shipping of its choice to return the product to purchaser. A RETURNED PRODUCT MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A WRITTEN DESCRIPTION OF THE DEFECT. Wilson Audio reserves the right to modify the design of any product without obligation to purchasers of previously manufactured products and to change the prices or specifications of any product without notice or obligation to any person.

Remedy

In the event that the product fails to meet the above Limited Warranty and the conditions set forth herein have been met, the purchaser's sole remedy under this Limited Warranty shall be to: (1) contact an authorized Wilson Audio Dealer within the Warranty Period for service or repair of the product without charge for parts or labor, which service or repair, at the Dealer's option, shall

take place either at the location where the product is installed or at the Dealer's place of business; or (2) if purchaser has timely sought service or repair and the product cannot be serviced or repaired by the Dealer, then purchaser may obtain a return authorization from Wilson Audio and at purchaser's expense return the product to Wilson Audio where the defect will be rectified without charge for parts or labor.

Warranty Limited to Original Purchaser

This Limited Warranty is for the sole benefit of the original purchaser of the covered product and shall not be transferred to a subsequent purchaser of the product, unless the product is purchased by the subsequent purchaser from an authorized Wilson Audio Dealer who has certified the product in accordance with Wilson Audio standards and requirements and the certification has been accepted by Wilson Audio, in which event the Limited Warranty for the product so purchased and certified shall expire at the end of the original Warranty Period applicable to the product.

Demonstration Equipment

Equipment, while used by an authorized dealer for demonstration purposes, is warranted to be free of manufacturing defects in materials and workmanship for a period of five (5) years from the date of shipment to the dealer. Demo equipment needing warranty service may be repaired on-site or, if necessary,

correctly packed and returned to Wilson Audio by the dealer at dealer's sole expense. Wilson Audio will pay return freight of its choice. A returned product must be accompanied by a written description of the defect. Dealer owned demonstration equipment sold at retail within two (2) years of date of shipment to the dealer is warranted to the first retail customer to be free of manufacturing defects in materials and workmanship for the same time periods as if the product had originally been bought for immediate resale to the retail customer. Wilson Audio products are warranted for a period of 90 days, unless extended to 5 years, as provided above, by return and filing of completed Warranty Registration at Wilson Audio within 30 days after product delivery to customer and the product was professionally installed by the Wilson Audio Dealer that sold the product to the customer.

Miscellaneous

ALL EXPRESS AND IMPLIED WARRANTIES NOT PROVIDED FOR HEREIN ARE HEREBY EXPRESSLY DISCLAIMED. ANY LEGALLY IMPOSED IMPLIED WARRANTIES RELATING TO THE PRODUCT SHALL BE LIMITED TO THE DURATION OF THIS LIMITED WARRANTY. THIS LIMITED WARRANTY DOES NOT EXTEND TO ANY INCIDENTAL OR CONSEQUENTIAL COSTS OR DAMAGES TO THE PURCHASER.

Some states do not allow limitations on how long an implied warranty lasts or an exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages, so the above limitations or exclusions may not apply to you. This Limited Warranty gives you specific legal rights, and you may also have other rights, which vary from state to state.

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PARTS
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- Installation Tools and Accessories
- Replacement Grilles and Diffraction Blankets
- WilsonGloss Care Products and Kits
- Wilson Signature Apparel
- ... And More

