

# *James*

BY SONANCE

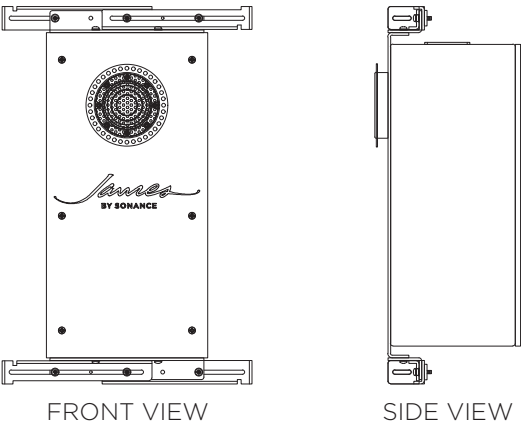
SMALL APERTURE SERIES

SA68

**INSTALLATION AND SUPPORT MANUAL**

# SMALL APERTURE SPEAKER

SA68



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- (2) SA Mounting Brackets
- (4) 8-32 x 1/2 Pan Head Machine Screws
- (4) #8 Lock Washers
- (4) #8 Flat Washers
- (4) 6/32 Course Head Screws
- (1) SA Space Saver Accessory Kit | 60610
  - (1) 3" Round Space Saver
  - (1) 4" Round Space Saver
  - (1) 3" Square Space Saver
  - (1) 4" Square Space Saver

## REQUIRED PARTS (NOT INCLUDED)

- (1) SA68-MOD Speaker Module | 60598
- (1) SA Trim Kit (requires one of the following, see chart on page 6)
  - Retro Fit Trim (3" Round, 3" Square, 4" Round, or 4" Square)
  - Sheetrock Trim Retro Fit Trim (3" Round, 3" Square, 4" Round, or 4" Square)
  - Solid Surface Trim Retro Fit Trim (3" Round, 3" Square, 4" Round, or 4" Square)
- (1+) Spacer Ring(s)
  - SA3-SP-0.125 1/8" SA Spacer | 60312
  - SA3-SP-0.375 3/8" SA Spacer | 60311

## INTRODUCTION

Thank you for selecting the SA68 James by Sonance Small Aperture Series Speaker. Please take the time to carefully read through the manual, study the illustrations and system diagrams. This extra time can lead to trouble-free operation and continued musical enjoyment.

**IMPORTANT: Read this section in its entirety before attempting use of the speaker.**

## IMPORTANT SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

Always follow these basic safety precautions when using your speaker to reduce the risk of fire, electric shock, and injury to people or objects.

1. Read all the safety and operating instructions before operating the speaker and retain them for future reference.
2. Adhere to all warnings and precautions listed on the speaker and in the operating instructions.
3. Follow all operating instructions.

## ASSEMBLING THE PARTS

The included SA Brackets are designed for 16" on-center constructions and can accommodate construction from 7.9" to 16.75" inner spacing between joists.

1. Attach the brackets to the SA68-ENC using the supplied 8/32 screws, lock washers, and flat washers (see Figure 1).

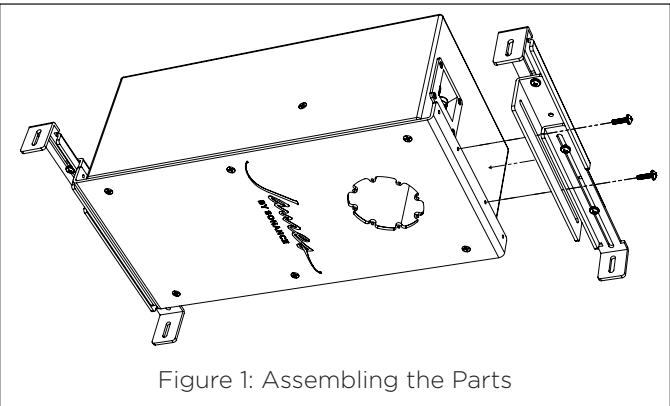


Figure 1: Assembling the Parts

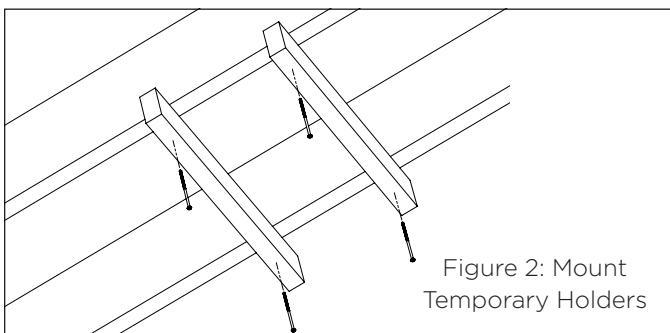
2. Tighten the screws just enough to allow movement for adjustment during installation.

**IMPORTANT: This James Small Aperture Series Speaker is installed behind the surface during pre-construction framing, or as a renovation or remodel installation. Both installations will require drywall patching, mudding, and/or other final finish to the surface.**

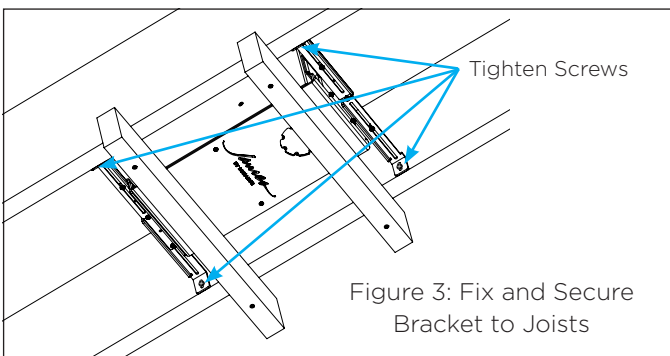
**NOTE: For Solid Surface installations like wood, begin with the installation steps on page 4 in the section titled SOLID SURFACE INSTALLATION with 3" or 4" Solid Surface Trim Kit (Solid Surface Trimless Grille). Upon completion of the outlined steps, return to this section to continue installing the speaker enclosure.**

## INSTALLING THE SA68 SPEAKER ENCLOSURE

1. Mount temporary holders to the joists in the installation location. Cut two 2x4s or 1x2s a few inches wider than the ceiling joists. Then with a couple of drywall screws, mount the temporary holders to the joists (drywall screws not included). The temporary holders will help hold the speaker in place and help position the speaker flush to the future drywall (see Figure 2).



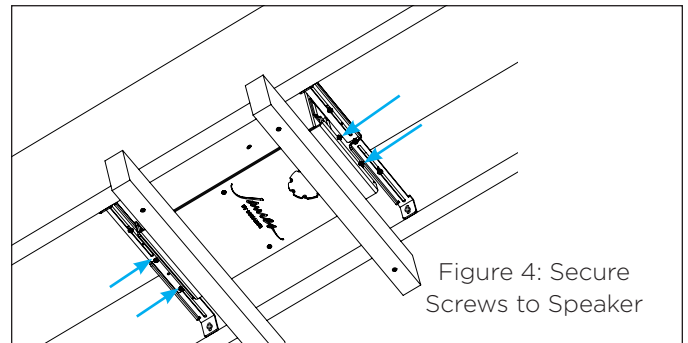
2. Position the SA68 Speaker Enclosure on top of the temporary holders.
3. Fix the brackets to the joists by expanding each bracket fully between the joists (see Figure 3).



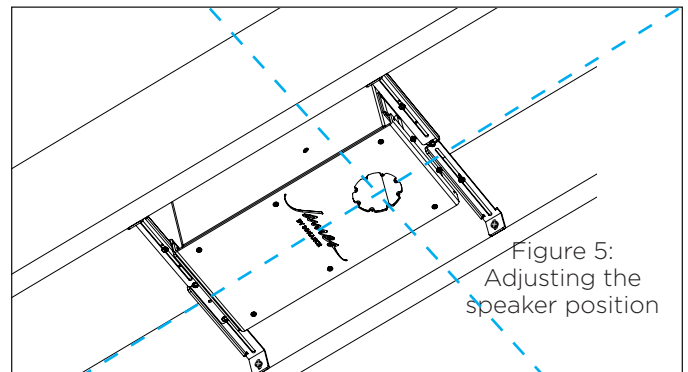
4. Secure the brackets to the joists using drywall screws. Make certain each bracket is flush with the joists. Drywall screws not included.
5. Adjust the side-to-side position of the speaker as needed by sliding the bracket, then tighten bracket

screws, until reaching the desired position.

6. Tighten screws enough to securely fix the bracket to the speaker enclosure. Be careful not to strip the threads on the brackets (see Figure 4).

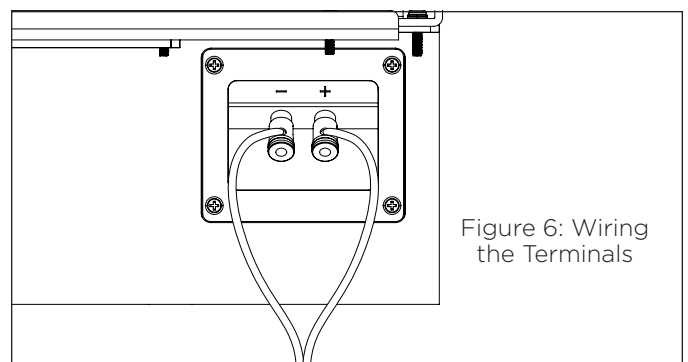


7. Remove drywall screws to loosen and remove the temporary holders.
8. Ensure that the face of the speaker is plumb with the joists.
9. Adjust if needed (loosen the bracket slightly and adjust the speaker's position up or down or as required (see Figure 5).



10. Prepare the speaker wire by stripping the wire jacket and inserting the wire strands into the appropriate terminals on the SA68 Speaker Enclosure. Requires minimum 18-gauge wire or heavier gauges for longer wire runs (see Figure 6).

**IMPORTANT: Connect the speaker module to the enclosure opening to test for functionality BEFORE installing drywall over the enclosure. Once tested, remove the module and reserve for later.**

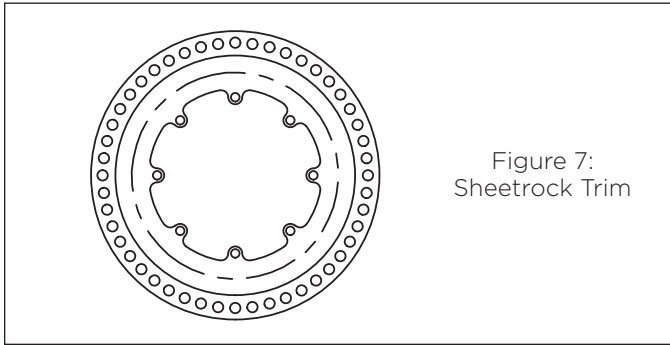


## PREPARING THE ENCLOSURE OPENING AND FINISHING THE SURFACE

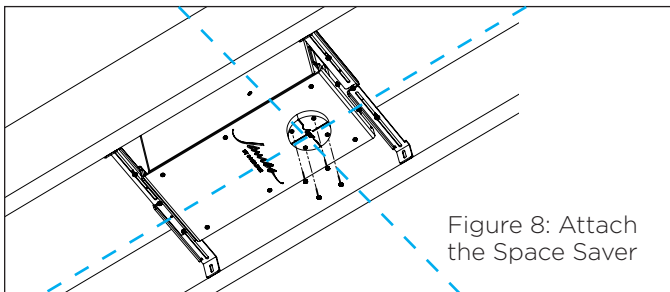
Please refer to the section appropriate for your installation type and application.

### DRYWALL | GYPSUM BOARD INSTALLATION WITH 3" OR 4" SHEETROCK TRIM KIT

1. To achieve a trimless grille finish in drywall/gypsum board applications, use the SA3-GRILLE-R-SR, SA3-GRILLE-S-SR, SA4-GRILLE-R-SR, or SA4-GRILLE-S-SR Sheetrock Trim Kit. These Trim Kits are available in 3" or 4", round or square, and allow for mudding up to the grille for a clean finish (see Figure 7).

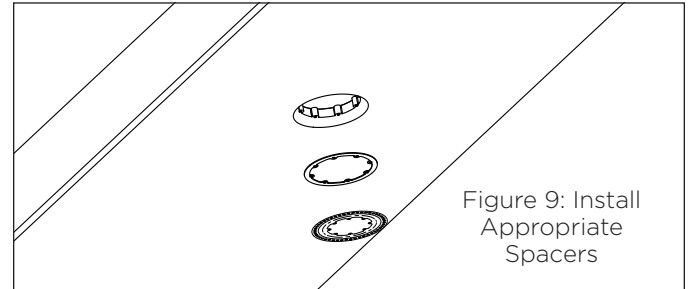


2. Add the appropriate size and shape Space Saver (3" or 4", round or square) to cover the opening and secure with four screws into the available hole threads, ensuring proper orientation and alignment. Use the cross hairs of the space saver along with a laser line to find proper alignment with surrounding room elements like lighting hardware and architectural sight lines (see Figure 8).



3. Once the opening has been prepared and is protected by the space saver, proceed to installing the drywall ceiling over the speaker and around the space saver. Complete steps 4-6 before proceeding with taping and mudding drywall seams.
4. Once drywall/gypsum board has been installed over the speaker and surrounding the space saver, remove the Space Saver and install the appropriate Sheetrock Trim Kit using four of the supplied 6-32 coarse head screws.
5. All trims accommodate 0.5" (12.7mm) surface thickness. If the surface exceeds 0.5" thickness,

install the appropriate spacers between the trim kit and enclosure to accommodate the surface depth. James SA3 spacers are available in 1/8" (3.2mm) and 3/8" (9.5mm) and can be stacked as required to achieve the correct depth of the trim to the surface (SA3-SP-0.125 and SA3-SP-0.375). Spacers can also be custom made to accommodate up to 6" (152mm) of surface thickness (see Figure 9).



6. Insert the foam dust guard into the trim kit.
7. Proceed to finishing the surface, taping and mudding up to the trim kit. Paint over the entire opening; the foam dust guard will protect the speaker opening.
8. After the paint has fully dried, remove and discard the Space Saver and foam dust guard.
9. See steps for **INSTALLING THE SA68-MOD SPEAKER MODULE**.

### SOLID SURFACE INSTALLATION WITH 3" OR 4" SOLID SURFACE TRIM KIT

Once the Small Aperture Enclosure and Module have been installed and tested, the speaker location can be identified on your ceiling material and precisely cut for solid surface ceilings. The SA3 Router Template (60370) or SA4 Router Template (60371) is recommended.

#### ATTACHING THE PLEXIGLASS ROUTER TEMPLATE

There are two methods for attaching the plexiglass router template to the ceiling boards:

- **Using Clamps:** If feasible, use a pair of clamps to secure the router template. Center the template's etched crosshair markings on the target location and tighten the clamps.
- **Using Double-Sided Carpet Tape:** If clamps cannot be used due to location or spacing constraints, apply double-sided carpet tape to temporarily adhere the router template to your material.

#### CUTTING A SQUARE OPENING

1. Once the template is in place, drill a hole in any corner using a 3/8" drill bit as a starting point.
2. Using a 1/8" spiral router bit with a 5/16" bushing, carefully follow the square template to outline the cut. This will create a pre-cut line to follow with a jigsaw.

3. Be careful not to cut too close to the edge of the template.
4. Drill the remaining three holes in each corner, ensuring you stay within the pre-cut groove.
5. Using a jigsaw, rough cut the opening, staying at least 1/4" away from the edge of the router template.
6. We recommend this approach so that a 1/4" spiral down-cutting bit with a 7/16" bushing can precisely complete the outlined cut of the template.
7. After making the cut, verify that the opening is accurate before loosening the clamps or removing the tape and template.
8. Place the grille into the cut to check if any edges require adjustment. If necessary, use a corner chisel for corners and a file for additional adjustments.
9. Remove the router template and place the grille into the material to ensure a flush fit.

### CUTTING A ROUND OPENING

1. Using the template, drill a single hole in the center of the material.
2. Using a 1/8" spiral router bit with a 5/16" bushing, carefully follow the circular template to outline the cut for the jigsaw.
3. Rough cut the opening along the guideline with a jigsaw, staying at least 1/4" away from the edge of the router template.
4. Using a 1/4" spiral down-cutting bit with a 7/16" bushing, complete the outlined cut of the template.
5. Make minor adjustments to the material as needed to ensure a precise fit.
6. Remove the router template and place the grille into the material to ensure a flush fit.

See steps for **INSTALLING THE SA68-MOD SPEAKER MODULE**.

## DRYWALL | SOLID SURFACE INSTALLATION WITH 3" OR 4" RETRO FIT TRIM KIT

The James Retro Fit Trim Kit (with bezel grille that sits proud of an installation surface) can be selected for any surface installation (drywall or solid surface). This trim allows for greater opening coverage to better fit into drop ceiling installations or into surfaces where the opening cutout has a gap or imperfections.

1. Add the appropriate size and shape Space Saver (3" or 4", round or square) to cover the opening and secure with four screws into the available hole threads, ensuring proper orientation and

alignment. Use the cross hairs of the space saver along with a laser line to find proper alignment with surrounding room elements like lighting hardware and architectural sight lines.

2. Once the opening has been prepared and is protected by the space saver, proceed to installing the drywall or solid surface ceiling over the speaker and around the space saver. Refer to the **SOLID SURFACE INSTALLATION** section for instructions on creating precise cutouts for the speaker in a solid surface material such as tongue and groove wood ceilings.
3. Once drywall/gypsum board has been installed over the speaker and surrounding the space saver, remove the Space Saver and install the appropriate Retro Fit Trim Kit using four of the supplied 6-32 coarse head screws.
4. All trims accommodate 0.5" (12.7mm) surface thickness. If the surface exceeds 0.5" thickness, install the appropriate spacers between the trim kit and enclosure to accommodate the surface depth. James SA3 Spacers are available in 1/8" (3.2mm) and 3/8" (9.5mm) and can be stacked as required to achieve the correct depth of the trim to the surface (SA3-SP-0.125 and SA3-SP-0.375). Spacers can also be custom made to accommodate up to 6" (152mm) of surface thickness (see Figure 10).

See steps for **INSTALLING THE SA68-MOD SPEAKER**

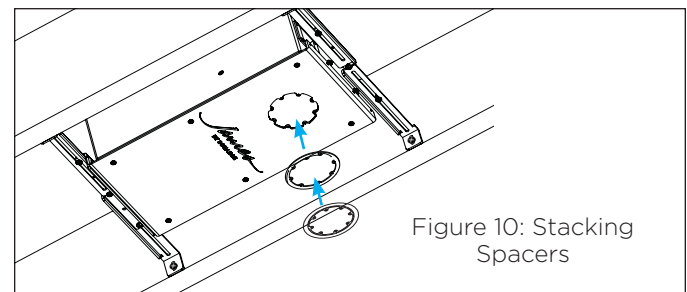


Figure 10: Stacking Spacers

MODULE.

## INSTALLING THE SA68-MOD SPEAKER MODULE

1. If applicable, remove the foam guard or space saver to reveal the speaker enclosure opening.
2. Connect the 2-pin connector from the enclosure to the 2-pin connector on the back of the speaker module. Ensure the connector orientation is correct.
3. Insert the speaker module into the opening and secure it to the enclosure using four screws.



**IMPORTANT: After installing the speaker module, check for and remove any cable obstructions inside the port. The cable can block air flow and hinder the speaker performance.**

- Do this by shining a flashlight into the port openings that surround the installed speaker module.
- Perform a full 360° check, closely inspecting the entire length of the port inside the enclosure around the entire perimeter of the port.
- Look for any area where the cable is bunched up and potentially blocking the port.
- If any obstructions are found, use a long, thin tool such as a flat blade screwdriver to push the cable obstruction further into the port until the port is 100% clear.
- Best practice is to push the screwdriver into every opening around the port and keep pushing until the cable is cleared out of the way.
- After this process, double check with a flashlight to confirm there are no port obstructions.

4. Complete the installation by testing the speaker with an audio source. Verify proper functionality and sound quality across different frequency ranges.
5. Attach the included adhesive foam strips in four equidistant locations on the grille flange.
6. Install the press-fit grille that matches your chosen trim style.

## TRIM KIT OPTIONS

SURFACE	GRILLE	MODEL   SKU
Sheet Rock	3" Round Trimless	SA3-GRILLE-R-SR   60315
	3" Square Trimless	SA3-GRILLE-S-SR   60313
	4" Round Trimless	SA4-GRILLE-R-SR   60309
	4" Square Trimless	SA3-GRILLE-S-SR   60306
Retro Fit	3" Round Bezel Proud	SA3-GRILLE-R-RF   60316
	3" Square Bezel Proud	SA3-GRILLE-S-RF   60201
	4" Round Bezel Proud	SA4-GRILLE-R-RF   60310
	4" Square Bezel Proud	SA4-GRILLE-S-RF   60307
Solid Surface	3" Round Trimless	SA3-GRILLE-R-SS   60314
	3" Square Trimless	SA3-GRILLE-S-SS   60268
	4" Round Trimless	SA4-GRILLE-R-SS   60308
	4" Square Trimless	SA4-GRILLE-S-SS   60305

## TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

### SA68

SKU	SA68-ENC   60597 + SA68-MOD   60598
Woofer	6.5" (165mm) Thin Ply Carbon Fiber/Rohacell cone, rubber surround
Wide Bandwidth Driver	2.0" (50mm) Thin Ply Carbon Fiber cone, rubber surround
Frequency Response	45Hz - 25kHz +/-3dB
Frequency Range	35Hz-30kHz +/-10dB
Impedance	8 ohms nominal; 6 ohms minimum
Power Handling	5 watts minimum; 150 watts maximum
Sensitivity	82dB SPL (2.83V/1 meter)
Enclosure Only (WxHxD)	7.75" x 15.625" x 6.375" (196.85mm x 396.88mm x 161.93mm)
Enclosure With Bracket (WxHxD)	7.9" x 18.125" x 6.375" (200.66mm x 460.38mm x 161.93mm)
Minimum Installation Width	7.9" (200.66mm)
Maximum Installation Width	16.75" (425.45mm)
Shipping Weight	22 lbs

# WARRANTY

James by Sonance warrants to the original end-user purchaser that this Sonance or James-brand product ("Product"), when purchased from an authorized Sonance or James Dealer/Distributor, will be free from defects in materials and workmanship under normal use, subject to the following terms:

**LIMITED LIFETIME WARRANTY:** If installed indoors, James Small Aperture speakers are covered by a limited lifetime warranty for the original purchaser, ensuring long-term performance and reliability.

**LIMITED FIVE (5) YEAR WARRANTY:** If installed outdoors or in moisture-dense environments such as spas, showers, or saunas, James SA speakers are covered by a limited five (5) year warranty from the date of purchase.

**GRILLE WARRANTY:** The speaker grille is warranted for five (5) years for both indoor and outdoor installations. This warranty applies only to products purchased from authorized James by Sonance dealers and installed in accordance with manufacturer guidelines. It does not cover damage resulting from misuse, accidents, unauthorized modifications, improper installation, or normal wear and tear.

**EXCLUSIONS: TO THE EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW, THE WARRANTY SET FORTH ABOVE IS IN LIEU OF, AND EXCLUSIVE OF, ALL OTHER WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, AND IS THE SOLE AND EXCLUSIVE WARRANTY PROVIDED BY SONANCE. ALL OTHER EXPRESS AND IMPLIED WARRANTIES, INCLUDING THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY, IMPLIED WARRANTY OF FITNESS FOR USE, AND IMPLIED WARRANTY OF FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE ARE SPECIFICALLY EXCLUDED. NO ONE IS AUTHORIZED TO MAKE OR MODIFY ANY WARRANTIES ON BEHALF OF SONANCE.**

The warranty stated above is the sole and exclusive remedy and James by Sonance's performance shall constitute full and final satisfaction of all obligations, liabilities and claims with respect to the Product.

**IN ANY EVENT, SONANCE SHALL NOT BE LIABLE FOR CONSEQUENTIAL, INCIDENTAL, ECONOMIC, PROPERTY, BODILY INJURY, OR PERSONAL INJURY DAMAGES ARISING FROM THE PRODUCT, ANY BREACH OF THIS WARRANTY OR OTHERWISE.**

This warranty statement gives you specific legal rights, and you may have other rights which vary from state to state. Some states do not allow the exclusion of implied warranties or limitations of remedies, so the above exclusions and limitations may not apply. If your state does not allow disclaimer of implied warranties, the duration of such implied warranties is limited to period of Sonance's express warranty.

Your Product Model and Description: James SA68 Small Aperture Speaker.

**Additional Limitations and Exclusions from Warranty Coverage:** The warranty described above is non-transferable, applies only to the initial installation of the Product, does not include installation of any repaired or replaced Product, does not include damage to allied or associated equipment which may result for any reason from use with this Product, and does not include labor or parts caused by accident, disaster, negligence, improper installation, misuse (e.g. overdriving the amplifier or speaker, excessive heat or cold or humidity, outdoor installation), or from service or repair which has not been authorized by Sonance.

**Obtaining Authorized Service:** To qualify for the warranty, you must contact your authorized Sonance Dealer/Installer or call Sonance Customer Service at (949) 492-7777, must obtain a return merchandise number (RMA), and must deliver the Product to Sonance shipping prepaid during the warranty period, together with the original sales receipt, or invoice or other satisfactory proof of purchase.

In order to initiate a warranty claim:

1. Contact Sonance Technical Support with a description of the fault, the product's serial number and the date of purchase from an authorized Sonance dealer at: [technicalsupport@sonance.com](mailto:technicalsupport@sonance.com)
2. Sonance Technical Support will follow-up and may request additional troubleshooting.
3. Once a determination has been made on the fault, Sonance Customer Service will follow-up by email. Please have a scanned copy of your Sonance Small Aperture Speaker sales invoice ready to send upon request to document the speaker's warranty status.
4. Sonance Customer Service will provide an RMA number to be included on the shipping label of the packaging. Please send the speaker back in its original factory carton, which has been specifically designed to protect the speaker during transit.

Contact us at: [www.sonance.com/company/contact](http://www.sonance.com/company/contact)



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