

Rotation of Speakers

Q. I have heard from different sources that some speakers should be rotated 180 deg. on their mounts to compensate for the sagging of the cones. Is this true? If so, how often is it necessary? Do all types of speakers need this rotation?

A. When a speaker possesses low cone resonance and high compliance, it often means that the suspension material which centers and supports the cone has low elastic limits. After a considerable time, in such units, gravity exerts a downward pull sufficient to stretch the suspension. If this stretching process continues long enough, the voice coil will move far enough to rub against the pole pieces. To avoid this, it is a good idea to rotate the speaker 180 deg. so that the pull of gravity is then in a direction to re-center the cone. This rotation should be carried out once every year or two. The need for a speaker to be rotated does not indicate poor workmanship. I cannot say whether your speakers need this treatment. I can say, however, that most speakers do not need it. I suggest that if there is any doubt in your mind you write to the speaker manufacturer regarding this matter.