

Owner's Reference Guide
FONTAINE SIGNATURE SERIES
REFERENCE SERIES
LOUDSPEAKER SYSTEM

EGGLESTONWORKS



We at EgglestonWorks hope that you will spend many years enjoying your new Fontaine Signature loudspeaker system. This Owner's Manual contains important information that will insure the proper set-up and operation of your speakers.

Be sure to read this manual thoroughly in order to keep your new speakers sounding their best for many years to come. If you have any questions about this Manual or your new speakers, contact your authorized **EgglestonWorks** dealer who will be glad to help you.

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The Essence of Music is Emotion

The mission of a great loudspeaker is to recreate the musical event so vividly and so accurately that the listener at home experiences the same emotion evoked by a live musical event.

Audiophiles and audio manufacturers talk endlessly about such benchmarks as imaging and soundstage, separation and definition. EgglestonWorks loudspeakers of course excel in those areas, but they are really secondary issues, derived from the ability to precisely capture the basic elements of music: timbre intensity and pitch. To build a loudspeaker that does full justice to those basic elements requires not only a lifetime immersion in the experience of live music, but also a thorough knowledge of the process that produces the records and CDs we listen to at home. The design approach at EgglestonWorks exemplifies that knowledge and experience.

At EgglestonWorks, the skill and craftsmanship gained in years of speaker building combine with a deep understanding of what went into the recording. The goal, always, is to produce that emotional response that makes music meaningful.

Responding to music is instinctive. When listening to a loudspeaker that is honestly recreating a musical event, you don't have to analyze why it sounds right – you know it instinctively.

As a new owner of an EgglestonWorks loudspeaker system, you join a discerning group of serious music lovers who have set the highest standards for musical reproduction. We, at EgglestonWorks, are committed to creating a musical experience that exceeds that standard both visually and sonically.

Before You Unpack

If you are reading this, then you have successfully opened your boxes. It is important to follow these instructions closely, to avoid damaging the speaker or injuring yourself.

It is very important that you first carefully inspect all shipping cartons for damage. EgglestonWorks loudspeakers are packed extremely well, and any damage encountered during shipping should be limited to the packaging. When purchasing through a dealer who is also doing your set-up, damage to the speakers is not usually a problem. However, if a shipping company is involved in the delivery of the speakers to your house, there is always the potential for damage to occur. It is very important to contact your dealer or the shipping company immediately. Damage claims must be filed with most shipping companies within a few days of delivery.

EgglestonWorks recommends that you save all packing materials. The speakers are very heavy and due to their unique design, these cartons are the safest way to transport them if needed.

Unpacking Instructions

- 1) Remove top piece of foam from each speaker.
- 2) The speakers themselves are now visible. They are on their back with driver units facing up. The drivers are not visible through the wrapping but you should feel for the tweeter area and be careful to avoid it during unpacking.
- 3) Removing the speakers from their boxes at this point will be easier with two people. One person at the feet and the other at the top of the speaker.

Connecting the Loudspeakers

Consult with your authorized EgglestonWorks dealer for recommendations on cables and connectors for your loudspeakers. Cable and connector quality greatly affects the sound of your loudspeakers. In general follow these guidelines:

- ! *Do not use bare wire connections. EgglestonWorks recommends only spade or banana plug connectors.*
- ! *Keep the cable runs as short as possible.*
- ! *Keep the cable resistance (impedance) as low as possible.*
- ! *Use only the highest quality cable*
- ! *Use non-ferrous, non-oxidizing connectors. Gold plating is recommended.*
- ! *Allow for maximum amount of contact area.*
- ! *Tighten, but DO NOT OVERTIGHTEN, all connections.*
- ! *Periodically clean and reattach all connections.*
- ! *Make sure polarity is kept consistent when connecting your loudspeakers. Always connect the positive terminal of your amplifier to the positive terminal of your loudspeaker, and negative to negative. Cable companies generally indicate the positive and negative connectors at each end of the cable. The most common practice includes a red marking for positive, and black or no marking for negative. EgglestonWorks speakers are set up with positive on the right and negative on the left when facing the rear of the speaker. Reversing the polarity will result in a collapse of the soundstage, a non-existent image and a cancellation of bass frequencies, so be careful.*

BI– Amplification / BI Wiring

Due to the unique crossover configuration of our loudspeakers, advantages of bi-amping and bi-wiring are minimized. The Fontaine Signature is configured for single wiring configuration unless you have specially ordered it Bi-Wire

If you have ordered the BiWire version, the top set of binding posts drive the tweeter and the bottom posts for the mid range drivers.

FONTAINE SIGNATURE

Specifications

- o **Frequency Response** : 38Hz to 24kHz
- o **Impedance** : 8ohms nominal.
- o **Sensitivity** : 88dB
- o **Inputs** : One set of rhodium binding posts.
- o **Midbass/Midrange System** : Dual 6" carbon-fiber coned, midrange drivers with 3" voice coils.
- o **Treble System** : 1" dome tweeter. Hi-Dynamic Range voice coil/magnet system.
- o **Enclosure Design** : Wall thickness of 1.53" to 1.79". Crimped, non-settling Dacron and felt is used throughout.

Initial Set-Up

EgglestonWorks loudspeakers are recognized as the most resolute, detailed, and musically accurate speakers available in the world today. As such, they are more sensitive to their positioning both within the room and relative to the listener. Moving the speakers in what may seem like small increments can result in great differences in sound. The key to finding the best position in your listening room will be experimentation, but these guidelines, combined with your dealer's advice, should produce optimal sound.

- Due to the unique design of EgglestonWorks loudspeakers, they are typically placed much closer to the walls of your room than most speaker systems.
- In general, we suggest starting with the speakers 24" from the rear wall.
- We also suggest a center to center measurement of 8 feet to start.
- The distance from the rear wall and the side walls should be unequal.
- The distance between the speakers will depend on the particular listening room, but a wider stance than most systems is sometimes needed. The minimum distance between the speakers should be 7.5 feet (center to center).
- The distance to the listening position can most often conform to the theoretical idea of an equilateral triangle with the speakers and listener as the three points. In some situations, the listening position can be slightly farther back. (example. 8 feet center to center and 10 feet to listener.)
- The speakers should be toed-in slightly, but not necessarily aimed directly at the listening position. Experimentation here is key.

The toe-in is a key element in the performance of the speakers. In general, if the speaker is toed-in and aimed directly at the listening position, the best imaging will be heard, but the soundstage will not be as wide as possible. Toeing the speakers out slightly will result in a wider soundstage, and usually more realistic imaging. Depending on the spacing of the speakers, a toe-in of somewhere between 15 degrees and 30 degrees is suggested.

When setting up your new speakers, the most important thing to remember is that experimenting with placement is the only way to find the right place. Because all rooms are different in size, materials, and furniture there is no way to give clear cut instructions on placement. Additionally, because electronic equipment and musical tastes also greatly affect placement, you will be the best judge of the sound.

Amplification

The EgglestonWorks Fontaine Signature is a relatively easy speaker to drive. With an efficiency of 88 dB, the load presented to an amplifier is quite stable. Nominal impedance is 8 Ohms, but rarely drops below 5.6 ohms. Because of this impedance curve, we typically recommend amplification minimum of 80 watts per channel. Because not all amplifiers are created equal, this minimum can change depending on a certain amplifier and the quality of the current it is capable of delivering. We recommend careful audition at your dealer to determine if a particular amplifier will make a good match with the speaker. Use low-powered, single-ended triode amplifiers only after consulting with your dealer or after audition.

Speaker Supports

Your EgglestonWorks loudspeakers were supplied with custom spikes that screw into the steel feet on the bottom of the speaker. We highly recommend using these spikes as they help dissipate cabinet energy, resulting in tighter bass, better focused imaging, and more accurate soundstaging. If you have a non-carpeted floor, EgglestonWorks manufactures spike “coasters” to be placed between your floor and the spike point. These are available from several manufacturers and your dealer can help you locate them.

Care and Maintenance

The glossy surfaces of your speakers can be cleaned using a soft, 100% cotton cloth. Never use paper towels, abrasive pads or abrasive cleaners. A non-ammoniated spray glass cleaner may be used. Several companies make polish especially for plastic (you will have to look for particular brands in your area).

Wax can also be used on the acrylic to bring back their shine and fill in small scratches. This can be found at most automotive parts and accessory stores. We recommend either dark blue or black.

Speaker Break-In

Your EgglestonWorks loudspeakers use the finest drivers available in the world today. The internal components of these drivers are very stiff when they are new, and require quite a bit of use before they fully loosen up. EgglestonWorks practices moderate in-house break in of your speakers, typically not exceeding 50 hours. This partial break in is to reduce the time it will take at home to loosen the drivers sufficiently. We recommend that your speakers play at moderate to high levels for at least an additional 100 hours before they are fully broken in and performing at their peak.

Warnings

The EgglestonWorks Fontaine Signature loudspeaker system was designed with unequaled standards in construction integrity and parts quality. The drivers can endure extreme conditions, and all crossover components are designed to withstand high power envelopes. The Fontaine Signature are not indestructible, however. Following a few simple guidelines will help to protect your investment and insure proper performance.

- ! Never connect any loudspeaker directly to an AC power line. Severe damage to the speaker will result, in addition to the possible risk of electric shock.
- ! Avoid over-driving the amplifier or speaker. EgglestonWorks loudspeakers are relatively easy to drive, but they demand amplifiers capable of delivering a large amount of current. Over-driving the amplifier or speakers can produce:
 - Distortion, static, compression or other unnatural sounds.
 - Clicking & popping sounds from the amplifier.
 - Very harsh sounds from the woofer(s), resulting from “bottoming out”.
- ! Use care whenever moving the speaker. “Walking” the speaker is acceptable only with the spikes removed. If the spikes are installed, “walking” will damage both the spike and the spike receptacle.
- ! NEVER TOUCH THE TWEETER DOME. We recommend leaving the tweeter guard in place at all times. We also recommend that you never touch the midrange and bass drivers except with a soft cloth for periodic cleaning.
- ! Avoid prolonged exposure to direct sunlight. It can damage the finish over time.
- ! Avoid extreme humidity. High humidity can affect the cabinet, adhesives and electrical contacts.
- ! EgglestonWorks loudspeakers are extremely heavy. Never attempt to move them without using extreme caution and/or someone’s assistance.

Warranty

We would like to thank you and congratulate you on the purchase of your EgglestonWorks loudspeaker system. We have made every effort to ensure that all of our products are expertly crafted and provide the sound quality you demand.

Your new EgglestonWorks loudspeakers have a sixty-day warranty from date of purchase on all drivers and crossovers. This warranty may be extended to six years by returning this registration form to us. It is imperative that you include the serial numbers of the speakers, which can be found on the rear of the speaker.

Your warranty also covers defects in materials and craftsmanship. The warranty does not cover blown drivers caused by excessive power input and/or excessive volume, misuse, abuse, accidents, or acts of nature. The warranty also does not cover damage to components due to high humidity levels. Warranty claims will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis to determine the cause of the problem and the appropriate course of action. ***All warranty work is done at our factory. Shipping to and from the factory is not included in the warranty.***

Please, take a few moments to fill out the form below and mail or fax it to us.

Date of Purchase: _____

Dealer: _____

Your Address: _____

Work Phone: _____

Fax: _____

Model of Speaker: _____

Serial Numbers: _____

Where did you first hear about EgglestonWorks? _____

What was the deciding factor in choosing an EgglestonWorks system?



~ makers of ~
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