



Tip #23 The Devil's in the Details

It's the little things that make the difference, isn't it? A car might have great acceleration and handling, but if the radio's controls are obscured by the shifter knob, it's going to bug you every time you drive the car.

Same thing with audio equipment. At Atlantic, we recognize that making great sounding products isn't enough. We also try to do the 'little things' correctly, so that our products are satisfying to install and satisfying to own, in addition to their terrific audio performance.

Here are some good examples to keep in mind:

Our ceiling speakers have a debris shield on the rear of the woofer's basket to prevent foreign substances from falling into the woofer and interfering with its operation. Let's face it—once you install your speakers in the ceiling, you don't ever want to touch them again. But lots of things happen in the ceiling: there are bugs that live (and die!) there, there can be plaster dust, dirt, animal "products," all kinds of stuff that could fall in and contaminate the woofer.

So we put a simple cloth debris shield in the window openings of the woofer's basket. (See fig.1)

The cloth keeps out all the undesirable junk that might foul up the woofer's voice coil, but the cloth itself is completely acoustically transparent so it doesn't have any effect on the speaker's sound.

Another nice touch—we use heavy-duty spring-loaded connection terminals for our in-wall and in-ceiling speakers. These are gold-plated, high-quality connectors that accept the heavy-grade wire that installers like to use, especially on long hookup runs. (See fig. 2) However, unlike threaded post terminals

that can loosen over time, ours won't let go with vibration. Again, it's a real pain to have to take an in-wall speaker out just to re-tighten a loose binding post. Our terminals accept high-quality speaker wire AND they won't lose their grip over time. Nice.

Special installation feature on ICTS-6LCR:

The ICTS-6LCR is one heckuva speaker, isn't it? The Low Resonance Tweeter that handles the mids and the highs for unmatched sound coverage, the anti-reflection baffle coating that prevents acoustic 'smearing,' and the separate baffle-and-frame design that lets the installer angle the speaker directly towards the listening location.

All great features. However, the speaker portion of the assembly doesn't have a "handle" for the installer to pick it up. The natural thing to do is to pick up the speaker by the tweeter post. We knew that was going to happen, so we ruggedized the entire tweeter assembly with nylon bushings and high-impact ABS so the tweeter's post can be used as an installation/positioning handle without any problems at all. (See fig. 3) Easy. Intuitive. The way you want it.

At Atlantic Technology, we try with all our products to get the "little things" right, because it's the little things that make any product a pleasure to use and own.

Other Tech Tips:

Tip 19: What is Clear Filter Technology™?

Tip 20: Surround without Speakers

Tip 21: Always set to small

Tip 22: Difference from 6200 to 6200e

Figure 1 Debris shield prevents contamination



Figure 2 Easy-to-use terminals



You'll appreciate this when standing on a ladder!

Figure 3 Thoughtful touch



You can pick up the 6LCR by its tweeter post.