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Polk Audio Monitor XT12, Monitor XT90

Polk Audio Monitor XT12 Subwoofer and Monitor XT90 Height Speakers User Manual

Model: Monitor XT12, Monitor XT90

INTRODUCTION

This manual provides essential information for the setup, operation, and maintenance of your Polk Audio Monitor XT12 Powered Subwoofer and Monitor XT90 Hi-Res Height Speaker Pair. These components are designed to enhance your audio experience, providing deep bass and immersive 3D sound effects compatible with Dolby Atmos and DTS:X systems. The Monitor XT12 subwoofer features a 12-inch Dynamic Balanced Woofer and 100W Class A/B amplification, delivering powerful bass down to 24Hz. The Monitor XT90 height speakers, equipped with a 4-inch Dynamically Balanced Woofer, are designed to add a vertical dimension to your soundstage, creating a more enveloping audio environment for movies, music, and gaming.

WHAT'S IN THE BOX

Carefully unpack all components and ensure the following items are present:

- Polk Audio Monitor XT12 Powered Subwoofer
- Polk Audio Monitor XT90 Height Speakers (Pair)
- Power Cable for Subwoofer
- Speaker Cables (not always included, check packaging)
- User Manual (this document)

SETUP

Monitor XT12 Subwoofer Setup

1. Placement: For optimal performance, place the subwoofer on the floor in the front corner of your listening room or along the front wall. Experiment with placement to find the best bass response for your room. Avoid placing it inside enclosed cabinets, as this can restrict airflow and affect sound quality.

2. Connections:

- **LFE Connection (Recommended for AV Receivers):** Connect a single RCA cable from the LFE or Subwoofer Output of your AV receiver to the LFE Input on the Monitor XT12.
- **Stereo Connection (for 2-channel systems without LFE output):** Connect RCA cables from the pre-out outputs of your amplifier/receiver to the left and right line-level inputs on the subwoofer.
- **Power:** Connect the power cable to the subwoofer and then to a wall outlet.



Image: Front view of the Polk Audio Monitor XT12 Subwoofer, showcasing its 12-inch driver.



Image: Close-up of speaker terminals, similar to those found on the Monitor XT12 subwoofer or XT90 height speakers, showing red and black binding posts for speaker wire connections.

Monitor XT90 Height Speakers Setup

1. Placement: The Monitor XT90 speakers are designed for versatile placement to create a 3D sound effect:

- **On Top of Floor-standing or Bookshelf Speakers:** Place the XT90 speakers directly on top of your existing Monitor XT20 bookshelf speakers, or MXT60 and MXT70 floor-standing speakers. Ensure they are stable and facing the listening area.
- **Wall Mounting:** Utilize the sturdy keyhole slots on the back of the XT90 speakers for wall mounting. Ensure appropriate wall anchors and screws are used to secure them safely. Position them above your main front speakers for optimal effect.



Image: A pair of Polk Audio Monitor XT90 Height Speakers, designed to sit atop other speakers or be wall-mounted.

2. Connections: Connect the XT90 speakers to the height or Atmos speaker outputs of your Dolby Atmos/DTS:X compatible AV receiver using speaker wire. Ensure correct polarity (positive to positive, negative to negative).

System Configuration

After connecting both the subwoofer and height speakers to your AV receiver, run the receiver's automatic room calibration system (e.g., Audyssey, MCACC, YPAO) if available. This will optimize the sound settings for your specific room and speaker configuration.

OPERATING

Monitor XT12 Subwoofer Controls

The Monitor XT12 features controls on its rear panel for fine-tuning its performance:

- **Volume:** Adjusts the overall output level of the subwoofer. Start at a moderate level and adjust to blend with your main speakers.
- **Variable Crossover (80-160Hz):** This control determines the highest frequency the subwoofer will reproduce. If using an AV receiver with LFE output, set the receiver's crossover and the subwoofer's crossover to the highest setting (or LFE mode if available) to allow the receiver to manage the crossover. For 2-channel systems, adjust this to blend smoothly with your main speakers.
- **Phase Polarity (0/180):** This switch helps integrate the subwoofer's output with your main speakers. Experiment with both settings to find the one that produces the most impactful and coherent bass at your listening position.

Monitor XT90 Height Speaker Operation

Once connected and calibrated, the Monitor XT90 speakers will automatically integrate with your Dolby Atmos or DTS:X content. Ensure your AV receiver is set to the correct surround sound mode to activate the height channels. These speakers

work by reflecting sound off the ceiling to create an overhead sound dimension, enhancing the realism of 3D audio soundtracks.

MAINTENANCE

To ensure the longevity and optimal performance of your Polk Audio speakers, follow these maintenance guidelines:

- **Cleaning:** Dust the cabinets regularly with a soft, dry cloth. For stubborn marks, use a slightly damp cloth, but avoid harsh chemicals or abrasive cleaners.
- **Avoid Liquids:** Do not expose the speakers to water or other liquids.
- **Ventilation:** Ensure the subwoofer's amplifier panel has adequate ventilation. Do not block any vents.
- **Temperature and Humidity:** Avoid extreme temperatures and high humidity, which can damage the components.

TROUBLESHOOTING

If you encounter issues with your Polk Audio speakers, refer to the following common troubleshooting steps:

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
No sound from subwoofer	Power not connected; Input cable loose or incorrect; Subwoofer volume too low; Receiver settings incorrect.	Check power cable and outlet; Ensure RCA/LFE cable is securely connected; Increase subwoofer volume; Verify receiver's subwoofer output is enabled and volume is up.
Distorted or boomy bass	Subwoofer volume too high; Incorrect crossover setting; Poor placement; Phase mismatch.	Reduce subwoofer volume; Adjust crossover frequency; Experiment with subwoofer placement; Toggle phase switch (0/180).
No sound from height speakers	Speaker wires loose or incorrect; Receiver height channel settings incorrect; Content not Dolby Atmos/DTS:X.	Check speaker wire connections and polarity; Ensure receiver's height channels are enabled and assigned; Play content with Dolby Atmos or DTS:X soundtrack.
Weak or unclear height effects	Incorrect placement; Room acoustics; Receiver calibration issues.	Ensure speakers are positioned correctly (on top or wall-mounted); Consider room treatment if acoustics are problematic; Re-run receiver's auto-calibration.

SPECIFICATIONS

Below are the key specifications for the Polk Audio Monitor XT12 Subwoofer and Monitor XT90 Height Speakers:

Feature	Monitor XT12 Subwoofer	Monitor XT90 Height Speaker
Speaker Type	Powered Subwoofer	Hi-Res Height Speaker
Woofer Diameter	12 Inches	4 Inches
Maximum Output Power	100 Watts (Class A/B)	N/A (Passive)
Frequency Response	24 Hz (low end)	Hi-Res Audio Certified
Compatibility	Dolby Atmos & DTS:X Compatible	Dolby Atmos-Certified, DTS:X & DTS Virtual:X Compatible
Connectivity Technology	Wired (RCA/LFE)	Wired (Speaker Wire)
Mounting Type	Floor Standing	Bookshelf (on top of other speakers), Wall Mount
Color	Black	Midnight Black
Power Source	Corded Electric	N/A (Passive)

WARRANTY INFORMATION

Polk Audio products come with a Limited Warranty. The specific terms and duration of the warranty may vary by region and product. Please refer to the warranty card included with your product or visit the official Polk Audio website for detailed warranty information and registration procedures. Keep your proof of purchase for warranty claims.

SUPPORT

For further assistance, technical support, or service inquiries, please contact Polk Audio customer support. You can find contact information, FAQs, and additional resources on the official Polk Audio website:

Website: www.polkaudio.com

When contacting support, please have your product model numbers (Monitor XT12, Monitor XT90) and serial numbers ready.