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BLADE & BLADE TWO

Owner's Manual

Adjustment

Caution/Warning

Switch off appliance

Positive

Negative

Option

Important safety information

Thank you for purchasing KEF Blade speakers. They have been designed to faithfully reproduce high quality sound over many years of use and should provide realistic reproduction of music and speech. Please take a little time to read these instructions prior to use.

Your KEF Blade speakers are tall, slim and extremely heavy. Installed correctly on a smooth, level surface, your speakers should be entirely safe to listen to and to live with.

However, if you live with small children, large pets, the infirm, have uneven flooring or unusually thick carpeting in your home, then correct adjustment of the foot assemblies is imperative if safe, stable operation is to be achieved.

Warning: The metal tweeter dome has a protective wave guide at the centre of the Uni-Q® driver array; if this is compromised and the dome itself is dented, it will permanently impair performance.

1. Read this manual carefully, especially the safety information, before attempting to assemble and operate the system.

2. Follow the unpacking and assembly instructions on the cartons. Please note that lifting the system requires two able-bodied persons.

3. Never connect the system directly to the electricity supply.

4. Trailing cables are dangerous. Ensure all cables are secure and tidy.

5. When stripping cables use only tools designed specifically for the purpose i.e. correct wire cutters or cable strippers.

General care of your system

1. Avoid temperature extremes.

2. Avoid damp.

3. Avoid direct sunlight.

4. Clean with the KEF cloth provided.

5. Do not use spirit based cleaners. ⚠

If you are at all uncertain about setting up, operating or caring for your system your dealer will be pleased to assist you.

Contents

Unpacking, handling and after care

Blade & Blade Two speakers are packed one speaker per carton. Prior to unpacking, please ensure that the serial numbers of the speakers supplied match each other.

Then, unpack the speakers carefully following the instructions printed on the carton and inspect for any sign of damage.

Your speakers left KEF in perfect condition. If any damage is apparent, you should notify your retailer or consultant immediately. Retain the packaging in case a need arises for you to transport the speakers at a later date.

You will notice that a special KEF care pack is included with each pair of speakers.

This pack contains a cleaning cloth and all the required accessories for connecting and positioning your speakers. The care pack also contains the unique product build certificate. This is a valuable document and guarantees the quality and craftsmanship of your speakers.

The cabinets are finished in high gloss and should be treated with the same care with which you would treat fine furniture. A suitable cleaning cloth is included in the customer care pack to maintain the original finish and lustre.

Each Blade & Blade Two speaker is supplied with KEF designed substantial spikes and locking nuts (also in the care pack). This enables fine adjustment of level, depending on your preferred location of the speakers whatever the floor covering, carpet, tile or block wood. In addition to the spikes and locking nuts each Blade & Blade Two speaker also comes with pucks to protect wood floors.

Installation and operation

Adjusting the feet and/or spikes

Under normal circumstances your speakers will be commissioned by your retailer or consultant, who will have been trained in their installation by KEF.

KEF strongly recommends that you do not attempt to level your speakers single-handedly.

Recruit the assistance of another adult or consult an authorised KEF Blade outlet for assistance which may be chargeable if the purchase was not made through them originally.

The spike/locking nut combination supplied is designed to provide small adjustments, not to compensate for seriously irregular floors.

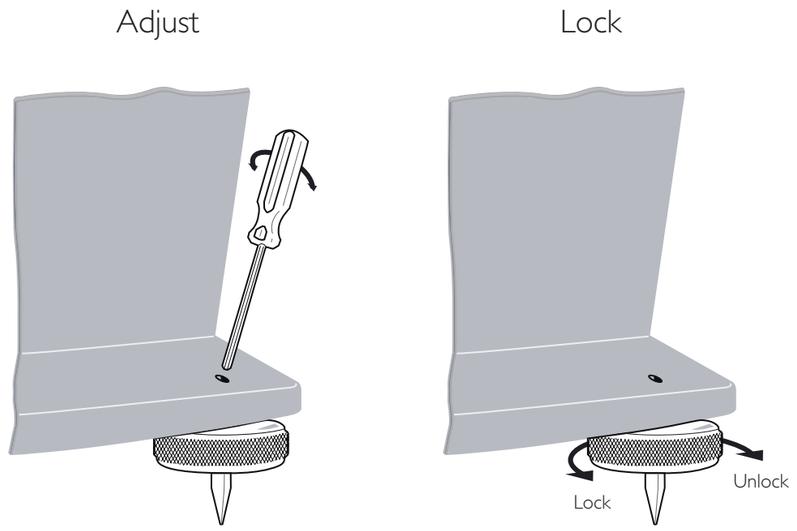
A spirit level is provided at the rear of each Blade & Blade Two speaker to gauge when the speaker is perfectly level.

A rigidly-sited speaker performs better than one that can move because it enables the cabinet to remain fixed while the drive units are allowed to move as determined by the source signal.

Best results will be obtained if the speakers are level and stable. Check the general stability of each speaker by gently rocking it from side to side, front-to-back and diagonally.

Often, you will find that the speaker is close to vertical, but rocks because one spike (or two spikes diagonally) seems too short.

If the general stability is good, but the speaker is leaning to the left, right, backward or forward, then equal minor adjustments to the two spikes opposite to the direction of lean should be made.



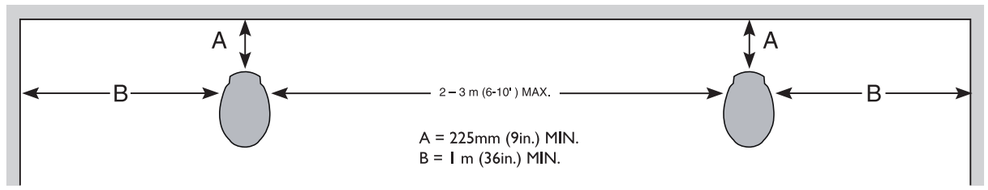
Speaker placement and room acoustics

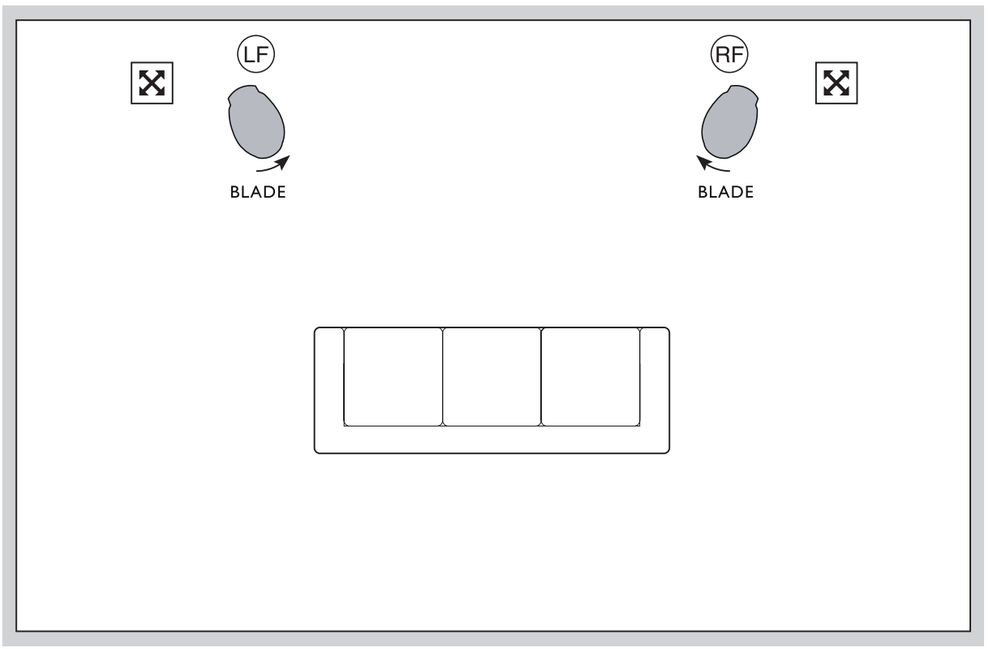
The listening room is one of the most variable elements in the hi-fi chain and its effect cannot be emphasised too strongly, nor can its effect be reliably predicted. Spacing the speakers approximately 2m - 3m (6ft. - 10ft.) apart will allow the stereo images to develop fully. You should sit at a distance at least equal to, and preferably greater than, the distance between the speakers.

Positioning the speaker in a corner or near to a side wall is not recommended as the significant bass boost caused by this position will affect the sound and cause the stereo image to deteriorate.

It is best to place the speakers symmetrically within the room, relative to the walls, ceiling and floor, where possible.

Be aware also that soft furnishings near to a speaker will deaden the sound - similarly, nearby reflective surfaces may brighten up the sound. Move the speakers until you are satisfied that the sound is right and that the stereo image is well defined.





Amplifier to speaker connections

All connections should be made with the amplifier switched OFF. Ensure the integrity of all connections prior to switching the amplifier ON.

KEF Blade & Blade Two speakers are fitted with purpose designed silver-plated Bi-wire/Bi-amp terminals which will accept bare wire, spade or 4mm connectors.

Most good quality speaker cables have some indication, such as colour coding or 'ribbing' on the insulating material, indicating which conductor is '+' or positive. Connection to the speakers can then be made as follows:

The left channel amplifier output terminal marked '+' or coloured RED connects to the left speaker terminal marked '+'. The left channel amplifier output terminal marked '-' or coloured BLACK connects to the left speaker terminal marked '-'. Similarly, these instructions should be followed for making connections between the right channel amplifier output and the right speaker. Correct polarity, or phase, is vital to the proper operation of the system.

If the connections are not made correctly the sound will deteriorate giving poor bass output and a diffuse presentation of the soundstage.

Bare wire connections are the simplest to achieve and involve stripping 12.5mm (0.5in.) of insulation to expose the speaker wire core. (You should twist together, using clean fingers, the ends of each multi-stranded core prior to the next stage to ensure a good signal contact). Having unscrewed the lower terminal cap, push the wire through the exposed hole in the terminal body and screw the cap down tightly.

Make sure that no stray strands come into contact with the opposite terminal; this could cause a short circuit between the terminals and may damage your amplifier.

Be aware that a higher quality run of cable will always give a more rewarding presentation than multiple runs of an inferior cable.

Installation and operation

Amplifier requirements and power handling

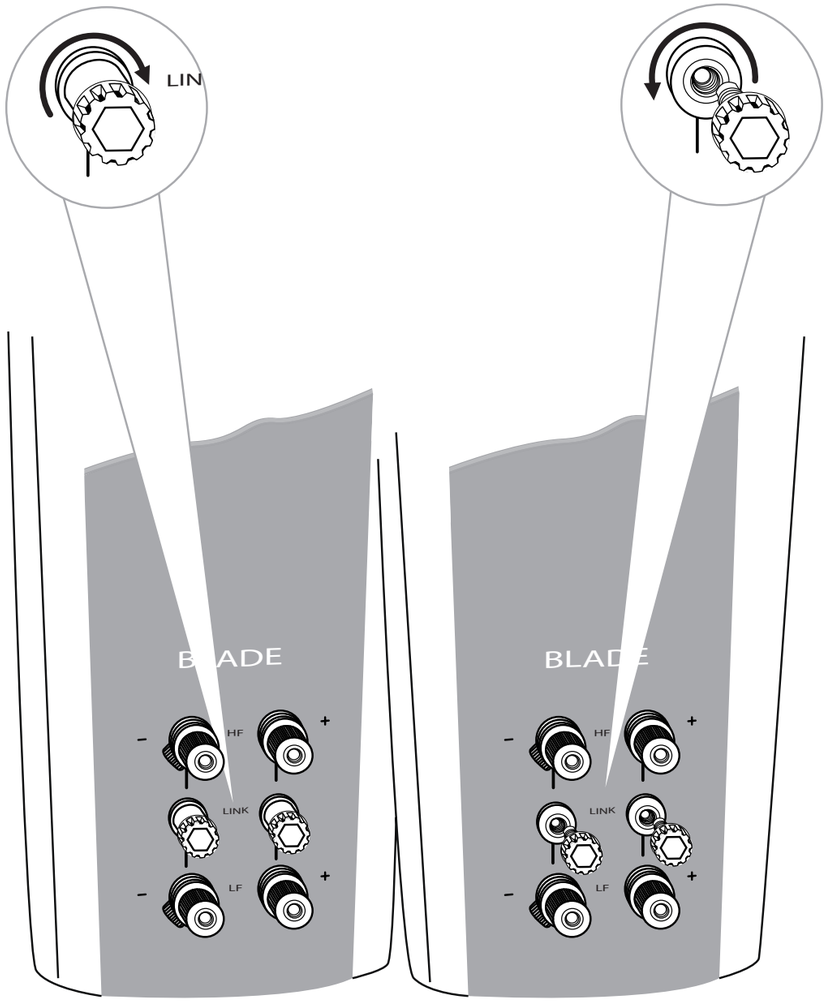
In KEF literature and in the specification table within these instructions are listed a range of amplifier power outputs to match your Blade speakers. Conditions of use (room size, type of programme, preferred listening level) and the nature of the speaker/amplifier interface vary so widely that it is not possible to lay down hard and fast rules about amplifiers and the speakers they drive.

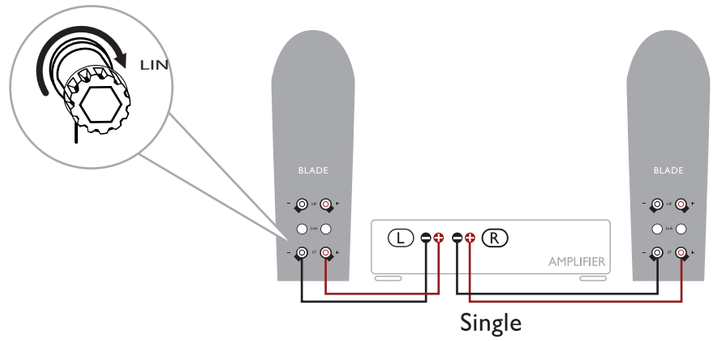
KEF speakers are built to rigorous standards of quality and consistency and the upper limits of the amplifier requirements shown are those which the speaker in question should handle without distress or damage when used under normal domestic conditions.

If higher than specified amplifier powers are used, great care should be taken to avoid abnormal conditions such as switch-on surges or gross distortion, either of the amplifier or the speaker, resulting in power peaks greatly in excess of the ratings specified. Care should be taken as the possibility still exists under certain conditions (such as excessive bass or treble boost caused by tone and/or loudness controls, graphic equalisers, etc.) that the speakers can be overloaded and damaged. The lower limits of amplifier power are those necessary to give a reasonable sound pressure level under domestic conditions.

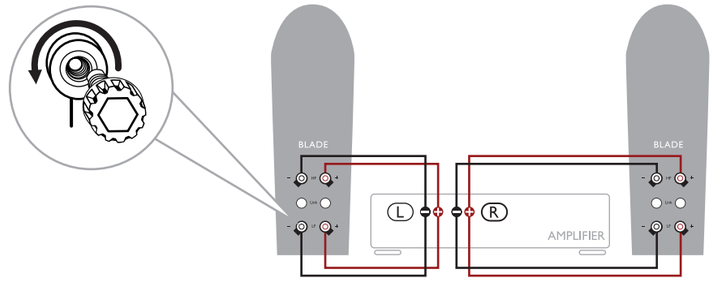
Remember it is easier to damage the speaker by using a small amplifier driven into distortion by too much volume, possibly with bass and treble boost, than by using a larger amplifier which has power in reserve. If in doubt, ask the advice of your retailer or consultant.

Single, bi-wire and bi-amp connections

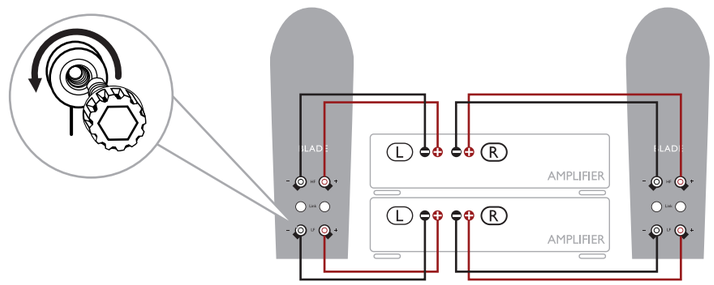




Single



Bi-wire



Bi-amp

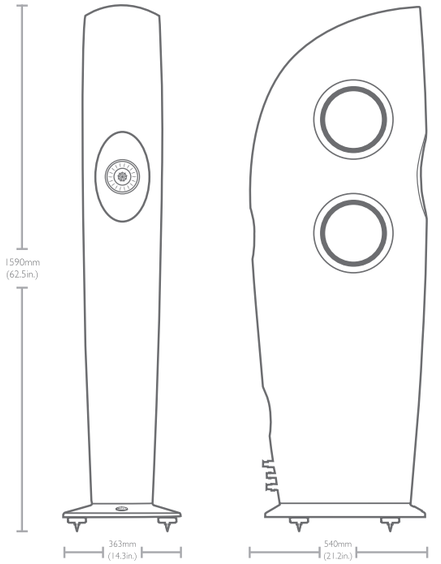
Speaker cables. Poor quality cables can seriously compromise the overall sound of your hi-fi system. KEF recommends that high quality speaker cable be used for connecting your Blade speakers. It is good practice to keep the cables as short as possible.

The left and right channel speaker cables should, wherever possible, be the same length otherwise there may be a perceptible change in output level between the speakers.

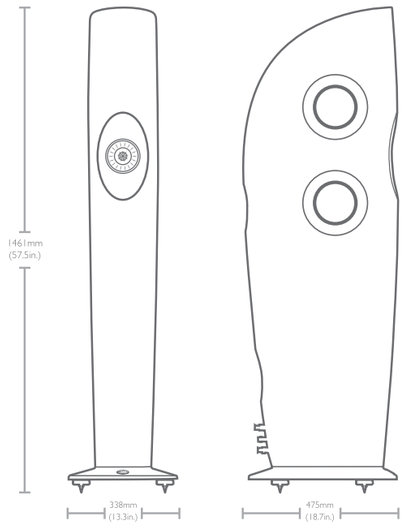
Specifications

Model	BLADE	BLADE TWO
Design	Three-way bass reflex, Single apparent source driver configuration	Three-way bass reflex, Single apparent source driver configuration
Drive units	Uni-Q driver array: MF: 125mm (5in.) Li-Mg-Al /LCP hybrid cone HF: 25mm (1in.) vented aluminium dome Bass units: LF: 4 x 225mm (9in.) with force cancelling	Uni-Q driver array: MF: 125mm (5in.) Li-Mg-Al /LCP hybrid cone HF: 25mm (1in.) vented aluminium dome Bass units: LF: 4 x 165mm (6.5in.) with force cancelling
Frequency range free field (-6dB)	28Hz - 45kHz	34Hz - 45kHz
Frequency range typical in room bass response (-6dB)	20Hz	25Hz
Frequency response (±3dB)	40Hz - 35kHz	40Hz - 35kHz
Crossover frequencies	350Hz, 2.3kHz	320Hz, 2.4kHz
Amplifier requirements	50 - 400W	50 - 400W
Sensitivity (2.83V/1m)	91dB	90dB
Harmonic distortion 2nd and 3rd harmonics (90dB, 1m)	<0.5% 40Hz - 100kHz <0.2% 200Hz - 10kHz	<0.5% 40Hz - 100kHz <0.2% 200Hz - 10kHz
Maximum output (SPL) (peak sound pressure level at 1m with pink noise)	117dB	116dB
Impedance	4 Ohms (3.2 Ohms min.)	4 Ohms (3.2 Ohms min.)
Weight	57.2 kg (126 lbs)	35.3 kg (77.8 lbs)
Dimensions - with plinth (H x W x D)	1590 x 363 x 540 mm 62.5 x 14.3 x 21.2in.	1461 x 338 x 475 mm 57.5 x 13.3 x 18.7in.
Custom Colours	Piano black, Snow white, Racing red, Warm metallic grey, Light metallic silver, Frosted blue, Frosted copper black	Piano black, Snow white, Racing red, Warm metallic grey, Light metallic silver, Frosted blue, Frosted copper black

BLADE



BLADE TWO




BLADE
LINK