

# VMS SUBWOOFER

VMS-8

**USER'S  
MANUAL**



*Small, High-Performance Subwoofer*



# IMPORTANT SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS



**CAUTION**  
**RISK OF ELECTRIC SHOCK**  
**DO NOT OPEN**



## Caution

To reduce the risk of electric shock, do not remove cover (or back). No user-serviceable parts inside. Refer servicing to qualified service personnel.

The lightning flash with arrowhead symbol is intended to alert the user to the presence of uninsulated "dangerous voltage" within the product's enclosure that may be of sufficient magnitude to constitute a risk of electric shock to persons.

The exclamation point symbol is intended to alert the user to the presence of important operating and maintenance (servicing) instructions in the literature accompanying the subwoofer.

1. **Read Instructions** — All safety and operating instructions should be read before the product is operated.
2. **Retain Instructions** — The safety and operating instructions should be retained for future reference.
3. **Heed Warnings** — All warnings on the product and in the operating instructions should be adhered to.
4. **Follow Instructions** — All operating and use instructions should be followed.
5. **Water and Moisture** — The product should not be used near water — for example, near a bathtub, washbowl, kitchen sink, laundry tub, in a wet basement, near a swimming pool or the like.
6. **Carts and Stands** — The product should be used only with a cart or stand recommended by the manufacturer.
7. **Wall or Ceiling Mounting** — The product should be mounted to a wall or ceiling only as recommended by the manufacturer.
8. **Ventilation** — The product should be situated so that its location or position does not interfere with its proper ventilation. For example, the product should not be situated on a bed, sofa, rug, or similar surface that may block the ventilation openings; or placed in a built-in installation such as a bookcase or cabinet that may impede the flow of air through the ventilation openings.
9. **Heat** — The product should be situated away from heat sources such as radiators, heat registers, stoves, or other products that produce heat.
10. **Power Sources** — The product should be connected to a power supply only of the type described in the operating instructions or as marked on the product.
11. **Grounding or Polarization** — This product may be equipped with a polarized alternating-current line plug (a plug having one blade wider than the other). This plug will fit into the power outlet only one way. This is a safety feature. If you are unable to insert the plug fully into the outlet, try reversing the plug. If the plug should still fail to fit, contact your electrician to replace your obsolete outlet. Do not defeat the safety purpose of the polarized plug.
12. **Power-Cord Protection** — Power-supply cords should be routed so that they are not likely to be walked on or pinched by items placed upon or against them, paying particular attention to cords at plugs, convenience receptacles, and the point at which they exit from the product.
13. **Cleaning** — The product should be cleaned only as recommended by the manufacturer.
14. **Nonuse Periods** — The power cord of the product should be unplugged from the outlet when left unused for a long period of time.
15. **Object and Liquid Entry** — Care should be taken so that objects do not fall and liquids are not spilled onto the enclosure.
16. **Damage Requiring Service** — The product should be serviced by qualified service personnel when:
  - a. The power-supply cord or plug has been damaged.
  - b. Objects have fallen or liquid has been spilled into the product.
  - c. The product has been exposed to rain.
  - d. The product does not appear to operate normally or exhibits a marked change in performance.
  - e. The product has been dropped or damaged.
17. **Servicing** — The user should not attempt to service the product beyond what is described in the operating instructions. All other servicing should be referred to qualified service personnel. Refer all servicing to qualified service personnel. Servicing is required when the apparatus has been damaged in any way, such as a power-supply cord or plug is damaged, liquid has been spilled or objects have fallen into the apparatus, the apparatus has been exposed to rain or moisture, does not operate normally, or has been dropped.
18. **Lightning** — For added protection for the product during a lightning storm or when it is left unattended and unused for long periods of time, unplug it from the wall outlet.
19. **Overloading** — Do not overload wall outlets, extension cords or integral convenience receptacles as this can result in a risk of fire or electric shock.
20. **Attachments** — Only use attachments and accessories specified by the manufacturer.
21. **Voltage** — Insure that the subwoofer is only connected to the rated source voltage. Do not connect the 120-volt version to 230-volts or vice-versa. This will result in damage to the subwoofer and possible injury to the user.

**CAUTION:** To prevent electrical shock, match wide blade of plug to wide slot, fully inserted.

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## CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations on your purchase of a Velodyne VMS subwoofer system. This system represents the state-of-the-art in home audio reproduction and will provide you with years of listening pleasure when properly cared for. Read and follow this instruction manual to insure safe and proper system connection and operation.

### **Caution!**

Please observe the following instructions to insure safe and proper system operation.

**Note:** Do not leave unit in direct sunlight or use in high humidity environments!!!

### **Warning!**

To prevent fire or shock hazard, do not expose this equipment to rain or moisture. To avoid electrical shock, do not open speaker enclosure or amp chassis cover. Please observe all warnings on the equipment itself. There are no user serviceable parts inside. Please refer all service questions to your authorized Velodyne dealer.

### **Prior to Installation:**

Please unpack the system carefully. This unit is heavy. Use caution when lifting or moving to avoid injury. Please save the carton and all packaging materials for future use. Packing this unit in any other carton may result in severe damage when shipping. Record the serial number in the space provided on page 12 for future reference.

### **Product Features**

- A single driver consisting of:
  - 8" (6.5" piston diameter) driver with 2.5" high-temp voice coil and 204 ounce magnet structure
- Built-in 2000 watts Dynamic/1000 watts RMS high efficiency Class D amplifier
- Adjustable (40 to 120 Hz) low-pass crossover (defeatable)
- Line-level (RCA) inputs and outputs
- LFE Input
- Speaker-level inputs with five way binding post connections
- Signal sensing auto turn on/off (defeatable)
- Variable volume control
- Selectable phase control (0° or 180°)
- Multiple staggered low-pass crossovers; 12 dB/octave initial, 48 dB/octave ultimate
- Driver Displacement Control circuit prevents over excursion and amp clipping
- Blue power indicator LED
- High-excursion EPDM rubber surround
- Oversized spider for linearity at high excursion

## PREPARE FOR INSTALLATION

Your new Velodyne subwoofer provides for a number of installation options. Read all the installation information below in order to determine which installation option is best for your system. *Remember to perform all installation procedures with system power turned off to prevent possible damage.*

### **Placement**

The first step in installing your new VMS is to determine where it will be placed in the room. Unpack the system carefully and use the following guidelines in order to find the best room placement option.

True subwoofers operate at extremely low frequencies which are primarily omni-directional. Keep in mind that frequency response and output level can be drastically influenced by placement, depending on the acoustic properties of the listening room. To obtain optimum output from your subwoofer, place it within a foot of a corner. This location will offer the greatest output levels and optimum low frequency extension. If at all possible, your subwoofer should be placed along a wall. The worst location for a subwoofer is typically far away from any walls and close to the center of your room. Avoid these locations when possible. When using a pair of Velodyne subwoofers in stereo, it is preferable to place each subwoofer near the satellite of the same channel.

Depending on the size and type of furnishings in the room, perfect placement may not be possible. Finding the best location within your environment will likely require some experimentation. We suggest you experiment with the location during setup to find what sounds best to you when seated in your typical listening position.

Regardless of where you install your Velodyne subwoofer, it must remain in an upright position (woofer facing forward). Using, shipping or storing the subwoofer in any other position for an extended period of time may result in damage to the unit not covered by warranty.

### **Caution!**

*This subwoofer has electronics built into the cabinet. Do not place the cabinet next to sources of heat such as furnace registers, radiators, etc. Do not place the unit near sources of excessive moisture, such as evaporative coolers, humidifiers, etc. The power cord should be routed in such a way that it will not be walked on, pinched or compressed in any way that could result in damaging the insulation or wire.*

## INSTALLATION

Your new subwoofer is equipped with speaker-level and line-level inputs. Use the LINE LEVEL jacks when connecting your subwoofer to a pre-amp, signal processor, line-level crossover or receiver with pre-amp level outputs. The SPEAKER LEVEL jacks connect directly to the speaker outputs of any amplifier, integrated amplifier or receiver. Your amplifier section will notice no additional loading effects when you use these inputs due to their very high impedance.

### **Important!!!**

*Do not use both LINE LEVEL and SPEAKER LEVEL connections simultaneously!*

### **Volume Control**

This control allows you to balance the output from the subwoofer to the main speakers in your system. This control should be set to achieve similar output level from both the main speakers and subwoofer when listening to music. A good starting point for the volume control is three or four dots from minimum.

### **Warning:**

*Some manufacturers preset their receivers with the Sub-Out channel signal at a minimum level. It is very important to verify that your receiver Sub-Out channel is set to the same output level as your front right and left channels. Refer to your receiver manual for the individual channel level adjustment procedure. If your receiver Sub-Out channel is set too low, the subwoofer may appear to have a weak output, it may sound noisy or distorted, and the Auto On/Off feature may not operate properly.*

### **Low-pass Crossover - 40 to 120 Hz**

All inputs sum the left and right channels together, with the resulting signal passing through an adjustable low-pass crossover before being amplified. The crossover control allows you to adjust the upper limit of the subwoofer's frequency response from 40 to 120 Hz. The subwoofer's response will begin rolling off above the frequency you set this control to. You should set the crossover frequency to obtain a smooth and seamless transition from the subwoofer to the main speakers in your system. If your main speakers are smaller units with limited low frequency output, you may wish to choose a higher frequency (such as 100-120 Hz) than you would with larger speakers which have greater low frequency output. With larger speakers, you might start with this control set lower, such as 80 Hz.

A bypass switch is also provided if you wish to use an external crossover. *If you are not using an external crossover, we recommend that you use the one provided within the unit for optimum performance!*

### **Phase Adjustment - 0°/180°**

This control allows you to "reverse" the phase of the subwoofer's output signal 180° to correct for any possible mismatch and resulting cancellation between the subwoofer and your main speakers/amplifier. To adjust, simply listen to the system with music playing. Then move the switch from one position to the other and listen for a change in mid-bass frequency output. The correct position will have a greater amount of apparent mid-bass frequency output.

### **Crossover Switch - INTERNAL X-OVER/SUBWOOFER DIRECT**

This switch allows the internal crossover circuitry to be removed from the signal path. This is required in certain installations which route the signal through external processors with a crossover circuit of their own, such as the new digital units. Simply move the switch to **SUBWOOFER DIRECT** to disengage the built-in crossover. For all other installations which do not have a separate electronic crossover, we recommend you leave the switch set to **INTERNAL X-OVER** to provide optimum performance.

### **Auto Turn on Function**

With this function in the “auto” position, your subwoofer can be safely left with the main power switched on continuously. The subwoofer will turn itself on automatically when an audio signal is present. If no signal is present for approximately 10 minutes, the unit will switch to standby mode. While in standby mode, your subwoofer will draw very minimal power. This function can be disabled by leaving the switch in the “inactive” position.

### **Warning:**

If the Sub-Out channel signal level from your receiver is too weak, this feature will not operate properly. See VOLUME CONTROL section on previous page.

### **Power Switch**

The master power switch is located on the lower half of the unit. This rocker style switch is the main on/off for the unit. This switch should be set to position 1 (up) for on, and 0 (down) for off. If the unit is to be left unused for an extended period of time, the master power switch should be turned off.

### **Subwoofer Outputs**

The Velodyne subwoofer is designed to operate using the full range audio signal for input when using the built-in crossover. Some processors/receivers have a “subwoofer out” jack that is internally filtered and designed to be used with a conventional amplifier and speaker. In some rare cases, combining both an external crossover and the one internal to the subwoofer may result in low output and increased noise. In these installations you may need to bypass the internal crossover in either the processor or Velodyne subwoofer. In some installations, simply setting one crossover to a higher frequency (such as 120 Hz) will restore maximum performance. To bypass the subwoofer’s internal crossover when the unit is being fed a filtered signal from another crossover, simply locate the switch marked INTERNAL X-OVER/SUBWOOFER DIRECT on the rear panel of the subwoofer and set to the SUBWOOFER DIRECT position. This will eliminate the internal crossover from the signal path.

**Note:** *If not using an external crossover, you should use the built-in crossover for optimal performance.*

## **LINE-LEVEL CONNECTION - OPTION A**

Figure 1 shows connection from your home theater receiver to the LFE input on the back of your subwoofer. When the subwoofer is installed in this fashion, all of the low frequency information from your “LFE Out” or “Subwoofer Out” on the back of your receiver will pass into your Velodyne subwoofer. This connection is the most common connection method when using your subwoofer with a 5.1 receiver. (Cable needed: 1 mono RCA cable.)

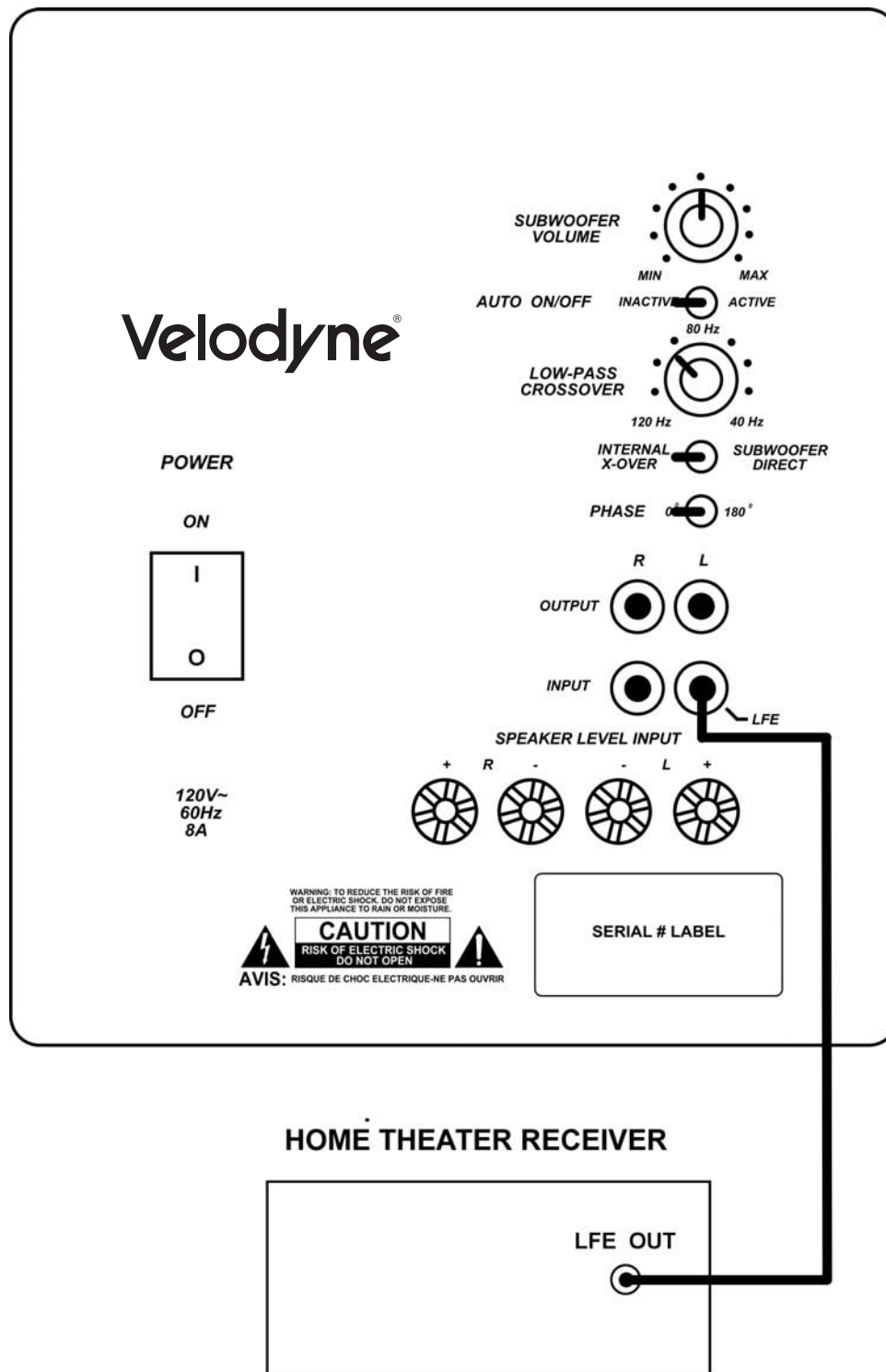


Figure 1. Installation Using LFE Line-Level Inputs

**Note:** If not using an external crossover, you should use the built-in crossover for optimal performance. When using a single channel input (such as a surround sound processor's subwoofer out or LFE), the auto on/off circuit sensitivity will be affected. When one input channel is used instead of two, the unit will see lower signal levels present at the inputs. This may cause the unit to turn off when listening at low volume levels. If this occurs, simply use a "Y" adapter (available from most dealers) to allow your processor's single sub line to be fed into both L&R inputs. This will make the unit turn on at lower signal levels.



## LINE-LEVEL CONNECTION - OPTION B

Figure 2 shows connection from a pre-amplifier's main outputs to the left and right inputs of your Velodyne subwoofer. You will also need to connect a second pair of RCA cables from the outputs on the back of your subwoofer to the inputs on the back of your amplifier. When the subwoofer is installed in this fashion, your satellite speakers will be crossed over at 80 Hz which removes the lower bass frequencies from your external amplifier and speakers, enabling them to do a better job reproducing the higher frequencies. By utilizing this method, you will have a bi-amplified system, gaining improved power and headroom for your system. This installation method is not as common as the method described in Figure 1. (Cables needed: 2 stereo pair of RCA cables.)

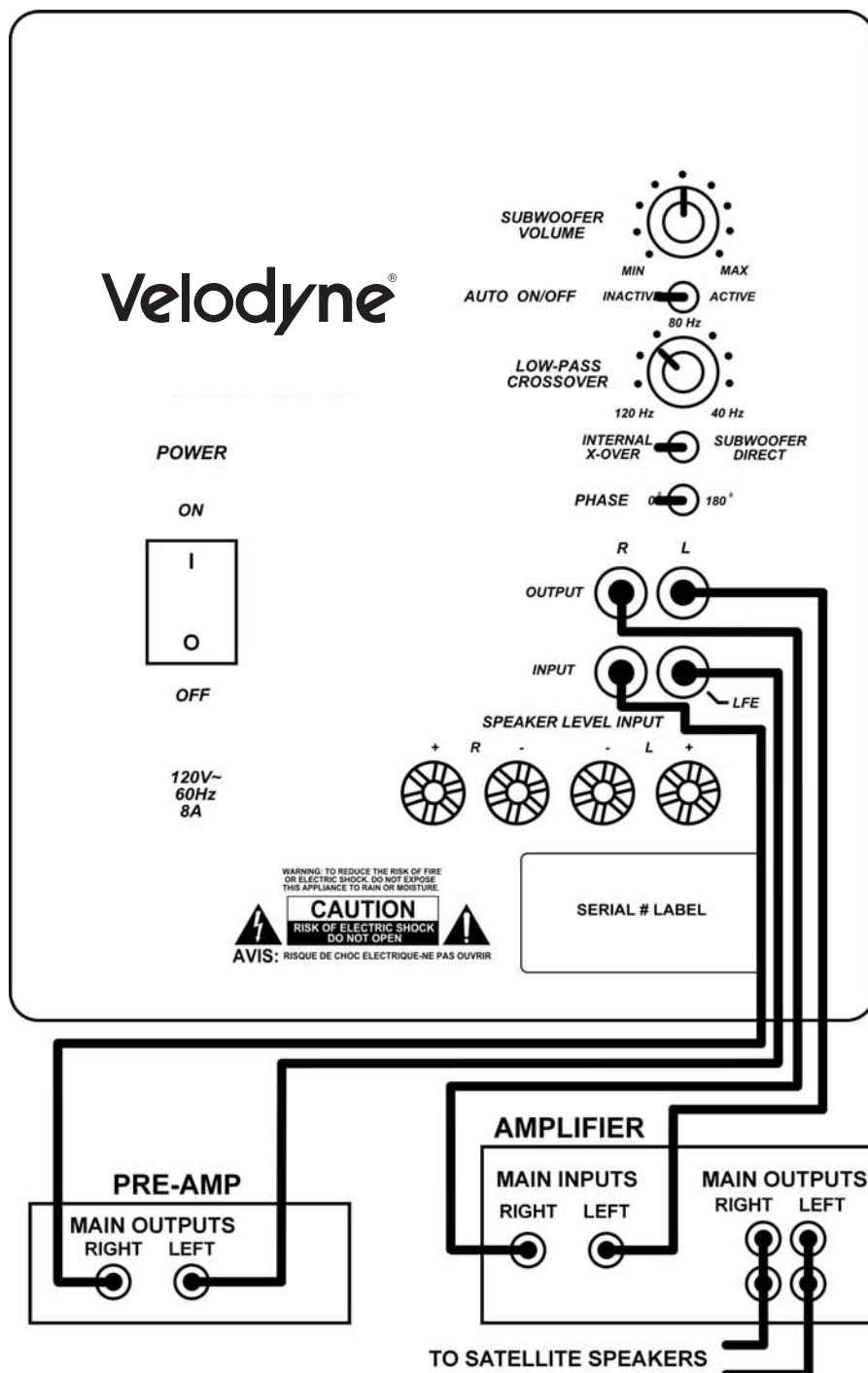


Figure 2. Installation Using Stereo Line-Level Inputs

## SPEAKER-LEVEL CONNECTIONS

Figure 3 shows an easy way to connect your Velodyne subwoofer directly to your receiver or integrated amplifier, if it lacks line-level outputs. You may also connect your satellites directly to your receiver or amplifier along with the subwoofer. Your receiver or amplifier will not notice the additional load of the subwoofer due to the high input impedance.

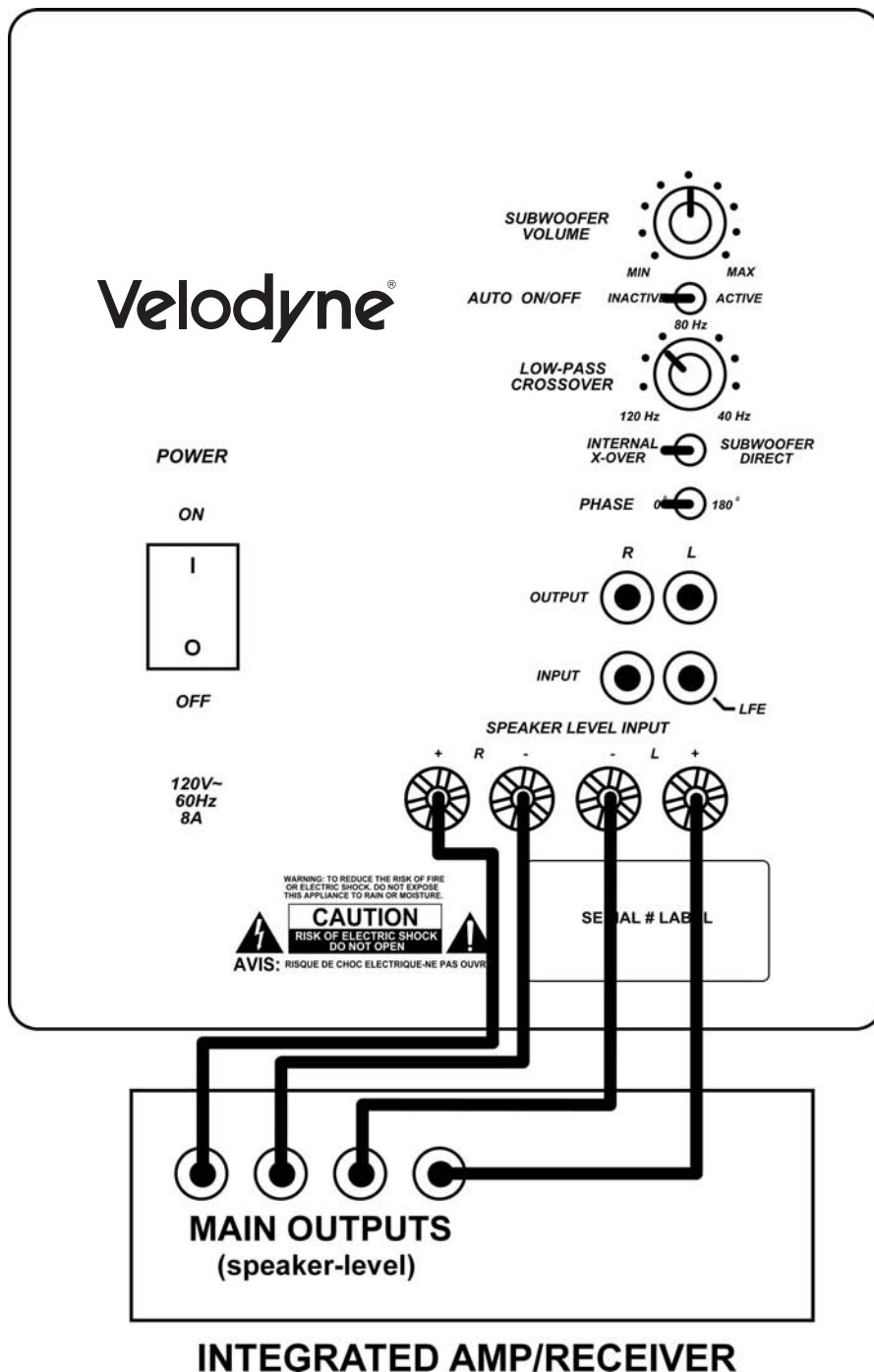


Figure 3. Installation Using Speaker-Level Inputs

**Caution!!!** To avoid damage to your main amplifier, be sure to maintain correct polarity when making all connections. Red (positive) to red, and black (negative) to black. Be sure that all connections are tight, and that there are no loose strands or frayed wires.

## SUBWOOFER OUTPUTS

The Velodyne subwoofer is designed to operate using the full range audio signal for input when using the built-in crossover. Many home theater processors/receivers (Dolby Digital®, DTS®, THX™) have a “subwoofer out” jack that is internally filtered and designed to be used with a powered subwoofer. In these installations, you may bypass the internal crossover in either the processor or the Velodyne subwoofer. In some installations, it may be beneficial to have a steeper ultimate crossover slope. To do this, you can use both your processor’s crossover and the one internal to the Velodyne sub. You should stagger the frequencies, (i.e., 120 Hz sub, 80 Hz processor) for best results.

To bypass the subwoofer’s internal crossover when the unit is being fed a low pass signal from another crossover, simply locate the switch marked INTERNAL X-OVER/SUBWOOFER DIRECT on the rear panel of the subwoofer and set to the SUBWOOFER DIRECT position. This will eliminate the internal crossover from the signal path.

## INTERCONNECT CABLES

When installing your new Velodyne subwoofer using the line level connections, you should always use shielded phono cables. There are many high quality cables available today. It is recommended that you keep the length of cable as short as possible to avoid any potential noise problems.

When using speaker level connections, use a high quality speaker cable that mates well with the connectors. Be very careful to avoid any loose strands or frayed wires that may result in a short, which may damage your equipment. Cables of extremely large size are typically not required. Extremely large gauge wire may not properly fit in the binding posts, resulting in a poor connection and possible short circuits.

## CARE OF YOUR SUBWOOFER

Your Velodyne subwoofer does not require any regular maintenance. Normal dusting or cleaning of the surface for appearance purposes is all that is required. We suggest you avoid any harsh detergents or chemicals when cleaning the cabinet. Abrasives, detergents, or cleaning solutions may damage the finish on the cabinet. We recommend using only a damp cloth to clean the cabinet.

During normal conditions, your new subwoofer may be left on continuously without any problems. The unit is equipped with a signal-sensing turn on/off that will automatically turn on the unit when a signal is present at the inputs and turn off the unit after several minutes when there is no longer any signal at the inputs.

## PROTECTION CIRCUITRY

Your new subwoofer is equipped with circuitry to provide maximum performance with greatest reliability.

The unit is protected against:

- 1) Overheating the amplifier.
- 2) Excessive drop in power line voltage.

If either of the above should happen, you should reduce the volume setting or shut the unit off until normal operating conditions return. You may also want to plug the unit into a different wall outlet, as dropping power line voltage will be most noticeable under strenuous conditions and may result in the unit shutting down intermittently.

## TROUBLESHOOTING AND SERVICE

Before seeking service for your amplifier or subwoofer, please re-check all systems. Following is a simple troubleshooting guide to assist you.

1. Verify that the unit is plugged in and power outlet used is active.
2. Is the power switch on?
3. Is the unit receiving an input signal from your source?
4. Have all controls (volume, crossover, phase, etc.) been properly set?
5. If the unit has been running at high levels, one of the protection circuits may be engaged. Has the amplifier overheated?
6. Make sure binding posts are tightened.

If the protection circuitry is active, the unit may cycle on and off until operating parameters return to normal. Under more serious conditions, the unit may shut off completely. Normal operation should return upon cooling, but you may be required to turn the power off and then on again to reset the unit.

The following conditions require service by a qualified technician:

1. The power cord has become damaged
2. The unit does not appear to operate normally or exhibits a marked change in performance
3. The unit has been exposed to water
4. Some part of the chassis or circuitry is physically damaged

## SPECIFICATIONS

Specifications	VMS-8
Woofers	8" forward firing (6.5" piston diameter)
Amplifier (Class D)	2000 watts Dynamic 1000 watts RMS Power
High Pass Crossover	80 Hz (6 dB/octave)
Low Pass Crossover	40 Hz-120 Hz 12 dB octave initial, 48 dB octave ultimate
Frequency Response	26-120 Hz (+/-3 dB)
Harmonic Distortion	<5% (typical)
Magnet Structure	204 oz. (12.7 lbs)
Voice Coil	2.5" Dual Layer inner/outer wind
Inputs	Gold plated line-level and speaker-level
Outputs	Line-level, 80 Hz up
Phase	0° or 180°
Video Shielded	No
Dimensions (H/W/D) (inc. feet, grill and knobs)	10.063" x 10.375" x 12.75" (27 x 26 x 33 cm)
Cabinet	Sealed enclosure
Warranty (parts/labor)	Three years (electronics - parts and labor) Five years (drivers - parts and labor)
Shipping Weight (approx.)	35 lbs. (16 Kgs)

**115 - 120V**

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*\*NOTE: Please complete and return your warranty card within ten (10) days or*

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**LIMITED WARRANTY - U.S. AND CANADA ONLY**

VELODYNE ACOUSTICS, Inc. ("VELODYNE") warrants all electronics for a period of three years, drivers for a period of five years, and full range speakers for a period of five years. All VELODYNE products have a warranty from the date of purchase against defects in materials and workmanship subject to the following conditions:

1. VELODYNE is not responsible for defects which result from the use of an amplifier or controller other than the one originally supplied with the unit (subwoofer) or defects which result from modifications or repairs made by any component of the system by anyone other than a VELODYNE factory authorized service representative.
2. This warranty is void if any repairs or service covered by the terms of this warranty are made to any component of the system by anyone other than a VELODYNE factory authorized service representative.
3. VELODYNE is not responsible for damage caused by accidents, abuse, misuse, natural or personal disaster or unauthorized modification. The VELODYNE products are not intended for professional or commercial use and VELODYNE is not responsible for damage resulting from such use.
4. The VELODYNE product warranty is limited to units that are purchased from authorized VELODYNE dealers and finalized within authorized dealer locations.
5. This warranty is nontransferable under any condition.
6. Use of this product outside the U.S. and Canada voids this warranty.

**TO OBTAIN SERVICE**

Information regarding service may be obtained from the dealer from whom you purchased the unit, or by contacting VELODYNE customer service. Warranty service must be performed by a VELODYNE factory authorized service representative within the warranty period set forth above. If VELODYNE determines the unit is defective, VELODYNE will, at VELODYNE's option, repair or replace the product at no charge if the product is forwarded prepaid to a factory authorized service representative. Products forwarded to the factory authorized service representative should be shipped securely and properly packaged, insured and freight prepaid.

**WARRANTY OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA**

The Warranty of this product if it is sold to a consumer outside of the United States or Canada shall comply with applicable law and shall be the sole responsibility of the distributor that supplied this product. To obtain any applicable warranty service, please contact the dealer from which you purchased this product, or the distributor that supplied this product.

**Velodyne Acoustics, Inc.**

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63-VMS Rev A MAY09





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