

Audience ClairAudient Bellare Loudspeaker System

Owner's Manual

Dear Valued Audience Customer,

Congratulations on your purchase of the Audience ClairAudient Bellare loudspeaker system.

Bellare represents decades of Audience loudspeaker development, combining our wideband timewave driver technology with an internally powered bass system, DSP control, and Automatic Room Correction (ARC).

This manual will guide you through unpacking, positioning, installation, amplifier connection, ARC calibration, and final adjustment of your Bellare loudspeakers.

We encourage you to read these instructions completely before beginning installation.

Thank you for choosing Audience. We hope your Bellare loudspeakers provide many years of exceptional musical enjoyment.

The Audience Team

1. Before You Begin

The Bellare loudspeakers are substantial in size and weight. We recommend moving each shipping carton close to the approximate final location of the speaker before beginning the unboxing process.

Do not attempt to lift the loudspeaker vertically out of a carton lying on the floor. The recommended procedure allows the Bellare to remain upright and slide from its carton.

When handling the loudspeaker, keep your hands near the lower portion of the cabinet to maintain a low center of gravity.

Take particular care not to touch or place pressure on any of the driver units.

Whenever practical, retain all original cartons, foam inserts, protective covers, and other packing materials. The original packaging provides the safest means of protecting the Bellare should the loudspeakers ever need to be transported.

2. Included Accessories

Accessories are packed within both Bellare cartons.

The paperwork, ARC setup instructions, calibrated microphone, microphone cable, remote control, microphone stand, and one Audience forte f3 powerChord are located in the top foam insert of one speaker carton.

The second Audience forte f3 powerChord is packed in the other carton.

A soft microfiber cloth is also supplied for removing fingerprints or smudges that may occur while unpacking and positioning the loudspeakers.

Please examine both cartons and all compartments within the foam packaging carefully before discarding or storing the packing material.

After both speakers have been unpacked, compare all included items with the supplied accessory checklist.

3. Unpacking the Bellare

Move each carton close to the approximate location where its loudspeaker will be installed.

Stand the carton upright and open it.

The grille covers are positioned alongside the loudspeaker cabinet and protected with bubble wrap. Carefully remove the grilles and place them in a safe location.

With the loudspeaker remaining upright, carefully slide it from the carton. This is considerably easier and safer than attempting to lift the speaker from a carton lying horizontally.

Hold the cabinet near its lower portion while moving it and avoid contact with the drivers.

Once the loudspeaker has been slid from the carton, remove the top and side foam inserts.

Cut the tape securing the lower foam sections. Gently lean the loudspeaker slightly to one side and remove the first section of bottom foam. Then lean the speaker slightly in the opposite direction and remove the remaining section.

Carefully remove the protective cloth cover.

Repeat the procedure for the second loudspeaker.

Inspect both loudspeakers and verify the contents with the supplied checklist before proceeding with installation.

4. Caring for the Finish

The Bellare's high-quality finish should be treated with appropriate care.

A soft microfiber cloth is included for gently removing fingerprints or smudges from the cabinet.

For small superficial surface scratches that may occur from time to time, Audience recommends Adam's Scratch & Swirl Remover. Apply any polishing product carefully and conservatively, following the product manufacturer's instructions.

Never allow cleaning or polishing products to come in contact with the loudspeaker drivers.

Avoid placing objects on top of the loudspeaker cabinet that could scratch or otherwise damage the finish.

5. Adjusting the Stillpoints Isolation footers

Each isolator has a threaded stud corresponding to a threaded receptacle in the Bellare footer bracket.

Adjust their individual heights by rotating them inward or outward until the loudspeaker is both level and completely stable. Leave both body and cap of the Stillpoints, loose by 1/2 to 1 whole turn. **Do not leave either piece tightened snugly.**

The loudspeaker should not rock when gently tested for stability.

Repeat this procedure for the second Bellare.

6. Initial Loudspeaker Positioning

Bellare loudspeakers can be positioned using the same basic principles as other high-performance loudspeaker systems, followed by fine placement adjustments.

As a starting point in a typical listening room, position the two loudspeakers approximately 6 to 10 feet apart.

Room dimensions and acoustics may require different spacing. Smaller or particularly large rooms may benefit from positioning outside this suggested starting range.

Position the Bellare loudspeakers with the side-mounted woofers facing inward, toward one another.

Begin with the speakers toed in toward the primary listening position so that the loudspeaker axes point approximately toward the listener's ears from the center seating position.

When seated in the primary listening position, very little of the sides of the cabinets should be visible.

This should be considered a starting position rather than an absolute requirement. Final positioning and toe-in can be adjusted by listening after the system has been connected and ARC calibration has been completed.

Grilles

Use of the Bellare grilles is optional.

For optimum sonic performance, Audience recommends listening with the grilles removed. Leaving the grilles installed may result in a slight reduction in ultimate sound quality.

7. External Amplifier Requirements

Bellare incorporates its own 300-watt DSP bass amplifier, but an external stereo amplifier or pair of monaural amplifiers is required to drive the 3-inch wideband timewave drivers.

Bellare is designed to be compatible with a broad range of high-quality amplifiers.

The Bellare Monopole version presents a nominal 8-ohm impedance, while the Bellare Bi-pole version presents a nominal 4-ohm impedance.

As a general recommendation, a high-quality amplifier capable of at least 30 watts continuous output will work very well with the system. However, depending on the quality of the amplifier sometimes as little as 10 watts into 4 ohms (Bellare Bi-pole) or 20 watts into 8 ohms (Bellare monopole) can perform very well. Naturally, higher output amplifiers are also very compatible.

One reason Bellare can be used successfully with relatively modest-power external amplifiers is its unusual division of amplification responsibilities.

Below approximately 140 Hz, the external amplifier sees a rising impedance, reducing the amount of low-frequency current and power it must provide. The Bellare's internal 300-watt DSP amplifier supplies the power required by the bass system.

The external amplifier is therefore relieved of much of the demanding low-frequency workload normally imposed by a full-range passive loudspeaker.

This architecture allows Bellare to combine moderate sensitivity with compatibility with a wide range of high-quality amplifiers.

8. Connecting the External Amplifier

Turn off the associated equipment before making speaker connections.

The user's external amplifier connects directly to the Bellare's speaker input terminals.

Bellare uses standard 5-way binding posts:

Red = Positive (+)

Black = Negative (-)

Observe correct polarity when connecting both loudspeakers.

Connect the positive output terminal of the external amplifier to the red positive terminal on the corresponding Bellare. Connect the negative amplifier terminal to the Bellare's black negative terminal.

Repeat for the second channel.

Bellare is internally wired so that the external amplifier's signal also provides the input signal to the internal DSP bass amplifier. Consequently, no additional line-level signal connection to the internal bass amplifier is required.

9. Connecting AC Power

Each Bellare contains its own DSP-controlled bass amplifier and therefore requires connection to AC power.

Connect one of the supplied Audience forte f3 powerChords to each Bellare and then to an appropriate AC power outlet.

After the external amplifier(s) has been properly connected to the loudspeakers and the Bellare internal amplifiers have been connected to AC power, the internal DSP amplifiers can be switched on with the on/off switch on the back of the speaker.

The system is now ready for ARC calibration.

10. Automatic Room Correction (ARC)

Bellare incorporates Automatic Room Correction to optimize low-frequency performance for the acoustic characteristics of the listening room.

A calibrated measurement microphone, microphone cable, and microphone stand are supplied with the system.

ARC calibration should be performed after the loudspeakers have been placed in their intended listening positions.

Important

ARC calibration must be performed separately for each Bellare loudspeaker.

Each Bellare contains its own DSP-controlled bass amplifier and stores its own individual ARC calibration.

Complete the entire calibration procedure for the first loudspeaker before repositioning the microphone and repeating the process for the second loudspeaker.

Once ARC calibration has been completed, the calibration is retained by the system and does not need to be repeated simply because the internal DSP amplifier has been switched off.

ARC should be recalibrated if a loudspeaker is moved significantly or if its acoustic environment is substantially changed.

11. ARC Preparation

Begin with the first Bellare to be calibrated.

1. Position both Bellare loudspeakers in their intended listening locations with the side-mounted woofers facing inward toward one another.
2. Turn on the internal bass amplifier of the Bellare being calibrated.

3. Set the Amplifier Auto/On selector to ON.

Do not use the Auto-On setting.

4. Establish the following initial amplifier control settings:

Volume: 12 o'clock

Crossover: 3 o'clock

Phase: 0 degrees

5. Place the supplied calibrated microphone securely in its stand.
6. Position the microphone on the floor with the microphone pointed directly toward the ceiling.
7. Position the microphone one meter from the axis of the side-mounted woofer of the Bellare being calibrated.
8. Connect the microphone to that Bellare's internal amplifier, at the mic input designated on the amplifier on the back of the speaker.
9. Make the listening room as quiet as reasonably possible. Turn off HVAC equipment, ceiling fans, and other significant sources of ambient noise.

The first Bellare is now ready for ARC calibration.

12. ARC Calibration Procedure

Step 1 — Select Calibration Mode on the amplifier on the rear of the speaker.

Press the ARC Preset button until CAL (Calibration) mode is selected.

The blue indicator light should illuminate, confirming that calibration mode is active.

Step 2 — Begin the Scan

Press and hold the ARC Preset button until the audio-frequency scan begins. This requires approximately five seconds.

Step 3 — Allow Calibration to Complete

Allow the complete scan to run without interruption.

Calibration may take up to approximately two minutes.

Avoid talking, walking near the microphone, or introducing unnecessary noise while the measurement is taking place.

Step 4 — Select Music Mode

When calibration is complete, press the ARC Preset button repeatedly until the red MUSIC mode is selected.

Do not use Movie mode for normal Bellare operation.

Step 5 — Disconnect the Microphone

Disconnect the calibration microphone from the first Bellare.

The ARC calibration for the first loudspeaker is now complete.

13. Calibrating the Second Bellare

Move the microphone to the corresponding position one meter from the axis of the second Bellare's side-mounted woofer.

Again, the microphone should be positioned on the floor in its stand and pointed directly toward the ceiling.

Connect the microphone to the second Bellare.

Confirm that the second speaker's controls are set to the same initial positions:

Volume: 12 o'clock

Crossover: 3 o'clock

Phase: 0 degrees

Amplifier: ON, not Auto-On

Repeat the complete ARC calibration procedure described in the previous section.

When calibration has been completed, select the red MUSIC mode and disconnect the microphone.

Both Bellare loudspeakers are now individually calibrated for the room and ready for final listening adjustment.

14. Final Listening Adjustment

After ARC calibration has been completed for both loudspeakers, allow the system to play familiar music and make any final positioning or level adjustments by ear.

Begin with the Bellare loudspeakers in the recommended starting position of 12: O'clock for the volume control and with the side-mounted woofers facing inward toward each other.

Small changes in speaker spacing, distance from the front wall, and toe-in can significantly affect soundstage width, image focus, tonal balance, and overall integration with the room.

If desired, make these adjustments gradually while listening from the primary seating position.

The bass level may also be fine-tuned using the supplied remote control.

Make only small adjustments at a time. The objective is not to create exaggerated bass, but to achieve a natural low-frequency balance that integrates seamlessly with the wideband drivers.

Once the preferred positioning and bass level have been established, no further routine adjustment should be necessary.

If either loudspeaker is moved substantially, or if the room arrangement changes significantly, Audience recommends repeating the ARC calibration procedure.

15. Normal Operation

For normal listening, the internal DSP bass amplifiers should remain in MUSIC mode.

Use the Bellare loudspeakers as you would any high-quality loudspeaker system, with your external amplifier providing power to the wideband driver array and the Bellare's internal amplifiers powering the bass system.

The internal ARC calibration remains stored when the system is switched off and does not need to be repeated each time the loudspeakers are powered on.

The Bellare may be left connected to AC power during normal use. If the system will not be used for an extended period, or during severe electrical storms, Audience recommends switching off and disconnecting the loudspeakers from AC power.

Always reduce system volume before switching associated components on or off.

Avoid operating the loudspeakers at levels where the external amplifier is audibly clipping or producing obvious distortion.

16. Care and Maintenance

The Bellare loudspeaker system requires no routine internal maintenance.

Keep the cabinet surfaces clean using the supplied microfiber cloth or another soft, non-abrasive cloth.

Do not use household cleaners, solvents, abrasive compounds, or excessive moisture on the cabinet.

Never apply cleaning products directly to the loudspeaker drivers.

Also inspect speaker-cable connections and AC power connections periodically to ensure that they remain secure.

If the loudspeakers are to be moved or shipped, Audience strongly recommends using the original cartons, foam inserts, protective covers, and packing materials.

17. If You Need Assistance

If you have trouble with installation, ARC calibration, system setup, or operation, please contact your authorized Audience dealer or Audience directly.

When requesting assistance, please provide the Bellare model, serial numbers, associated amplifier and system information, and a brief description of the issue.

Audience and its authorized dealers will be pleased to assist with setup, system matching, and optimization.

Audience

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