FLUID AUDIO

FADER SERIES F8S

User Guide

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Introduction

Thank you for choosing the Fader Series F8S active studio reference subwoofer. Fluid Audio may not seem like a house-hold name but the founders of the company have been designing speakers for over 23years. They are also songwriters and musicians just like you and know exactly what is needed for tracking and mixing great music. Now, after painstaking tuning, Fluid Audio is proud to present the F8S subwoofer.

The F8S studio reference subwoofer is a great addition to any size studio, and is designed to work perfectly with the Fluid Fader series of monitors. Many styles of music benefit from bass extension - from Hip-hop, to House, to Rock. Being able to hear your mix with this bass extension is critical to accurately creating your music. Despite it's unassuming size, the F8S packs 200 watts of room filling bass and extends the low frequency response of your total monitoring system down to 30Hz. With a click of the included footswitch you can turn on the subwoofer, audition your mix with the bass extension, then easily turn it off for comparison.

These features and more enable the F8S to set a new standard in affordable studio monitoring. From Pro engineers at commercial studios to home studio owners, the F8S sets a new, affordable standard in studio monitoring.

What's inside?

Your Fader Series F8S box contains:

- One F8S studio reference subwoofer
- Two detachable AC power cords
- This users guide
- Removable rubber feet

Fader Series F8S Features

1.Woofer

The woofer driver is 8"(203mm) in diameter and utilizes a low distortion magnet structure. That magnet drives a high temperature, long throw voice coil, which is mounted to a poly coated, paper pulp cone. The cone is anchored to the frame with a pliant butyl rubber surround which minimizes high frequency resonant peaks that may be transmitted from the cone. The driver's large magnet creates a high BL factor (electromagnet force factor) which allows the cone to follow the input signal very accurately, resulting in excellent low-frequency extension and fast transient response.

2.Bass-Reflex Slot Port

The wide and narrow slot at the bottom of the front panel of the F8S is the bass-reflex vent port. It is designed to effectively tune the speaker cabinet to a certain frequency, and maximize the bass output of the speaker. It is put on the front panel in order to fire directly at the listener, and also to allow for flexibility of placement (as a rear firing port may interfere with the wall behind it).

3.Enclosure and Fader Volume Control

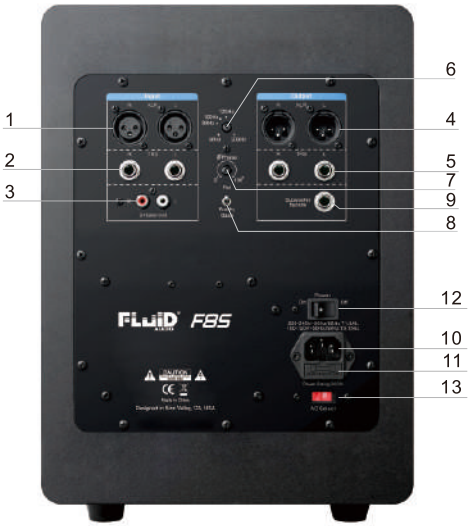
The enclosure design of the F8S has a very important role in shaping the overall sonic response of the speaker. Besides being made of acoustically efficient MDF material, it is also reinforced by internal bracing to ensure solid bass response. The customized front baffle uses big radii all around which aids in minimizing acoustic diffraction. Probably the most unique feature, of course, is the fader volume control - placed on the front of the speaker where it can be easily reached.

4.Amplification and Features

The Class D amplifier design is lightweight and very efficient. Not only allowing you to choose the crossover point and adjust the phase, it also gives you a choice what kind of sound you prefer: A more traditional Flat sound, or a more Punchy bass sound. When the F8S subwoofer not being used (for approximately 15 minutes), there is an integrated standby function that powers down the amplifier to conserve energy.

Front and Rear Panel Features

Rear Panel Features



1.XLR INPUT: This jack accepts XLR input connections with either balanced or unbalanced wiring. The input wiring of an XLR connector should be as follows:

- XLR PIN 1 . . . . . signal ground (shield)
- XLR PIN 2 . . . . . signal positive(+)
- XLR PIN 3 . . . . . signal negative(-)

2.TRS INPUT: This jack accepts 1/4" connections with either balanced or unbalanced wiring. For balanced wiring, a three-conductor TRS plug is necessary. The input wiring of a TRS connector should be as follows:

- TRS TIP . . . . . .signal positive (+)
- TRS RING . . . . . signal negative (–)
- TRS SLEEVE . . . . . signal ground (shield)

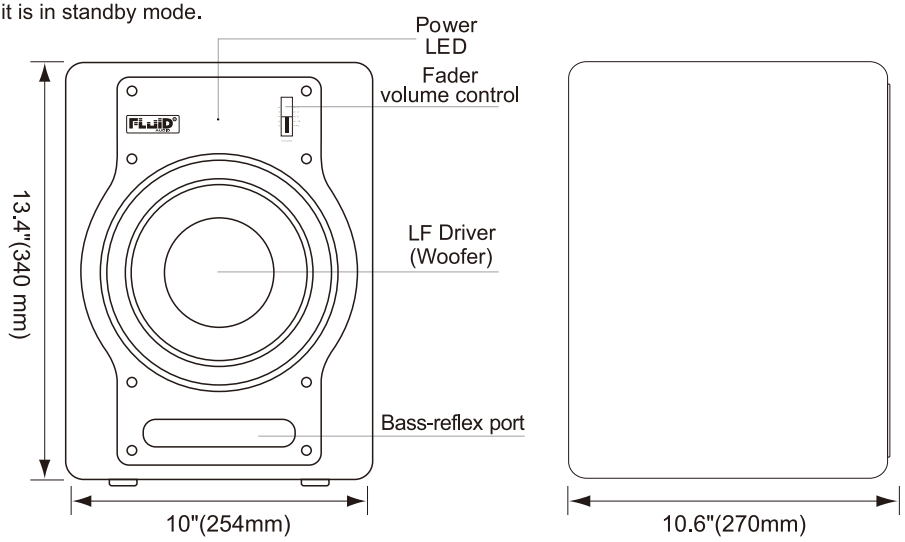
Unbalanced 1/4" wiring can be done with either a two- or three-conductor (TS or TRS) plug. A two-conductor (TS) plug automatically grounds the signal negative input, whereas a three-conductor (TRS) plug, wired unbalanced, provides the option of leaving the negative input open or grounded. We recommend that you ground the unused negative input (this can be done by wiring the ring and sleeve of the TRS plug together).

The TRS input is summed through a balanced input amplifier with the XLR input, allowing both inputs to be used simultaneously. Input specifications apply to both.

3.RCA INPUT: This jack accepts RCA input connections with unbalanced wiring.
4.XLR INPUT AND OUTPUT: This jack accepts XLR input connections with either balanced or unbalanced wiring.
5.TRS INPUT AND OUTPUT: This jack accepts 1/4" connections with either balanced or unbalanced wiring.
6.VARIABLE CROSSOVER ADJUST: Select the low-pass frequency of the F8S to properly integrate with full range satellite speakers.
7.VARIABLE PHASE ADJUST: Depending on subwoofer placement, adjust the phase knob to create the best sounding integration between the F8S and the satellite speakers.
8.FLAT/PUNCHY BASS SELECT SWITCH: Select a flat sound or more punchy (or dance music) sounding bass
9.FOOTSWITCH INPUT: Allows you to connect the included footswitch or easy on/off control. (Full frequency devices attached to the subwoofer are automatically high-passed at 80Hz when the footswitch/subwoofer is engaged.
10.POWER RECEPTACLE: Accepts a detachable 3-circuit line cord in order to power the subwoofer.
11.FUSE HOLDER: Holds the external main fuse.
12.POWER SWITCH: This switch turns the monitor on and off.
13.VOLTAGE SELECT SWITCH: Provides two selections, 100-120V AC and 220-230V AC, and should be set to match the "house supply" (receptacle) voltage of the country or location in which the speaker is used. The 100-120V setting is correct for the USA, while the 220-230V setting is correct for most of the UK, Europe and Asia.

Front Panel Features

The front panel houses the "power on" LED indicator. When the subwoofer is turned on and there is signal playing, it will turn blue. If there is no signal after 15minutes, it will turn red, which indicates that it is in standby mode.



Installation

For optimal performance of your F8S subwoofer, please read the following thoroughly and carefully prior to installation.

Precautions

Handling: Please do not touch the speaker cone. The F8S subwoofer is tightly pair-packed, so your attention is required when taking it out of the box. To avoid possible damage to the speaker driver, hold both sides of the subwoofer while pulling it out of the box. The speaker cone should not be touched in order to avoid damage even after it is out of the box.

Correct Power Operation: Since the F8S subwoofer contains its own amplifier, it must be connected to a power outlet using the detachable AC cable provided. Before connecting power, please make sure that the Voltage-Select Switch located on the speaker's rear panel is set to the appropriate position, as described in the rear-panel features list appearing earlier in this manual.

WARNING! - Use of improper Voltage-Select Switch combinations may result in hazardous conditions and/or damage to speaker components not covered by speaker warranty.

Connections: You can connect either an XLR balanced cable, TRS balanced/unbalanced cable or RCA unbalance cable from the inputs of F8S to your corresponding preamp, interface or mixer outputs. We recommend that you use high-quality balanced or unbalanced cables for input connections. Also, always turn off the power of the F8S and turn the volume to a minimum before making the necessary connections.

Usage: The F8S subwoofer is designed to be used on a flat surface, such as a bedroom or studio floor. It was not designed or intended to be suspended, "flown" or mounted by screws, straps or the like. Fluid Audio is not responsible for anything resulting from such use.

Caution: Never remove the rear panel of the F8S subwoofer. To do so could result in electric shock. A qualified technician should perform any repair or service to the electronics.

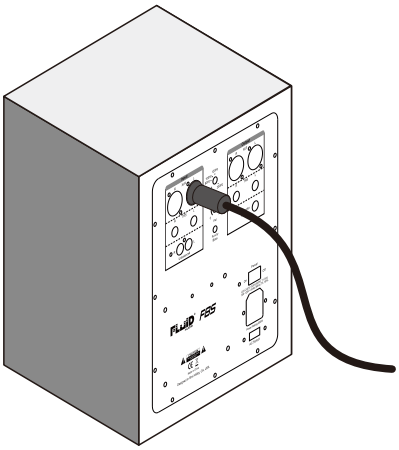
Hearing protection: This product is capable of producing sounds at a level that could be damaging to hearing and result in permanent hearing loss over an extended period of time.

XLR Balanced Connection

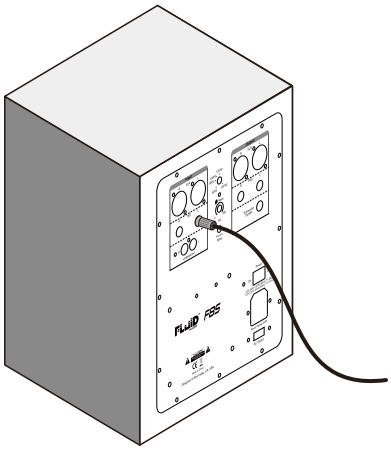
Assure that the power switch of the F8S is turned off and that the fader volume control of the F8S is turned down to a minimum. Connect the male Left/Right ends of an XLR balanced cables to the balanced inputs of the F8S (refer to the following diagram for balanced connection).

TRS Balanced/Unbalanced Connection

Assure that the power switch of the F8S is turned to off and that the fader volume control of the F8S is turned down to a minimum. Connect the male Left/Right ends of a TRS balanced or TS unbalanced cable to the TRS input of the F8S subwoofer.(Refer to the following diagram for TRS connection).



XLR Balanced Connection



1/4" TRS Balanced or Unbalanced Connection

F8S Orientation and Listening position

Placement of any speaker is one of the most important procedures in order to monitor sound accurately. To monitor using a subwoofer in conjunction with full range speakers, appropriate listening environment and correct placement are essential. Please refer to the following for correct F8S placement.Your speaker's placement, and more specifically their proximity or walls and other "boundaries", can have a huge impact on how it will sound. In fact, any well-designed, amply powered subwoofer can sound very weak in your monitoring setup if you have located it and set it up incorrectly. (This applies for any loudspeaker, but it is especially true for low-frequency reproducers like subwoofers, where the frequency wave length is much longer.)

First, there are many opinions on the best method to determine the optimal location for your subwoofer. However, for the F8S, where the bass-reflex port is located on the front of the cabinet, we recommend facing the F8S subwoofer in the direction of the listener. That doesn't mean it has to be on a desktop (we do not recommend using it that way), but rather on the floor, relatively close to the mixing position, with the port facing forward. The closer you can get it to you, the user, the more it will work as a "near field" monitor, and the less walls and other boundaries will be a problem. They still will be, but less so. We cannot emphasize enough how important this issue is, so please take a little time to think about subwoofer placement; keeping in mind that the shape of your room, its dimensions (including ceiling height), the wall construction, and any acoustic treatment you have can affect the subwoofer's perceived performance.

As mentioned, the subwoofer should never be used on a desk or stand, and it's best to start out placing the F8S on the floor half-way between your left and right direct-field monitors, in the same plane as the direct-field speakers. From there, you can adjust the subwoofer's position until it sounds the most "correct." Another theory dictates that you should start with the subwoofer in a corner of the room's floor, where the adjacent walls can help the subwoofer maximize the amount of sound it radiates; and then you can adjust the position to suit your specific monitoring setup
At this point, you may want to integrate your full range speakers, and set your crossover and phase appropriately (you can start with the phase set to 0 degrees). After you have done this, play your favorite music tracks and carefully listen for any integration problems or "holes" in the full range response. If you want to be more precise, you can use a real-time analyzer (RTA) instead of your ears and perform the same exercise. (If you do this, make sure you use full bandwidth pink noise as the test signal and observe if there are any holes or notches.) If the response is not as smooth and flat as you would like, check that sub and full range speakers are crossing over at the same frequency, and then play with the phase knob until they are better aligned. This will produce a much more full sound as the subwoofer energy is better "summing" with the full range speakers. You can usually find an optimal compromise between position, crossover and phase to get the subwoofer sounding great.

Remarks: DO NOT place any obstacles that may block the flow of air in front or between the monitors. Also remove reflective materials such as glass, mirrors or metal from the monitoring environment. PLACE THOSE MATERIALS AWAY FROM THE PATH OF THE SOUND OF THE F8S SUBWOOFER.

Warranty

Warranty Terms

Fluid Audio warrants products to be free from defects in materials and workmanship, under normal use and provided that the product is owned by the original, registered user.
Contact your local retailer or place of purchase for terms and limitations applying to your specific product. Terms may differ depending on country of purchase.

Appendix A -Technical Specifications

Type:	8" active subwoofer
LF Driver:	8-inch composite paper cone with high temperature voice coil and damped rubber surround.
Frequency Response:	30Hz -200Hz
Amplifier Power200W	200W
SIN Ratio:	> 100dB typical, A-weighted
Inputs:	Stereo XLR balanced / unbalanced input Stereo TRS balanced/unbalanced input Stereo RCA unbalance input
Outputs:	Stereo XLR balanced / unbalanced output Stereo TRS balanced/unbalanced output
Controls	Fader Volume/Gain control Variable Phase control Variable Crossover control Flat/Punchy bass switch Subwoofer bypass footswitch jack
Protection:	positive signal at + input produces outward LF cone displacement
Input Impedance:	20k ohms balanced, 1Ok ohms unbalanced
Input Sensitivity:	85mV pink noise input produces 97dBA output SPL at one meter with volume control at maximum
Protection:	RF interference, output current limiting, over temperature, turn -on/off transient, subsonic filter, external mains fuse.
Indicator:	power on / off LED on front panel
Power Requirements:	factory programmed for either 100-120V-60Hz, 220-230V-50Hz
Cabinet:	vinyl-laminated, high acoustic efficient MDF
Dimension:	340 mm (H) x 254 mm (W) x 270 mm (D)
weight:	7.9 kg/unit (without packing)

Above specifications subject to change without notice

WARNING: This product contains chemicals, including lead, known to the State of California to cause cancer, and birth defects or other reproductive harm. Wash hands after handling.

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