



Atlantic Technology FS-4000 Front Stage Speaker System

Introduction

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By [Robert Silva](#), About.com Guide

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If you are looking for a new set of loudspeakers for your home theater, check out the stylish, and great sounding Atlantic Technology FS-4000 Front Stage Loudspeaker. This unique speaker combines all three front channel speakers (left, center, and right) into one 40-inch long housing that is attractive and can be either table or wall mounted. The design of FS-4000 is intended to complement flat panel LCD and Plasma televisions and can be used alone, or combined with a subwoofer and/or a set of rear surround speakers. However, the most important thing about this loudspeaker design is that it sounds great.



Atlantic Technology FS-4000 Front Stage Flat Screen Speaker System - Front View - Grill Off

Product Overview

Features and specifications of the FS-4000 include:

1. Single cabinet housing front left, center, and right channel speakers. Magnetically shielded for home theater use.
2. Acoustic suspension 2-way design with 3 1-inch tweeters, 3 4 1/2-inch woofers.
3. 3 4 /12-inch pressure drivers (passive radiators) for extended bass response.
4. FS-4000 Frequency Response 75Hz – 20kHz ±3dB
5. FS-4000 Crossover Frequency 3.75kHz; Speaker sensitivity: Sensitivity 89dB.
6. Power handling 10 – 125 Watts RMS
7. Acoustic Control #1: HF Energy switch adjusts high-frequency rolloff for each channel.
8. Acoustic Control #2: Boundry Compensation adjusts low frequency output for each channel.
9. Includes hardware for table or wall-mounting options.
10. Dimensions (grill on) - 39 3/4-inches (W) x 6 9/16 (H) x 5 1/2 (D). Weight (ea) 27 lbs

Hardware Used

Home Theater Receivers: the Onkyo TX-SR705 7.1 Receiver (used in 5.1 channel mode), Harman Kardon AVR147 (5.1 channels) .

DVD players: OPPO Digital DV-981HD and DV-980H DVD/SACD/DVD-Audio Players.

Blu-ray Disc/HD-DVD Players: Toshiba HD-XA1 HD-DVD player, Sony BDP-S1 Blu-ray Player, and LG BH100 Blu-ray/HD-DVD Combo player.

Comparison Loudspeaker Speaker Setups:

System #1: Klipsch F2s, 2 Klipsch B-3s, Klipsch C-2 Center , Klipsch Synergy Sub10 Powered Subwoofer .

System #2: 2 JBL Balboa 30's, JBL Balboa Center Channel, 2 JBL Venue Series 5-inch Monitor speakers, Polk Audio PSW10 Powered Subwoofer.

TV/Monitors: A Westinghouse Digital LVM-37w3 1080p LCD Monitor, Syntax LT-32HV 32-inch LCD TV.

All Displays were calibrated using SpyderTV Software.

Audio/Video connections were made with Accell, Cobalt, and AR Interconnect cables.

Level checks for speaker setups were done using a Radio Shack Sound Level Meter

Software Used

Movie titles used included scenes from the following:

1. Blu-ray Discs used included: Blood Diamond, Flight Plan, Hostel, The Prestige, Ratatouille, and Shakira: Oral Fixation Tour
2. HD-DVD Discs used included: Bourne Ultimatum, Hot Fuzz, King Kong, Phantom of the Opera, Top Gun, Transformers, and U571
3. Pre-recorded standard DVDs used included scenes from the following: House of the Flying Daggers, Kill Bill - Vol1/2, Moulin Rouge, Master and Commander, and Serenity.

Standard CDs included: HEART - Dreamboat Annie, Nora Jones - Come Away With Me, Blue Man Group -The Complex and Audio, Lisa Loeb: Firecracker (HDCD), Al Stewart - A Beach Full of Shells, Eric Kunzel - 1812 Overture, The Beatles - Love.

DVD-Audio/DTS music discs used included: Queen: Night At The Opera/The Game, Eagles: Hotel California, Sheila Nicholls: Wake, Alan Parsons: On Air. Also included: The Corrs: In Blue (Dolby Digital).

SACD discs used included: Pink Floyd - Dark Side Of The Moon, Steely Dan - Gaucho, The Who - Tommy.



Atlantic Technology FS-4000 Front Stage Flat Screen Speaker System - Rear View

Testing Setup

I listened to the FS-4000 in three different types of setups:

1. As a single, standalone (L,C,R) speaker system.
2. As a standalone speaker system, combined with a separate subwoofer (Klipsch Synergy Sub10).
3. Same as setup #2, but adding two left and right surround speakers (Klipsch Synergy B3).



Atlantic Technology FS-4000 Front Stage Flat Screen Speaker System - Front View - Grill On

Audio Performance

I found the performance of the FS-4000 was very good with both music and movie sources, providing excellent mid-range vocal and dialog presence, as well as providing a credible left and right channel sound image.

Although the left and right channel sound image is not as wide as placing separate left and right speakers at a wider distance from the center channel, the left and right channel sound image did project away from the physical speaker system housing to produce a sound image with great detail and depth.

I found that using the FS-4000 with additional surround sound speakers and a subwoofer provided an very good alternative for a home theater setup. The FS-4000 provided a very realistic center and left/right sound image for my Westinghouse 37-inch LCD television.

Another aspect of the FS-4000's performance is that its upper bass frequency response was very good. According to the automatic speaker setup parameter results from my receivers, the FS-4000 has a functional crossover point at about 80HZ, which gives it more body in the lower mid-range/upper bass than the typical 100 to 120HZ crossover point for many separate compact loudspeakers that are typically used in moderate home theater setups. This results in acceptable listening performance in a modest setup without a subwoofer, albeit without more extreme low frequency impact.

Just a few outstanding examples of the FS-4000's performance are illustrated by movie cuts from *The Bourne Ultimatum*, *Master and Commander*, and *Transformers*, and music cuts from *Dreamboat Annie*, *The Complex*, and *Dark Side of the Moon*.

What I Liked

1. Great Sound - full range frequency response.
2. Comes with what you need for wall or table mounting options.
3. 40-inch width fits matches well with flat panel TVs up to 40-inches diagonal screen size.
4. Easy-to-Use push-in speaker wire connectors.



Atlantic Technology FS-4000 Front Stage Flat Screen Speaker System - Connections and Adjustments Close-up

What I Didn't Like

1. Not a substitute for a multi-channel surround sound speaker system in a large room.
2. Speaker grill does not always fasten securely - be careful when moving unit.

Final Take

I found that the Atlantic Technology FS-4000 Front Stage Speaker System delivered clear sound across a wide range of frequencies and provided well-balanced left, center, right sound image.

The FS-4000 is an unusual speaker in that the Left, Center, and Right channel speakers are encased within a single housing about 40-inches long. However, despite this design, the FS-4000 supplied a good Left/Center/Right image. The sounds from the left and right channels projected to the sides beyond the physical length of the speaker. Also, the center channel portion delivered a very good vocal and dialog presence from both music and movie source material.

I listened to the FS-4000 in three different types of setups:

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The different types of setups yielded different results with regards to surround imaging and bass depth. However, as far as sound quality goes, this speaker system worked well alone, or as part of larger system. It must be noted that the FS-4000, used alone, will not provide the more enveloping surround sound environment as when using additional surround sound speakers. However, in a space-saving setup, this system provides a wide front surround effect that still has a lot of detail.

The FS-4000 can be used in a small-to-medium size room, and provides controls for each channel to adjust for differences in room size and acoustics in relation to the position of the speaker.

I really enjoyed using this system and found that it performed better than I expected. I give the Atlantic Technology FS-4000 Front Stage Speaker 4.5 out of 5 Stars.