



**Franklin
and Lowell**
Reference
Loudspeaker
Stands

Musical Standards

Owner's Manual

The Musical Standards

Thank you for your purchase of the *Franklin and Lowell Musical Standards*. The *Musical Standards* were designed to provide your speakers with the ideal height, stability and acoustic decoupling that allows speakers to perform without the usual deleterious influences associated with speaker stands.

The *Musical Standards* are designed with compact monitor loudspeakers in mind. At the supplied 27" height, the *Musical Standards* provide the correct acoustic coupling of the woofer to the floor. If the speaker is too high off the stand and speaker in the low frequencies. If the speaker is placed too low, the music will thicken and sound slow or confused in the low frequencies. For most home listening chairs, the *Musical Standards* provide the ideal focus of the speaker's time domain (usually centered in the middle of the woofer) with the listener's ear. While the "window" of the correct time domain behavior is quite large with a well-designed compact monitor, this height should put the listener's ear in the middle of the "window" without the listener having to slouch down or sit straight up to attain the proper relationship to the speaker.

Note: *You will find that most studio-style chairs in audio stores are too high and put your ear well above the center of the woofer. Typically, your easy chair or couch at home provides a far better listening position and you may obtain better sonic results than the store demo provided.*

Background Theory

The columns of the *Musical Standards* should be filled with sand, lead shot, steel shot or a combination of these materials. The filling material will not only damp the columns, but will provide further mass and stiffness to the already solid foundation of the *Musical Standards*. As a quick solution, a very tightly rolled up sheaf of magazines pushed down inside the column will also provide some damping of the column walls, but without the added weight and stiffening benefits of sand or shot.

The *Musical Standards* top-plate is designed to accept a **bob**[™] tile as an interface between stand and speaker. The **bob** tile provides very wide bandwidth energy absorption, which prevents energy passing from the speaker into the stand and then reflecting back into the speakers. Energy passing through the bottom of the speaker enters the bob tile and encounters a virtual black hole. The **bob** tile soaks up energy, transferring it into heat, therefore preventing it from reflecting back to the speakers. *Musical Standards* eliminate this mechanical feedback, so that potential music-blurring, out-of-phase resonances never reach the speaker cabinet. The **bob** tile will also intercept energy passing through the stand from your floor. The **bob** tile is held in place by the top-plate's raised edges front and back. These edges are there to provide stiffness in shear to the soft **bob** material. By providing a stiff front-to-back shear nature the *Musical Standards* top plate/**bob** tile combination holds the speaker firmly in place. This provides the woofer with a rigid launch platform from which to push off, resulting in tighter and lower bass, more precise focus of the image and greater dynamics throughout the entire music range.



If you are using a **Sonus faber** loudspeaker, thumbscrews have been provided to bolt your speakers to the top-plate of the *Musical Standards*. This will improve the energy transfer from the speaker into the **bob** tile while also improving the stability of the speaker/stand combination.

Assembly Instructions

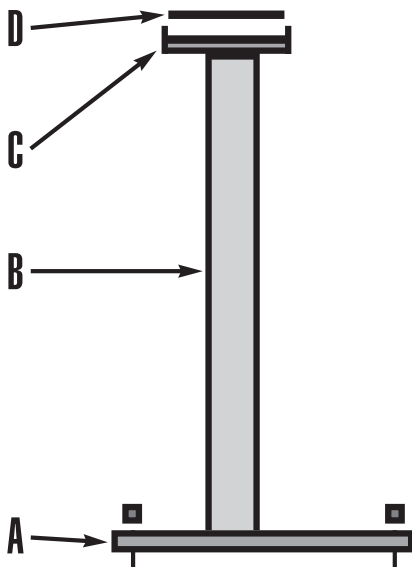
Before beginning assembly, please check to make certain that your pair of stands contain all the parts listed below.

Parts Inventory:

- 2 1/2" Thick Steel Base (A)
- 2 Aluminum Column (B)
- 2 Aluminum Top-Plate (C)
- 2 bob tiles (D)
- 8 1/4-20 x 1-1/2" Cylinder Head Tapping Cap Screw
- 8 1/4-20 x 1" Hex Flat Head Tapping Cap Screw
- 4 8mm x 1" Thumbscrew
(for Sonus faber loudspeakers)
- 8 8mm Threaded Ball-Ended Spikes
- 8 Spike Locking Covers
- 1 5/32" Long-Arm Key
- 1 3/16" Torx Long-Arm Key
- 1 3mm x 60mm Hardened Steel Dowel Pin

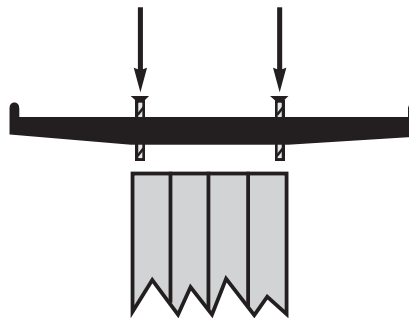
Assembly of the *Musical Standards* is easy and quick.

1 Remove all items from the box and spread them out. Do an inventory check and identify all the various components. The **bob** tile will be adhered to the top-plate for packing so you'll have to peel them apart to identify and count them.



2 Remove the protective plastic wrap from the columns and top plates. Wipe off any marks the plastic may have left on the columns with a **soft** cloth, which has been soaked with a **90+%** strength isopropyl alcohol. We do not recommend the 70% strength alcohol because it will leave streak marks. The 90% should be readily available at your local drugstore. After the alcohol has fully dried, wipe again with a dry part of the cloth, buffing **lightly** to a shine.

3a Install four of the 1/4-20 x 1" hex flat head cap screws through the top-plate as illustrated:



3b Placing a column on a carpet or thick towel, hold the column vertically and place the top-plate on either end. The column is not directional. Align the 1" cap screws in the top-plate with the four holes in the end of the column. Start the cap screws with your fingers until you meet resistance. Continue tightening with the 5/32" hex long-arm key. **Note: The holes are not threaded. The cap screw is hardened steel and will cut its own threads into the softer aluminum column. The supplied 5/32" hex long-arm key will provide sufficient torque for ease of installation.**

Important: If you are planning on filling the columns with sand or shot, you will need only install two of the screws at this time. The top-plate will be removed later in step 6 and then permanently re-installed after the columns are filled.

To properly complete the tightening of the cap screws, use the hex key like a torque wrench. Place your index finger on the curve of the key and push your thumb on the long edge of the wrench. When 1-1/2" deflection of the key is reached, the cap screw is tight enough.

Repeat the above process for the second column.

4 Turn the column upside down, allowing the top-plate to hold the column upright. Insert the four 1-1/2" cylinder hex cap screws into the steel base. Align the cap screws to the four holes in the column and lower the base onto the column. Again, start the cylinder cap screws by hand and continue tightening the screws with the 3/16" hex key until snug. Turn the assembly over and make sure the column covers the holes in the base. If not, loosen the cylinder cap screws slightly and re-align the column so it covers the holes completely. Use the same method as described above in step 3b to determine the correct tension of the screws. Repeat for the second column and base set.

5 To install the ball-ended spikes, thread the spike in from the bottom side of the base by hand, turning the spike until it will not continue. Thread the locking cover all the way onto the spike and then lower the spike until the locking cover contacts the steel base snugly.

6 If you wish to fill the columns with sand or shot, do so now from the top-plate end of the column. Remove the top-plate, using the 5/32" hex key. Pour in the filling material to the top. Gently tap the side of the column repeatedly with your palm to further settle the filling material into the column. Fill to the top as needed. Re-install the top plate with all four cap screws and tighten fully as described in 3b.

Important: Always wear plastic gloves when working with or handling lead shot and thoroughly wash your hands afterwards. Never put lead shot in your mouth! Steel shot can be substituted for lead shot in order to avoid the health risks associated with lead. The sand will not leak after the column is installed properly.

7 Thoroughly clean the **bob** tile in warm water, using no soap, and pat dry with a lint-free rag or allow to air dry. After it is dry, place the **bob** tile on the top-plate, ensuring that the die-cut holes line up with the two through holes in the top-plate. Install the 8mm x 1" thumbscrews from the bottom up into the top-plate and through the **bob** tile. The **bob** tile will hold the thumbscrews in place while you lower the speaker onto the stand.

8 Remove any rubber feet on the speaker that would interfere with the speaker coupling fully to the **bob** tile. Clean the bottom of the speaker and lower it onto the top-plate. If using a *Sonus faber* speaker, align the holes in the bottom of the speaker to the thumbscrew holes in the top-plate. **Note: The Musical Standards are oriented so the column is offset towards the rear of the base.**

Insert and tighten the thumbscrews to finger tight. After a period of about one hour, the speaker will have adhered firmly to the top-plate, which is accomplished by the porosity of the **bob** material, and no adhesive is required. Re-tighten the thumbscrews after a day or two.

Note: If a *Sonus faber* speaker is used that has leather covering in place where the speaker and the bob tile contact, there will not be the same degree of adhesion as with a smooth surfaced speaker.

9 Installation is complete. Wipe any fingerprints off the column or top-plate with a clean soft cloth.

Important: Any height or rake adjustments may now be made. To change the rake or height of the stands, loosen the spike locking cover far enough to allow raising or lowering the spike in the base. When the stand is filled and the speaker is mounted, the dowel rod inserted in the side of the spike will assist in raising and lowering the spike in the base. Generally speaking, raising the front of the stand will raise the image height of the soundstage and lowering the front will have the opposite effect. Care must be observed, as this will also affect the tonal balance of the system as well. Consult your audio professional for further advise on this fine adjustment.

Cleaning

The powder coated column and top-plate can be kept clean with a soft cloth moistened with water. Fingerprints can be easily removed with light buffing with a soft cloth moistened with 90% isopropyl alcohol. The steel bases should be vacuumed using a soft brush attachment. The **bob** tile can be washed under warm water, no soap, until clean. Allow to air dry or dry with a lint free cloth.

If you have any questions or run into difficulty, please call your dealer or our customer service department at: 510.843.4500