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Sweet Speaker Deal

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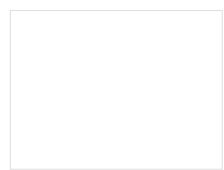
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11-12-2009, 01:55 PM #1 (permalink)

batmanandbobbin
BenzWorld Member

Date registered: Mar 2009
 Vehicle: 1985 300TD, 1991 300D 2.5 Turbo, 1993 300D 2.5 Turbo, 1995 E320 Touring, 2006 E350
 Location: DC Metro area
 Posts: 76

Sweet Speaker Deal

If you have a **w124** sedan or wagon with stock or active bass sound system (not **Bose** system), I've come across a deal on replacement speakers that is incredible for the price. I've heard from so many shops that there is nothing available other than Rainbow or OE speakers; if you're looking for a sure thing upgrade at an incredible price, please read on.

Note: I have never owned a pre-1990 or post-1993 **w124** sedan, so my advice might not work for all sedan model years.

I replaced the speakers in my 1995 E320 wagon this summer with 4" Kicker 07DS400 speakers at all four factory locations (2-dashboard, 2-rear doors). I was pretty impressed with the result that I got for just over \$100.00 at [crutchfield.com](#).

Last week, I decided to replace the speakers in my 1993 300D 2.5 Turbo sedan and I went looking again at [crutchfield.com](#) to see what I could find.

At [crutchfield.com](#) the same 4" speakers I bought for my wagon are on sale for \$49.99/pair Minus \$20.00 price break. Total cost per pair is \$29.99. These are great little speakers and incredibly nice for the price.

I thought that I could probably fit something larger than 4" in the **rear** deck of my sedan, so I decided to check out the same line of speakers in 5.25" **size**: Kicker 07DS5250. These are on sale for \$59.99/pair Minus \$25.00 price break. Total cost is \$34.99/pair for the 5.25" set.

I decided to purchase a pair of 4" for the front and a pair of 5.25" for the **rear** deck.

I had absolutely no issue installing the 5.25" speakers in the **rear** deck. All you need is to have the stock speakers on hand...If you are all right with sacrificing the old stock speakers, there is a simple way for installing the 5.25" replacement speakers to the **rear** deck:

Turn the stock **speaker** magnet-side up on a hard surface. Hit the magnet with a hammer until the **speaker** begins to slide out of the plastic mounting bracket that was attached to it. Remove the **speaker** from the factory mounting bracket and, put the new 5.25" into the bracket. Drill holes into the original mounting bracket and screw the new **speaker** onto the bracket. The bracket raises the **speaker** enough out of the **rear** deck that the **speaker** magnet will fit fine and you won't need to cut or drill any metal. Use a Dremel or similar tool to cut off the ends of the screws so that they don't protrude much beyond the rim of the factory bracket. Wire up the speakers and they simply slide right into the **rear** deck with no problem.

I can say that this worked for me on my '93 with factory, active bass system. My 1991 has the **Bose** system and I cannot claim anything about trying to change components on the **Bose** system.

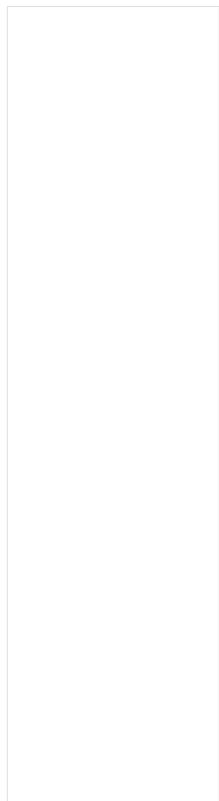
The dashboard speakers fit so easily as a compression fit:

Bend down slightly one pair of diagonally opposing tabs on the **speaker**. Slide the tabs beneath the dashboard material, leaving the other two **speaker** tabs exposed above the dashboard material. Use a screwdriver to gently pry up the two tabs beneath the dashboard material so that the speakers are held firmly in place. Use RTV to seal the gap between the **speaker** and the dash.

So...to give you an idea of time and cost commitments:

total cost for the speakers:

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\$29.99 (4") + \$34.99 (5.25") + \$6.99 (shipping) = \$71.97

2-2.5 hours total install time

Soldering gun, solder, RTV required.

The speakers sound incredibly sweet for \$70.00 and I can't believe how easy a swap this is. I called [crutchfield](#) to see how long the prices are valid and the salesperson told me that there is no set expiration date and that [crutchfield](#) has plenty of inventory in both speakers.

--j

Last edited by batmanandbobbin; 11-12-2009 at 02:00 PM.

OFFLINE REPORT

QUOTE MULTI OFF QUICK

11-12-2009, 02:38 PM

#2 (permalink)

[akimball442](#)

BenzWorld Elite



Date registered: Nov 2007
Vehicle: '73 450SL, '83 300CD, '88 300SE
Location: Upstate Central NY
Posts: 1,988

[Bose](#) was an option in the 124?

-Aaron

ASE Master tech, specializing in electronics and driveability.

Current:

1973 450SL - 191K - Summer Toy
1978 300D - 254K - other half's GM replacement
1983 300CD-170K - finally freakin' runs right 🤖
1988 300SE - 196K - Daily driver
1981 Coupe Deville - Currently Restoring

Past:

1978 300CD ~341K 🙏 R.I.P.
1981 300D - 331K
1984 300SD - 179K
1989 560SEL - SOLD

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OFFLINE REPORT

QUOTE MULTI OFF QUICK

11-12-2009, 03:44 PM

#3 (permalink)

[batmanandbobbin](#)

BenzWorld Member



Date registered: Mar 2009
Vehicle: 1985 300TD, 1991 300D 2.5 Turbo, 1993 300D 2.5 Turbo, 1995 E320 Touring, 2006 E350
Location: DC Metro area
Posts: 76

BOSE

Quote:

Originally Posted by [akimball442](#) :
[Bose](#) was an option in the 124?

yes...some sedans came with the Bose **speaker** system (only 1990 onwards, I think); the head unit was the standard Becker unit, as far as I know. I'm not certain about the station wagon models, though.

Feel free to correct my information, as I am not entirely certain of dates, models, etc.

OFFLINE REPORT

QUOTE MULTI OFF QUICK

11-12-2009, 04:26 PM

#4 (permalink)

[akimball442](#)

BenzWorld Elite



Date registered: Nov 2007
Vehicle: '73 450SL, '83 300CD, '88 300SE
Location: Upstate Central NY
Posts: 1,988

I know S class models came with the Bose, starting with the W140.

It's not impossible that it was an option on the **W124**, but it seems unlikely because the **speaker** placement is not optimal on any of the MB's that dated prior to the W140.

Bose always placed the speakers low in the front doors toward the hinge, because this is the best location for optimal imaging. They even did this on old Cadillacs back in the very early 80s. Are there speakers in the front of the front doors? Or just the ones to the **rear** of the map pocket?

OFFLINE REPORT

QUOTE MULTI OFF QUICK

11-12-2009, 06:46 PM

#5 (permalink)

[batmanandbobbin](#)

BenzWorld Member



Date registered: Mar 2009
Vehicle: 1985 300TD, 1991 300D 2.5 Turbo, 1993 300D 2.5 Turbo, 1995 E320 Touring, 2006 E350
Location: DC Metro area
Posts: 76

Quote:

Originally Posted by [akimball442](#) :
I know S class models came with the Bose, starting with the W140.

*It's not impossible that it was an option on the **W124**, but it seems unlikely because the **speaker** placement is not optimal on any of the MB's that dated prior to the W140.*

*Bose always placed the speakers low in the front doors toward the hinge, because this is the best location for optimal imaging. They even did this on old Cadillacs back in the very early 80s. Are there speakers in the front of the front doors? Or just the ones to the **rear** of the map pocket?*

I'm in another state from my 124 with the Bose stereo, so forgive me if I'm a little off. I believe that there are inserts directly ahead of the armrests in the front doors that have the front speakers in them. I can't remember if this also means that there are no front door pockets (storage space is a problem anyhow b/c of the passenger airbag and I can't remember

for certain about the door pockets). In the **rear**, I can't remember if there is anything additional in the doors or if the Bose units are only in the stock locations. I think that this stereo was a line item on the original window sticker; I'm pretty sure that it was not something that the dealer installed into the car after they received it. I might be confusing a couple of things from one car with those from another, though.

OFFLINE REPORT

QUOTE MULTI OFF QUICK

11-17-2009, 11:41 AM

#6 (permlink)

[unesl](#)

BenzWorld Veteran



Date registered: Dec 2006
Vehicle: 1988 560 SL
(sold)/1995 E320
Location: Bloomfield Hills, MI/
Montreal, QC
Posts: 670

OFFLINE REPORT

Just received my set from Crutchfield. Looking forward to installing them!



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