In a world of infinite possibilities, find your own.

CONGRATULATIONS

We sincerely thank you for having granted Totem the special place in your living environment. These speakers are designed to redefine your musical understanding and open up corridors of new experiences. We hope you not only enjoy but experience Totem as your guide to a new and rewarding listening environment! You will without a doubt experience a Totem moment.

OUR VISION

Totem Acoustics' mission is to develop loudspeakers capable of reproducing a truly musical and involving performance. Our goal is to provide designs that are both affordable and real 'soul movers' for the music lover and surround lover. Music of any period, country or style is accurately and emotionally rendered with a powerful focus that is yet soul stirring.

Each speaker is a 'piece de resistance' that attests to the profound sound staging that can be reproduced by flexible and innovative engineering. Listen and believe...

TOTEM LIMITED WARRANTY

Please register online at www.totemacoustic.com within two weeks of the purchase date.
Keep your original bill or receipt obtained from your Totem Authorized Dealer.

The Totem speakers must be purchased from an TOTEM AUTHORIZED DEALER.

All Totem products are created with the utmost care and quality in mind. If ever a problem should arise Totem's speaker are covered by a **five (5) year limited warranty**, (excluding subwoofers) starting from the date of purchase. The Totem limited warranty applies to products in normal home use only. The warranty is void if serial numbers have been altered or removed. The warranty is void if products show signs of abuse. The warranty is void if the speakers have been tampered with.

The **speakers requires at least 85-90 hours** of actual music playing time as a minimal break-in period. During this time, refrain from playing them at very loud levels. You will notice a definite gradual improvement in the cohesiveness of the music reproduction as this occurs.

Retain the sturdy carton and all packing material; if needed, it will prove invaluable for damage-free transport or storage and upgrade purposes.

We reserve the right to any future change or modification without notice. If you have any further queries or require any classifications, feel free to contact your Totem Authorized Dealer.

For further assistance contact your **TOTEM AUTHORIZED DEALER**
or visit the Support Section of Totem website at **www.totemacoustic.com**.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Totem Limited Warranty	2
User Manual	4
Unpacking	4
Our thoughts on Grills	4
Speaker Position	4
Monitors	5
Floorstanding	5
Center channels	5
Connections	6
Troubleshooting Guide	6
Speaker Abuse Prevention	7
Amplifier Distortion	7
Volume	7
Limits	7
Environmental Information	7
Decoupling Totem PLINTH	8
Decoupling Totem CLAW	9
Totem Speaker Wall Mount	10
Totem Beak (sound enhancement)	12
Mass Loading Instructions	14
Grill Instructions	15

USER MANUAL

Thank you for choosing Totem Acoustic. Please take the time to fully read this manual prior to beginning set-up. The manual will clearly guide you to achieve the best possible sound that these newly acquired Totem speakers are capable of providing.

UNPACKING

Totem Acoustic keeps to a strict quality control regimen and all factory-sealed products leave our facility in perfect condition. If there are any damages visible or concealed they have occurred in handling and must be reported immediately to your Totem dealer.

Carefully remove the speaker(s) from the box(es); take caution as the size often deceives the actual weight. Save all custom cartons and packaging foam for future use. They are rather expensive and may come in handy for future upgrades.

GRILLS

We firmly believe that our chosen drivers are of the highest quality making them easily esthetically appealing therefore speaker grills remain optional on all Totem speakers and subwoofers. The soundstage is also slightly altered and in order to achieve ideal performance Totem recommends the removal of grills in intense listening sessions. Take note that all on-wall and in-wall speakers and the Dreamcatcher products are packaged with grills.

SPEAKER POSITIONING

Totem produces speakers with great dispersion, both on the vertical and horizontal axis. They can be placed in extremely varied positions and therefore still produce a large and accommodating, non-shifting soundstage. Keep in mind that a room with a variety of different materials will deliver a much more harmonized sound. These speakers are of a superior design and will perform remarkably well in a variety of spaces. With special care and the time you take to position your Totem speakers the greater the result. Below are some rules to follow in general in-room placement than can help optimize final performance.

For further assistance contact your **TOTEM AUTHORIZED DEALER**
or visit the Support Section of Totem website at **www.totemacoustic.com**.

MONITORS

Monitors should be placed on appropriate stands, or shelves, at ear level or above.
If they are placed extremely close to the ceiling, you may place them vertically with tweeter facing downwards. (Upside down)

Take into account that Totem speakers not only image in-between their individual positions but also towards the outside of their axis (both vertical and horizontal). In placing the monitors in room, one may actually optimize their performance by placing them closer to one another.
More information can be found on the Support page of our website.
www.totemacoustic.com

FLOORSTANDING

Our floor-standing speakers require no toe-in. Position them facing straight ahead if the distance between them is less than 2.5 m (8 foot). Greater than this distance a small toe-in can be used but is not generally needed. Try toeing-in one speaker slightly and then the other only if needed. Experimentation is the keep.

Totem recommends that you position the speakers at a minimum 305 mm (12 inches) from the back wall and side wall, this will allow for a better energy flow resulting in a claerner bass response. More information can be found on the Support page of our website. **www.totemacoustic.com**

CENTER CHANNELS

Our Center channels are carefully voiced to seamlessly match the appropriate L/R speakers. Please refer to our website www.totemacoustic.com for the appropriate center channel. Ideally for optimum results Totem recommends to position the center channel 20-30 inches above the floor and below the L/R tweeter in between the L/R speakers.

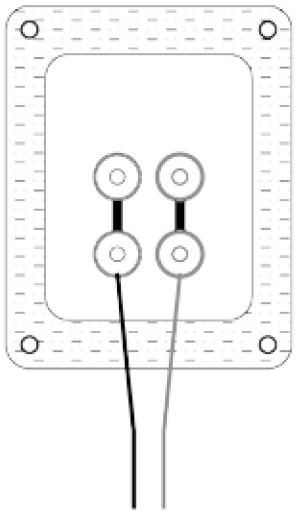
CONNECTIONS

All connections should be made with the equipment turned off.

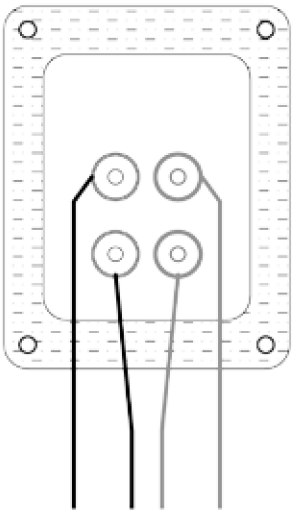
Totem delivers all speakers with installed jumpers. For a standard single wire connection simply leave the jumpers in place. Be certain to connect the positive red (+) terminal of the speaker to the positive red (+) output terminal on the amplifier. Be certain to connect the negative black (-) terminal of the speaker to the negative black (-) output terminal on the amplifier. The speakers will sound out of phase (bass loss and image distortion) if there is an error in your connection. Totem Speakers can be bi-amped and bi-wired, please consult your amplifier manual for detailed instructions or contact your Totem Authorized Dealer.

Caution: For a **bi-amp** connection jumpers MUST be removed.

Single wire



Bi-wire
Remove jumpers



TROUBLESHOOTING GUIDE

No sound: Verify that your pre-amp and/or amplifier, and receiver are plugged into the AC PLUG and are turned on. Verify that the wall AC outlet is functional and that your system is not on mute.

Sound from one speaker only: Verify the balance control on your system. Swap speaker sides to verify if speaker is functional. Verify power cords on all sources. (Amplifier, preamp, receiver, CD, DVR)

Lack of bass or image: Verify the polarity of speaker connections.

SPEAKER ABUSE PREVENTION

To ensure an optimum listening experience, protecting your Totem speakers from damage despite a partnership with even the most advanced amplifiers in the industry is an achievable yet delicate balance to achieve. Please be attentive to the following guidelines to obtain the foremost acoustical musicality from your Totem speakers, whilst preventing any serious prejudice. (Please refer to your Totem Authorized Dealer for amplifier recommendations)

AMPLIFIER DISTORTION

The most common source of speaker damage results from amplifier distortion. Your amplifier may run out of clean power upon listening at loud levels. A direct consequence of such an overuse is distorted power, producing a greater quantity of distortion than its rated output power. This provides a threat of damage to any loudspeaker.

The greater the amplifier power, the safer the loudness potential. A 50 watt/channel amplifier, if driven above this 50 watt/channel limit, will naturally produce multiplicatively more distortion than at 50 watts. A 120 watt/channel amplifier will have substantial distortion above 120 watts, but will not allow any significant distortion below 100 watts. To conclude, more amplifier power provides cleaner power and less possibility for damage.

VOLUME

Volume controls on the amplifier/ receiver/preamplifier are very misleading. Please note that the volume control does not address power-output, but simply adjusts the audible level of music. It is the type of music being played that has an incidence on the amount of power used at a given volume level. Less dynamic music utilizes lesser amplifier power than more dynamic music does. With most music, the amplifier reaches its maximum power between the 11 and 1 o'clock position on the volume dial.

Distortion is inevitable when the amplifier is pushed above its rated output level, which may result in speaker damage. This occurs with any type of speaker. This type of damage constitutes abuse and may not be covered by warranty. Be attentive to the instant distortion commences, turning the volume control down to prevent speaker and/or amplifier damage.

LIMITS

Be wary of providing more power than is appropriate for your speakers and damaging them. Although a more powerful amplifier may provide better sound, it is very important to utilize speakers within their power-range rating to prevent damage.

ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION

All Totem products are designed to comply with international Restriction of Hazardous Substances (RoHS).

DECOUPLING

Totem recommends a decoupling to break down cabinet resonance for optimum results. There are a variety of unique decoupling systems offered by Totem. In order to find the appropriate system you must match your speaker to the correct system.

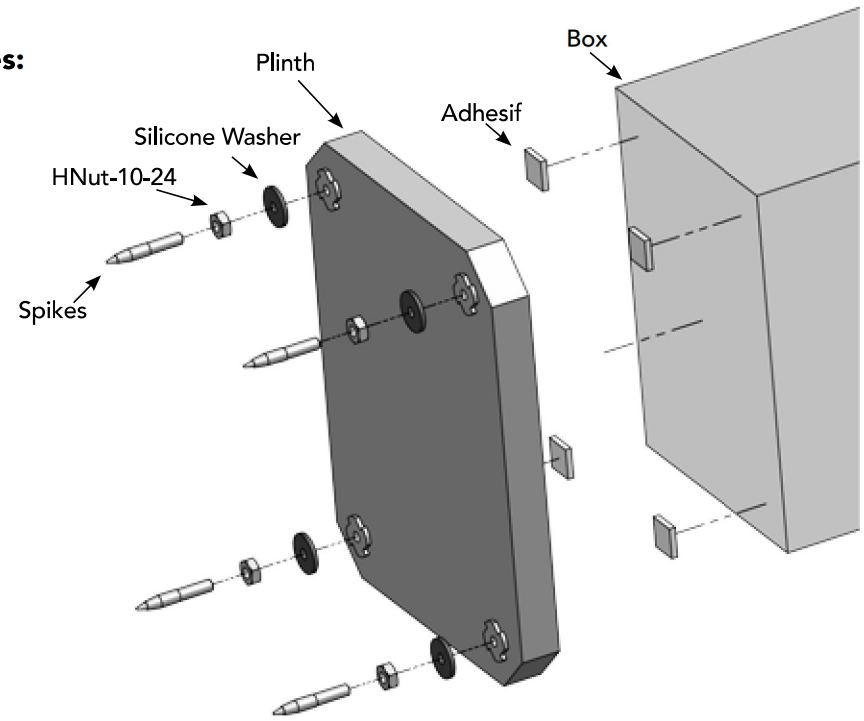
TOTEM PLINTH

Included with Arro and Sttaf

LIST OF MATERIAL

Every Totem Plinth assembly pack includes:

- 2 wood-painted black plinths
- 8 screws,
- 8 spikes
- 8 silicone washers
- 8 pcs of yellow adhesive



INSTRUCTIONS

1- Insert a tightening screw into the threaded spike. Next slide a silicone washer into the spike assembly. Insert the assembly into the plinths. Repeat this procedure until all 8 spikes are fastened into the 2 plinths. Once all the spikes and washers are installed level the plinth to the floor.

Precautions to protect the finish should be taken when placing the speaker on its head. Please use one of the packaging foam end caps to secure the speaker on its head. Once the adhesive has been set, place the speaker on the plinth squarely.

2- Apply firm pressure to secure the bond. TOTEM recommends that you leave both the speaker and plinth connected indefinitely.

Every assembly pack includes a yellow reusable adhesive which is separated into 8 units (4 per plinth). Separate 4 adhesive units and place them on the bottom of the speaker, 1" from the edge of the speaker (the adhesive will spread out once loaded).

In the event that the plinths need to be removed: Twist the plinths slowly in a clockwise fashion. Take note not to "pull" the plinth off, as this may cause damage to the cabinet.

DECOUPLING

Totem recommends a decoupling to break down cabinet resonance for optimum results. There are a variety of unique decoupling systems offered by Totem. In order to find the appropriate system you must match your speaker to the correct system.

TOTEM CLAW

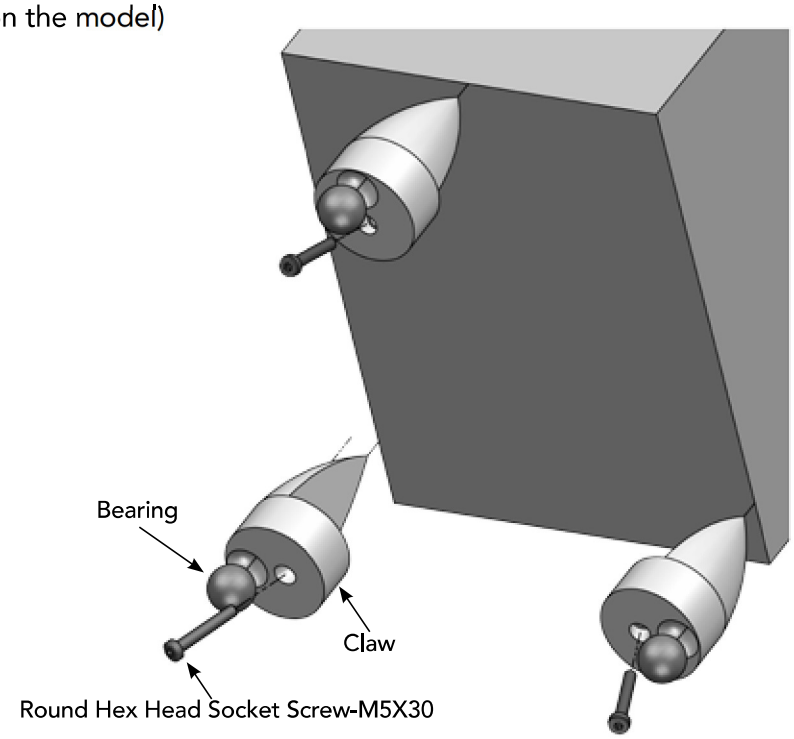
Included with Forest, Hawk and Wind.
Can also be used on Arro and Sttaf (purchased separately).

Machined from solid aluminum, the Totem Claw is a revolutionary decoupling system whose unique geometric shape allows them to break up surface standing waves and control resonances on any surface. Before installation you may want to locate the final resting place of the speaker. The speakers are pre-drilled to accept the Totem Claws.

LIST OF MATERIAL

Every Totem Claw assembly package includes:

- 3 or 6 Totem Claws (depending on the model)
- 3 or 6 screws
- 3 or 6 ball bearings



Note: A Robertson or Phillips screwdriver is necessary for this installation.

TOTEM CLAW

1- You must position the speaker on its head. Take precaution to protect the finish by using the packaging foam end cap to secure your speaker prior to installation.

2- Insert a screw into a single Totem Claw and position the assembly (screw and claw) over the pre-drilled hole; the screw will serve as a guide to find the pre-drilled hole. The Totem Claws should be positioned on each rear side of the speaker and one centered in front.

3- Using the appropriate screwdriver or low speed drill, with proper bit, screw in the fastener carefully while firmly pushing the Totem Claw flush against the front speaker surface, making full contact with the wood surfaces. Repeat the procedure for all 3 Totem Claws and speakers.

4- Position the speaker on its claws after finding the appropriate room location. Insert the self–centering ball bearing underneath the Totem Claw. The Claws can be used with or without the ball bearings depending on the floor surface.

TOTEM SPEAKER WALL MOUNT

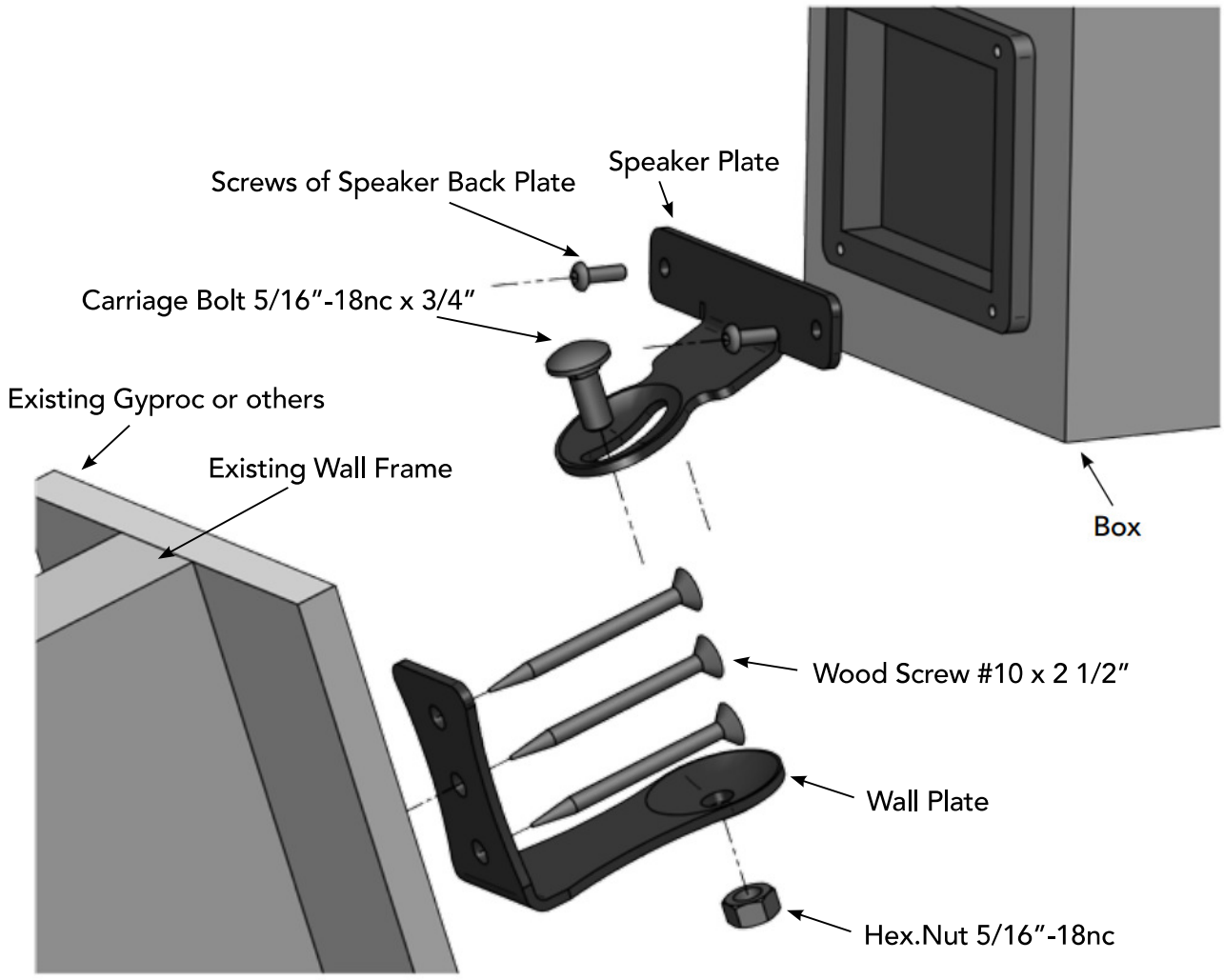
Recommended for Dreamcatcher and Mite.

These mounts are constructed of steel for maximum strength and minimum vibration. They are tested to more than the stated load (20 lbs) and the weakest points will be the attachment to the wall. Fasten the speaker only to stud or solid masonry.

LIST OF MATERIALS

Every Totem wall mount assembly package includes:

- 2 wall plates
- 2 speaker plates
- 1 Allen key
- 2 joining screws
- 2 fastening bolts
- 6 2" screws (to be used if mounting into wooden studs)
- 6 plastic wall anchors (to be used in conjunction with screws if mounting into brick or cement block)



INSTRUCTIONS

1- To fasten wall plate to wall with wooden stud: Drill two 1/8 pilot holes 2 inch deep and screw the wall plate to the wall. Into brick or cement wall: Drill two ¼ inch holes 2 inch deep.
Fit the plastic wall anchors and screw the wall plate to the wall.

2- To fasten speaker plate to speaker: Unscrew the two bottom screws of speaker back plate with the supplied Allen key. Place your bracket up against the speaker back plate as shown and reinsert the screws firmly with the Allen key provided.

3- To assemble the speaker plate to wall: Bolt the speaker plate on top of the wall plate and adjust to desired position. Tighten the bottom nut firmly. The bottom knob can be replaced by 5/16" – 18 locknuts to make the installation tamper resistant.

TOTEM BEAK

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

The "Beak" was developed to control parasitic vibrations that occur on top of a speaker cabinet. These resonances actually interfere with speaker performance, specifically the waveform symmetry emitted by tweeters.

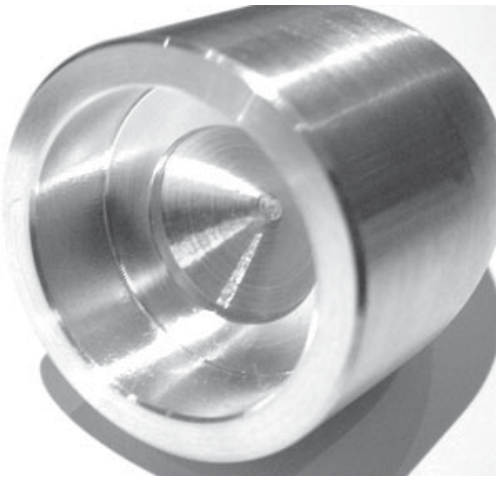
Implementing a Beak on any speaker can actually control and provide a better interaction between speaker, tweeter and housing.

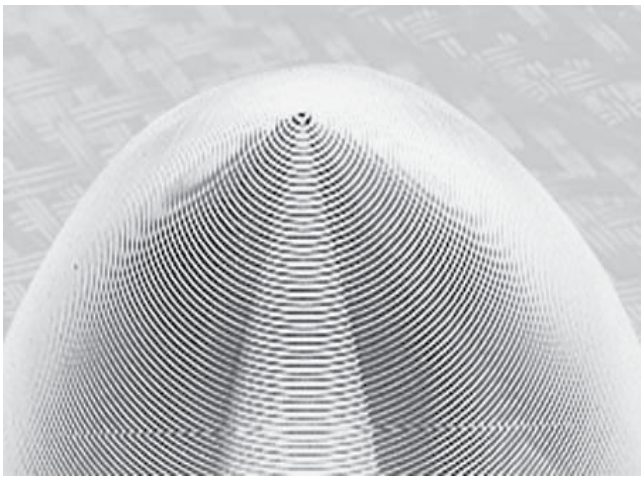
Careful thought and research were poured into the development of the Beak. Its precisely defined contour was carefully designed; if any of its properties were altered, it would impact the flux created within and render the unit ineffective.

THE SHAPE

The "Beak" is milled in a prescribed form, which controls resonance and directs emanation. These distortions occur within a strict range. The Beak can actually channel common distortion and move it through its cavity to the discharge point on top, hence its shape and name.

As the beak on a bird or whale channels sound, this Beak channels the negative effects of dynamic speaker housings.





MASS AND DETAIL

The mass of the Beak is crucial to proper holography and image integration. In addition to the proper size and curve ratio, tests were done to determine the texture on the surface of the Beak. The spacing of the micro ribs increases from the bottom part to the peak. In fact, the line structure (micro ribs) controls the velocity at which the Beak dissipates distortion, actually helping the tweeter extend its range. This surface texture actually helps alter frequency and phase, allowing you to lock in a proper height and correct three-dimensional image.

PLACEMENT

The placement of the Totem Acoustic "Beak" on a smaller speaker is usually towards the outer front corner of a speaker pair. If one looks at the top of the "Arro" (our smallest surface area speaker), the placements of the Beaks are right up front toward the outside. Other small speakers benefit from approximately the same arrangements. On larger speakers or on units with top mounted tweeters, a proper location must be derived.

Obviously it can vary a little with room placement. If one wishes to vary impression, the Beak can usually throw the image back if it is placed a little farther aft. Experimenting is the key and one always finds (for any speaker made) a location, which can help imaging, extension and musical impression.

SUGGESTED EXPERIMENTS

Start in position outer front and slowly bring back for desired effect. The movements should be smaller than indicated. Sometimes a very small movement can help considerably. Vary listening duration and music type accordingly. You may wantto note (on paper) the location which best suits different music styles.

Using a pair of Beaks per speaker, we were actually able to increase smoothness, rhythm swing and perceived bass extension. The results were evident; overall energy in the room was immediately increased.

SPECS

The high frequency difference when using the "Beak" is measurable and quite apparent. The tweeter generally has better linearity in the 8 kHz to 20 kHz range. Therefore, better staging and imaging is evident. At the crucial crossover point, frequency dips both on and off axis can be alleviated by as much as 1.5 dB. Outcome: better harmony between woofer and tweeter, resulting in enhanced speed, impact and transients.

TOTEM MASS LOADING INSTRUCTIONS

CAUTION

Over loading has a tendency to reduce overall image.
Please experiment with small increments of loading to achieve optimal results.

TO LOAD TOTEM SPEAKERS

1- Lay one speaker against a low piece of furniture, speaker facing the ground, for example a couch. Take care not to crush the dome tweeter or scratch the finish. The packaging foam may also be used to secure cabinet.

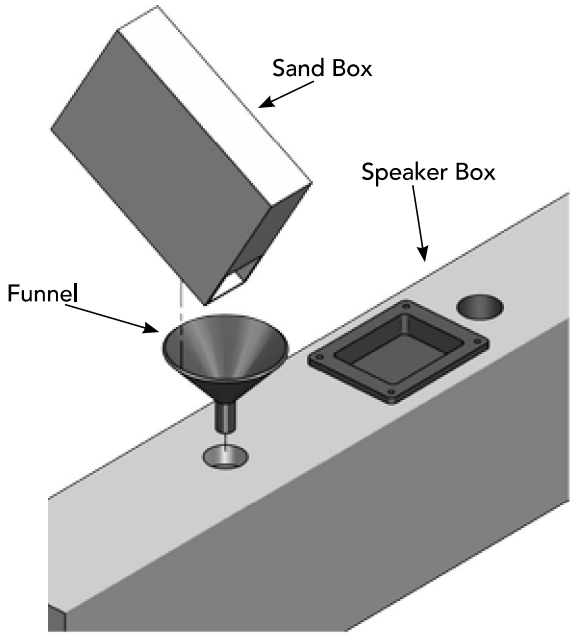
2- Fill only the lower opening, not the upper (Black plastic lined) cavity. The upper cavity is for bass reflex and air control and will cause damage to the speaker if filled.

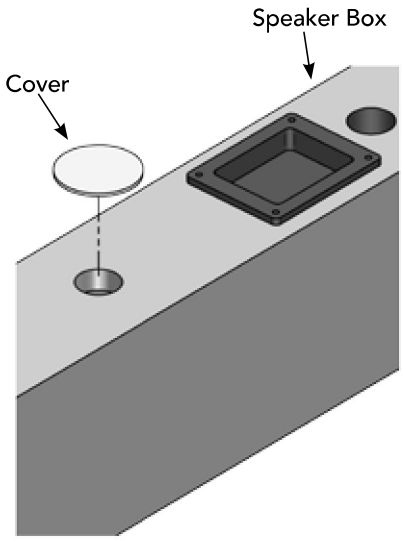
3- Use a funnel or any device which will facilitate loading;

4- Peel off one of the clear plastic mass loading covers, from the plastic backing. Two (2) mass loading covers are provided.

5- Apply it to the opening to seal the cavity;

6- Repeat this procedure on the next speaker.





NOTE

Be assured that the loading chamber is sealed from the speaker housing. In any event, always remember to apply the plastic adhesive stopper to seal the cavity.

To prevent damage, the speakers, should never be transported with mass loading in them. The cavity must be emptied prior to transport by using a shop vac and also sealed thereafter using a sturdy tape to avoid any loose sand from migrating.

TOTEM GRILLS INSTRUCTIONS

We do not recommend the application of the grills if you wish maximum performance, however if for aesthetic or safety reasons you desire to use the grills just follow these easy instructions:

LIST OF MATERIALS

- Optional grill cover
- Velcro circlets (female)
- Velcro circlets (male)

The grills do not come with the Totem Speakers and have to be purchased separately.

To mount the grills, first apply Velcro circlets to the four corners of each grill.

Center over the speaker opening making sure that you do not press down on the grill frame.
Once centered over the speaker opening, gently apply pressure to affix the Velcro to the speaker cabinet.