

B&W Bowers & Wilkins

B&W Group Ltd
Dale Road
Worthing, West Sussex
BN11 2BH England

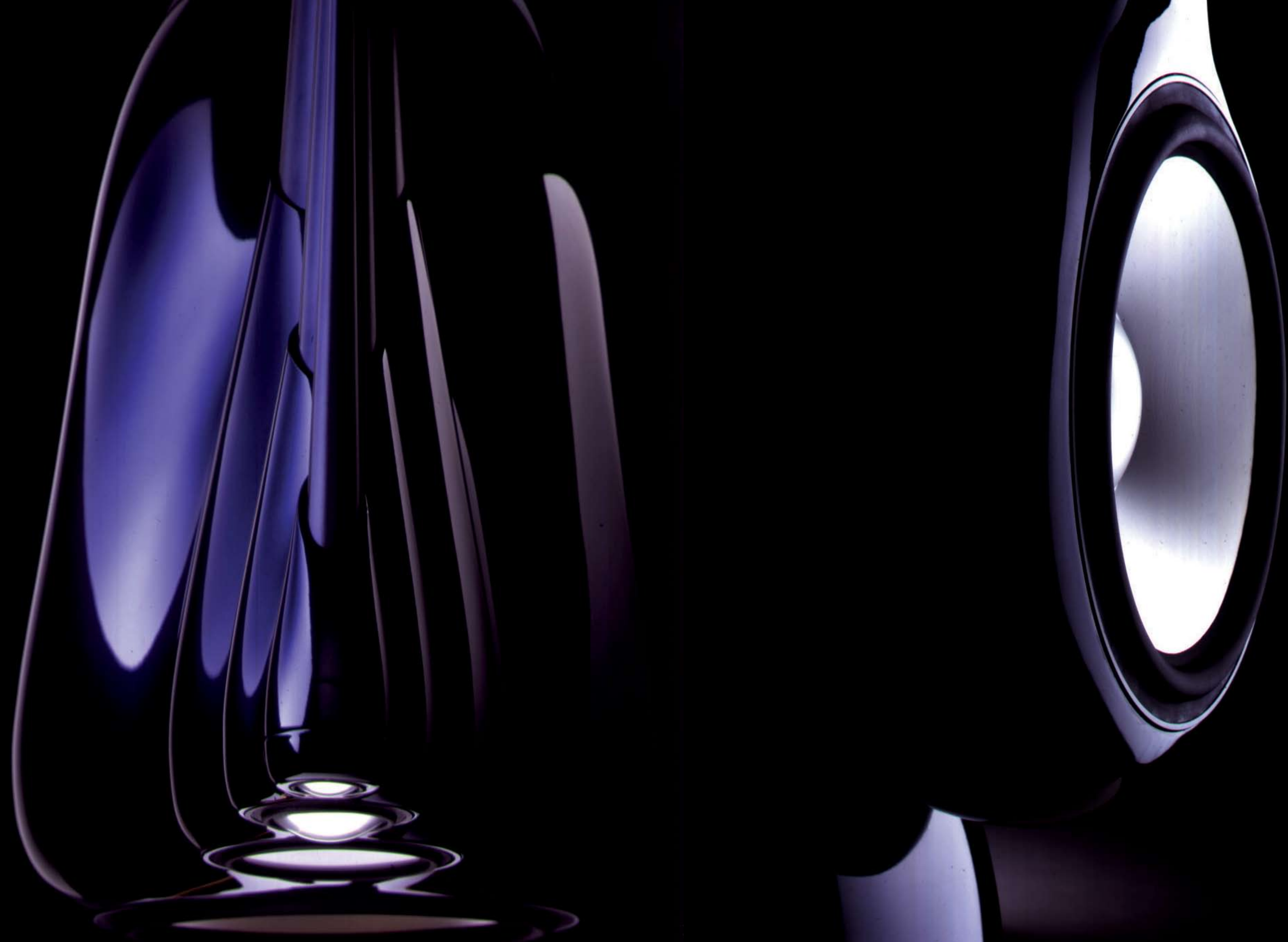
T +44 (0) 1903 221800
F +44 (0) 1903 221801
info@bwgroup.com
www.bwspeakers.com

B&W Group (UK Sales)
T +44 (0) 1903 221 500
E uksales@bwgroup.com

B&W Group North America
T +1 978 664 2870
E marketing@bwgroupusa.com

B&W Group Asia
T +852 2 790 8903
E info@bwgroup.hk

Kevlar is a registered trademark of DuPont. Nautilus and Matrix are registered trademarks of B&W Group Ltd. Cobex is a registered trademark of Wardle Storeys Ltd. Design Thomas Manss & Company. Printed in the UK. B&W Group Ltd reserves the right to amend details of the specification without notice in line with technical developments. Copyright © B&W Group Ltd. E&OE



Nautilus owner's manual

The Nautilus loudspeakers you have invested in are an exact match to the first production loudspeakers. Hand-built and tested, serial marked and packaged individually, the refusal to compromise at any stage from concept to reality is a hallmark quality of Nautilus and your guarantee of absolute satisfaction.

Loudspeaker A

Loudspeaker B

Bass driver
Lower midrange driver
Upper midrange driver
High frequency driver
Crossover A

Bass driver
Lower midrange driver
Upper midrange driver
High frequency driver
Crossover B

Quality Control

Line Insp.
Tester
Packer
Random Insp.

Contents

Introduction	5
Enclosure	6
Drive units	7
Crossover	7
Unpacking	8
Positioning	10
Installation	10
Cable connection	11
Fine tuning	12
Aftercare	12
Specification	13
Safety instructions	14



Introduction



B&W monitors are widely considered to be the benchmark in music reproduction by professional musicians and audiophiles alike. The Matrix #801 has become the industry standard monitor in recording studios around the world, and it would be easy to rest on our development laurels.

However, the team of audio scientists at B&W's Research Laboratories at Steyning are perfectionists. For them, there are always areas which could be improved upon or refined.

Company founder, John Bowers, was an exemplar of the type. For him, the most glaring compromise in loudspeaker design lay in the cabinet. The standard rectangular enclosure only partially achieves its goal of absorbing the rear radiation from the drive unit.

Worse, it contributes resonances and reflections from the inside, and diffraction and reflection from the outside.

The B&W breakthrough of Matrix cabinet construction offered a significant improvement to the panel stiffness of the rectangular box, but ultimately, the solution, John felt, was to remove the cabinet completely and create a dipole source. Sadly, time and ill-health intervened to prevent John Bowers from exploring this avenue of research further.

Custody of this work was passed to Matrix inventor and top acoustic designer, Laurence Dickie, with an enviable record of transducer and cabinet problem solving. Laurence had been experimenting with drivers mounted in the curved surface of a cylinder and encountered results not dissimilar to those of the dipole.

Namely, that external cabinet effects could be virtually eliminated and the intrinsic sound of the unit heard.

He used a ring magnet outside the coil with a thin-walled cylindrical pole piece to allow a smooth transition from dome to enclosure. Only one type of enclosure will provide absolute freedom from aberration – the infinite pipe or waveguide.

Excitingly, it became possible to imagine that an entirely waveguide-based system could actually work. Research showed that the exponentially tapered pipe was an even better absorber than the cylinder. So complete was its absorbing action that the pipe could be left open or closed.

This was the breakthrough. Thereafter, the usual disciplines of the acoustic engineer's art came into play. Juggling the variables of driver diameter, dispersion, break-up, excursion, practicality, and of course, economics.

It was decided that the system should be four-way with 300mm (12in), 100mm (4in), 50mm (2in) and 25mm (1in) units – all mounted in tapered lines within a diffraction limiting enclosure.

The enclosure evolved from the original cylinder into the sleek rolling vent design you have purchased. The massive rolling vent disposes of rear bass driver radiation, whilst the exponential transmission pipes loading the other drive units effectively deal with internal reflection and external diffraction at mid and high frequencies.

The drive for sonic purity is reinforced by using an active crossover design allowing separate amplification of each drive unit, cutting out component crosstalk and driver inter-reaction. Overall, the elimination of straight lines defeats diffraction and helps achieve virtually transparent music reproduction.

What results is arguably the most musical loudspeaker ever made.

Enclosure

Exponential line loading is used for all four drive units, primarily to achieve freedom from resonance and reflection, but also for the damping effect on the fundamental resonance in the low frequencies.

The two dome units are tightly coupled to their respective wave guides via a hollow pole magnet which causes minimal discontinuity to the advancing wave front.

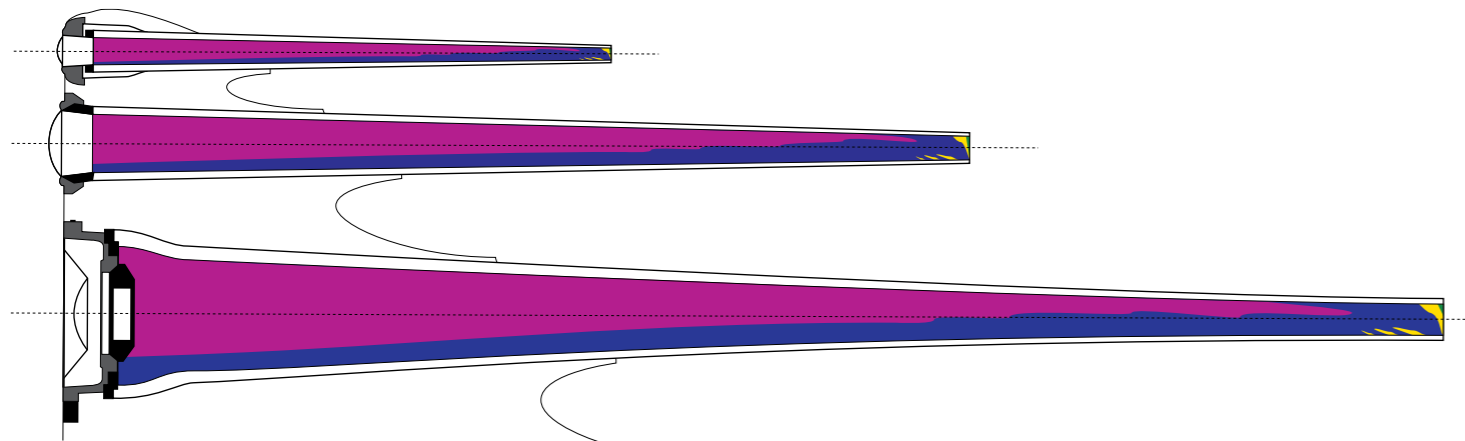
A hollow pole magnet is also to be found behind the lower mid diaphragm supported by a chassis which itself forms the first 50mm of the wave guide. The tube to which this is attached is shaped to smooth the transition from the chassis.

The distinctive natural appearance of Nautilus is derived from the best compromise of folding a tapered tube to save space whilst maintaining the highest curvature-to-width ratio. Traditionally, folded pipes have involved many 180° bends which have serious frequency dependent transmission properties.

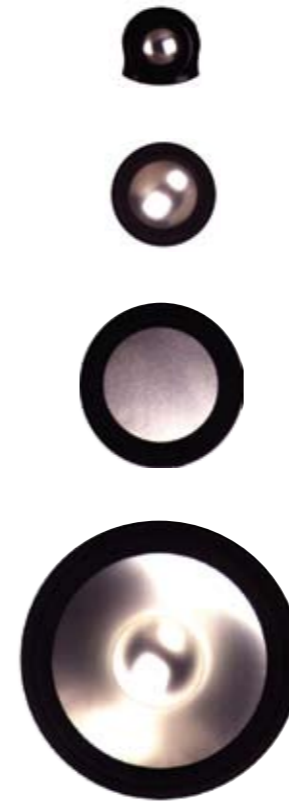
10mm thick Glass Reinforced Plastic (GRP) has been used for the exterior surface which, when coupled with the doubly curved shape, results in an extremely stiff enclosure. The inner turns of the spiral are bounded by a foam filled GRP which braces the opposite faces of the snail in a manner similar to the Matrix type enclosure perfected by B&W.

The external form of the Nautilus has been achieved using a blend of hand-built forming and advanced CAD technology borrowed from the automotive industry. This enables B&W to maintain mathematical accuracy of the wave guide and to produce the final mould tool to submillimetric accuracy.

The high gloss surface finish is the result of using a two-part acrylic paint with a deep lacquer coat for lustre and durability. A 50kg block of polished terrazzo type material supports the complete mollusc.



Drive units



Each drive unit has been developed to operate as a piston within its intended frequency band, with two octaves between the upper roll-off and the first sign of break-up modes. Extensive use of aluminium in the diaphragms makes this possible. All voice coils are wound on polyimide formers to eliminate eddy-current losses, which are particularly serious at high frequencies.

A 9.5kg (21lbs) magnet with a 100mm (4in) voice coil acts as the massive motor of the 300mm (12in) bass unit. This, when used in the exponential line enclosure, results in a high-pass behaviour so over-damped that the traditional second-order characteristic is replaced by two distinct first-order slopes and no stored energy.

A 250 micron one-piece aluminium cone/centre dome ensures coherent motion to beyond 1.5kHz. From 220Hz to 880Hz, a 100mm flat-fronted unit is employed to prevent the gentle cavity resonance found in conventional cone units at around 2kHz interfering with the output from the upper midrange unit. A rare earth magnet assembly with hollow pole is used to minimise the obstruction to the rear radiation from the diaphragm.

Two domed units of anodised aluminium of similar construction, 50mm and 25mm in diameter, handle the 880Hz-3.5kHz and 3.5kHz-25kHz ranges respectively. All drive units are completely mounted on silicone rubber O-rings to decouple them from the cabinet.

Crossover

The division of the signal into the four required bandwidths is accomplished in the Nautilus Active Crossover via totally nonresonant circuitry. Both inputs and outputs offer single and balanced operation, the latter being particularly useful in noisy electrical environments, although a slight subjective improvement has been observed when using balanced signal interconnections at every stage.

With suitable pre- and power amplifiers, one unit is required for each loudspeaker and should be sited close to the power amplifiers. A power supply connection for each crossover is required.

Important: your dealer must check that the serial number located at the rear of each crossover unit matches that of the loudspeaker – and that the stated voltage is correct for your mains supply.



Unpacking

These notes will explain in depth how to unpack the plinth and speakers. Inside this crate is a copy of the Nautilus user manual that will show how to connect the Nautilus loudspeaker system.

A pair of Nautilus is supplied in three crates. The two larger crates each contain one Nautilus loudspeaker and one active crossover. One of the large crates contains the accessory pack and is marked as such. The small crate contains two stone plinths.

Lay each crate flat on the ground. Open the lids using a number 2 pozidrive screwdriver. Unscrew all screws before lifting the lid off of the crates.

Begin with the small crate, which holds the plinth to support the product. Remove the lid and card separator and set aside. The plinth weights approximately 50kg, so it requires two people to lift. One person should place a hand into the slot in the plinth and raise one end. The second person should place one hand on either side of the plinth at the opposite end from the slot. Lift the plinth from the crate and gently place it as close as possible to its final installation position. (Please note: the cable cut-out end belongs at the back of the speaker) Repeat these steps for the second plinth.

Place each large crate alongside the plinth or as close as possible to the plinth. Unscrew all the screws holding the lid on the crate. Remove the lid and set aside. Remove the strap, length of wadding and protective cover and place nearby. Remove the two pieces of internal packaging using the handholds provided. Remove the layer of fibre wadding to reveal the speaker, active crossover and accessory pack. Place the active crossover and accessory pack aside.

Depending on the proximity of the plinth to the large crate, it may be possible to feed the wires through the slot in the plinth before

removing the product from the crate. Feed the amplifier end of the cable through the slot in the top of the plinth and guide it into the cable cut-out at the rear of the plinth. (Note: it may be easier to feed the cable through by supporting the rear end of the plinth on the metal rod supplied in the accessory pack. Remove the metal rod once finished.)

Warning: do not lift the speaker using any of its straight tubes or the part of the tweeter enclosure forward of the split line.

One person should grasp the top of the speaker under the main body of the tweeter enclosure. The right hand of the second person should support the speaker on the top of the rounded part of the base, the left hand of the second person should support the speaker on the front of the speaker below the bass unit. The person supporting the tweeter should lift the speaker tilting it into an upright position while the second person should support the body of the speaker. Before removing the speaker from the crate, place the protective cover over the front of the speaker to prevent damage during moving. Secure the cover with the belt provided, ensuring the length of wadding is placed between the strap and the speaker to protect the enclosure.

To remove the speaker from the crate, the person supporting the speaker should grasp the threaded spigot from which the cable exits at the base of the speaker while the other person supports the front and top of the speaker. Ensure the person holding the spigot is positioned to the rear of the speaker so that they can use their free hand to pull the cable through the plinth as the speakers is lowered

Attention: Please carefully read through these instructions in full before starting to unpack the product. Unpacking should be carried out by two people due to the weight of the product and awkwardness of the shape.

Note: Remove all watches, rings, bracelets, belts, and any other item of clothing that might scratch the product's surface.

into position. Guide the spigot into the slot in the plinth.

Once the speaker is in place on the plinth, feed first a rubber washer and secondly a metal washer and finally a securing nut from the accessory pack over the free end of the cable and slide them as far as possible to the speaker end.

One person should lean the speaker/plinth combination forward to expose the underside of the plinth. While the first person supports the weight of the speaker, the second person should feed the washers over the spigot and screw down the nut, tightening by hand only.

Carefully stand the speaker on its plinth upright and position it as required.

The drive units are delicate and easily damaged. Use the plastic cover to protect them, for example, if the speaker is to remain unused for a long period, or if there are inquisitive children about. Always secure the cover with the strap and length of wadding provided. We suggest you retain the packaging for future use.

Warning: The speaker drive units create stray magnetic fields that extend beyond the boundaries of the enclosure.

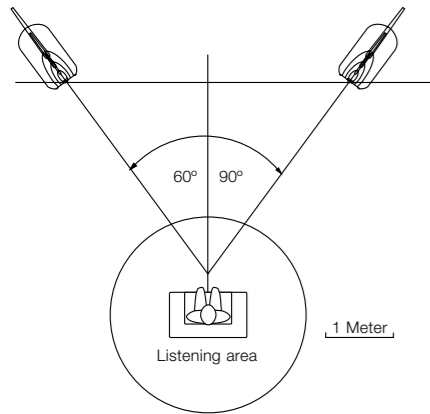
We recommend you keep magnetically sensitive articles (CRT type televisions and computer screens, computer discs, audio and video tapes, swipe cards, etc.) at least 1m (40in) from the speaker. This does not apply to plasma or LCD screens.



Positioning

Placement of any loudspeaker can significantly influence the relative balance of sound in the listening seat and we recommend a degree of experimentation. In general it will be found that Nautilus gives optimum results when “toed-in” to a greater extent than in previous systems, set typically at an angle of between 60° and 90°. This is due to the smooth, wide dispersion of Nautilus which is capable of increasing the relative significance of the side-wall reflection.

Another benefit of the dispersion characteristic is the substantially increased listening area in which a pleasant and realistic stereo image may be enjoyed.



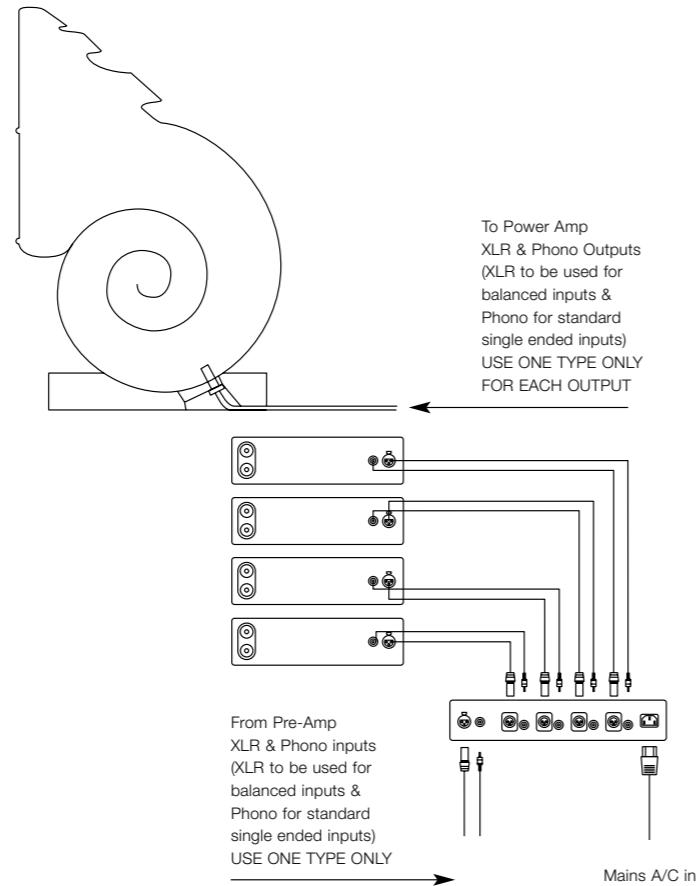
Installation

All connections should be made with the equipment turned off. Each Nautilus comes with its own dedicated active crossover network. The serial number on the amplifier end of the harness should match the serial number on the rear of the crossover network.

The crossover can be connected to the amplifiers with Phono leads for unbalanced operation or XLR types for balanced operation. Each Nautilus will require 1 separate amplifier channel for each drive unit. The gain and phase of each must be identical.

Each amplifier (channel) should be capable of delivering at least 30V RMS into 6 ohms for

realistic levels of reproduction. Most amplifiers capable of delivering 100 watts into 6 ohms should be suitable. Connect each of the 4 crossover outputs (LF, LMF, UMF, HF) in turn to each amplifier or amplifier channel. The loudspeaker harness should then be connected to the appropriate terminals on the corresponding amplifier. The input to the crossover should then be connected to the output of the preamplifier. Connect the power and turn on the crossover, followed by the amplifiers.



Cable connection

Connection to Nautilus is via an 8-core cable of high purity silver on copper, terminated in bare ends to allow the most direct connection to the amplifier terminals.

It is generally accepted that the wires between power amp and driver should be as short as possible, so we do not recommend that the captive cable be lengthened in any way.

In the majority of cases it will be most convenient to locate the crossover units in close proximity to the power amplifiers, with correspondingly short line interconnects. Each cable should be connected directly to the respective outputs of each amplifier.

The line from pre-amplifier and crossover is likely to be comparatively long and should, therefore, be of high quality and low capacitance. It is further recommended that the balanced input of the crossover be used with two-core screened cable – even if the pre-amp is single ended.

In the latter case, the screen and one core should be joined at the source end.



Detail of twin cored screened lead connecting phono to XLR plugs (pre-amp to x-over)



High Frequency Unit				
+ RED	+ ROT	+ ROUGE	+ ROJO	+ ROSSO
- BLACK	- SCHWARZ	- NOIR	- NEGRO	- NERO
+ VERMELHO	+ ROOD	+ КРАСНЫЙ	+ KOKKINO	+ ČERVENÁ
- PRETO	- ZWART	- ЧЕРНЫЙ	- MAΥΡΟ	- ČERNÁ
+ CZERNONY	+ 紅	+ 赤		
- CZARNY	- 黑	- 黑		

Upper Mid Range Unit				
+ BROWN	+ BRAUN	+ MARRON	+ MARRON	+ MARRONE
- BLUE	- BLAU	- BLEU	- AZUL	- AZZURRO
+ CASTANHO	+ BRUIN	+ КОРИЧНЕВЫЙ	+ КАФЕ	+ HNĚDÁ
- AZUL	- BLAUW	- СИНИЙ	- ΜΠΛΕ	- MODRÁ
+ BRAZOWY	+ 棕色	+ 茶		
- NIEBIESKI	- 蓝色	- 青		

Lower Mid Range Unit				
+ YELLOW	+ GELB	+ JAUNE	+ AMARILLO	+ GIALLO
- GREEN	- GRÜN	- VERT	- VERDE	- VERDE
+ AMARELO	+ GEEL	+ ЖЕЛТЫЙ	+ ΚΙΤΡΙΝΟ	+ ŽLUTÁ
- VERDE	- GROEN	- ЗЕЛЕНЫЙ	- ΠΡΑΣΙΝΟ	- ZELENÁ
+ ZÖLTY	+ 黄色	+ 黄		
- ZIELONY	- 绿色	- 绿		

Low Frequency Unit				
+ ORANGE	+ ORANGE	+ ORANGE	+ NARANJA	+ ARENCIO
- VIOLET	- VIOLETT	- VIOLET	- VIOLETA	- VIOLETTA
+ LARANJA	+ ORANJE	+ ОРАНЖЕВЫЙ	+ ΠΟΡΤΟΚΑΛΙ	+ ORANŽOVÁ
- VIOLETA	- PAARS	- ФИОЛЕТОВЫЙ	- ΜΟΒ	- FIALOVÁ
+ POMARANCZOWY	+ 橙色	+ 橙		
- FIOLETOWY	- 紫色	- 紫		

Fine tuning

Before fine tuning the installation, double check the polarity and security of the connections.

If the hand-tightened nut that holds the Nautilus to the plinth is not done up sufficiently tightly, it can occasionally work loose. This may create a difficult-to-locate rattle or buzz. The accessory pack includes a rubber washer and a steel washer that should be employed between the plinth and nut to eliminate this problem. The rubber washer should rest against the plinth.

If it is not possible to position the crate near the plinth when unpacking, the pieces of foam covering Nautilus in the crate can be used to support the loudspeaker close to the plinth within reach of the loudspeaker harness.

If you need to alter the tilt of the Nautilus, French chalk is supplied in the accessory pack to ease movement between the speaker and its plinth.

If the level of bass is uneven with frequency, this is usually due to strong excitation of resonance modes in the room. Even small changes in the position of the speakers within the listening room can have a profound effect

on the perceived sound quality by altering the excitation of these modes. Try mounting the speakers along a different wall. Even moving large pieces of furniture about can have an effect.

If the general level of bass is too high, try moving the speakers further away from the walls. Conversely, if you need more bass, move the speakers closer to the walls. Space behind the speakers also improves the impression of perspective on well recorded material.

If the sound is too harsh, increase the amount of soft furnishing in the room. For example, use heavier curtains. Conversely reduce the amount of soft furnishing if the sound is dull and lifeless.

Test for flutter echoes by clapping your hands and listening for rapid repetitions. These can smear the sound, but may be reduced by irregular shaped surfaces such as bookshelves and large pieces of furniture.

As Nautilus is designed in such a way that the units are de-coupled from the enclosure and the base weighs a substantial 42kg.

After care

The GRP cabinets normally only require dusting. If you wish to use an aerosol cleaner, spray onto the cleaning cloth, not directly onto the cabinet.

If the surface of the speaker suffers any minor scratches, they can be polished out with fine T-Cut or finishing compound such as "Finesse It" by 3M.

When making or breaking connections, ensure all power is switched off otherwise damage may result.

Avoid touching the drive units, especially the domes, as damage may result.



Specification

Technical features	Nautilus tube-loading active crossover
Description	4-way tube-loaded loudspeaker system
Drive units	1x ø300mm (12 in) aluminium cone bass 1x ø100mm (4 in) aluminium/polymer sandwich cone lower midrange 1x ø50mm (2 in) aluminium dome upper midrange 1x ø25mm (1 in) aluminium dome high-frequency
Frequency range	-6dB at 10Hz and 25kHz
Frequency response	25Hz - 20kHz ± 1dB on reference axis
Dispersion	Within 2dB of response on reference axis Horizontal: over 60° arc Vertical: over 10° arc
Crossover frequency	220Hz, 880kHz, 3.5kHz
Power amplifier requirements	4 channels per speaker, rated 100W - 300W continuous into 8Ω on unclipped programme (each channel to have identical gain and phase)
Dimensions	Height: 1210mm (47.6 in) Width: 430mm (16.9 in) Depth: 1105mm (43.5 in)
Net weight	Speaker: 44.5kg (98 lb) Plinth: 42kg (92 lb) Total: 86.5kg (190lb)
Standard finishes	Midnight Blue, Black, Silver



Ελληνικά

Προφυλάξεις

Για να αποφύγετε τον κίνδυνο πυρκαγιάς ή ηλεκτροπληξίας μην αφήνετε εκτεθειμένη τη συσκευή σε βροχή ή υγρασία.

Μην ανοίξετε το επάνω κάλυμμα της συσκευής. Μπορεί να εκτεθείτε σε υψηλή τάση ρεύματος, ικανή να προκαλέσει ηλεκτροπληξία. Δεν υπάρχουν στο εσωτερικό της συσκευής μέρη που μπορούν να επισκευαστούν από το χρήστη. Για συντήρηση ή επισκευή απευθυνθείτε στην αντιπροσωπεία της B&W.

Για να αποφύγετε τον κίνδυνο ηλεκτροπληξίας συνδέστε τη συσκευή χρησιμοποιώντας μόνο το καλώδιο που τη συνοδεύει ή κάποιο αντίστοιχο. Φροντίστε ώστε τα μεταλλικά άκρα του φις να είναι πλήρως τοποθετημένα στην πρίζα. Μην κάνετε οποιαδήποτε μετατροπή στο καλώδιο τροφοδοσίας, και μην προσπαθήσετε να παρακάμψετε τους κανονισμούς γείωσης ή/και πόλωσης. Αποφύγετε να χρησιμοποιήσετε προεκτάσεις (μπαλαντέζες).

Η παροχή ρεύματος στην οποία θα συνδέσετε τη συσκευή πρέπει να έχει τα χαρακτηριστικά που αναφέρονται στην πίσω πλευρά της (για την Ελλάδα, 220V/50HZ).

Αν η ασφάλεια τροφοδοσίας χρειαστεί αντικατάσταση, η νέα ασφάλεια θα πρέπει να είναι ίδιου τύπου και χαρακτηριστικών με την προηγούμενη.

Πριν αλλάξετε την ασφάλεια, θέστε τη συσκευή εκτός λειτουργίας και βγάλτε την από την πρίζα.

Η συσκευή πρέπει να είναι γειωμένη.

Για να ψύχεται επαρκώς η συσκευή δεν θα πρέπει να καλύπτετε τα ανοίγματα εξαερισμού.

Μην τοποθετείτε αντικείμενα επάνω ή μέσα στα ανοίγματα εξαερισμού του ενισχυτή.

中文

警告

为防止火灾和电击，应注意防湿防潮。

注意所有设备上的警告。为避免电击，请勿打开机箱。机箱内部没有用户可用于维修的零部件。如有疑问，请咨询授权的 B&W 经销商。

为防止电击，请勿使用带延长绳路容器的两极插头或其它电源插座，除非叶片能够完全插入没有任何部分暴露在外。

确认仪器上的电压与电源相匹配。

如需替换，正如置于电源插孔旁边的电压表上所标明的那样，一定要用同一型号同一级别的保险丝。

在换保险丝之前一定要关掉电源。设备一定要安全接地。

为了切实保证设备的冷却，请勿将其它物体塞入扬声器的通风孔，那样会阻塞通风孔。

Česky

Upozornění

Abyste předešli nebezpečí požáru či úrazu el. proudem, nevystavujte toto zařízení dešti či vlhkosti.

Ve vlastním zájmu dbejte všech ostatních varování týkajících se zařízení. Abyste předešli úrazu elektrickým proudem, nesazte se proniknout dovnitř výrobku. Nejsou zde žádné díly, které by uživatel mohl sám opravovat. Pro případný servis kontaktujte některého z autorizovaných prodejců B&W.

Úrazu el. proudem předejete také tím, že nebudete používat tuto (polarizovanou) koncovku napájecího kabelu společně s prodlužovacím kabelem který plně nezakrývá kontakty.

Dbejte aby napájení přístroje souhlasilo s údaji vyznačenými na panelu.

Pojistky napájení smějí být měněny pouze za stejný typ s hodnotami odpovídajícími napájecímu štitku umístěnému u vstupu pro napájecí kabel.

Před výměnou pojistek zcela vypněte přístroj a odpojte napájecí kabel.

Zařízení musí být uzemněno.

Abyste bylo zabezpečeno adekvátní chlazení přístroje, nezakrývejte ničím větrací otvory.

Do větracích otvorů také nestrkejte žádné předměty.

日本語

ご注意

火災や感電を避けるために雨のかかる場所や湿気の多い場所には置かないでください。

本体および添付した「安全上のご注意」に書かれている警告及び注意を良くお読みください。感電防止のため、エンクロージャーを開けたりしないでください。万一故障した場合は最寄のサービスセンター/営業所または、お買い上げの販売店に修理をご依頼ください。

Polski

Ostrzeżenia

Aby uniknąć pożaru lub porażenia prądem, nie wystawiaj tego urządzenia na działanie wilgoci.

Zwróć uwagę na wszystkie ostrzeżenia umieszczone na samym produkcie. Aby uniknąć porażenia prądem elektrycznym, nie otwieraj obudowy. Wewnątrz nie ma żadnych elementów, które mógłby obsługiwać użytkownik. Skieruj wszystkie pytania serwisowe do autoryzowanego sprzedawcy B&W.

Aby uniknąć porażenia prądem elektrycznym, nie używaj tej (spolaryzowanej) wtyczki sieciowej w połączeniu z gniazdem przedłużacza lub innym gniazdem, jeśli bolce nie zostały wsunięte do końca.

Upewnij się, że napięcie oznaczone na panelu odpowiada napięciu zasilania.

Wymieniaj bezpieczniki instalacji elektrycznej stosując jedynie te o identycznej wartości i typie, tak jak to pokazano na plakietce mocowej umieszczonej w pobliżu gniazdka sieciowego.

Przed wymianą bezpiecznika, wyłącz zasilanie i wyjmij kabel zasilania z gniazda.

Sprzęt powinien być uziemiony.

Abyste zapewnić odpowiednie chłodzenie, nie zakrywaj otworów wentylacyjnych.

Nie wkładaj żadnych obiektów do otworów wentylacyjnych wzmocniacza.