



## AUVA Loudspeaker Isolators

### Installation Guide

#### Disclaimer

The installation of the Stack Audio AUVA loudspeaker isolator involves modifying the placement of your speakers and may require the use of tools. If you are unsure how to do this, we recommended seeking the assistance of a professional. With large or heavy loudspeakers, we recommend you only install with AUVA isolators with someone on hand to help you lift and move the loudspeakers. Improper installation of a speaker isolator could result in damage to your speakers, floor, or other nearby objects. It is the responsibility of the user to properly install the isolator and ensure that the loudspeakers are secure and stable. The effectiveness of the isolator may vary depending on the surface it is placed on, the size and weight of the speakers and the listening room environment.

Stack Audio is not responsible for any damage or injury that may occur as a result of the installation or use of the product. By installing the AUVA loudspeaker isolator, you acknowledge and accept the risks and responsibilities associated with the modification of your speaker setup. It is important to have read your loudspeaker manufacturer's instructions and the Stack Audio AUVA installation instructions before beginning.

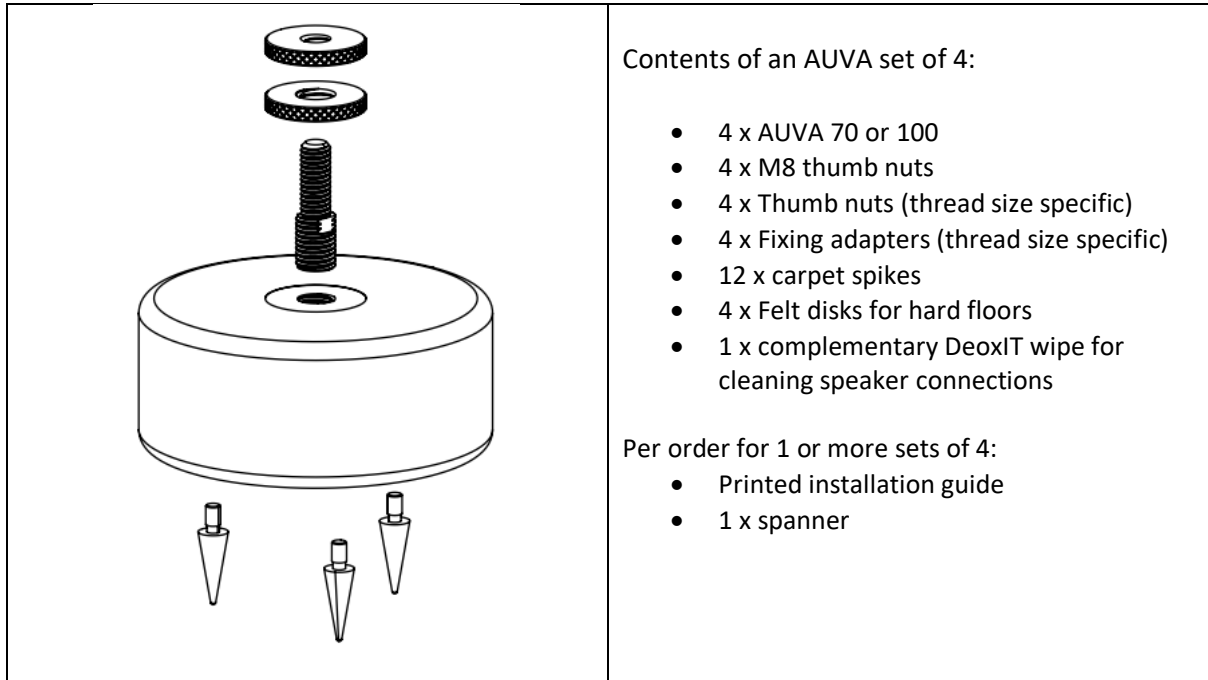
The manufacturing process is critical to the performance of the AUVA isolators. The outer shell is precision machined from a solid billet of aluminium with a durable anodised finish. The internal cells containing the particles in the isolator are precisely made and tested to tight tolerances to ensure they perform as expected.

**Do not attempt to disassemble or clean the outside of the AUVAs with solvent or acetate cleaning solutions. Any attempt to do so will invalidate the warranty.**

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## 1. Introduction



The AUVA Loudspeaker Isolators are designed to attach to the bottom of loudspeaker cabinets or stands via the threaded holes for the original spikes or feet. As such they come with attachment bolts and nuts. You will be asked to specify the size you need for your speakers when ordering or contact us for special sizes or assistance.

Each isolator also comes with 3 spikes that screw into the underside for use on carpet covered surfaces. A protective adhesive felt pad is also supplied for use on hard floors. **Please note: once applied the felt cannot be easily removed.** It has cut-outs that still allow the spikes to be fitted later if your use changes. They come in sets of 4 for each speaker. Instructions for fitting the AUVA isolators are shown in section 1.

For your initial installation we would suggest that you first position the loudspeakers/stands with the AUVAs attached but not the carpet spikes. This will enable you to move the speakers easily to determine their optimum position in the room for your listening seat. We recommend you go through this step even if you have previously settled on a speaker position as the addition of the AUVAs will change the dynamic of the room/speaker acoustics. A general guide to speaker position is outlined in section 2.

If fitting to existing loudspeakers, you will inevitably be removing the speaker cables from the rear whilst installing the AUVAs. We recommend that you take the opportunity to clean your cable plugs and speaker binding posts with the cable wipes supplied with each set. This is a very simple step and one you should do regularly to keep your system connections in peak condition. Instructions for using the DeoxIT wipes are shown in section 3.

## 2. Instructions for fitting

**Please take care moving heavy loudspeakers and attaching the AUVAs. We recommend you have a second person to help you with this.**

Before attaching the AUVAs, shake them gently from side to side after unpacking. You will hear the particles moving and this ensures they are distributed evenly in case they have been disturbed during transport.

1. Prepare all 4 AUVAs in the set before you start to fit them to each loudspeaker
2. Screw the fixing adapter (attachment bolt) all the way into the top side of the AUVA. Place the retaining nut onto the thread and rotate all the way down until it locks the adapter firmly into the AUVA.
3. Place the thumb nut onto the adapter and thread all the way down until it touches the retaining nut. This will be used later if you need to raise the loudspeaker height.
4. If you are using the felt mats for a hard floor, fit them at this stage. You will need to peel off the protective cover and stick them firmly to the underside of the AUVA. Make sure you align the spike holes in the felt pad with the holes in the AUVA in case you need to fit the carpet spikes in the future.
5. If you are going to use the carpet spikes, we recommend you do not fit them until after you are happy with the position of your loudspeakers. It will be easier to move the speakers to evaluate different positions without the spikes fitted.
6. Ensure your amplifier is turned off and remove your loudspeaker cables from your speakers.
7. With the assistance of a helper, either rest your loudspeaker or stand on its side or tilt it over so you can reach the original equipment spikes or feet on one side and remove them.
8. Screw the AUVA and fixing adapter into the threaded spike holes on the base of your speakers or stands. Initially we recommend you screw it in as far as it can go so the speaker is in contact with the thumb nut. If the adapter does not turn easily in the thread do not try to force it as you may risk cross-threading. Remove it and ensure you have aligned it correctly. It should rotate without the need for force if it is correct size.
9. Repeat for the other side of the speaker.
10. With the AUVAs fitted carry out your listening tests to determine the optimum position for you speakers. An overview of speaker positioning, room effects and auditioning is presented below after these fitting instructions.
11. At this stage check if you need to adjust the height of the speaker on the AUVAs. A small amount of vertical adjustment is possible with the supplied adapters. You will need to tilt the loudspeaker so you can unscrew the AUVA from the loudspeaker base to the required height. If doing this unscrew the thumb nut from its lower position and tighten against the loudspeaker. This adjustment allows you to compensate for uneven floors or, if required, tilt the front or rear of the loudspeaker slightly.
12. When you have determined the loudspeaker positions if you have a carpeted room and are going to use the supplied carpet spikes, we suggest you mark the position of your loudspeakers on the carpet with masking tape. Then you can move the speaker and tilt it over or lay it on its side to fit the spikes. Screw these all the way into the holes on the underside of the AUVAs. **It is important to make sure the top of the spike is flush with the metal surface of the AUVA and no thread is visible.** The AUVAs are unidirectional and do not need to be positioned in any specific way. The spikes will not be visible once the speakers are placed back on the floor.
13. When placing the loudspeakers back into position make sure you push them down firmly to ensure the spikes pierce the carpet and make contact with the floor underneath. This is important to ensure that the speaker is rigid and cannot rock on the carpet pile.

### **3. Speaker positioning**

Speaker positioning in your listening room is a vital part of setting up your hi-fi system. There are many guides (and opinions) on how to do this available on-line, along with more specialist advice and products for advanced room treatment. This is a summary of the basic concepts and is not intended to be used as a definitive guide or instructions. Rooms vary in terms of size, proportion and surfaces, and the best set-up should be tailored to each room. Inevitably this will involve compromise, especially in listening rooms that are also living spaces. Stack Audio AUVA Isolators are designed to reduce the effects of speaker vibrations on the hi-fi system. They will help in all situations and should be considered as part of setting up your listening room to get your hi-fi system to sound as good as possible.

- Choose speakers that are appropriate for the size of the room. This is obvious but if you are buying new speakers for an existing listening room, they should suit that space. Large full range speakers in a small room will risk overwhelming the space and not have the space to breath and create a realistic sound stage. Conversely using small (or bookshelf) speakers in a large room will struggle to create meaningful listening levels and bass.
- The starting point for the relationship between the listening seat and the speakers is an equilateral triangle with the speakers pointing towards the listener. Experiment with the amount of 'toe-in' to achieve a coherent stereo soundstage that extends fully from left to right with no hole in the middle. Loudspeaker designs differ in the amount of toe-in needed so refer to the manufacturer's instructions for your starting point.
- In a rectangular listening room, it is better to have the speakers firing down the length of the room. This will give more freedom for positioning both the speakers and listening seat from the front and rear walls. However, in a normal domestic environment it will be necessary to experiment with speaker positions that are different from this ideal. Rooms may be square or irregularly proportioned. Practical considerations may mean that speakers need to be positioned next to the long wall, and the listening seat may have to be closer to the back wall than ideal.
- Room furnishings help absorb sound waves and room reflections. Generally hard surfaces are more reflective. Ideally a listening room should be carpeted and avoid large areas of glass. Use of curtains rather than blinds in front of windows helps as does breaking up featureless walls with bookshelves or record storage. If your room has a hard floor, try placing a rug between and in front of the speakers. Room treatment is a complex field, and you may have to take advice from specialist companies if your room is particularly problematic.
- The loudspeakers and seating position should be aligned with the tweeter in line with the ear. Off-axis listening (whether horizontally or vertically) is a common situation particularly if there is more than one listener. Loudspeakers differ in how critical they are to this. You should listen for the effects when adjusting the position of your speakers
- The final point is to listen over time, with a variety of music and different sources. Get used to the sound in one set-up before you make major changes. Try to avoid rapid A-B comparisons. Sometimes what sounds "better" (often just different) at first becomes less impressive (or even fatiguing) over prolonged listening. Also listen at different times of the day – factors such as mains quality, outside noise, your own mood and tiredness will have an influence on what you hear

#### **4. Cleaning cable connectors**

Cleaning cable connectors in hi-fi system is an important maintenance task to help equipment function properly and deliver the best quality sound. Contaminants can accumulate on the connectors over time which can potentially interfere with the signal being transmitted through the cables. This can result in poor sound quality and distortion. Dirty connectors can inhibit the physical connection between the cables and the equipment resulting in intermittent or poor performance. We have provided a complementary DeoxIT wipe with each set of AUVA loudspeaker isolators for you to use when re-connecting your loudspeakers.

To use the DeoxIT wipe, follow these steps:

- Unplug all the audio equipment or cables that you will be cleaning. This is important for safety reasons and to avoid damaging the equipment.
- Take a DeoxIT wipe out of the package and carefully unfold it.
- Gently rub the wipe over the connectors on the audio equipment or cables. Make sure to cover all surfaces of the connectors, including the sides and any crevices.
- Once you have wiped the connectors, use a dry cloth or tissue to remove any excess DeoxIT from the connectors. Be sure to remove all of the DeoxIT as it can interfere with the signal if it is left on the connectors.
- Plug the audio equipment or cables back in and test to make sure that they are working properly.

Be sure to follow the instructions on the DeoxIT package for any additional information or precautions. Stack Audio is not responsible for any damage or injury that may arise from disconnecting/reconnecting and cleaning your cables.

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