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Skar Audio VD-8 D2

Skar Audio VD-8 D2 8-inch Shallow Mount Car Subwoofer Instruction Manual

Model: VD-8 D2

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1. Introduction

This manual provides detailed instructions for the installation, operation, and maintenance of your Skar Audio VD-8 D2 8-inch Shallow Mount Car Subwoofer. The VD-8 D2 is engineered for powerful bass reproduction in compact spaces, featuring a dual 2 ohm voice coil configuration, 400 Watts RMS power handling, and a peak power of 600 Watts. Its design incorporates a high-performance pressed paper cone stitched to a premium foam surround, ensuring durability and sound quality. Please read this manual thoroughly before installation and use to ensure optimal performance and longevity of your subwoofer.



Figure 1: Skar Audio VD-8 D2 8-inch Shallow Mount Subwoofer.

2. Safety Information

Always observe the following safety precautions during installation and operation:

- Disconnect the vehicle's battery before beginning any electrical work to prevent short circuits and electrical shock.
- Ensure all wiring is properly insulated and secured to prevent damage from vibration or abrasion.
- Use appropriate gauge wiring for power, ground, and speaker connections to handle the subwoofer's power requirements.
- Avoid mounting the subwoofer in locations that obstruct vehicle safety features or driver visibility.
- Do not expose the subwoofer to excessive moisture or extreme temperatures.
- Prolonged exposure to high sound pressure levels can cause permanent hearing damage. Operate at safe listening levels.
- Consult a professional car audio installer if you are unsure about any aspect of the installation process.

3. What's in the Box

Your Skar Audio VD-8 D2 package includes:

- 1x Skar Audio VD-8 D2 8-inch Dual 2 Ohm Subwoofer
- This instruction manual

4. Setup and Installation

Proper installation is crucial for the performance and longevity of your subwoofer. This section covers mounting and wiring considerations.

4.1. Mounting Considerations

The VD-8 D2 is a shallow mount subwoofer, designed for installations where space is limited. The mounting depth is 3.94 inches (approximately 10 cm).

- **Enclosure Type:** This subwoofer performs well in both sealed and ported enclosures. Refer to Skar Audio's official website or recommended enclosure specifications for optimal performance.
- **Mounting Location:** Choose a sturdy location within your vehicle that can adequately support the subwoofer's weight and withstand vibrations. Ensure sufficient clearance for the subwoofer's excursion.
- **Air Seal:** Ensure a tight, airtight seal between the subwoofer and the enclosure to prevent air leaks, which can degrade sound quality.



Figure 2: Side profile of the VD-8 D2, illustrating its shallow mounting design.

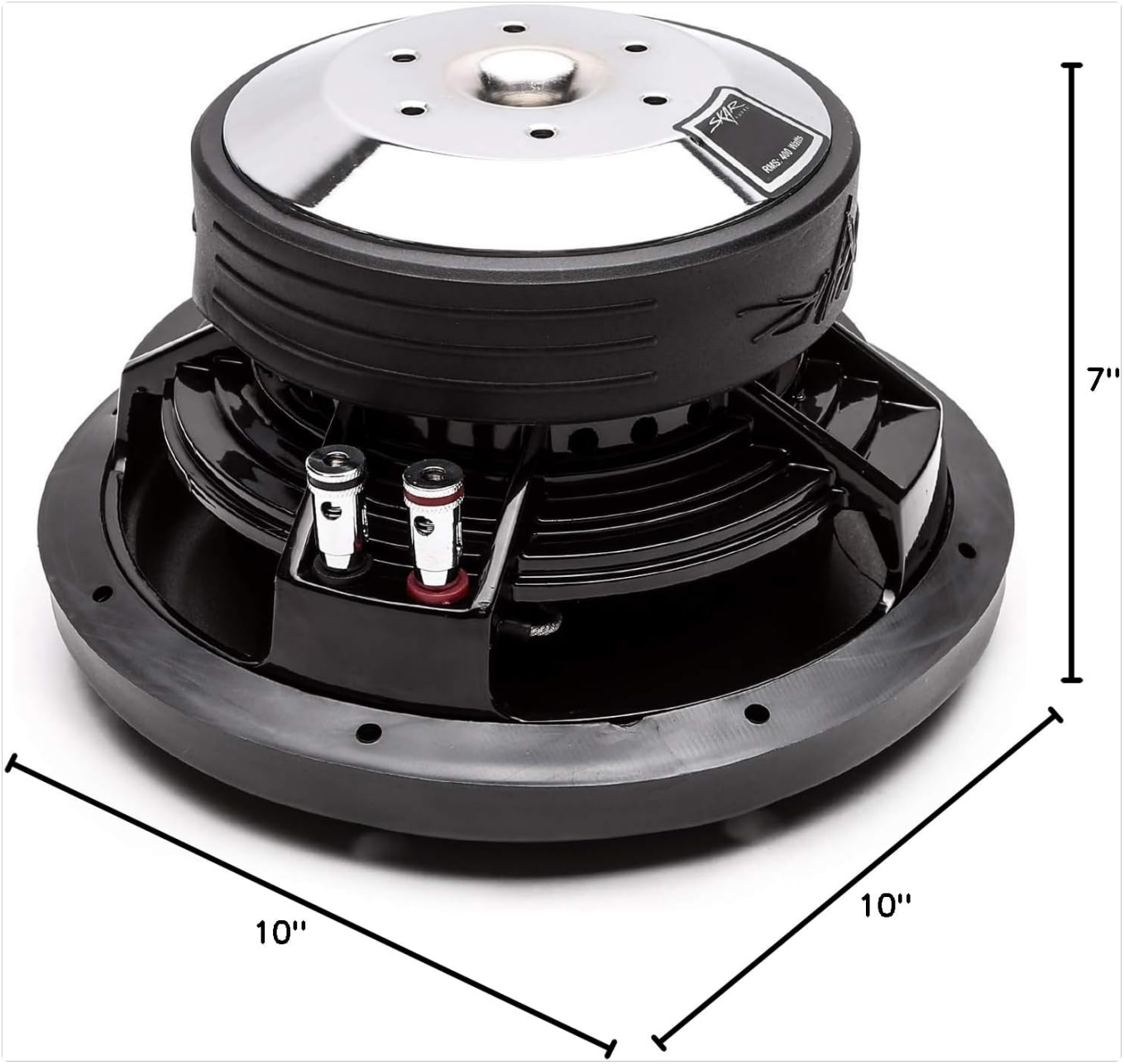


Figure 3: Dimensional drawing of the VD-8 D2 subwoofer, showing overall size and mounting depth.

4.2. Wiring the Dual 2 Ohm Voice Coils

The VD-8 D2 features dual 2 ohm voice coils, offering flexibility in wiring configurations to match your amplifier's impedance requirements. It is critical to correctly wire the subwoofer to avoid damage to both the subwoofer and the amplifier.



Figure 4: Bottom view of the VD-8 D2, showing the dual voice coil terminals.

Important: Always verify the final impedance with a multimeter before connecting to an amplifier.

4.2.1. Parallel Wiring (1 Ohm Final Impedance)

This configuration results in a 1 ohm load, suitable for amplifiers stable at 1 ohm. Connect the positive terminal of Voice Coil 1 to the positive terminal of Voice Coil 2. Connect the negative terminal of Voice Coil 1 to the negative terminal of Voice Coil 2. Then, connect the combined positive to the amplifier's positive output and the combined negative to the amplifier's negative output.

```
VC1(+) ---+--- VC2(+) ---> Amplifier (+)
          |
VC1(-) ---+--- VC2(-) ---> Amplifier (-)
```

4.2.2. Series Wiring (4 Ohm Final Impedance)

This configuration results in a 4 ohm load, suitable for amplifiers stable at 4 ohms. Connect the positive terminal of Voice Coil 1 to the amplifier's positive output. Connect the negative terminal of Voice Coil 1 to the positive terminal of Voice Coil 2. Connect the negative terminal of Voice Coil 2 to the amplifier's negative output.

```
Amplifier (+) ---> VC1(+)
                   VC1(-) ---+--- VC2(+)
                             |
Amplifier (-) <--- VC2(-)
```

Ensure your amplifier is stable at the chosen impedance. Operating an amplifier below its minimum stable impedance can cause overheating and damage.

5. Operating Your Subwoofer

To achieve the best performance and ensure the longevity of your Skar Audio VD-8 D2 subwoofer, follow these operating guidelines:

5.1. Power Handling

The VD-8 D2 has a Root Mean Square (RMS) power rating of 400 Watts and a Peak Power rating of 600 Watts. It is recommended to match your amplifier's RMS output closely to the subwoofer's RMS rating. Underpowering or overpowering can lead to damage. Underpowering can cause amplifier clipping, which generates distorted signals that are harmful to subwoofers.

5.2. Break-in Period

Allow a break-in period of approximately 10-20 hours of normal listening before operating the subwoofer at high volumes. During this period, the suspension components (surround and spider) will loosen up, allowing the subwoofer to perform optimally and reach its full potential. Avoid playing extremely loud bass or sustained low frequencies during break-in.

5.3. Amplifier Settings

- **Gain Setting:** Set the amplifier gain correctly. This is not a volume control but rather a level matching control. Incorrect gain settings can lead to clipping and damage. Use a digital multimeter or oscilloscope for precise gain setting.
- **Low Pass Filter (LPF):** Use the LPF on your amplifier or head unit to filter out high frequencies from the subwoofer, typically set between 60 Hz and 100 Hz, depending on your system and preferences.
- **Subsonic Filter (HPF):** If your amplifier has a subsonic filter, engage it and set it slightly below your enclosure's tuning frequency (for ported enclosures) or around 25-30 Hz (for sealed enclosures) to protect the subwoofer from over-excursion at very low frequencies.
- **Bass Boost:** Use bass boost sparingly, if at all. Excessive bass boost can quickly lead to clipping and damage.

6. Maintenance

The Skar Audio VD-8 D2 subwoofer requires minimal maintenance to ensure long-term performance:

- **Cleaning:** Periodically wipe the cone and surround with a soft, dry cloth to remove dust and debris. Avoid using harsh chemicals or excessive moisture.
- **Inspection:** Regularly inspect the subwoofer for any signs of damage to the cone, surround, or dust cap. Check wiring connections for tightness and corrosion.
- **Environmental Factors:** Protect the subwoofer from direct sunlight, extreme temperatures, and excessive moisture, which can degrade materials over time.

7. Troubleshooting

If you experience issues with your subwoofer, consult the following table before seeking professional assistance:

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
No Sound from Subwoofer	Amplifier not powered on Loose or incorrect wiring Blown fuse on amplifier or power wire Head unit settings incorrect Damaged voice coil	Check amplifier power light and connections. Verify all wiring connections (power, ground, remote, RCA, speaker). Inspect and replace fuses if necessary. Ensure subwoofer output is enabled and volume is up on head unit. Test voice coil impedance with a multimeter. If open circuit, replace subwoofer.
Distorted Sound	Amplifier gain set too high (clipping) Incorrect LPF setting Damaged subwoofer Poor enclosure design	Reduce amplifier gain. Adjust LPF to recommended range (60-100 Hz). Inspect subwoofer for physical damage. Ensure enclosure is properly sealed and sized.
Subwoofer Overheating	Impedance mismatch (amplifier running below stable impedance) Excessive power or clipping Poor ventilation for amplifier	Re-check wiring for correct impedance. Reduce amplifier gain or power. Ensure amplifier has adequate airflow.

8. Specifications

Key technical specifications for the Skar Audio VD-8 D2 8-inch Shallow Mount Subwoofer:

Feature	Specification
Model Name	VD-8 D2
Speaker Type	Subwoofer
Subwoofer Diameter	8 Inches
Mounting Type	Shallow Mount
Mounting Depth	3.94 inches
Peak Power	600 Watts
RMS Power	400 Watts
Impedance	Dual 2 Ohm
Sensitivity	83.2 dB
Fs (Resonance Frequency)	45.1 Hz
Frequency Response	32 Hz - 375 Hz
Product Dimensions (D x W x H)	10" x 10" x 7"

Feature	Specification
Item Weight	10 Pounds
Cone Material	Pressed Paper
Surround Material	Premium Foam
Voice Coil	2-inch Copper
Magnet Weight	45 oz Ferrite

9. Warranty Information

The Skar Audio VD-8 D2 subwoofer comes with a**2-year limited warranty**. This warranty covers defects in materials and workmanship under normal use. It does not cover damage resulting from improper installation, abuse, accident, neglect, unauthorized repair, or modifications. Please retain your proof of purchase for warranty claims. For full warranty terms and conditions, please refer to the official Skar Audio website or contact customer support.

10. Customer Support

For technical assistance, troubleshooting, or warranty inquiries, please contact Skar Audio customer support. You can find contact information and additional resources on the official Skar Audio website:
Website: www.skaraudio.com
Please have your product model number (VD-8 D2) and proof of purchase ready when contacting support.

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