FLUANCE®

Ai81 - Powered Floorstanding Speakers
User Manual v1.1

Serious Performance™
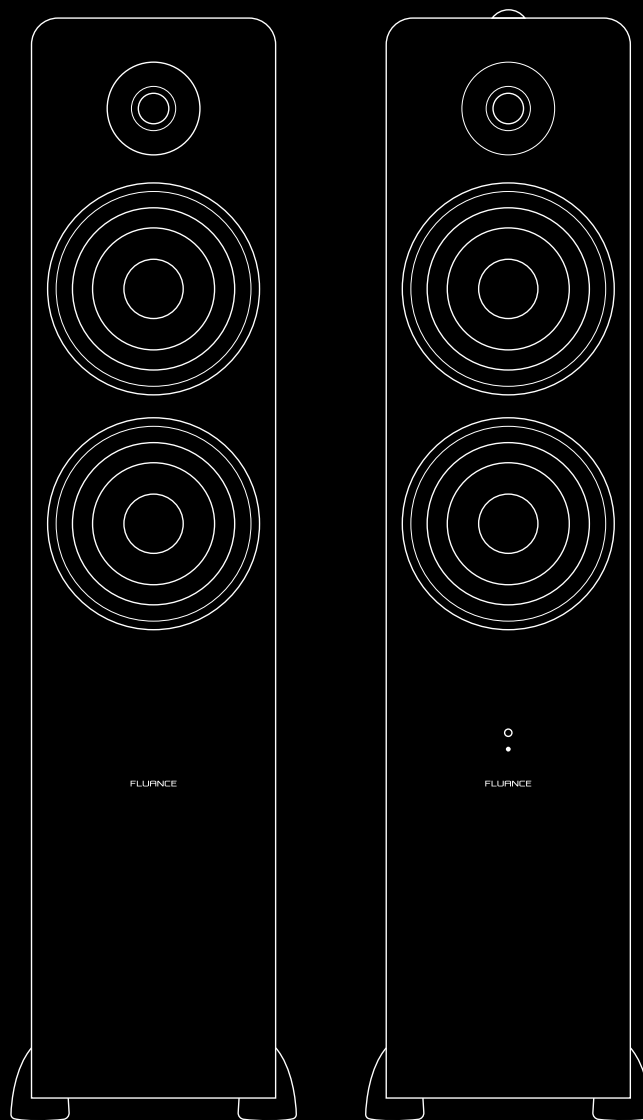
Introduction

Thank you for your purchase of your Fluance product. We hope you enjoy your experience. If you have any questions please visit us at: Fluance.com/support

Fluance believes everyone should experience audio in its truest form, recreating the performance the way the artist intended. Utilizing only superior components and expert audio engineering, their products are a testament to the performance that can be achieved when a passion for music takes center stage. The perfect complement to any audiophile's lifestyle, you'll be enjoying live performances in your home for years to come.

Break-in Period

Our speakers have a Butyl rubber ring surrounding the cone. The break-in period allows the rubber to loosen and stretch, allowing the cone a larger range of movement, resulting in better sound reproduction. We recommend 10-12 hours of play at moderate volume to achieve this.

For additional product information, please consult the manual at: Fluance.com/resources
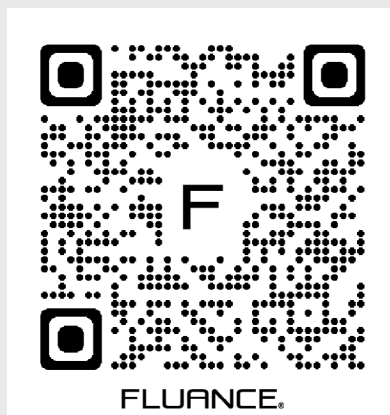
Need Help?

Scan this QR Code for easy setup instructions, videos, and frequently asked questions.

Fluance.com/resources   Fluance.com/support   Fluance.com/videos   Fluance.com/contact

Don't forget to register your product with us!

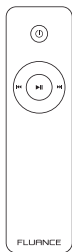Fluance.com/registration

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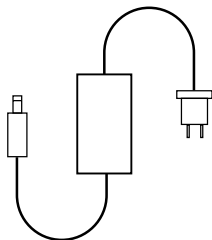
What's Included

Ai81 Passive
Speaker
(Left Channel)
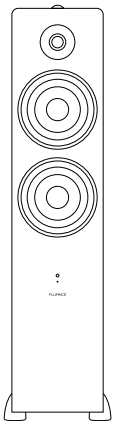
Ai81 Active
Speaker
(Right Channel)

Remote Control
& Batteries

Power
Cable

Speaker
Wire
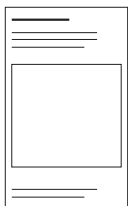
Quick Start
Guide

Lifetime
Customer Support
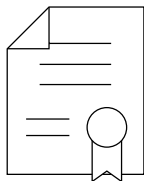
2 Year
Warranty

Front & Back Panel Layout

1. Control Knob
   - Volume
   - Input Selection
   - Power ON/OFF
2. Source LED
   - Blue (Solid) - Bluetooth® Paired
   - Blue (Flashing) - Bluetooth® Pairing Mode
   - Green (Solid) - RCA 1
   - Purple (Solid) - RCA 2
   - White (Solid) - Optical
   - Red (Solid) - Standby Mode
   - Red (Flashing) - Mute
3. IR Sensor
4. Speaker Input
5. Optical Input
6. RCA Input 1
7. RCA Input 2
8. Subwoofer Output
9. Bluetooth® Reset Pairing
10. Left Speaker Output
11. AC Input
12. Fuse (T3.15AL 250V)
13. Power Switch

Active Speaker   Passive Speaker

Active Speaker (Back)
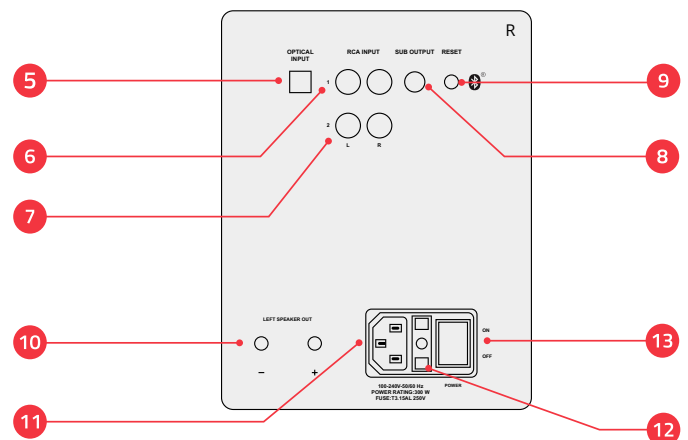
Remote Control Layout

1. Power ON/OFF
2. Volume UP/DOWN
3. Source
4. Treble UP/DOWN
5. Mute
6. Play/Pause & Bluetooth® Pairing Reset*
   *To enable Bluetooth® Pairing Reset, press + hold for 3 seconds.
7. Forward/Back
8. LED Brightness - (100% > 25% > OFF)
9. Bass UP/DOWN
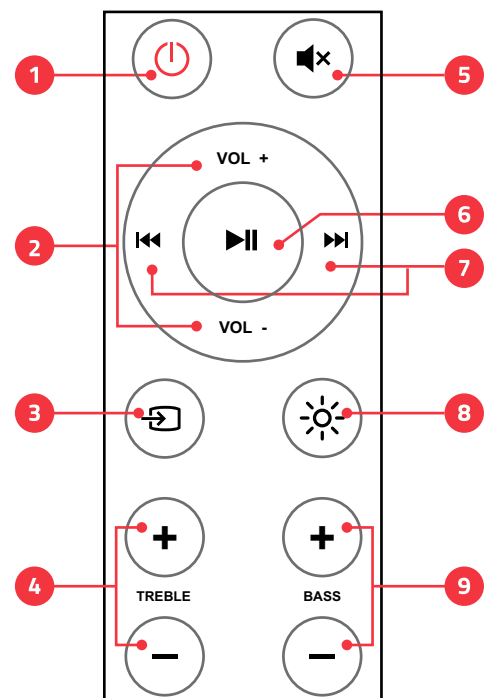
Product Setup

1. Position the speakers with the Active Speaker on the right and the Passive Speaker on the left.

Passive Speaker   Active Speaker
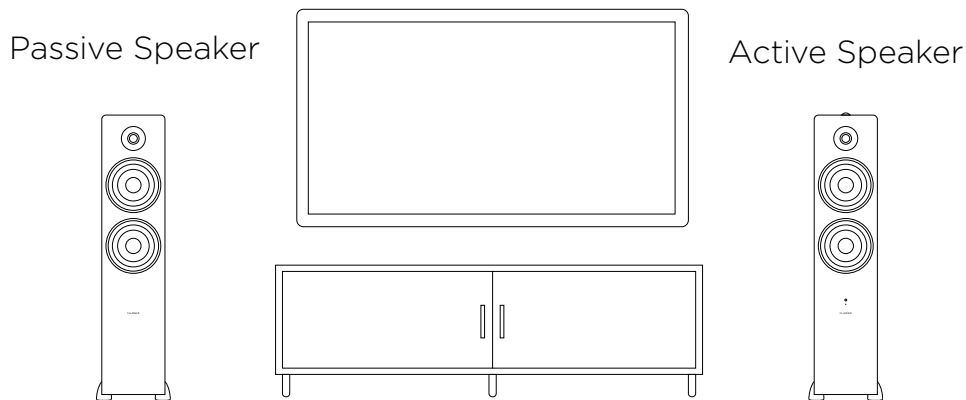
> NOTE: If placing the speakers near a wall, it is recommended to keep 6-12 inches away from the wall.

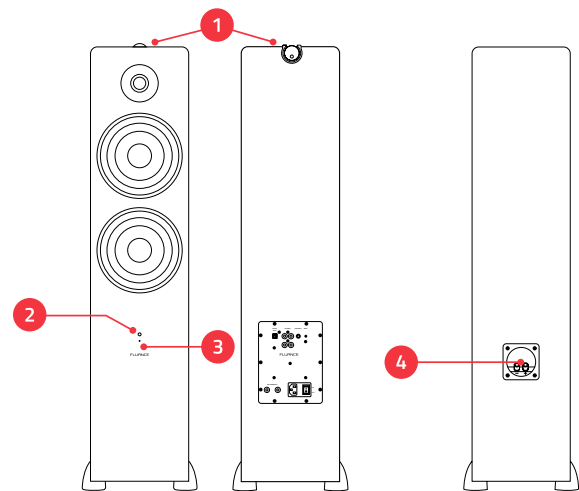2. Connect one end of the speaker wire to the binding posts on the back of the Active Speaker and connect the other end of speaker wire to the binding posts on the back of the Passive Speaker.

   IMPORTANT: Ensure the same color wire is connected to the same color binding posts on each speaker.

> NOTE: The included speaker wire is 8ft. If placing your speakers further than 8ft apart it is recommended to use standard 18 gauge speaker wire to connect the speakers over the longer distance.

3. Connect the power cable to the back of the Active Speaker and set the power switch to the ON position.

Passive   Active
Speaker   Speaker
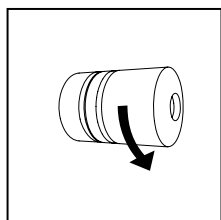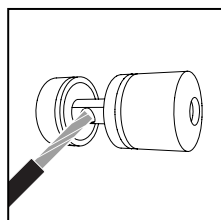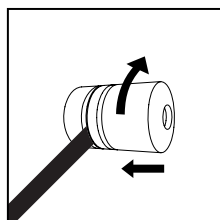
Loosen the   Insert speaker   Tighten the
binding post   wire through hole   binding post
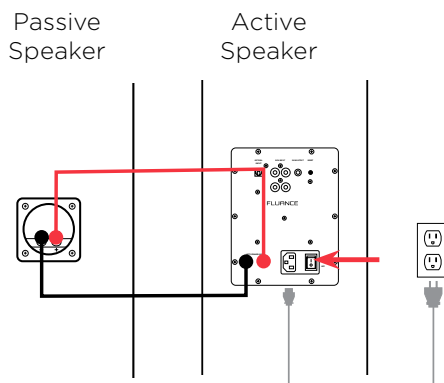
Turning On/Off Unit

Press the Control Knob to turn on the unit. Hold to turn off the unit.
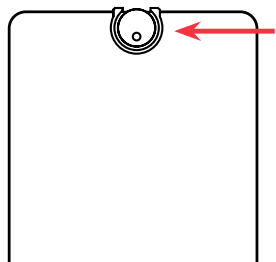
Press ⏻ on the remote to turn the unit on/off.

OR
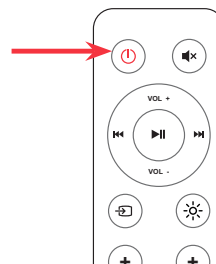
Source Selection

Press the Control Knob to cycle through the audio inputs.
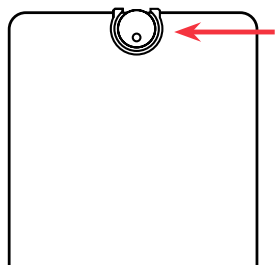
Press ⊡ on the remote to cycle through the audio inputs.

OR
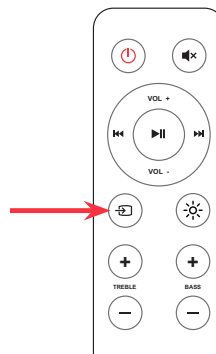
The Source LED will show the below color for each source:

⬤ (Blue) Bluetooth   ◯ (White) Optical

⬤ (Green) RCA 1   ⬤ (Purple) RCA 2

Adjusting Source LED Brightness

Use the LED Brightness button ☀ on the Remote to cycle between 100%, 25% and OFF brightness levels.

> NOTE: When set to OFF, the LED will turn on for 5 seconds when power is turned on or new Source is selected before turning off again.

EQ Adjustment

Use the Bass/Treble buttons on the Remote to adjust each from -5 to +5.

LED Behavior:

⬤ Red (Flash 2x) - Bass/Treble Set to -5 or +5

✖ Source Color (Flash 2x) - Bass/Treble Set to 0

Note: If using a source device, with its own EQ settings, ensure it is set to flat (0). Some apps also include an EQ that should also be set to flat.

EQ Reset

To reset the Bass and Treble levels to 0 put the speakers into Standby Mode and press and hold the Bluetooth Reset button until the red LED flashes. This will reset the speaker to default settings but will not reset Bluetooth Settings.

RCA Input

1. Connect the RCA cable to your source device (Turntable, Smartphone, Computer...).

    Note: If using a turntable an internal or external preamp is required.

2. Connect the other end of the RCA cable to back of the Active Speaker.

RCA to RCA cable not included
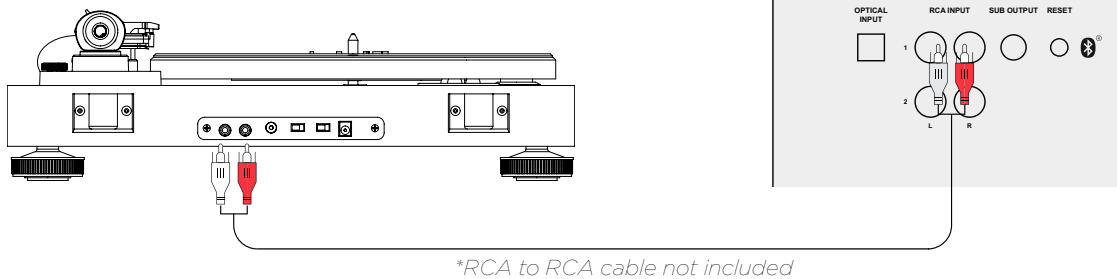
3. Press the Control Knob to select the RCA input (RCA 1 - Green; RCA 2 - Purple), or Press the Source button on the remote control.

4. Adjust volume on Ai81 as well as source device.
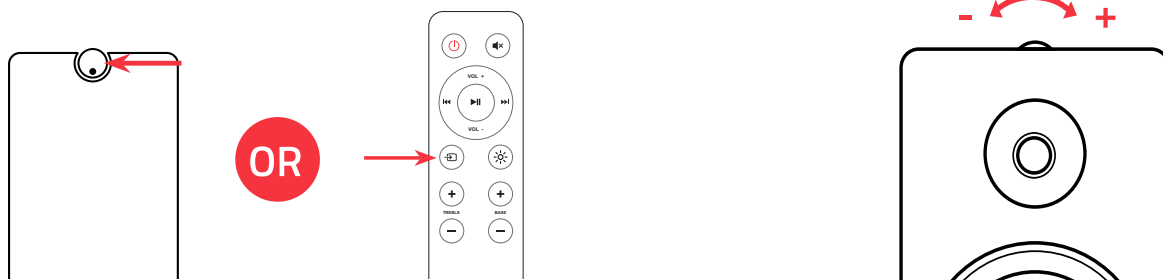
Optical Input

1.   Connect the Optical cable to your source device (TV, Computer, Game Console...). Ensure protective caps are removed from the ends of the Optical cable.

2.   Connect the other end of the Optical cable to the back of the Active Speaker.
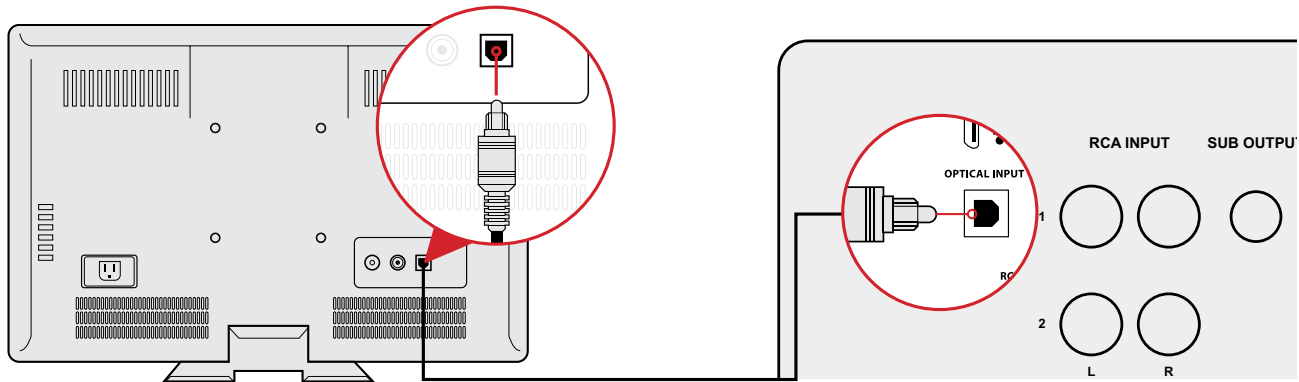
Optical cable not included

3.   Press the Control Knob to select the Optical Input (White LED).

4.   Adjust the volume on Ai81 as well as source device.

OR
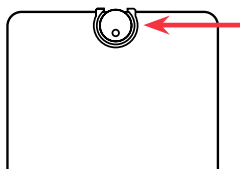
Press the Source button on the remote control.
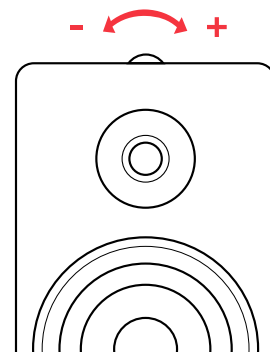
Optical Audio Signal Compatibility

The Ai81 does not support Dolby Digital Audio or DTS Audio. Locate the audio output settings on your source device and ensure Dolby Digital is turned off. The correct audio output setting is commonly referred to as PCM or Stereo.

Some TVs also require that audio output be enabled. This setting may be referred to as External Speakers. Ensure this is selected as your speaker/audio output.

For instructions on a specific device, please consult the device's user manual.

Bluetooth® Pairing

1. Press the Control Knob to select the Bluetooth© input (Blue LED).

OR

Press the Source button on the remote control.

3. Use the Remote to Play/Pause and go Forward/Backward on your source device.

   NOTE: Adjust Volume on the source device as well as the Ai81.

   VOL +

   VOL -

   Important: Ensure any apps and devices have the EQ disabled (flat) and Volume Normalization disabled for best performance

   NOTE: How you access your device's Bluetooth© settings may vary from one manufacturer to another. Maximum line of sight for Bluetooth© range is 33ft. Obstacles may decrease transmission distance.

2. Pair to "Fluance Ai81" on your source device.

   Settings

   Bluetooth

   My Devices
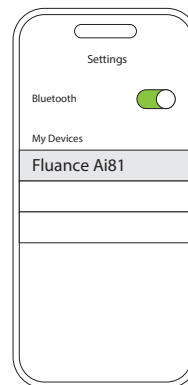
   Fluance Ai81

   Note: Unit will attempt to auto-pair to the last paired device.

4. If your device cannot find "Fluance Ai81", you can reset Bluetooth© pairing:

   • Press and hold ▶❚❚ on the Remote for 3 seconds to reset Bluetooth© pairing.

   OR

   • Press the Bluetooth© Pairing Reset Button on the back of the unit.
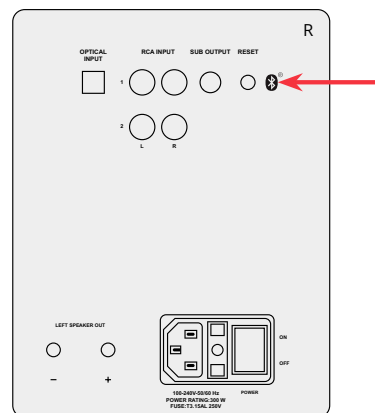
Subwoofer Output

IMPORTANT: When a subwoofer cable is connected, the Ai81 will automatically cut frequencies below 80Hz to optimize performance. The subwoofer cable must be removed to resume full frequency playback.

1. Connect the Subwoofer cable to your powered subwoofer.
2. Connect the other end of the Subwoofer cable to the back of the Active Speaker.
3. Adjust the volume on the Subwoofer for the best listening experience.

*Subwoofer cable not included
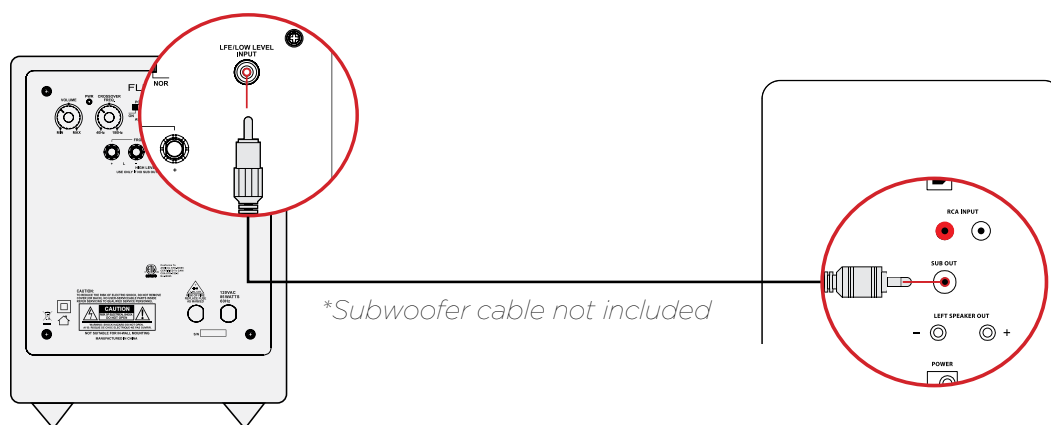
Fluance offers matching subwoofers for the ultimate audio experience.
For more information visit: Fluance.com/subwoofer

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is there no sound from the Ai81 when connected to the Optical input?

Many digital audio sources feature Dolby Audio which is not supported by the Ai81. Ensure your device's audio output is set to Stereo or PCM. See page 9 for more information.

What do I do if I have poor audio quality on the Optical input?

This can occur if your TV's audio output setting is on Dolby Audio or Surround Sound. Ensure your device's audio output is set to Stereo or PCM. See page 9 for more information.

What do I do if audio is only coming from the active speaker?

The most common cause of no audio from one speaker is a poor connection. Ensure the metal portion of the speaker wire is in direct contact with the binding posts.

What is ″auto-pairing″ and how does it work?

Auto-pairing is a convenient connection feature included in all Fluance Bluetooth© Speakers. If the connected Bluetooth-enabled device leaves the connection range of the Ai81 and returns at a later time, the device will automatically connect. If the device's Bluetooth© function is disabled and then enabled at a later time, the device will automatically connect as well.

Note: The Fluance Ai81 will only auto-pair to the last device that it was connected to.

What do I do if my remote control is not working?

Replace the battery in the remote with a new one. Ensure you are pointing the remote at the IR sensor on the Active (right) Speaker and that nothing is blocking the sensor.

What is the range of my Bluetooth connection?

The Fluance Ai81 operates with Power Class 2 Bluetooth devices, which have a range of approximately 33 feet (line of sight). If you are experiencing Bluetooth connectivity issues it is recommended to position the Ai81 away from sources of interference such as wireless routers or microwaves.

Another Bluetooth® device is connected to my Fluance Ai61 and I want to connect my device.

You can reset any Bluetooth connection by pressing the Bluetooth Pairing Reset button on the back of the Active Speaker. You can also press and hold "Play/Pause" on the Remote for 3 seconds.

How can I increase the volume when using the Ai81 with a turntable?

If turntable audio is too quiet you may need to add a preamplifier. Some turntables have built-in preamps which can be turned on or off. The Fluance PA10 preamplifier is a great match for Fluance powered speakers and turntables.

Why is the volume from each input different on the Ai81?

Ensure that any volume normalization and EQ settings on your source devices are disabled. The different signal types used by each input means they are processed differently by the Ai81. The Optical Input uses a digital signal while the RCA Input uses an analog signal. These differences can result in slight variances in the output volume of the Ai81.

Why are my speakers quiet when I stream music?

Confirm the volume on your source device is turned up. If the issue persists your device or app may have volume limiting settings that are affecting the overall volume of your music. It is recommended to disable any Volume/Audio Normalization settings on your device and app. These settings can adjust the volume level of all audio and negatively affect the performance of the speakers. Ensure these settings are disabled and that any EQ settings are set to flat.

What is the break-in period for Fluance speakers?

The break-in period for your Fluance Ai81 speakers is about 10 hours of playing time at normal listening volumes. After this period, the drivers will have had enough movement to perform at their peak level.

How do I clean the speakers?

To clean the speakers use a dry, lint-free microfiber cloth.

Troubleshooting

No Power

- Ensure the LED Brightness is not set to OFF
- Check all connections on power adapter and ensure fully inserted

No Audio

- Check volume on Ai81 and ensure it is above 0
- Check volume on source device and ensure it is above 0
- Confirm Ai81 is set to correct source
- Ensure all cables are connected properly and fully inserted

No Audio from Passive Speaker

- Check speaker wire connections between speakers and ensure securely connected to binding posts

Poor Audio

- Ensure the colored wires are connected to the corresponding colored binding posts on each speaker
- Test with another audio source device to determine source of issue
- Adjust bass and treble settings on both Ai81 and the source device. The source device equalizer may need to be disabled or set to flat (0) to prevent audio distortion.
- Volume normalization should also be disabled on the source device for best performance.

Hissing Noise

- Ensure the colored wires are connected to the corresponding colored binding posts on each speaker
- Test using different RCA or Aux cables
- If using with a turntable, ensure the ground cable is connected properly

No Sound from Subwoofer

- Confirm the subwoofer is connected to power and is turned on
- Ensure the subwoofer cable is fully connected and secure
- Adjust the volume on the subwoofer and set the crossover to 80 Hz

Certification Information

FCC Statement

This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class B digital device, pursuant to Part 15 of the FCC Rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference in a residential installation. This equipment generates uses and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with the instructions, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. However, there is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation. If this equipment does cause harmful interference to radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning the equipment off and on, the user is encouraged to try to correct the interference by one or more of the following measures:

- Reorient or relocate the receiving antenna.

- Increase the separation between the equipment and receiver.

- Connect the equipment into an outlet on a circuit different from that to which the receiver is connected.

- Consult the dealer or an experienced radio/TV technician for help.

This device complies with part 15 of the FCC Rules. Operation is subject to the following two conditions: (1) This device may not cause harmful interference, and (2) this device must accept any interference received, including interference that may cause undesired operation. Changes or modifications not expressly approved by the party responsible for compliance could void the user's authority to operate the equipment. This equipment complies with FCC radiation exposure limits set forth for an uncontrolled environment. This equipment should be installed and operated with minimum distance 20cm between the radiator & your body. The device has been evaluated to meet general RF exposure requirement. The device can be used in portable exposure condition without restriction.

IC Warning

This device complies with Industry Canada license-exempt RSS standard(s).
Operation is subject to the following two conditions:
(1) This device may not cause interference, and
(2) This device must accept any interference, including interference that may cause undesired operation of the device.

Le présent appareil est conforme aux CNR d'Industrie Canada applicables aux appareils radio exempts de licence. L'exploitation est autorisée aux deux conditions suivantes:
(1) l'appareil ne doit pas produire de brouillage, et
(2) l'utilisateur de l'appareil doit accepter tout brouillage radioélectrique subi, même si le brouillage est susceptible d'en compromettre le fonctionnement.

Changes or modifications not expressly approved by the party responsible for compliance could void the user's authority to operate the equipment. This equipment complies with IC radiation exposure limits set forth for an uncontrolled environment. This equipment should be installed and operated with minimum distance 20cm between the radiator & your body. This transmitter must not be co-located or operating in conjunction with any other antenna or transmitter.

Warranty Information

Thank you for choosing Fluance! We guarantee your investment in our products is a solid one. High performance components combined with quality craftsmanship allow us to maintain the highest possible production standards.

All items are guaranteed against defects in materials and craftsmanship. Fluance has outstanding quality control; if something should go wrong with any of our products, we will repair it free of charge within the warranty period. If the product cannot be repaired, we will replace the product. If the product has been discontinued, we will replace the product with either the newest version of said product or current equivalent. In the event that Fluance replaces a product under warranty, the replacement would only carry the original warranty from the original date of purchase.

Warranty Period

The Fluance products below are warrantied for parts and labor for the stated period from

date of original purchase, and are subject to the terms and conditions of the warranty. Any refurbished products that are discontinued hold a 90 day warranty from the date of original purchase. Fluance warranties are valid for the original owner and are non-transferable.

Home Audio Passive Speakers: Lifetime Warranty

Active or Powered Speakers: Two Year Warranty

HiFi Turntables: Two Year Warranty

Batteries (For Powered Speakers): One Year Warranty

Warranty Exclusions

- Products purchased from a dealer not authorized by Fluance.
- Products with the serial number defaced, altered or missing.
- Defects resulting from disaster, accident, abuse, misuse, lightning, power surges, neglect, unauthorized modification or water damage.
- Defects or damage as a result of repairs performed by a person or party not authorized by Fluance.
- Defects or damage occurring during shipping (claims should be made with the shipping company).
- Defect or damage as a result of connecting a product to an outlet with the incorrect voltage. Voltage converters must be used where applicable.
- Consumable parts including, but not limited to, batteries, styli, and rubber belts.

To Obtain Warranty Service

Should your product require warranty service, please contact us at www.fluance.com/contact or call us at 1-888-617-6863 to set up a Return Authorization. Products returned without a valid Return Authorization number will be refused.

Fluance products must be returned in their original packaging. Our products are packaged specially to protect them from any damage during shipping, and without this packaging the return shipment could get damaged.

This warranty does not cover the shipping cost, insurance, or any other incidental charges. Products shipped for warranty service must be pre-paid by the customer, and Fluance will cover the cost to ship the repaired or replaced product back to the customer.

Fluance.com