

QBx 25 Tower  
Owner's Manual

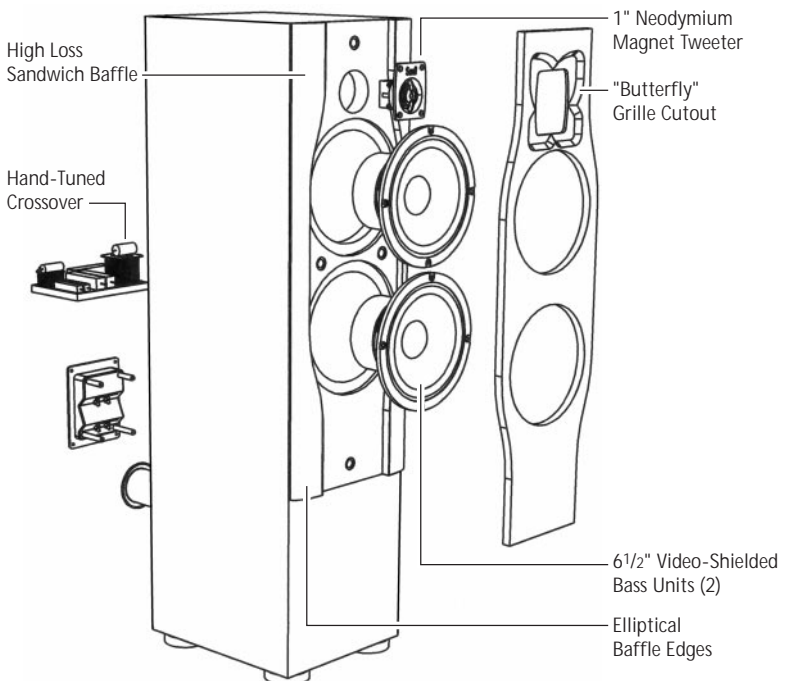
# QBx 25

Tower Speaker System

Snell

## SPECIFICATIONS

Frequency Response ( $\pm 3\text{dB}$ )	45Hz–20kHz
Recommended Amplifier Power	15–150 watts
Nominal Impedance	4 ohms
Sensitivity (2.83v at 1m)	89dB SPL
Tweeter (video-shielded)	1-inch (25mm) black-anodized aluminum dome with neodymium magnet structure and multi-finned aluminum heatsink
Bass Units (video-shielded)	6 $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch (165mm) polymer chassis, HDA cone and rubber surround
Cabinet Construction:	3/4-inch MDF walls
Composite Baffle Construction:	5/8-inch high density fiberboard, specialty adhesive, and 5/8-inch high-density fibreboard
Grille	Black cloth
Dimensions (HxWxD)	33 $\frac{5}{8}$ x 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 10 (855 x 216 x 254 mm)
Shipping Weight	40 lbs. (18 kg) each
Finish	Black Oak, Cherry, others to special order



## Product Description

The QBx 25 (“Quiet Box”) Tower is a compact and slim floorstanding loudspeaker providing exceptional performance and value. The QBx 25 features unique cabinet construction, superior drive units, 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> way design and a complex crossover, which contribute to its superior sound quality.

## QBx Technology

In an ideal speaker, the speaker cabinet is inert and resonance free. It should have smooth contours without projections that cause reflections which degrade high frequency response. In short, the cabinet should not negatively affect the sound of the loudspeaker. QBx (Quiet box) refers to a number of techniques that reduce the detrimental effects that typically come from the resonances and reflections of ordinary cabinets.

### “Butterfly” grille cutout

The necessary cutout area around the tweeter is given a highly irregular contour to prevent the irregular high frequency response that would otherwise occur. The contour expands and contracts around the perimeter of the tweeter, creating a “butterfly” shape.

### Elliptical baffle edges

The grille is mounted flush into the baffle. The baffle edges have large elliptical radiuses. This smooths the cabinet termination, greatly reducing the edge reflections. High frequency smoothness is preserved.

### High-Loss Sandwich Baffle

The unique high loss baffle is constructed from multiple layers of wood and a high tech adhesive. The “lossy” adhesive that laminates the two layers of speaker baffle greatly reduces cabinet resonances, resulting in purer midrange and clean, crisp bass.

### Hand-Tuned Crossover

The crossover networks were designed using sophisticated computer simulation. Final system balance is determined by exhaustive listening tests. These networks adhere to an “in-phase” or Linkwitz-Reilly design: time alignment and coherency are maintained through the transition region from driver to driver. In production, each crossover is individually tuned by technicians to within ±0.5dB of the Master Reference, ensuring predictable performance in your home.

### Drive Units

This 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> way tower uses a 1-inch black-anodized aluminum dome tweeter with a multifinned aluminum heatsink and dual 6<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>-inch bass units with High Definition Aerogel cones. The video-shielded driver complement provides unlimited placement options.

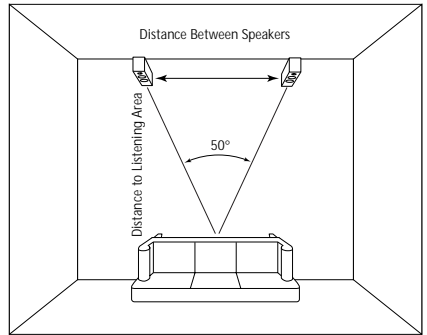
## HOW TO PLACE YOUR SPEAKER SYSTEMS

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### Speaker Separation

The distance between the speakers determines the width of the stereo image. If the speakers are placed too close together, the image will be too narrow; too far apart and the blend will suffer, creating a hole in the middle. When properly placed, your speakers will create a continuum of “virtual images” from left to right, with an illusion of sound outside, in front, and behind the speaker systems.

We recommend an angular separation of about 50 degrees (when viewed from above). This is equivalent to a separation between the speaker systems that is about 85% of the distance from the speakers to the listener location.



### Speaker Distance

Creation of sound between the speakers requires precise placement. The left and right speakers both be the same distance from the listener location. We advise using a tape measure to equalize these two distances to the primary listening position. The results will be well worth the time and effort.

### Aiming the Speakers

Your Snell speakers are designed to produce a very smooth response over as wide a range of radiated angles as possible. Like all speakers of this type the response evenness is maintained over a wider horizontal arc than vertical (assuming the long box dimension is vertical). Take this into account when placing and aiming your speakers.

### Toe-In

“Toe-in” refers to the angling of the speaker systems toward the listener location. Toe-in is a matter of taste. As the degree of toe-in increases, the stereo effect becomes more direct-sounding, like a pair of headphones. Speakers not toed-in will give a more diffuse sound with a less defined central image.

### Room-Related Bass Effects

As speakers are moved closer to rigid room boundaries – the walls, the floor, and the ceiling – the deep bass part of the sound range is accentuated. However, if speakers are too close to the room boundaries, particularly corners, the bass output can be uneven. Experiment until you find the best overall sound for your room. Choose a musical selection with a strong, continuous bass line. Repeat a short section until you have a firm impression of it in your mind, then try another speaker location. Repeat this process until you are content with the bass response you are getting. Moving your listening position will affect the sound as much as moving the speakers. Try different listener locations as well as speaker locations.

## BOUNDARY EFFECTS

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Large surfaces near your speakers will affect the level of upper bass and lower midrange frequencies. This can make voices sound unnatural. A feature to counteract this is the Bass Loading switch, with positions for Normal or Boundary. Refer to the switch on the input terminal plate.

**Normal or Freestanding** placement refers to a situation in which the XA Tower has at least a 12 inch (30cm) clearance on all four sides. Set the Bass Loading switch to Normal when the speaker is:

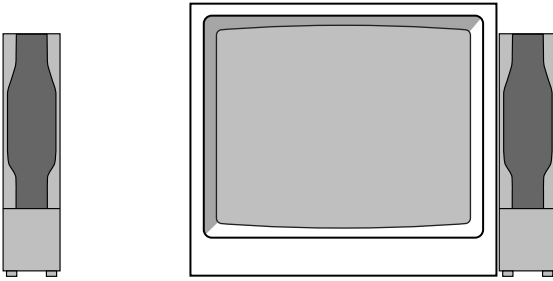
- ▶ Away from large furniture.
- ▶ Not close to walls.

Boundary placement refers to a situation in which the XA Tower is bounded on at least one side by a large object. Set the Bass Loading switch to Boundary when the speaker is:

- ▶ Placed beside a TV.
- ▶ Placed beside a bookshelf or an audio/video cabinet.
- ▶ Placed next to a wall.

Freestanding

Boundary



## CONNECTING THE SPEAKERS

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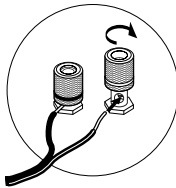
Warning! To prevent electrical shock, always switch off the amplifier or receiver when making connections to the speaker system.

### Choosing cable

We recommend 16 gauge cable or thicker for runs up to 25 feet (8m) and 12 gauge wire or thicker for longer runs. (We use a custom-configured 12 gauge oxygen-free cable in our crossover networks.)

### Connecting with bare wire:

- ▶ *Insert bare wire into holes and tighten.*

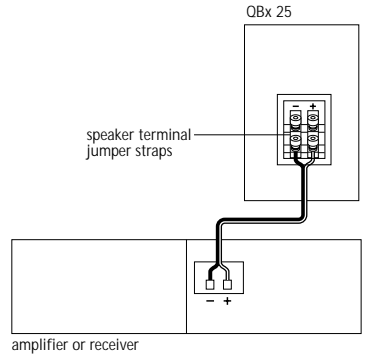


### Connecting with banana plugs, pins or spade lugs:

- ▶ *The gold-plated binding posts accept standard banana plugs and pins, and can accommodate spade lugs to 5/16-inch.*

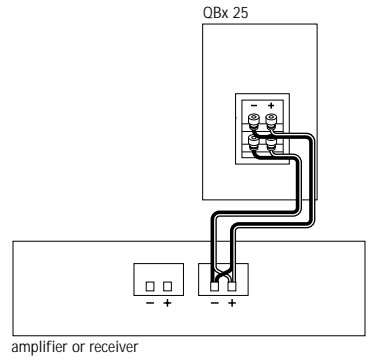
## Basic Connections

- ▶ Keep the speaker terminal jumper straps in place.
- ▶ When making connections, be sure to connect + to + (red) and - to - (black).



## Bi-Wiring

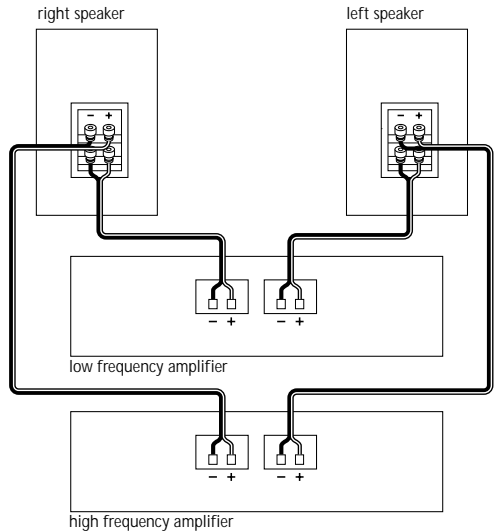
- ▶ Use equal lengths of the same kind of cable when bi-wiring each speaker.
- ▶ Unscrew both sets of terminals and remove the jumper straps.
- ▶ When making connections, be sure to connect + to + (red) and - to - (black).



## Bi-Amplifying

### Using One Amplifier for the Bass and One for the High End

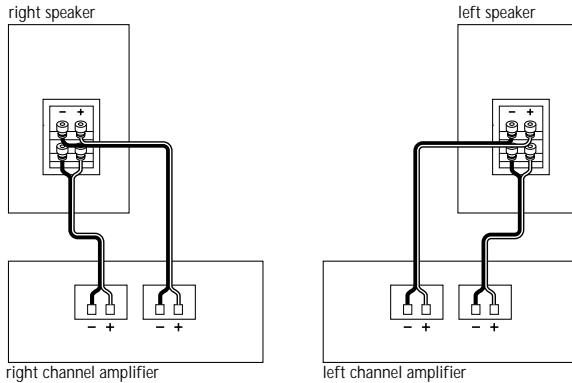
- ▶ Unscrew both sets of terminals and remove the jumper straps.
- ▶ Connect the cables from the bottom set of terminals to the amplifier driving the bass unit.
- ▶ Connect the cables from the top set of terminals to the amplifier driving the tweeters.
- ▶ When making connections, be sure to connect + to + (red) and - to - (black).
- ▶ Do not use an external crossover. It will interact with the phase and frequency response of the QBx 25.



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## LISTENING LEVELS AND POWER HANDLING

- ▶ The power recommendation for the system assumes you will operate the amplifier in a way that will not produce distortion. All speakers can be damaged by even a modest amplifier if it is producing distortion. If you hear a gritty noise or other signs of strain, turn down the volume. Prolonged or repeated operation of your speakers with a distorted signal can cause damage that is not covered by the warranty. It is especially important that you do not overdrive the bass capability of smaller speakers. Watch for noises, such as pops, caused by the music's bass line. Use of the loudness control and/or full bass boost at louder volumes is likely to overdrive the woofer. Use such controls sparingly.

## LIMITED WARRANTY

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For five years from the date of purchase, Snell Acoustics will repair for the original owner any defect in materials or workmanship that occurs in normal use of the speaker system, without charge for parts and labor.

Your responsibilities are to use the product according to the instructions supplied, to provide safe and secure transportation to an authorized Snell Acoustics service representative, and to present proof of purchase from an authorized Snell dealer in the form of your sales slip when requesting service.

Excluded from this warranty is damage that results from abuse, misuse, accidents, shipping, repairs, or modifications by anyone other than an authorized Snell Acoustics service representative. This warranty is void if the serial number has been removed or defaced.

This warranty gives you specific legal rights, and you may also have other rights that vary from state to state.

### If Service Seems Necessary

Contact the dealer from whom you purchased the speaker system. If that is not possible, call us at 978-373-6114, or write to: Snell Acoustics  
143 Essex Street  
Haverhill, MA 01832

We will promptly advise you of what action to take. If it is necessary to return your speaker system to the factory, please ship it prepaid in the original factory packaging. Please note that Snell Acoustics will not be held liable for shipping damage due to improper packaging. After it has been repaired, we will return it freight-prepaid in the U.S. or Canada.

# Snell

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