



Jupiter Audio Europa--Official Owner's Manual

Quick Start Instructions: Connect speaker wires. Enjoy sound.

Detailed Instructions: Several issues should be addressed to get the most out of the Europa. These are:

a) Choose your speaker wire and connector type. Any good quality speaker wire can be used in either a single-wire or bi-wire configuration. Much blood has been spilled on the subject of bi-wiring. I only have one rule of thumb: if you can hear an improvement then go for it. Ditto for connectors--bare wire, spade lugs, or banana plugs can be used; any will work fine. However, if you are using banana plugs, make sure the screwable portions of the speaker terminals are snug, as these can buzz at higher volumes if loose.

b) Location, location, location. There are a number placements in which the Europa can be used. Because they have a front-firing port, they can be placed in cabinets or directly on a wall. However, for best sound quality they should be used on a rigid speaker stand, 16-20 inches tall, placed 10-20 inches from the rear wall and a minimum of 2-3 feet from the side walls.

c) Fine-tuning the position. Speakers properly placed in a room can go from sounding merely good to out of this world. The bad news is that to arrive at the proper position can require hours or even days of experimentation. Every aspect of the position of the speakers should be examined: distance apart from each other, distance from the rear and side walls, distance from the floor, and degree of tilt, if any. There are probably some extremely scientific rules for the distance apart vs. the distance from the listening position, but I don't use any. Rather, if the speakers are either too far away from one another or too close together, voices and instruments don't sound completely distinct, either lumped too much together between the speakers if the speakers are too close together or being spread too far apart to the point of creating a "hole in the middle" if they are too far apart. Experiment by moving the speakers closer or further apart as you see fit: sometimes 6-8 inches is all it takes. When you are satisfied with the distance between the speakers, you can segue to the distance from the rear wall. I usually use a measuring tape for this, but you can eyeball it if preferred. The distance from the rear wall can vary quite a bit because listening rooms reinforce the bass (and the treble, for that matter) by varying degrees. The trick here is to reinforce the bass to the point where it sounds full, but where it doesn't muddy up the midrange in the slightest. Music with either male or female vocals is good for this. I would recommend starting at a middle point of approximately 15-20 inches from the rear wall and move the speaker forward or backward as needed, until you feel you've reached a point where the bass and the midrange are in good balance with each other. Then you can move on to toe-in, or the angle at which the speakers are turned in toward the listening position. Although the Europa's ribbon tweeter has good dispersion, it also has a definite "sweet spot", i.e. the position where the most clarity, detail, and high frequency extension are achieved. You can do this via measuring tape too, but I prefer eyeballing the inner edge of the speaker from the listening position to determine that the two speakers have the same degree of toe-in. Try experimenting with varying degrees of toe-in until you feel you have the most clarity from the mid- and high-frequencies. I find it to be fairly obvious when the soundstage "wakes up" and starts to sound its most alive.

As the final icing on the cake, if the fun and excitement of speaker positioning hasn't been enough for you already, you can measure the distance from the ground of each speaker to make sure they are both at the same height. As a final exercise, if you are using a speaker stand with spikes (and I really hope that you are!), you can try raising the front spikes slightly to give the speakers a small amount of tilt. This can further tune the sweet spot if you are a particularly critical listener.

d) Speaker break-in and such. Break-in of the Europas is very real and very necessary. I recommend 50-100 hours before both the woofer and tweeter come into their own. The woofer, in particular, is very stiff when new and gradually becomes looser and better sounding as it breaks in. Another thing I'm very big on is making sure all screws on the drivers and terminal cups are snug. Again, it's probably most important for the woofer to be snug, and as the screws and t-nuts that hold it in place start to settle, a small turn of each screw to the point where it feels snug does help its performance. At the time of this writing the allen key size of the hex head screw used is 7/64. The tweeter and terminal cup on the back don't need to be quite as tight as the woofer, but as the gasket material settles both of them do best with a slight amount of tightening.

e) Troubleshooting. The power handling of the Europas is quite good, and the chances of either a woofer or tweeter being damaged are slim. A more likely potential problem can arise from single-wiring the speakers and one or more of the gold plated jumpers connecting the woofer and tweeter terminals being loose. If this happens it can cause either a woofer or tweeter to not get the proper connection from the signal source, and either prevent it from producing sound or producing intermittent sound, making it seem like the driver itself has the problem. Check to make sure that all four speaker terminals in the terminal cup are completely snug. If you still feel you have a problem, please contact Jupiter Audio and we will resolve the issue as quickly as possible.

f) Warranty. The Jupiter Europas carry a limited warranty of five years parts and labor. The "limited" part means that if one of the drivers in the speaker does have a problem, it can be replaced exactly once. This gives the end user a chance to determine what the limits of both the Europas and the system itself are. If warranty repair is necessary, please contact Jupiter Audio for more instructions.