



Emanate

Bookshelf Speaker

Setup Guide



Getting started:

There's an ideal way to place speakers, and then there's real life.

Maybe your couch has to stay where it is. Maybe the speakers need to sit near a wall. Maybe one side of the room is open and the other isn't. That's normal.

This guide gives you a strong starting point, explains the tradeoffs, and helps you get the best result your room allows.

Start here

If you do nothing else, aim for these five things:

1

Make a Triangle

Space the speakers about as far apart as you sit from them.

2

Keep both sides as even as possible

Try to give the left and right speakers similar space. Big differences can weaken stereo imaging.

3

Get the tweeters near ear height

Aim the tweeters roughly at ear height when seated.

4

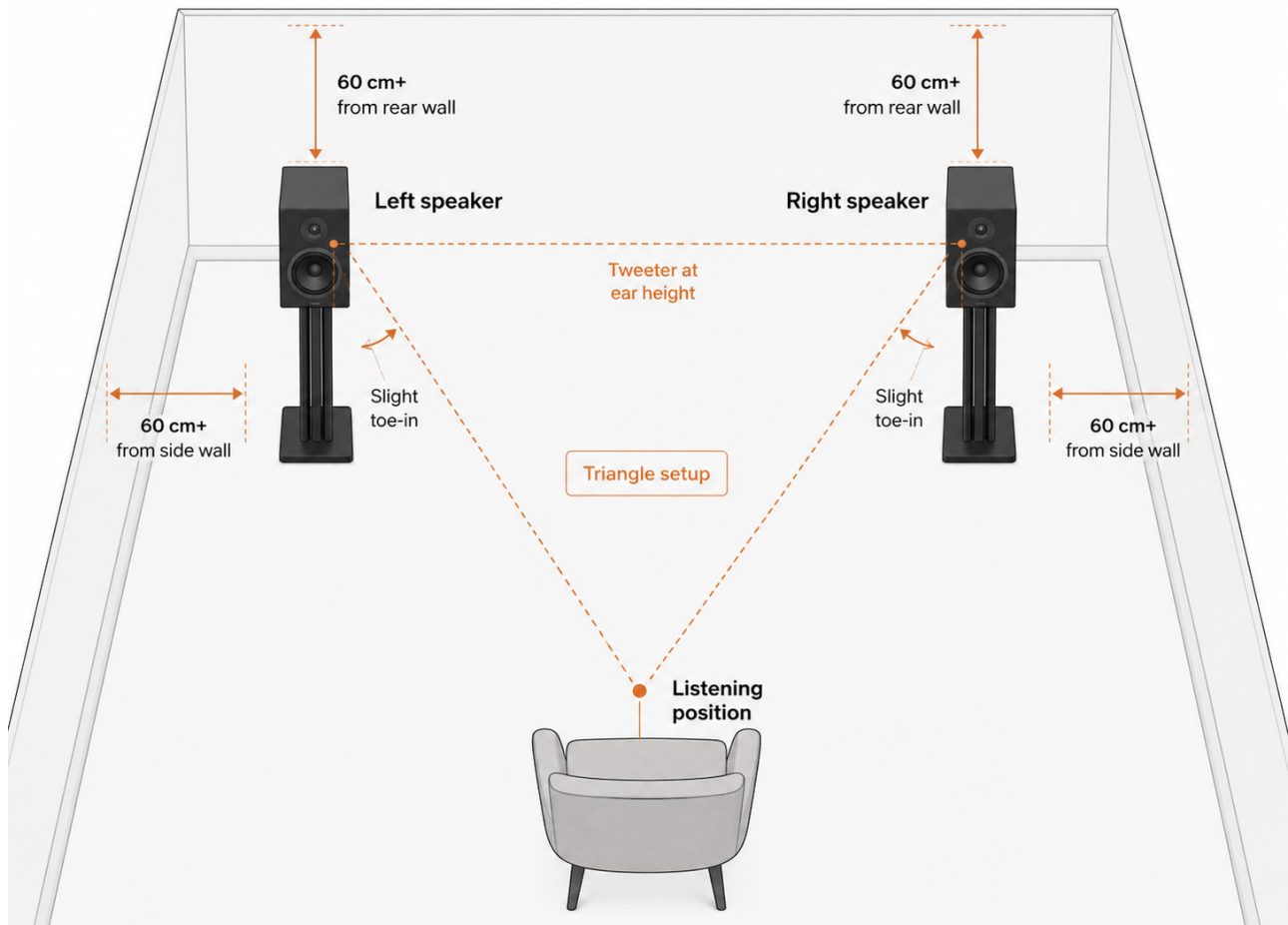
Avoid corner placement

Start with each speaker about 60 cm from the side and rear walls. If space is tight, just avoid pushing them right into corners.

5

Slight toe-in

Angle the speakers slightly inward toward your listening position.



*This is the idealised setup. Real rooms are messy, so adjust it to suit your space.

Stands vs furniture

Stands are usually the easiest way to get the basics right. Furniture can still work, but it comes with compromises.

Why stands are better

- Tweeters near ear height
- More space around the speaker
- Less vibration through shelves or cabinets
- Easier left/right matching

If you need to use furniture

- Keep the speaker near the front edge
- Avoid boxing it in
- Match left and right heights
- Make sure the surface the speaker is sitting on is solid

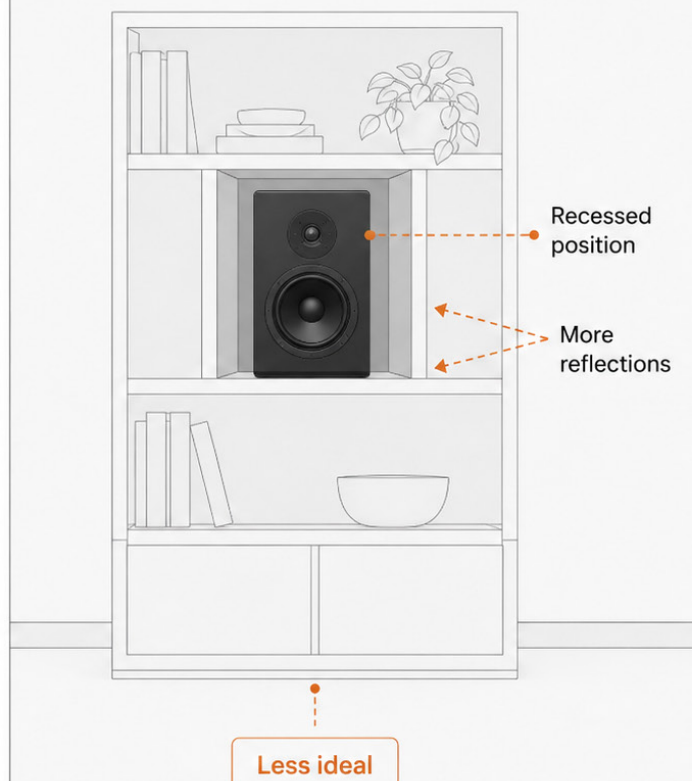
GOOD: OPEN & PROPER HEIGHT

Speaker on stand



LESS IDEAL: CONFINED & RECESSED

Speaker in shelving



Fine tune your setup

Once the speakers are roughly in place, make small adjustments one at a time.

What to adjust

- **Rear wall distance**
 - Further out usually gives cleaner, lighter bass.
 - Closer usually adds bass weight, but can become boomy.
- **Toe-in**
 - More toe-in = brighter, clearer highs.
 - Less toe-in = softer, more mellow highs.
- **Speaker spacing**
 - Further apart usually gives a wider soundstage.
 - Closer together usually strengthens the centre image.
- **Listening position**
 - Small seat changes can affect both bass and imaging.

What to listen for and possible fixes

- **Bass sounds thick or boomy**
 - Move the speakers further from the rear wall.
- **Bass sounds thin**
 - Move the speakers slightly closer to the rear wall.
- **Vocals do not lock into the centre**
 - Check both speakers are the same distance from your seat.
 - Move the speakers closer together.
 - Increase toe in.
- **Soundstage feels too narrow**
 - Move the speakers a little further apart.
- **Soundstage has a gap in the middle**
 - Move the speakers closer together.
 - Add a little more toe-in.

1 Rear wall distance

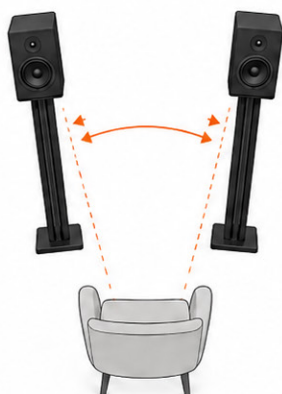
Rear wall



Affects bass

Further out = Cleaner Bass
Closer = More Bass Weight

2 Toe-in



Affects high frequencies

More = Brighter Highs
Less = Mellow Highs

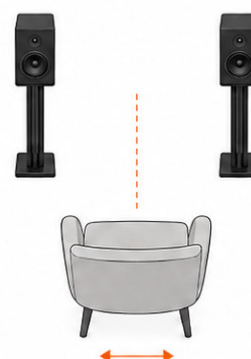
3 Speaker spacing



Affects soundstage width

Wider = Bigger Stage
Closer = Stronger Center

4 Listening position



Affects bass and imaging

Small Seat Changes
Can Help

Work with the room you have

Most rooms are not ideal. That is normal.

If your setup is limited by walls, furniture, or an awkward layout, make the best compromise you can. Keep left and right as even as possible, avoid pushing speakers into corners, and make small adjustments until the sound feels balanced.

1 Speakers near the wall

Heavier bass

What to do

- Keep out of corners
- Give them as much space as you can
- Match left and right
- Fine tune with small movements

2 Speakers on furniture

Less flexibility

What to do

- Avoid deep shelves
- Keep near the front edge
- Keep heights equal
- Angle toward the listening position if needed

3 Uneven room

Harder to balance

What to do

- Match speaker distance to your seat
- Aim for the best symmetry you can
- Perfect balance may not be possible

4 Seat near the back wall

Bass can build up

What to do

- Move forward slightly if possible
- If not, focus on symmetry and careful toe-in

Still stuck?

Rooms are weird. If your setup is fighting you, send us a photo of your room and we'll help you find the best compromise.

help@printyourspeakers.com