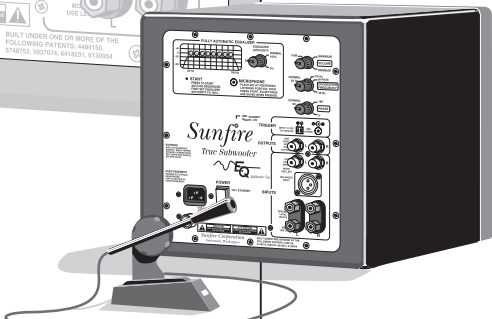
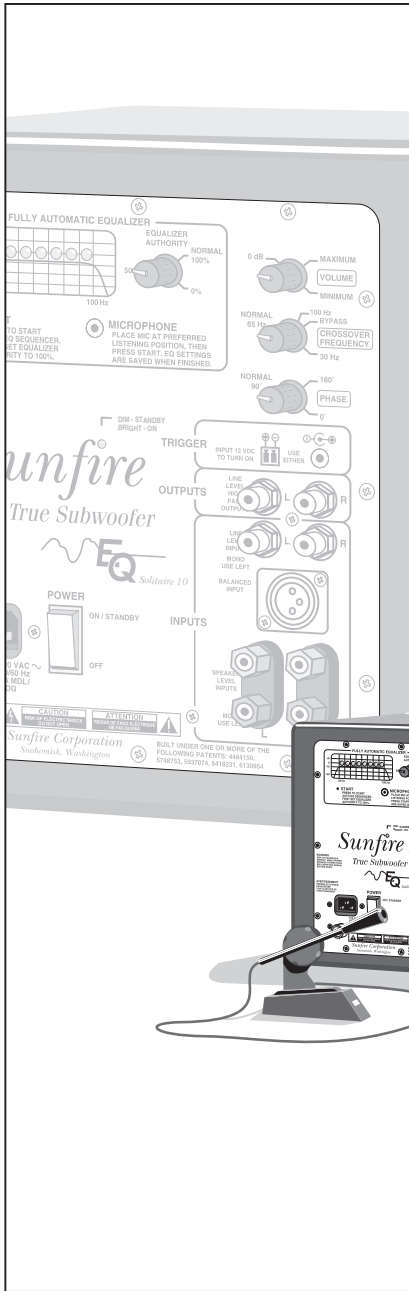


# Sunfire™

## True Subwoofer



*Solitaire 10  
and Solitaire 12*

*User's Manual*



The lightning flash with arrowhead symbol within an equilateral triangle is intended to alert the user to the presence of uninsulated "dangerous voltage" within the product's enclosure, that may be of sufficient magnitude to constitute a risk of electric shock to persons.



The exclamation point within an equilateral triangle is intended to alert the user of the presence of important operating and maintenance (servicing) instructions in the literature accompanying the appliance.

## Safety Instructions

- 1. Read Instructions** — All the safety and operation instructions should be read before the Sunfire Component is operated.
- 2. Retain Instructions** — The safety and operating instructions should be kept for future reference.
- 3. Heed Warnings** — All warnings on the Component and in these operating instructions should be followed.
- 4. Follow Instructions** — All operating and other instructions should be followed.
- 5. Water and Moisture** — The Component should not be used near water - for example, near a bathtub, washbowl, kitchen sink, laundry tub, in a wet basement, or near a swimming pool, etc. This Component is intended for use in Moderate climates. Do not use in Tropical climates.
- 6. Ventilation** — The Component should be situated so that its location or position does not interfere with its proper ventilation. Ensure a minimum distance of 2 inches (5 cm) around the Component for sufficient ventilation. For example, the Component should not be situated on a bed, sofa, rug, or similar surface that may block any ventilation; or placed in a built-in installation such as a bookcase or cabinet that may impede the flow of air. Ensure that the ventilation is not impeded by covering the control panel with items such as newspapers, table-cloths, curtains, shaggy dogs, sleeping cats etc.
- 7. Heat and Flames** — The Component should be situated away from heat sources such as radiators, or other devices which produce heat. Do not place naked flame sources, such as lighted candles on top of, or near the Component.
- 8. Power Sources** — The Component should be connected to a power supply only of the type described in these operation instructions or as marked on the Component.

**9. Power Cord Protection** — Power-supply cords should be routed so that they are not likely to be walked upon or pinched by items placed upon or against them, paying particular attention to cords at plugs, convenience receptacles, and the point where they exit the Component.

**10. Cleaning** — The Component should be cleaned only as recommended in this manual.

**11. Non-use Periods**—The power cord of the Component should be unplugged from the outlet when unused for a long period of time.

**12. Object and Liquid Entry** — Care should be taken so that objects do not fall into and liquids are not spilled into the inside of the Component. Do not expose the Component to dripping or splashing from liquids. Do not place objects filled with liquids on top of, or near the Component. For example, no vases, glasses of wine, or cans of pop.

**13. Damage Requiring Service** — The Component should be serviced only by qualified service personnel when:

- A.** The power-supply cord or the plug has been damaged; or
- B.** Objects have fallen, or liquid has spilled into the Component; or
- C.** The Component has been exposed to rain; or
- D.** The Component does not appear to operate normally or exhibits a marked change in performance; or
- E.** The Component has been dropped, or its cabinet damaged.

**14. Servicing** — The user should not attempt to service the Component beyond those means described in this operating manual. All other servicing should be referred to qualified service personnel.

**15. To Prevent Electric Shock**, do not use this polarized plug with an extension cord, receptacle or other outlet unless the blades can be fully inserted to prevent blade exposure.

Pour prévenir les chocs électriques ne pas utiliser cette fiche polarisée avec un prolongateur, un prise de courant ou une autre sortie de courant, sauf si les lames peuvent être insérées à fond sans laisser aucune partie à découvert.

**16. Grounding or Polarization** — Precautions should be taken so that the grounding or polarization means of the Component is not defeated.

This apparatus does not exceed the Class A/Class B (whichever is applicable) limits for radio noise emissions from digital apparatus as set out in the radio interference regulations of the Canadian Department of Communications.

**ATTENTION** — Le présent appareil numérique n'émet pas de bruits radioélectriques dépassant les limites applicables aux appareils numériques de class A/de class B (selon le cas) prescrites dans le règlement sur le brouillage radioélectrique édicté par les ministere des communications du Canada.



**WARNING:** THIS SUBWOOFER IS CAPABLE OF PRODUCING VERY HIGH SOUND PRESSURE LEVELS. YOU MUST TAKE EVERY PRECAUTION TO PROTECT YOUR HEARING FROM PERMANENT DAMAGE.



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To find out more about this and other Sunfire products, please visit our website: **www.sunfire.com**

# Introduction

Thank you for purchasing this Sunfire True Subwoofer EQ Solitaire. We hope you enjoy it and the music it makes as much as we have enjoyed creating it for you.

The big breakthrough features of the subwoofer are its uncanny tracking downconverter, its long throw, high back-electromotive force driver, and its fully automatic room equalizer. Taken together, they provide this subwoofer with as much bass as you could get from several 15 inch drivers mounted in a cabinet the size of a small refrigerator.

# Unpacking

Your Sunfire Subwoofer should reach you in perfect condition. If you do notice any shipping damage, please contact your Sunfire Dealer immediately.

Gently lift out the unit and remove all the packing material. It is important to save all the packing materials and the box in case your subwoofer ever needs to be moved or shipped for repair.

Make sure that you keep your sales receipt. It is the only way to establish the duration of your Limited Warranty and it may come in useful for insurance purposes.

Please take a moment to fill out and mail the Sunfire Customer Response card. Also read the serial number located on the control panel and record it here:

Serial Number:
_____
Purchased from:
_____
_____
_____
Date:
_____

# Features

- High efficiency amplifier (Solitaire 12 is 1,500 watt, Solitaire 10 is 1,250 watt)
- High gloss, black lacquer finish, with removable fabric grill
- Automatic Room Equalization mode
- Measurement Microphone included
- Very low distortion
- Long throw, premium quality driver
- Stunning output from a small cube!
- Automatic signal-sensing turn-on and standby mode
- 12 VDC trigger input for remote turn-on
- Balanced XLR input
- Line level unbalanced inputs
- Speaker level binding post inputs
- Line level high-pass outputs
- Continuously variable phase control
- Continuously variable crossover frequency adjustment, 30 to 100 Hz
- Continuously variable volume level control
- Soft clipping circuit allows graceful overload and prevents speaker damage due to clipping
- Gold-plated inputs and outputs.

# Care

To maintain the speaker cabinet's finish, first unplug the power cord and then use a soft cloth to clean the surfaces.

If your Sunfire Subwoofer needs servicing, please read the Troubleshooting section on page 21. If a problem still persists, contact your nearest authorized Sunfire Dealer.

# Overview

Your Sunfire True Subwoofer EQ Solitaire is designed to give you the best possible low-frequency sound quality for your Home Theater experience. It incorporates a tremendously powerful built-in amplifier and a single long-throw driver to produce tight, floor-rumbling, denture-rattling bass that you can feel as well as hear.

The subwoofer is available in two versions, and this manual covers both:

Solitaire 12 is a 13 inch cube, with an output greater than 113 dB peak SPL, 16 Hz to 100 Hz.

Solitaire 10 is an 11 inch cube, with an output greater than 107 dB peak SPL, 18 Hz to 100 Hz.

The subwoofer has an automatic equalization system which will tailor the subwoofer output to compensate for any room effects. It also has a manual equalization mode. An Equalizer Authority control allows you to adjust the amount of automatic equalization, and override it if required.

The subwoofer has an adjustable high cut filter and a choice of speaker-level or line-level inputs for easy incorporation into existing systems, or as part of a subwoofer/satellite speaker combination.

Controls for adjusting the volume, crossover frequency and phase, allow the subwoofer to be perfectly matched to any listening environment and audio components.

## The Driver

To have lots of bass requires moving lots of air. Your Sunfire Subwoofer incorporates a driver which can move back and forth approximately five times more than a normal subwoofer. This gives it a lot of air moving capacity which allows for majestic bass performance.

## The Amplifier

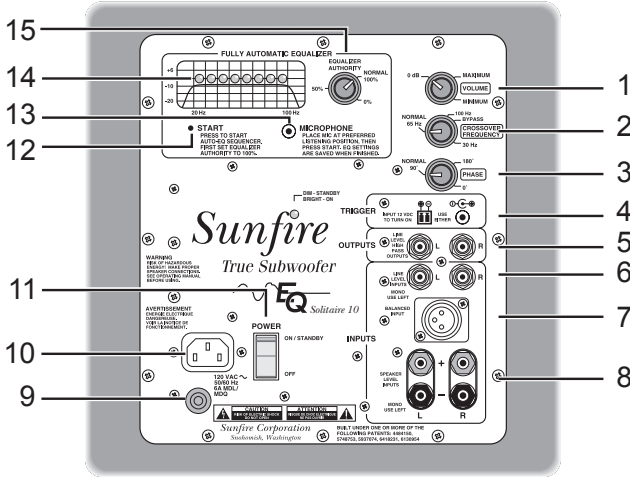
The large movement range of the driver creates greater air pressure inside the box than a conventional subwoofer. Therefore, the drive amplifier must be much more powerful than an ordinary subwoofer amplifier. In fact, it has to be so powerful, it is almost hard to believe.

The power amplifier within the Solitaire 12 Subwoofer is capable of delivering over 1,500 watts into a 3.3 ohm resistor (the driver voice coil resistance). The Solitaire 10 is capable of delivering 1,250 watts. When the same full output is applied to the driver, however, the enormous back-electromotive force generated as a consequence of its large motion and giant magnet, causes the current flow to be much less than if it were a 3.3 ohm resistor. It is this singular property of the driver that allows the subwoofer to be approximately ten times more efficient than a subwoofer this size would normally be.

A compressor circuit kicks in automatically if the input signal level reaches a level that would overload the driver. This maintains a ceiling on the output without clipping. If the input signal is driven even further, a 'soft clipping' circuit is enabled. This allows the subwoofer to put more sound into the room to satiate the power hungry user, but without distortion or damage to the subwoofer. Thus, for explosive scenes in movies, this produces extremely high sound pressure levels (SPL) in your room without the drivers banging against the mechanical stops.

For more details of the subwoofer design, please call us or view our website: [www.sunfire.com](http://www.sunfire.com).

# Control Panel Features



## 1. Volume

This control lets you match the output level of the subwoofer to the level of your satellite/main speakers. The subwoofer output will increase as this control is rotated clockwise. When you have just installed your system, turn this down first before turning on your subwoofer. This will prevent any loud surprises.

## 2. Crossover Frequency

This controls the high frequency cutoff point. With the control set to the 100 Hz mark, the subwoofer will reproduce frequencies up to 100 Hz. If the control is set fully clockwise, the crossover is bypassed and the subwoofer will reproduce a wide frequency range. With the control fully counter-clockwise the subwoofer reproduces a narrow range, up to 30 Hz.

Rotate the control until the bass sounds natural. If the mid-bass sounds natural but you want more low bass, turn this control down a little, then turn the Volume control up by about the same amount. This increases the low-bass output while leaving the mid-bass output the same.

## 3. Phase Control

This control changes the relative phase of the subwoofer with respect to your other speakers. Use this control to help blend the subwoofer with the rest of your system. This is accomplished by adjusting the control in small increments as you listen for the most bass at your listening position. As a final trim, readjust the Crossover Frequency and Volume controls after the Phase has been set.

## 4. Trigger Inputs

These two inputs can be used to automatically turn on the subwoofer. To do this, connect 12 VDC to either of these terminals. Some Home Theater pre-amplifiers, such as the Sunfire Theater Grand series, have matching 12 VDC Trigger outputs. When they are turned on, the subwoofer will turn on.

## 5. Outputs

Line level high-pass output signals are available at these jacks. These outputs are active whenever a signal is hooked up to the line level inputs of the subwoofer. This crossover is a

passive network with a fixed crossover frequency of 70 Hz and a 6 dB per octave slope.

We recommend using this high-pass function with main/satellite speakers that are small and not designed to reproduce low frequencies. If your main speakers are capable of operating full range, then you will not need to use the high-pass function.

To use the high-pass outputs, connect the preamp outs on your preamp/ receiver to the subwoofer's line level inputs using good quality RCA type patch cords. Then connect a second patch cord from the subwoofer's outputs to the inputs of your main amplifier. This will allow your main speakers to operate at frequencies above 70 Hz and the subwoofer to operate at frequencies below 70 Hz (see page 16).

## 6. Line Level Inputs

Connect these unbalanced inputs with RCA type patch cords to the line level outputs of your receiver or preamp.

If your preamplifier or receiver has a single sub/LFE output, connect it to the subwoofer's left input jack (see page 14). There is no need to use the subwoofer's right input jack.

If you want to run your main/satellite speakers full range, use a "Y" adapter at the preamplifier outputs (see page 15). In this way, you can send the preamplifier's output signal to your main amplifier and to the subwoofer at the same time.

## 7. Balanced (XLR) Input

Use this balanced input to connect to the balanced line-level output of a Home Theater preamplifier or other source. Balanced connections offer superior noise cancellation over unbalanced connections, so if your preamp has an XLR subwoofer output, we recommend using it.

## 8. Speaker Level Inputs

Under normal conditions, the preferred connection is through the line level inputs. If this is difficult or not possible in your system, then you can use the speaker level inputs. Also, if you experience excessive noise or hum with the line level inputs, often a simple change to the speaker level inputs will result in a lower background noise level.

Connect the speaker level inputs to the speaker-level outputs of your amplifier or receiver using speaker wire. The binding posts can accept bare wire, banana, dual-banana or spade connections.



Your amplifier or receiver **MUST** have common grounded outputs, or it will be damaged if connected to the subwoofer's speaker level inputs.

## 9. Line Fuse

The subwoofer is supplied with a conservative slow-blow type fuse to protect the electronics.



Always unplug the power cord before inspecting or changing the fuse. Never use a fuse with a larger current rating than shown on the markings next to the fuseholder.

## 10. IEC Linecord socket

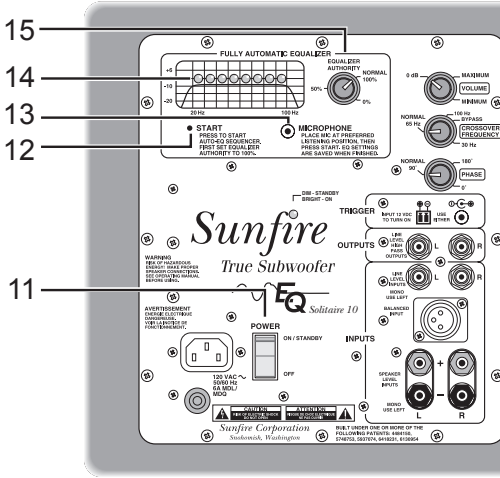
The subwoofer comes with a detachable linecord which connects here.

**US (120 VAC) MODEL:** Connect the linecord to the subwoofer before connecting the other end to a 120 Volt, 60 Hz AC outlet. The outlet must have a circuit rating of 8 amps or more (a typical home circuit is rated at 15 amps).



Never plug the US (120 VAC) Model subwoofer directly into 220-240 Volts AC as this will cause catastrophic circuit failure.

# Control Panel Features continued



EURO (230 VAC) MODEL: Connect the linecord to the subwoofer before connecting the other end to a 230 Volt, 50/60 Hz AC outlet. The outlet must have a circuit rating of 8 amps or more.



Never plug the Euro (230 VAC) model subwoofer directly into 120-130 Volts AC.

## 11. Power Switch

The power switch is a CE requirement for international shipments. Leave it switched on at all times for normal operation.

After a period of inactivity (i.e. with no input signal), the subwoofer will automatically turn itself to Standby mode, where it is effectively off. It can however, turn back on automatically when an input signal is applied, if a 12 VDC trigger voltage is applied to the Trigger inputs, or if the Start button is pressed.

## 12. Start button

Press this once to enter the Auto EQ mode (if the sub is out of Standby mode). Press and hold down for

several seconds to enter the Manual EQ mode. See page 12 for more details on this and the following EQ controls.

## 13. Microphone Input

This is where you plug in the supplied linear measurement microphone when you want to use the Auto EQ mode.

## 14. LED display

These LEDs are used during the Auto EQ and Manual EQ procedures.

## 15. Equalizer Authority

This control's primary purpose is to adjust the EQ Authority. During normal listening, you can adjust the overall EQ from none (ccw, 0%), to fully equalized (cw, 100%). For example, if your first band has a 6 dB boost, setting this control to 50% would make it boost only 3 dB.

This control is also used during the Manual EQ mode to adjust each of the four internal EQ bands, and allow you to add "color" to the sound as desired.



# Installation

Observe the following general precautions and read the safety instructions on pages 2 and 3 before using your Sunfire Subwoofer.

- Never open the cabinet or remove the metal control panel as this might result in an electrical shock to you, or damage to the unit.
- Protect it from prolonged exposure to direct sunlight and other direct sources of heat, such as heating vents and radiators.
- To prevent fire or shock, do not expose the unit to rain or moisture. If fluid or a foreign object should enter the unit, immediately turn off the power and contact your Sunfire Dealer.
- Avoid excessive exposure to extreme cold or dust.
- Do not place heavy objects on top of the unit.
- Do not place the subwoofer with its control panel against the floor.
- If you wish to place your subwoofer so the drivers face the floor and ceiling, thereby moving up and down, use at least 1-1/2 inch high spikes or feet for support. They may be attached either with screws or self-stick backing. This arrangement will impart substantial house and floor shaking motion.
- Four extra heavy, shock absorbing rubber mounting feet have been included. If your subwoofer tends to wander about slightly while in use, place these feet just inside the existing feet positions. These shock absorbing mounts will let the subwoofer rock freely, thereby absorbing low frequency rocking energy, allowing it to adhere solidly to the floor.

- To move the subwoofer along the floor, rotate it onto one edge onto a plastic sheet or bag, and it will slide along easier.

## Heat rise

- Allow adequate ventilation around the metal control panel of the subwoofer.
- Do not let anything come into contact with the panel and keep at least two inches away from any walls.

The metal control plate serves as the amplifier heat sink and also as a conduit to remove internal heat to the outside and into the atmosphere. It can reach temperatures of 60 degrees C, which will feel hot to the touch, using nerves of flesh and blood as temperature sensors. As uncomfortable as it may feel, 60 degrees C cannot burn you, and in fact is almost cool to copper, silicon, steel, and aluminum, the materials from which your subwoofer is constructed.

## AC Power Considerations

Ensure that the unit is plugged into an outlet capable of supplying the correct voltage specified for your model.

Unplug your subwoofer's power cord from the electrical outlet if it will be left unused for a long period of time.

Route the power-supply cord so it is not likely to be walked on or pinched by items placed upon or against it, especially at plugs, convenience receptacles, and the point where it exits from the unit.

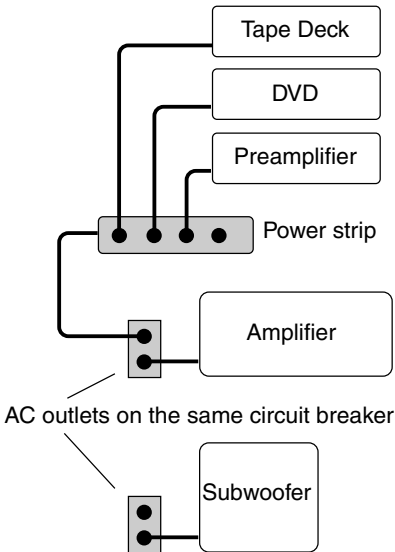
## Magnetic Fields

We recommend that you place your subwoofer further than two feet away from your TV, VCR, tape deck or computer, so the speaker's magnet won't distort the colors of your TV picture or erase your video tapes, audio tapes or computer discs.

# Connections

Please consider the following when setting up your new system :

- Before making or changing any connections, ALWAYS make sure that the subwoofer and your other components are turned OFF. Also turn down the volume control of the subwoofer and your preamplifier or receiver.



- This diagram shows all the low power components sharing a power strip which is connected to the same outlet used by the amplifier.
- The subwoofer is connected to an outlet on the same circuit breaker, provided that the total system current draw does not exceed the breaker current rating.
- This arrangement will reduce the possibility of an audible hum in your system caused by a ground loop.

- Whenever possible, keep the power cords away from the signal cables or speaker wires to prevent any hum or interference being heard in the speakers.
- Choose reliable, high quality interconnect cables, also called patch cords or RCA cables. They should be fully shielded and as short as possible for the job. The longest cable in your system will likely be to the subwoofer, so choose a good quality brand.
- Some patch cords can be a very tight fit and there is usually a preferred method of getting them off. Some have to be removed with a twisting action. Be gentle or you may damage the jacks of the subwoofer or your other components.

## Speaker Level connections

- The subwoofer's speaker level inputs can accept speaker wires with banana, dual-banana, bare wire or spade terminals. If you have banana type connectors on your speaker wire, make sure that you tighten the binding posts before inserting.
- Make sure that the negative speaker wires never touch the positive wires as this will short out and possibly damage your amplifier or receiver.



The subwoofer's two negative posts are joined internally (common-grounded). Your amplifier must also be internally common-grounded or you cannot use this connection. Contact the manufacturer of your amplifier to make sure its outputs are common grounded.

# Location

Placing your subwoofer in a corner will produce optimum performance. Experiment with at least two corners and decide which is the best, or you can try the following procedure:

1. Start by placing the subwoofer right on the seat of your favorite couch or easy chair. Take care to position it so it is not likely to fall off. (This method may seem a bit odd, but it is based on principles of acoustic physics.)
2. If you are using the subwoofer as part of a Home Theater system, you can either run a calibration test (noise) signal through the subwoofer, or simply plug the analog outputs of a CD player directly into the subwoofer's line level inputs. Turn down the subwoofer's volume level before turning on the CD, then play some of your favorite music samples with heavy bass.
3. Walk around the room, listening, and crouch down low in all the positions where you might be able to place the subwoofer. Ideally your ears would be where the sub would be placed. Explain to the family what you are doing, in case they think you've flipped. Find the place where the subwoofer's bass output sounds the loudest.
4. Shut things down and install the subwoofer in this position. Make sure the control panel is not touching anything, and that it can receive good ventilation.

Although low frequencies are non-directional, factors such as room reflections, standing waves, resonance and absorption will strongly affect your subwoofer's performance. Moving the subwoofer from one location to another can have a major effect on the bass response.

The Auto EQ mode will let you adjust for the room effects, but you should find the best location first.



Remember to keep the subwoofer at least two or three feet away from any TV screen, computer, VCR or magnetic tapes and discs. This will reduce the chance of the magnetic fields upsetting the TV screen or erasing your magnetic media.

## Using Two Subwoofers

If you wish to use two subwoofers, the sound output will double (an increase of 6 dB). Locate the subwoofers with one in each corner and experiment with the location and phase control to achieve the best bass response.

Always drive each subwoofer through the Left/Mon input even though you are driving one subwoofer with a right channel drive and the other with a left channel drive. If your preamplifier has a single sub/LFE output, use a Y cable to split it into two outputs.

# Room Equalization (EQ) Procedure

Subwoofer performance is greatly affected by the room in which it is situated, and the positioning within the room. The room effects will boost and cut the output levels reaching your listening position. This gives a "Room EQ" effect which can often be far from wonderful.

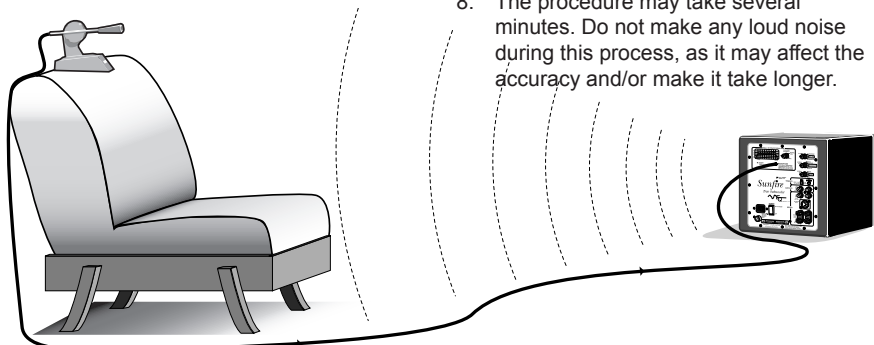
The Sunfire True Sub EQ can automatically adjust for the effects of Room EQ. It measures the actual frequency response using the supplied measurement microphone. Then it automatically compensates for peaks or dips and smooths out the response.

For best results it is recommended that the subwoofer crossover in your receiver or processor be set to its maximum setting (or "bypass"). This ensures that the subwoofer will be properly matched to the rest of the speakers in your system.

The following procedure will help you start the automatic equalization:

## Automatic EQ Mode

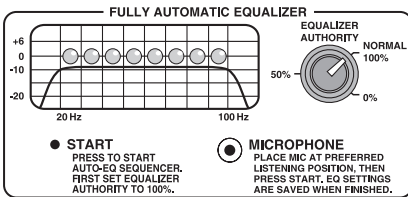
1. Install the True Sub EQ in the best location you can find (see previous page).
2. The calibration must be done while the listening room is quiet. Please turn off any noisy machinery, including heating or cooling systems during this process. Have the kids play in the backyard and give the dog a treat to have him stop barking. A small amount of noise, such as quiet talking or whispering, is OK.
3. Place the microphone in the listening position (on the couch, for example), pointing in the direction you'll normally be facing while listening to your system. Only use the microphone supplied by Sunfire.
4. Plug the microphone into the subwoofer's microphone jack.
5. Set these controls:
  - Volume to 0 dB.
  - Crossover to "Bypass."
  - Phase to "Normal."
  - Equalizer Authority to "Normal"
6. Turn on the subwoofer AC power switch and press the Start button to go from standby to play mode. The yellow LEDs should light up. Press Start again, and hold it a moment to start the calibration.
7. The subwoofer will generate a test tone sweep, slowly increasing up the frequency scale; the microphone will take measurements of the sound arriving at your listening position. The LEDs will flash randomly for a while, then the pairs will gradually glow constantly as each band is measured. This sequence will repeat twice until the measurements are complete. The LEDs will all blink once and stay on, and the test tones will stop.
8. The procedure may take several minutes. Do not make any loud noise during this process, as it may affect the accuracy and/or make it take longer.



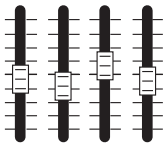
9. The sub automatically calculates the best equalization, based on the measured frequency response at your listening position. This will be saved, before returning to the normal listening mode.
10. In normal listening, you can adjust the overall effect of the saved EQ settings with the Equalizer Authority control. Normally you would turn it to 100% for full equalization. You can turn it to 0% to judge the effect of no equalization, or vary it to suit your taste.
11. Repeat the Auto EQ procedure if you change the location of the subwoofer, or if you rearrange your furniture.

## Manual EQ Mode

This mode allows you to manually adjust the room equalization to suit your taste. Some rooms may sound flat or lifeless without a touch of color to the sound.



The subwoofer has four EQ bands, each represented by two yellow LEDs. Each band is fixed in frequency and bandwidth, but each can be adjusted in volume level using the Equalizer Authority control during the Manual equalization mode.



This is similar to having sliders on a 4-band graphic equalizer, except the settings for each band are stored digitally.

The subwoofer saves the setting of the Equalizer Authority control for each band, so adjusting it for one band does not alter the adjustment for the other bands.

First, you should follow the Automatic EQ procedure, so the subwoofer will

adjust for the room effects. Then follow this manual procedure if you think the equalization might still need a tweak:

1. Set these controls:
  - Volume to 0 dB.
  - Crossover to "Bypass."
  - Phase to "Normal."
  - Equalizer Authority to "50%"
2. Turn on the subwoofer AC power switch.
3. Press and hold down the Start button for several seconds, until the first pair of yellow LEDs light up.
4. A low frequency test tone will sound to help you adjust the lowest band.
5. Adjust the volume by turning the Equalizer Authority control (or press Start to skip and move on to the next band). You will have to sit back in your listening position each time to listen for the effect, or seek the help of a loved one or kind friend to turn the control while you listen.
6. Press the Start button to move on to the next band, and then adjust the Equalizer Authority control as needed. When you reach the last band, the next press will bring up the first band again.
7. When all bands have been equalized to your satisfaction, press and hold down the Start button for several seconds until all the yellow LEDs come on, and the test tone turns off. The Equalizer Authority settings will be saved for each band, and the subwoofer will return to its normal listening mode.
8. Use the Equalizer Authority to adjust the effects level of your equalization.

## Resetting the EQ

- Turn off the subwoofer using the AC power switch.
- Hold down the Start button and turn on the AC power switch.
- Keep the Start button held down for 10 seconds while the yellow LEDs flash.
- When the LEDs go out, the EQ is reset to the flat factory setting.

# System Configurations

The following pages show some typical connections that you might make in your installation. They show how the inputs and outputs of the Sunfire Subwoofer are connected to your preamplifier or receiver.

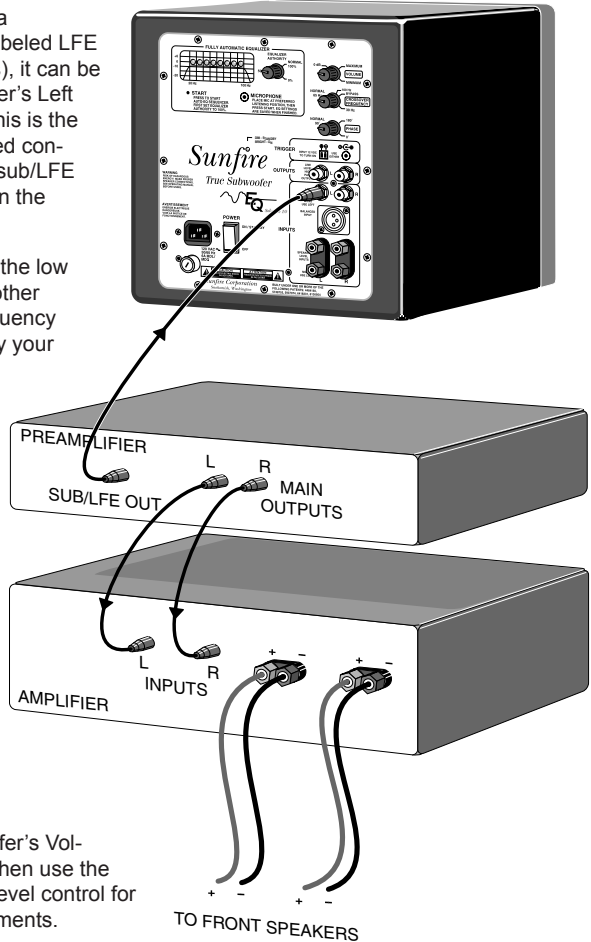
## Connections to a preamplifier's subwoofer output

If your preamplifier has a subwoofer output (often labeled LFE for Low Frequency Effects), it can be connected to the subwoofer's Left (Mono) input as shown. This is the simplest and recommended connection. A receiver with a sub/LFE output can be connected in the same way.

The subwoofer will play the low frequency range and the other speakers will play the frequency range delivered to them by your amplifier.

If you have a Home Theater preamplifier, it may have an independent subwoofer volume control. Make sure this is correctly adjusted, and that the Sunfire Subwoofer's crossover frequency is set to 100 Hz. This is by no means an iron-clad rule, rather it is a good starting point. (See the crossover frequency control details on page 6 and adjustments on page 18).

You can set the subwoofer's Volume control to 0 dB, and then use the preamplifier's subwoofer level control for normal and routine adjustments.



# Connections to a preamplifier using Y cables

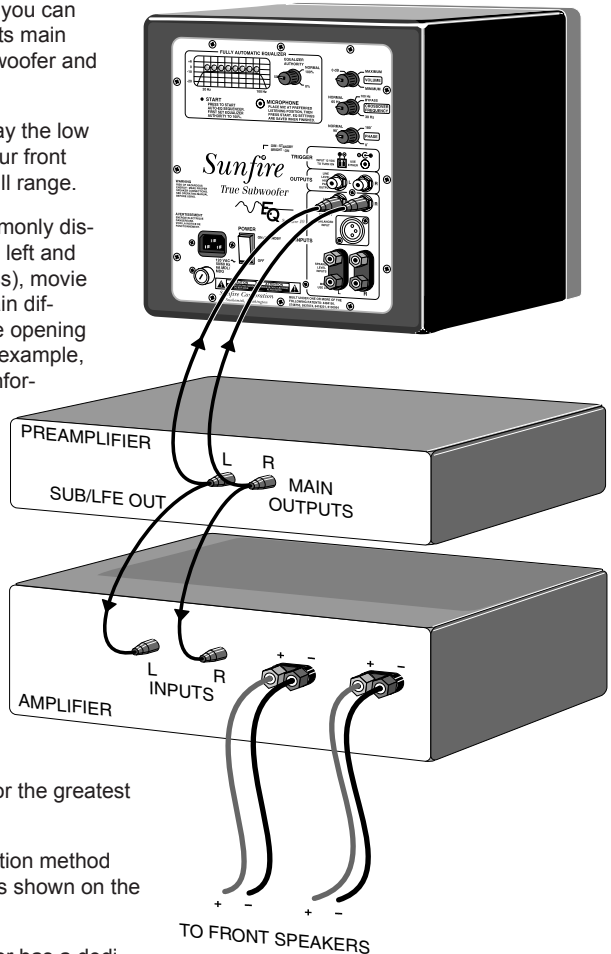
If your preamplifier does not have a sub/LFE output, you can use “Y” cables to send its main outputs to both the subwoofer and your amplifier.

The subwoofer will play the low frequency range and your front speakers will play the full range.

Although bass is commonly distributed evenly between left and right channels (L+R bass), movie soundtracks often contain differential (L-R) bass. The opening scene in “Top Gun”, for example, has loads of L-R bass information. If this is not preserved, the bass in these scenes sounds anemic. The Sunfire Subwoofer utilizes differential gain on the left and right inputs to retain both the L+R and L-R information. Therefore, systems which do not have a dedicated sub/LFE output should use **both** the left and the right inputs as shown, for the greatest bass impact.

An alternative connection method without using Y cables is shown on the next page.

If your preamp/receiver has a dedicated sub/LFE output, then only the Left (Mono) input is used, as shown on the previous page.



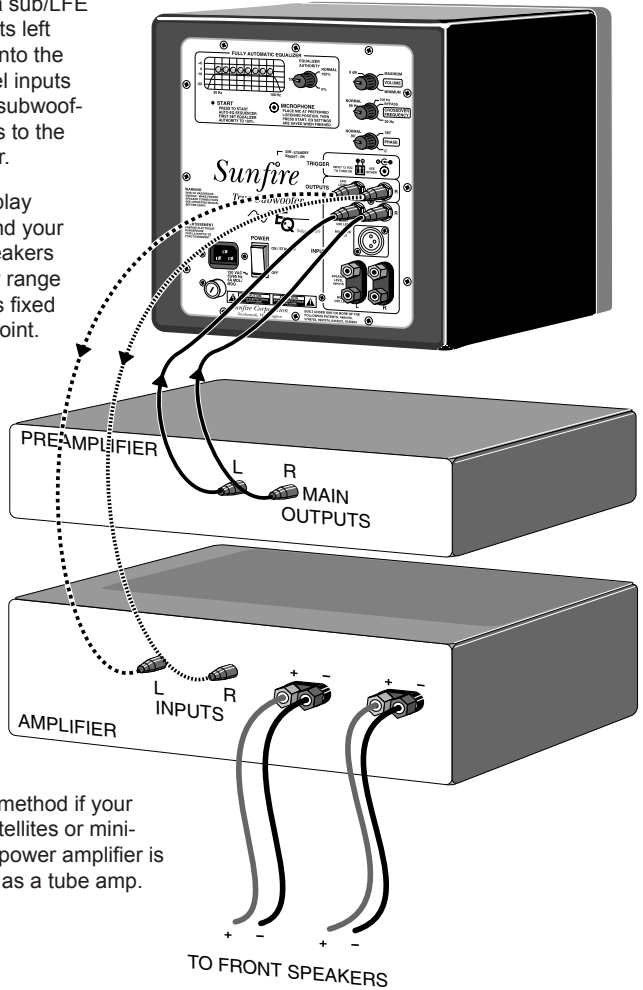
# Using the line level high-pass outputs

If you are using a preamplifier which does not have a sub/LFE output, you can send its left and right front output into the subwoofer's Line Level inputs and then connect the subwoofer's High-Pass outputs to the inputs of your amplifier.

The subwoofer will play the low frequencies and your amplifier and front speakers will play the frequency range above the subwoofer's fixed high-pass crossover point.

The signals coming out of the subwoofer's high-pass outputs are not affected by any of the controls. They are just a copy of the signals going in except that the low bass is filtered out. This uses the subwoofer's passive crossover network, rather than the active network and controls.

This is an excellent method if your speakers are small satellites or mini-monitors, and/or your power amplifier is of limited power, such as a tube amp.





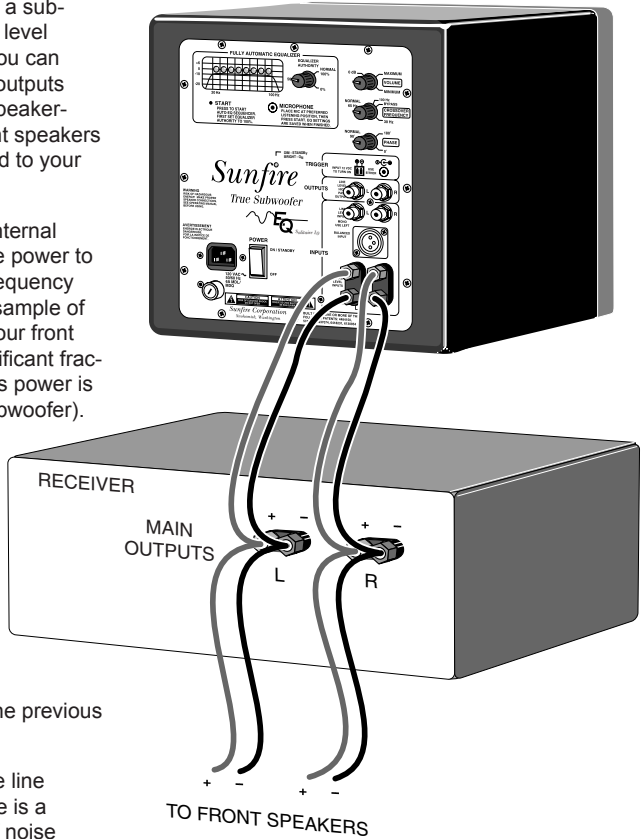
# Using the speaker level inputs

If you are using a receiver which does not have a subwoofer output or line level outputs (pre-outs), you can connect its speaker outputs to the subwoofer's speaker-level inputs. The front speakers can still be connected to your receiver.

The subwoofer's internal amplifier supplies the power to reproduce the low frequency range. It receives a sample of the signal going to your front speakers. (An insignificant fraction of your receiver's power is transferred to the subwoofer).

There is no need to use the speaker level inputs if you are using a separate amplifier and pre-amplifier. Such systems are best connected using the line level inputs as shown in the previous diagrams.

If you are using the line level inputs and there is a excessive amount of noise or hum present, using the speaker level inputs may yield a lower background noise level.



Your receiver **MUST** have common grounded outputs, or it will be damaged if connected to the subwoofer's speaker level inputs.

# Adjusting the controls

There are two main methods for adjusting the level, crossover frequency and phase of the Sunfire Subwoofer to match a system:

- Bob Carver's preferred method: By listening and making the adjustments to suit your taste.
- Laboratory method: By measuring the output and adjusting for a flat frequency response.

Excellent results can be obtained if you make the adjustments based on simply listening. This is Sunfire's preferred method as it allows the system to be voiced based on what sounds the best, whereas laboratory-flat frequency response can often be clinical and less than exciting.

The following procedure is for those who prefer a more methodical and scientific approach. This excerpt is from "The Audio Critic," issue 24, page 31, written by contributing editor David Rich, and is reprinted here with their kind permission.

You will need a test CD with low-frequency warble tones, and a sound pressure-level meter. The Radio Shack® SPL meter will do fine, as will the *Stereophile*® test CD.

"Step 1. Disconnect the subwoofer and run the main speaker with a tone in its passband (80-100Hz). Measure the level.

Step 2. Disconnect the main speaker and reconnect the subwoofer. Set the subwoofer to its highest crossover frequency. Set the level control of the subwoofer to give the same sound pressure level with the same tone you used in Step 1.

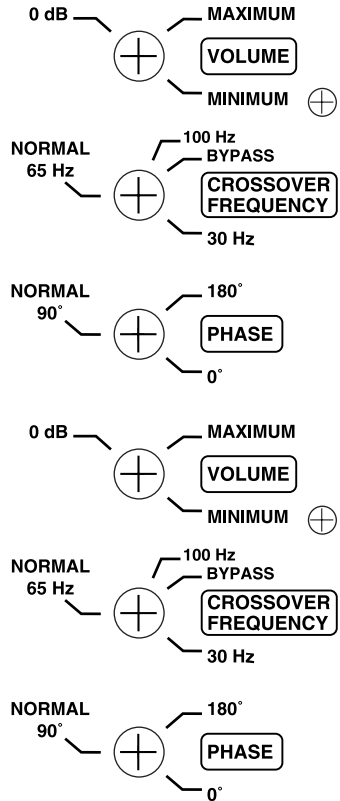
Step 3. With both the subwoofer and the main speaker connected, measure the level of the tones at the available frequencies. Because the crossover is set too high, you will have a peaked response. Adjust the crossover control to get the smoothest response.

Step 4. Use the phase control to make the response even smoother. It has its biggest effect at the crossover frequency. You can iterate between the crossover and the phase controls. Keep your hands off the level control! It was set correctly in step 2.

Step 5. Listen to the subwoofer. Resist all temptations to turn up the level control. Play something with really deep bass to confirm that your subwoofer is working."

## Control settings

Use this drawing to record some of your favorite settings.



# Specifications (Solitaire 12)

## Amplifier Output

1,500 watts rms (3.3  $\Omega$  impedance)

## High Cut Filter

30 Hz - 100 Hz adjustable, with a "Bypass" position.

## Frequency Response

16 Hz - 100 Hz

## Power Line Voltage

US model

120 VAC 50/60 Hz

International model

230 VAC 50/60 Hz

## Dimensions

13" x 13" x 13"

## Weight

50 lbs

## Finish

High gloss, black lacquer finish.  
Removable fabric grill.

## Line Power Consumption:

550 watts average, at maximum continuous output. 8 watts at idle.

## Output Levels:

Greater than 113 dB peak SPL (includes room gain) from 16 Hz to 100 Hz. Measurement is one meter, anechoic.

A typical Sunfire subwoofer can be expected to 'best' its specified minimum peak SPL by several decibels.

## Total Harmonic Distortion

Typically less than 1/10 of the fundamental between 18 to 80 Hz.

## Input Sensitivity for full output:

250 mVrms from left input with volume control at 0 dB, 60 mVrms volume control fully clockwise\*

0.75 Vrms from right input with volume control at 0 dB, 200 mVrms volume control fully clockwise\*

## Input Impedance:

30 k $\Omega$  for Line-Level inputs

56 k $\Omega$  for Hi-Level inputs

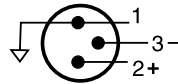
40 k $\Omega$  for XLR input, each leg balanced to ground

## XLR Input

Pin 1 Ground

Pin 2 Positive

Pin 3 Negative



## Driver: 12 inch

Extra large magnet and long throw mechanical design yield very high back-emf. The result is extraordinarily high operating efficiency – that is, more acoustic output for each watt of input.

## Internal System Gain:

50 dB from left input jack to speaker with volume control at 0 dB, 62 dB with control fully clockwise\*

40 dB from right input jack to speaker with volume control at 0 dB, 52 dB with control fully clockwise\*

\* The Sunfire True Subwoofer utilizes differential gain on the left and right inputs to retain both L+R and L-R information.

## 12 VDC Trigger Input

Input voltage range: 5 - 18 VDC

Impedance: approx 600  $\Omega$

(20 mA @ 12 V)

Removable terminal block, and one 1/8" Mono minijack, tip positive.

# Specifications (Solitaire 10)

## Amplifier Output

1,250 watts rms (3.3  $\Omega$  impedance)

## High Cut Filter

30 Hz - 100 Hz adjustable, with a "Bypass" position.

## Frequency Response

18 Hz - 100 Hz

## Power Line Voltage

US model

120 VAC 50/60 Hz

International model

230 VAC 50/60 Hz

## Dimensions

11" x 11" x 11"

## Weight

40 lbs

## Finish

High gloss, black lacquer finish.  
Removable fabric grill.

## Line Power Consumption:

350 watts average, at maximum continuous output. 8 watts at idle.

## Output Levels:

Greater than 107 dB peak SPL (includes room gain) from 18 Hz to 80 Hz. Measurement is one meter, anechoic.

A typical Sunfire subwoofer can be expected to 'best' its specified minimum peak SPL by several decibels.

## Total Harmonic Distortion

Typically less than 1/10 of the fundamental between 18 to 80 Hz.

## Input Sensitivity (full output):

250 mVrms from left input with volume control at 0 dB, 60 mVrms volume control fully clockwise \*

0.75 Vrms from right input with volume control at 0 dB, 200 mVrms volume control fully clockwise\*

## Input Impedance:

30 k $\Omega$  for Line-Level inputs

56 k $\Omega$  for Hi-Level inputs

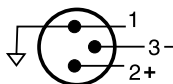
40 k $\Omega$  for XLR input, each leg balanced to ground

## XLR Input

Pin 1 Ground

Pin 2 Positive

Pin 3 Negative



## Driver: 10 inch

Extra large magnet and long throw mechanical design yield very high back-emf. The result is extraordinarily high operating efficiency – that is, more acoustic output for each watt of input.

## Internal System Gain:

46 dB from left input jack to speaker with volume control at 0 dB, 56 dB with control fully clockwise\*

36 dB from right input jack to speaker with volume control at 0 dB, 48 dB with control fully clockwise\*

\* The Sunfire True Subwoofer utilizes differential gain on the left and right inputs to retain both L+R and L-R information.

## 12 VDC Trigger Input

Input voltage range: 5 - 18 VDC

Impedance: approx 600  $\Omega$

(20 mA @ 12 V)

Removable terminal block, and one 1/8" Mono minijack, tip positive.

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Manual 913-101-00 Rev A

# Troubleshooting

The Sunfire Subwoofer is expertly designed and built to provide years of trouble-free performance. Most problems that occur can usually be solved by checking your setup or making sure that the components connected to the amplifier are on and fully operational.

The following information will help you deal with common problems you may experience during normal use. If a problem still persists, please contact your Sunfire Dealer for assistance.

## Not enough bass

- Check that your preamplifier's outputs are connected to the subwoofer's line level inputs and not to the line level high pass outputs. If they are connected to the outputs by mistake, the bass will be weak but the subwoofer will still function.
- If your preamplifier has a single subwoofer/LFE output jack, make sure it connects to the subwoofer's Left (Mono) input. If the bass is still not enough after checking all the remaining points, use a Y cable to connect the preamplifier's single subwoofer/LFE output to the subwoofer's right and left inputs.
- Make certain the subwoofer is in a corner location, firing at 45 degrees into the walls formed by the corner. This is not absolutely essential, but will maximize the bass output and give the smoothest possible response. If you place the unit so one of the drivers is firing into one of the walls, leave three inches of clearance between the driver and the wall.
- Home Theater preamplifiers usually have a way of adjusting the level of the subwoofer/LFE output, either using a remote control or with a small volume knob on the back panel. Make sure that this is adjusted correctly.
- Check that your preamplifier or receiver's sub output is turned on. Some systems only have a sub output signal when the front speakers are set to "small."
- If the preamplifier's subwoofer/LFE output has an adjustable crossover frequency, make sure that the Sunfire subwoofer's own crossover point is set higher or part of the bass range will be missing.

## Not enough bass in a 5.1 system

- 5.1 Home Theater preamplifiers usually have a bass management system which allows the bass to be redirected among your speakers. For example, the bass normally present in the front speakers can be redirected to play in the subwoofer, or the subwoofer can play the bass from all the speakers, in addition to its dedicated LFE (low frequency effects) channel. Make sure that all of the bass management options are correctly set. The preamplifier may have a way of turning the subwoofer output off entirely, so check that it is always on.
- Check that the preamplifier calibration procedure is correctly adjusted. Usually, the preamp will send a test tone through all the speakers in your system, allowing you to adjust (trim) the volume of each channel until they are all playing at the same level.
- If the bass is weak only when playing 5.1 surround sources, check that your preamplifier is correctly set to decode the 5.1 surround modes, such as Dolby Digital or DTS.
- DVD discs have a menu which allows you to select which soundtrack to play. Check that the correct 5.1 surround audio soundtrack is selected, otherwise it may just play stereo into your preamp and you won't get the true LFE signal into the subwoofer.

## Hum

Adding any component such as a subwoofer to an existing system will often give rise to a hum which wasn't there before. Your first thought may be that the subwoofer has a problem, but this is more than likely caused by a "ground-loop" in your system.

Follow these steps to isolate the main cause of the ground-loop hum (there may even be more than one cause).

- Try to have all of your equipment on the same electrical outlet or circuit, see page 10 for more details.
- If your subwoofer is a fair distance away from your other equipment, you may use a 15 amp extension cord as long as it has a ground connection.



**NOTE:** Never remove the ground pin from any power cords. This is very dangerous.

- Turn off all components in your system, including the subwoofer, amplifiers and the preamplifier, before disconnecting or connecting cables.
- First remove every connection from the subwoofer to the rest of your system. Plug the subwoofer power cord back in and check for the hum. If it is still there, try plugging it into a different outlet in case it is picking up interference on the AC line.
- If you have followed the above guidelines for the power connections and a hum is still present, then there is one very common problem to consider: a "ground-loop" introduced by connecting a cable TV line to a VCR or TV, which is then connected to the preamp. This can be addressed as follows:
- Disconnect all cables which come from outside the room, such as cable TV, satellite TV, or roof top antennas. Make sure that they are disconnected where they first enter the room, so they are making no connection to your preamplifier, TV, or any other component. If the

hum is caused by the cable TV line, then you will need a "ground-loop isolator." This is an inexpensive device fitted in line with the coaxial cable feed.

- If the hum persists, disconnect all the source components one at a time from the back of the preamplifier until you identify the problem.
- If you are using the subwoofer's line level inputs and there is a excessive amount of noise or hum present, using the speaker level inputs may yield a lower background noise level.
- Ground-loop isolators are available for audio lines and video. Once you have identified which components are causing a problem, you can fit the isolators between the component and the preamplifier.

## The subwoofer won't turn off

- The subwoofer should turn itself off after approximately fifteen minutes with no audio signal present. If not, check there is no background hum. The subwoofer may sense hum as a small signal and stay on. See the above hints to eliminate the hum.

## The subwoofer won't turn on automatically

The subwoofer should turn on when an audio signal is applied, or 12 VDC is applied to the Trigger inputs, or if the Start button is pressed. If it does not turn on, check the following:

- The subwoofer's volume control may be turned down, or no signal is received from your preamplifier.
- Check the input connections.
- Check the Mode switch or menu on surround systems to be certain that a bass signal is being sent to the subwoofer.
- Use the 12V Trigger for the most reliable on/off operation.

# Limited Warranty

Sunfire Corporation is proud of its products which have been built with care using advanced technology and premium component parts. Your unit has been crafted to perform properly for many years. Sunfire Corporation offers the following Warranty to you, the owner of a new Sunfire product:

The Sunfire Corporation Warranty for the True Subwoofer EQ Solitaire is in effect for TWO years from the date of original retail purchase. The Sunfire Corporation Warranty covers defects in materials and workmanship. The following, however, are excluded:

- a) Damage caused during shipment.
- b) Damage caused by accident, misuse, abuse of operation contrary to the instructions specified in the Sunfire Corporation user's manual
- c) Units where the serial number has been defaced, modified or removed,
- d) Damage resulting from modification or attempted repair by any person not authorized in writing by Sunfire Corporation.
- e) Units purchased from unauthorized dealers.

The Sunfire Corporation Warranty extends to the original owner or subsequent owner(s) during the two year warranty period so long as the original dated purchase receipt is presented whenever warranty service is required.

All implied warranties, including warranties of merchantability and fitness for particular purposes, are limited in duration to the two year length of this Warranty, unless otherwise provided by state law.

Sunfire Corporation's liability is limited to the repair or replacement, at our option, of any defective product and shall not in any event include property or any other incidental or consequential damages which may result from the failure of this product.

Some states do not allow limitations on how long an implied warranty lasts and/or do not allow the exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages, so the above limitations or exclusions may not apply to you.

This Warranty gives you specific legal rights, and you may also have other rights which vary from state to state. We suggest that you attach your purchase receipt to this Warranty and keep these in a safe place. Thank you for your choice of a Sunfire Corporation product.

## Service Assistance

We suggest that you read the Limited Warranty completely to fully understand your Warranty/Service coverage.

If your Sunfire Corporation product ever requires service, write to us, or call:

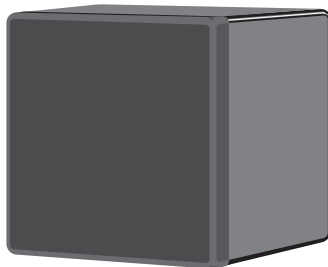
Sunfire Corporation  
Technical Services Department  
P.O. Box 1589  
Snohomish, WA 98290  
Tel (425) 335-4748  
Fax (425) 335-4746

You will be directed to an authorized Sunfire Corporation Service Station or receive instructions to ship the unit to the factory. Please save the original shipping carton and packing materials in case shipping is required. Always use the original cloth bag and packaging materials and method, or the finish may be damaged. Please do not ship Parcel Post.

**NOTE:** Before sending in your unit for repair, you must call Sunfire for return authorization.

Include a complete description of the problem, indicating how you have it connected, the associated equipment in your system and a copy of your purchase receipt. Initial shipping costs are not paid by Sunfire Corporation; return ground shipping costs will be prepaid if repairs were covered by the scope of this Warranty.

# *Sunfire*<sup>™</sup>



## *True Subwoofer*



*Sunfire Corporation  
P.O. Box 1589  
Snohomish  
WA 98291*



Manual part number 913-101-00 Rev B



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