

WARRANTY

Meadowlark Audio loudspeakers are made a few pair at a time, by hand. Special attention is given to each pair's fit, finish and performance. Naturally, because they are handmade there will be minor imperfections. Your speakers are warranted against defects in materials and workmanship for five years following purchase if you mail your completed registration form within 15 days of purchase. Speakers which have not been registered will be warranted for a period of one year from the date of manufacture. This warranty applies to the original purchaser only, and is not transferable.

Damage resulting from over-driving, amplifier clipping or other abuse are excluded. Neglect, accident, tampering, act of nature and normal wear and tear are excluded. Meadowlark Audio retains the sole authority to determine whether any failure is warranted.

To obtain warranty service, take the unit to the nearest authorized Meadowlark Audio dealer. If there is no dealer near you, contact us directly. DO NOT return any unit without first receiving a return authorization. You will be responsible for shipping the unit to us. We will return it to you by our usual shipping method at our expense within the United States.

The foregoing warranty is the only warranty, express or implied given by Meadowlark Audio. There is no warranty of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose. Meadowlark Audio hereby disclaims any express or implied warranties other than those stated herein.



Meadowlark Audio

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KESTREL OWNER'S MANUAL

THANK YOU

Each of us involved in the design, manufacture and marketing of Meadowlark Audio products would like to thank you very much for purchasing the KESTRELS. We are very aware of the vast number of choices you face when deciding upon a speaker system. We congratulate you on your acumen, and sincerely appreciate your business. Our goal is that each customer be happy with our product, speak highly of us to their friends and return to us for future purchases.

KESTREL LOUDSPEAKER SYSTEM

The KESTREL is a time-aligned first order design. This means that the drivers are staggered back to achieve proper timing - this is the reason for the sloped baffleboard. This arrangement combined with a 6 dB per octave crossover allows the KESTREL to reproduce the musical waveform faithfully. This is basic to natural sounding reproduction.

The KESTREL's bass loading is transmission line. This means that both bass articulation and extension are superior to more common sealed and ported designs.

Great care has been taken in the design and construction of this speaker to control cabinet colorations. The cabinets are substantially "deader" than typical manufactured systems due to the use of thick materials, the very extensive interior bracing necessary to form the transmission line, and use of high tech damping materials. Normally constructed cabinets tend to ring - muddying the sound and smearing the soundstage. The spectacular soundstaging achieved by this design is due, in part, to the inertness of the enclosures.

CARE

The lacquer finish on the baffleboard is susceptible to scratching. Use a soft cloth, dampen it with Windex for cleaning fingerprints. Please note that some new spray cleaners contain alcohol and should not be used. The wood is coated with a clear lacquer and, like the baffleboard, should not be treated with wax or furniture polish of any kind.

GRILLES

The grille cloths, while sonically superb, require care to install and remove. To install: put the top of the grille (tension line clasp showing at center bottom) in place with the tension lines engaging the track at the corners, hook one lower corner, then the other. Smooth the grille into place - you can trade length for width somewhat by tugging. To tuck in the hem use the edge of a Compact Disc, a rolling action works particularly well. To remove: Slip one finger behind the hem at the side, near a lower corner. Then lift the tension line out of the track, and over the corner. DO NOT stretch the tension line any more than necessary. Removal and replacement of the grille are somewhat difficult, so you will want to decide to either leave them on or off. The KESTREL sounds better with the grilles off, but the difference is small, so your preference regarding appearance, and need for protecting the drivers will probably be the deciding factors.

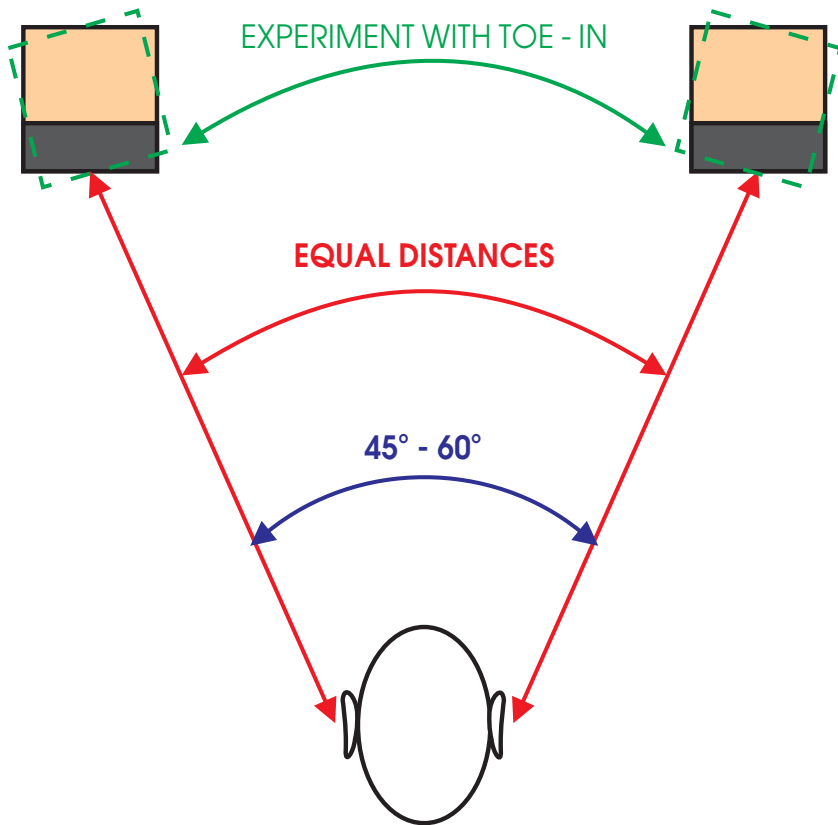
The design is unique in that the grille cover does not present the soundfield with any edges or surfaces to cause diffraction or reflections. Normal frame type grilles have these undesirable effects which tend to diffuse the imaging. The KESTREL baffleboard is rounded back to eliminate diffraction. All internal wiring is heavy gauge. Each crossover component is selected for high quality and performance. Parts count is absolutely minimal. All internal connections are soldered.

BREAK-IN

Your KESTRELS will take several hours of playing to begin to sound proper. The bass will fill out, and the treble will smooth out considerably during this time. Full break-in takes the equivalent of a few days of playing time.

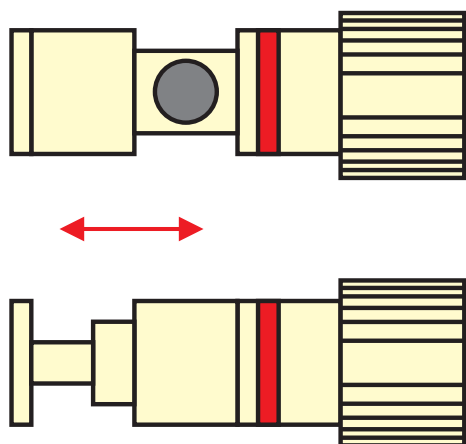
ELECTRONICS

Avoid using a small solid state amplifier and turning it up. This results in a form of distortion called "clipping" as the amplifier attempts to exceed its ability amplify. This produces high frequency distortion -which sounds shrill - and is potentially fatal to the tweeters. The KESTREL is a transmission line which, like ported designs, is susceptible to infrasonics because the woofers are not acoustically loaded below 30 Hz. So, if you are using a turntable, watch for excessive woofer excursion resulting from low frequency turntable rumble. If this is the case you will need to use a subsonic filter. This is not a consideration with Compact Disc. Please note: any speaker system can be overdriven - avoid applying enough power to cause audible distortion. The KESTREL is a modest size system that is not capable of playing extremely loud. Your warranty does not cover abuse caused by overdriving or clipping.



CABLE & CONNECTIONS

Use high quality speaker cable, preferably 12 gauge or larger. Keep the length of the cable as short as possible, using identical lengths for left and right channels. Lengths longer than 20' are not recommended, and will require special attention from your dealer. The binding posts on the back of the units will accept banana plugs, pin and spade connectors, or bare wire. Note that there is a sleeve on the posts that slides forward to allow standard spades or back to heavy gauge raw wire. Carefully observe polarity.



**SLIDE SLEEVE
ON BINDING POST
TO USE EITHER
HEAVY WIRE
OR STANDARD
SPADES.**

SPIKES

If you are installing the KESTRELS on a carpeted area, be sure to screw in the four hardened steel spikes. They are designed to penetrate the carpet and securely ground the speakers to the floor. Some adjustment will be necessary to take out any wobble. If you are installing your speakers on a hard floor try using standard furniture glides with 1/4-20 thread of the type available at most hardware stores.

PLACEMENT

The KESTRELS are designed to be easy to place. The sloped baffleboard combined with the controlled dispersion tweeter help reduce side wall reflections and floor bounce, allowing good imaging over a rather large area.

As with virtually all high performance speaker systems, there will be one seat in which the soundstage "locks in." To maximize image focus and soundstage delineation, this seat should be as far as possible from large, sound reflecting surfaces, particularly side walls, but also back walls. Cocktail tables are often overlooked as a source of reflections. If your floor is a hard surface, the use of a rug between your seat and the front of the speakers is strongly suggested.

You may wish to use a tape measure and some masking tape to lay out the geometry of your listening area. Measure to make sure that the layout is symmetrical. An imaginary "center line" will extend from the center of your seat, forward in the direction you will be listening. The distance the speakers lie from this center line should be the same. The distance between your head and each speaker must be the same. Try not listen closer than 7' from the speakers. The angle between the speakers from the listener's perspective is typically between 45 and 60 degrees. Large angles can be expected to cause a "hole in the middle" effect - as center images spread and become diffuse.

Toe-in is also an important aspect of placement. Start with a small amount of toe - in and listen for center image focus. There will typically be some trade off between center image focus and soundstage width - ultimately this is a matter of personal preference.