

The Speaker Exchange

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tel: 813-237-4800 toll-free: 800-849-6972

Refoaming Instructions:

You will need a utility knife, masking tape, and refoam kit (foam, dustcap, shims, brown contact glue). It is easier to work if the speaker is removed from the cabinet. Only Bose 901 & 802 speakers should be repaired in the cabinet. Mark the positive and negative wires so you will remember how to correctly reinstall.

Work on newspaper because the old foam can be sticky. Remove the gasket OVER the foam's outer edge by inserting a utility knife under the gasket and carefully prying until it is free. (Do not remove if under the foam as in AR or ADS.) Not all kits come with a gasket so you may need to reuse the original. Advent and Dahlquist masonite rings become brittle so be careful not to break them during removal.

Scrape the old foam from the speaker frame, cone and gasket if reusing it. Remove as much of the old glue as possible without damaging or cutting the cone. Clean old foam fragments left behind.

Generally we suggest that you remove the original dust cap. Gently slice near the outside keeping the blade horizontal. Do not cut the cone or voice coil leads. Use masking tape to remove any dirt on the inside of the voice coil or vc gap. Insert evenly spaced 1/8-1/4" vertical strips of shim material inside the voice coil until cone/voice coil assembly is centered and secure. Insure that cone and spider are at a natural height and not sunken or elevated.

Check new foam surround fit on the speaker. Not all exact size foams are available so you may need to cut, overlap and seam the foam if it is too large or trim the outside with scissors. When we refoam, we reglue the new foam in the original place, but you can refoam to the front of the cone if it is easier. (Advent or Dalquist woofers with masonite rings must have the foam returned to the original location.)

Spread a small, flat bead of glue to the edge of the cone and to the frame. Allow the glue to get tacky. Center the new foam onto cone and gently apply pressure with your finger beginning at the 12:00, 6:00, 3:00 and 9:00 positions. If the new foam is centered correctly, then you can move your finger in a full circle to secure it. Do the same to the foam on the frame. You may need to trim new gaskets to the correct size. Spread glue on gasket and when tacky, install. You can tape in position. If the foam is not taller than the gasket, you can carefully turn upside down on a flat surface to dry. Be careful not to change alignment of foam or gasket by sliding. If the foam is higher than the gasket, you can leave speaker face up and place same size component on top of speaker if it does not press on the foam. Wait 24 hours. Remove shims from voice coil. Lightly tap to test that cone moves without scraping or grinding. Install new dustcap. It is ok if it is larger than the original.

If your speaker does not move freely, you may need speaker reconing which is the replacement of all the moving parts in the speaker frame including the voice coil, cone, spider, surround, dustcap, leads and gasket. In most cases, this returns the component to exact new or upgraded specifications. Call or email us for more info.