Retro Manufacturing SUB8100

Retro Manufacturing SUB8100 Powered Subwoofer User Manual

Model: SUB8100

Introduction

This manual provides detailed instructions for the installation, operation, and maintenance of your Retro Manufacturing SUB8100 Powered 8-inch Subwoofer. Please read this manual thoroughly before using the product to ensure proper function and longevity.
The RetroSound SUB8100 is a compact and powerful solution designed to enhance the low-frequency audio in your vehicle's stereo system. It features a built-in Class D digital amplifier and an ultra-thin 8-inch subwoofer housed in a rugged aluminum enclosure, making it ideal for installations where space is limited.

Product Features

- 8-inch powered subwoofer system
- Built-in 100 watt Class D digital amplifier
- Built-in continuously variable crossover
- Remote level control for convenient adjustments
- Speaker level and RCA low-level inputs for versatile connectivity
- Advanced circuitry and thermal protection
- Rugged cast aluminum enclosure for durability

Package Contents

Upon opening the package, verify that all components are present and undamaged:

- Retro Manufacturing SUB8100 Powered Subwoofer
- Remote Level Control
- Wiring Harness (for high-level input)
- Mounting Hardware
- User Manual (this document)

Setup and Installation

Proper installation is crucial for optimal performance and safety. If you are unsure about any steps, consult a professional car audio installer.

Choosing a Mounting Location

The SUB8100's compact design allows for flexible placement. Consider locations that are secure, provide adequate ventilation, and are away from direct heat sources or moisture. Common locations include under seats, in the trunk, or behind rear seats.



Figure 1: Dimensions of the SUB8100. The unit measures approximately 13.8 inches deep, 9.3 inches wide, and 2.8 inches high, allowing for installation in tight spaces.

Wiring Connections

Ensure the vehicle's battery is disconnected before making any electrical connections.

1. **Power Connection:** Connect the main power wire (typically red) from the subwoofer to the vehicle's positive battery terminal using an appropriate gauge wire and an inline fuse (not included, recommended 15A-20A).

2. **Ground Connection:** Connect the ground wire (typically black) from the subwoofer to a clean, unpainted metal surface on the vehicle's chassis. Ensure a solid, low-resistance connection.
3. **Remote Turn-On:** Connect the remote turn-on wire (typically blue or white/blue) from the subwoofer to the remote output of your head unit. This will turn the subwoofer on and off with your stereo.
4. **Audio Input:**
    - **RCA Low-Level Input:** For head units with RCA pre-outs, connect RCA cables from the head unit's subwoofer or rear pre-outs to the RCA inputs on the SUB8100.
    - **High-Level Input:** If your head unit does not have RCA outputs, use the supplied high-level input wiring harness. Connect the speaker wires from your head unit's speaker outputs to the corresponding inputs on the harness, then connect the harness to the SUB8100.



Figure 2: Detailed view of the SUB8100's control panel, showing RCA inputs, high-level input connector, power/ground/remote terminals, and adjustment knobs.



Figure 3: The SUB8100 subwoofer shown with its wired remote gain control, which allows for convenient bass level adjustments from the driver's seat.

Operating Instructions

Once installed, you can power on your vehicle's audio system. The SUB8100 will turn on automatically with the head unit if the remote turn-on wire is connected correctly.

Adjusting Settings

- **Gain Control:** Use the GAIN knob on the subwoofer or the remote level control to match the output of your head unit. Start with the gain at minimum and slowly increase it until the bass blends well with your main speakers without distortion.
- **Low Pass Filter (LPF):** The LPF knob allows you to set the upper frequency limit for the subwoofer. Frequencies above this setting will be filtered out. Adjust this to blend smoothly with your main speakers. A common starting point is 80-100 Hz.
- **Phase Switch:** The PHASE switch (0° or 180°) helps to ensure that the subwoofer's output is in phase with your main speakers. Listen to music with strong bass and switch between 0° and 180°. Choose the setting that provides the most impactful and cohesive bass response.



Figure 4: The Retro Manufacturing SUB8100 Powered Subwoofer, showcasing its compact design and integrated grille for speaker protection.



Figure 5: The remote gain control unit, featuring a power indicator LED and a rotary knob for adjusting the subwoofer's output level conveniently.

Maintenance

The Retro Manufacturing SUB8100 is designed for durability and requires minimal maintenance.

- **Cleaning:** Use a soft, dry cloth to wipe down the exterior of the subwoofer. Do not use liquid cleaners or solvents, as they may damage the finish or internal components.
- **Connections:** Periodically check all wiring connections to ensure they are secure and free from corrosion. Loose connections can lead to poor performance or damage.
- **Ventilation:** Ensure that the subwoofer's ventilation areas are not obstructed. Proper airflow is essential to prevent overheating.

Troubleshooting

If you experience issues with your SUB8100, refer to the following common problems and solutions:

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
No sound from subwoofer	No power to the unit Remote turn-on wire not connected or faulty Input signal issue (RCA or high-level) Gain set too low	Check power and ground connections, ensure inline fuse is intact. Verify remote turn-on wire connection to head unit. Check RCA or high-level input connections. Test with another audio source if possible. Increase the gain setting.
Distorted sound	Gain set too high Head unit volume too high Incorrect LPF setting	Reduce the gain setting on the subwoofer. Lower the head unit volume. Adjust the Low Pass Filter (LPF) to a lower frequency.
Weak or muddy bass	Phase setting incorrect LPF setting too low Subwoofer placement	Toggle the Phase switch (0°/180°) and listen for improvement. Increase the Low Pass Filter (LPF) setting. Experiment with different mounting locations if possible.
Subwoofer gets hot	Insufficient ventilation Overdriving the subwoofer	Ensure adequate airflow around the unit. Relocate if necessary. Reduce gain or head unit volume. Allow unit to cool down.

Specifications

Feature	Detail
Model Name	SUB8100
Speaker Type	Powered Subwoofer
Subwoofer Diameter	8 Inches
RMS Power Output	100 Watts
Maximum Power Output	200 Watts
Amplifier Class	Class D
Product Dimensions (D x W x H)	13.8" x 9.3" x 2.8" (35 cm x 23.5 cm x 7 cm)
Item Weight	7 Pounds (3.17 kg)
Material	Metal (Rugged Cast Aluminum Enclosure)
Inputs	RCA Low-Level, High-Level (Speaker Level)
Controls	Gain, Low Pass Filter, Phase Switch, Remote Level Control
Power Source	Corded Electric (Vehicle 12V DC)
Water Resistance Level	Not Water Resistant
Specific Uses	Car Audio Systems
Manufacturer	RetroSound

UPC	856241003009

Warranty Information

The Retro Manufacturing SUB8100 comes with a**Limited Warranty**. For specific terms and conditions, including warranty duration and coverage details, please refer to the warranty card included with your product or visit the official Retro Manufacturing website. Keep your proof of purchase for warranty claims.

Customer Support

If you have any questions, require technical assistance, or need to report an issue that is not covered in the troubleshooting section, please contact Retro Manufacturing customer support.
For the most up-to-date contact information, please visit the official Retro Manufacturing website: www.retromanufacturing.com

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