

QSC KS118

QSC KS118 Active 18" Subwoofer Instruction Manual

Model: KS118

INTRODUCTION

The QSC KS118 is a very high output active subwoofer designed to produce impressive low frequencies for a wide range of professional audio applications, including mobile entertainment, AV production, clubs, and performance venues. It features an 18-inch direct radiating driver powered by a robust 3600-watt Class D amplifier, ensuring high sound pressure levels with dynamic and musical reproduction of very low frequencies.

Equipped with on-board Digital Signal Processing (DSP), the KS118 optimizes and protects system performance. This advanced DSP also offers capabilities such as the ability to array two units in a cardioid arrangement for directional bass control. The rugged enclosure is highly transportable, featuring comfortable handles and four low-noise casters for easy movement. Additionally, an M20 threaded pole receptacle allows for easy vertical deployment with full-range loudspeakers.



Image: Angled front view of the QSC KS118 Active 18" Subwoofer, showcasing its robust grille and integrated handles.

SETUP

1. Unpacking and Inspection

Carefully remove the KS118 subwoofer from its packaging. Inspect the unit for any signs of damage that may have occurred during shipping. Retain all packaging materials for future transport or in case the unit needs to be returned for service.

2. Placement

Position the subwoofer on a stable, flat surface. The integrated casters facilitate easy movement. For optimal bass

response, consider placing the subwoofer on the floor or a sturdy stage. The KS118 features an M20 threaded pole receptacle on its top surface, allowing for the mounting of a full-range loudspeaker using a compatible pole (sold separately).



Image: Front view of the QSC KS118 Subwoofer, highlighting its protective grille.



Image: Bottom view of the QSC KS118 Subwoofer, clearly showing the four integrated casters for mobility.

3. Power Connection

Connect the supplied AC power cable to the AC INLET on the rear panel of the subwoofer and then to a grounded electrical outlet. Ensure the power switch is in the OFF position before connecting to power.

4. Audio Connections

The KS118 offers versatile input and output options:

- **MIC/LINE IN A & B:** These inputs accept XLR and 1/4-inch TRS connectors. Use these to connect audio sources such as mixers, instruments, or microphones. Ensure the MIC/LINE switch is set appropriately for your source (MIC for microphones, LINE for line-level signals).
- **RCA Inputs:** For consumer-level audio devices, use the RCA inputs.
- **LINE OUT (POST GAIN - MIX):** These XLR outputs provide a mixed signal of inputs A and B, post-gain. Use these to daisy-chain multiple subwoofers or send the signal to other full-range loudspeakers.



Image: Rear panel of the QSC KS118 Subwoofer, showing the various input/output connections and control switches.

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

1. Powering On/Off

Locate the POWER switch on the rear panel. Flip the switch to the ON position to power on the subwoofer. The PWR LED on the front panel will illuminate. To power off, flip the switch back to the OFF position.

2. Gain Control

Adjust the GAIN A and GAIN B knobs to control the input level for each channel. Start with the gain set to minimum and slowly increase it until the desired volume is achieved without distortion. The SIGNAL LEDs will illuminate when an audio signal is present.

3. DSP Settings (LF/HF Switches)

The KS118 features on-board DSP with selectable modes:

- **EXT SUB / NORM / DEEP:** This switch adjusts the low-frequency extension.
 - **EXT SUB:** For use with external subwoofers.
 - **NORM:** Standard low-frequency response.
 - **DEEP:** Provides extended low-frequency response for enhanced bass.
- **VOCAL BOOST / FLAT:** This switch adjusts the high-frequency response.
 - **VOCAL BOOST:** Enhances vocal clarity, typically used when the subwoofer is paired with full-range speakers handling vocals.
 - **FLAT:** Provides a neutral high-frequency response.

4. Front LED Indicators

- **PWR:** Indicates the unit is powered on.
- **STBY:** Indicates standby mode.
- **LIMIT:** Illuminates when the internal limiter is active, protecting the speaker from excessive signal levels. If this LED flashes frequently, reduce the input gain.



Image: Close-up view of the QSC KS118 Subwoofer's rear panel, detailing the various control knobs and switches for audio adjustment.

MAINTENANCE

1. Cleaning

Clean the exterior of the subwoofer with a soft, dry cloth. Do not use abrasive cleaners, waxes, or solvents. Ensure no liquids enter the enclosure.

2. Storage

When not in use, store the subwoofer in a dry, cool environment, away from direct sunlight and extreme temperatures. Using an optional protective cover (e.g., KS-LOC security cover) is recommended to prevent dust accumulation and physical damage.

3. Safety Precautions

- Do not expose the unit to rain or moisture.
- Ensure proper ventilation; do not block cooling vents.
- Avoid placing the unit near heat sources.
- Always disconnect power before performing any maintenance or moving the unit.

TROUBLESHOOTING

If you encounter issues with your QSC KS118 Subwoofer, refer to the following common troubleshooting steps:

- **No Power:**
 - Check if the power cable is securely connected to both the subwoofer and the electrical outlet.
 - Verify that the electrical outlet is active by plugging in another device.
 - Ensure the POWER switch on the rear panel is in the ON position.
- **No Sound:**
 - Confirm that the audio source (mixer, instrument, etc.) is sending a signal and its volume is turned up.
 - Check all audio cables for secure connections and ensure they are not damaged.
 - Adjust the GAIN A and GAIN B knobs on the subwoofer to an audible level.
 - Ensure the correct input (MIC or LINE) is selected via the switch.
- **Distorted Sound:**
 - Reduce the input gain from your audio source or the GAIN A/B knobs on the subwoofer. The LIMIT LED should not be constantly illuminated.
 - Check if the audio cables are properly connected and not damaged.
 - Ensure the subwoofer is not being overdriven by the source.
- **Overheating:**
 - Ensure the cooling vents on the rear panel are not obstructed.
 - Operate the subwoofer in a well-ventilated area.
 - If the unit frequently overheats, reduce the operating volume or consider a different setup.

If the issue persists after following these steps, please contact QSC customer support for further assistance.

SPECIFICATIONS

| Feature | Detail |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Model Name | KS118 Active 18" |
| Speaker Type | Subwoofer |
| Subwoofer Diameter | 18 Inches |
| Speaker Maximum Output Power | 3600 Watts |
| Power Source | Corded Electric |
| Connectivity Technology | RCA, XLR, Wired (Subwoofer) |
| Connectivity Protocol | Bluetooth (for control/streaming, if applicable, otherwise wired is primary) |
| Audio Driver Type | Dynamic Driver |
| Audio Output Mode | Omnidirectional |
| Mounting Type | Pole Mount (M20 Threaded) |
| Product Dimensions (D x W x H) | 36"D x 30"W x 23"H |
| Item Weight | 104 Pounds |

| Feature | Detail |
|---------------------|--------------|
| Included Components | Subwoofer |
| Manufacturer | QSC |
| Model Number | KS118 |
| UPC | 684284076199 |



Image: Diagram illustrating the dimensions of the QSC KS118 Subwoofer (36"D x 30"W x 23"H).

WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

The QSC KS118 Active 18" Subwoofer comes with a**Limited Warranty**. For specific details regarding the warranty


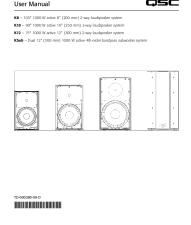
period, coverage, and terms, please refer to the warranty card included with your product or visit the official QSC website.

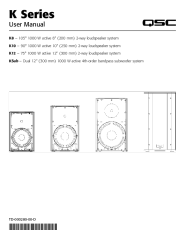
For technical support, service, or any inquiries not covered in this manual, please contact QSC customer support. You can find contact information and additional resources on the [QSC Store on Amazon](#) or the official QSC website.

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This manual is for informational purposes only. Specifications are subject to change without notice.

Related Documents - KS118

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|---|---|
|  | <p>QSC KS Series Active Subwoofers User Manual</p> <p>This user manual provides detailed information on the QSC KS Series active subwoofers, including the KS112, KS118, and KS212C models. It covers product features, safety precautions, installation guides, operational procedures, cardioid configurations, pole mounting, system setup, inputs/outputs, menu navigation, dimensions, and technical specifications.</p> |
|  | <p>QSC KW Series Loudspeaker User Manual</p> <p>User manual for the QSC KW Series loudspeakers, including models KW122, KW152, KW153, and KW181. Provides safety precautions, features, installation, input/output connections, DSP functions, and specifications.</p> |
|  | <p>QSC K Family Application Guide for Rental and Production</p> <p>A comprehensive guide detailing the application of QSC K Family loudspeakers and subwoofers for rental and production scenarios. It covers Directivity Matched Transition (DMT), rigging, power efficiency, transportation, and provides system design suggestions for various venues.</p> |
|  | <p>QSC K Series Loudspeaker Systems User Manual</p> <p>Comprehensive user manual for QSC K Series active loudspeakers (K8, K10, K12) and KSub subwoofer. Covers features, installation, operation, safety, and specifications for professional audio reinforcement.</p> |
|  | <p>QSC LA108 & LA112 Active Line Array Loudspeakers Quick Start Guide</p> <p>This guide provides essential information for the setup, rigging, and basic operation of QSC LA108 and LA112 Active Line Array Loudspeakers. It covers connection points, angle adjustments, and front/rear panel controls and indicators.</p> |



[QSC K Series Loudspeaker Systems User Manual](#)

User manual for QSC K Series loudspeakers (K8, K10, K12) and KSub subwoofer. Covers features, installation, operation, safety, DSP, and specifications for professional audio reinforcement.