

**Rockford Fosgate®**

**punch  
75**



**Limited Edition Amplifier**

# INTRODUCTION

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Dear Customer,

Congratulations on your purchase of the world's finest brand of car audio amplifiers. At Rockford Fosgate we are fanatics about musical reproduction at its best, and we are pleased you chose our product. Through years of engineering expertise, hand craftsmanship and critical testing procedures, we have created a wide range of products that reproduce music with all the clarity and richness you deserve.

For maximum performance we recommend you have your new Rockford Fosgate product installed by an Authorized Rockford Fosgate Dealer, as we provide specialized training through Rockford Technical Training Institute (RTTI). Please read your warranty and retain your receipt and original carton for possible future use.

Great product and competent installations are only a piece of the puzzle when it comes to your system. Make sure that your installer is using 100% authentic installation accessories from Connecting Punch in your installation. Connecting Punch has everything from RCA cables and speaker wire to Power line and battery connectors. Insist on it! After all, your new system deserves nothing but the best.

To add the finishing touch to your new Rockford Fosgate image order your Rockford accessories, which include everything from T-shirts to jackets and hats.

To get a free brochure on Rockford Fosgate products and Rockford accessories, visit our web site at: **www.rockfordfosgate.com** or, in the U.S. call 1-800-669-9899 or FAX 1-800-398-3985. For all other countries, call +001-480-967-3565 or FAX +001-480-967-8132.

## PRACTICE SAFE SOUND™

Continuous exposure to sound pressure levels over 100dB may cause permanent hearing loss. High powered auto sound systems may produce sound pressure levels well over 130dB. Use common sense and practice safe sound.

If, after reading your manual, you still have questions regarding this product, we recommend that you see your Rockford Fosgate dealer. If you need further assistance, you can call us direct at 1-800-669-9899. Be sure to have your serial number, model number and date of purchase available when you call.

The serial number can be found on the outside of the box. Please record it in the space provided below as your permanent record. This will serve as verification of your factory warranty and may become useful in recovering your unit if it is ever stolen.

Serial Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Model Number: \_\_\_\_\_

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**NOTE:** Review each section for more detailed information.

## GETTING STARTED

Welcome to Rockford Fosgate! This manual is designed to provide information for the owner, salesperson and installer. For those of you who want quick information on how to install this product, please turn to the **Installation Section** of this manual. Other information can be located by using the Table of Contents. We, at Rockford Fosgate, have worked very hard to make sure all the information in this manual is current. But, as we are constantly finding new ways to improve our product, this information is subject to change without notice.


## SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS


### **WARNING**


This symbol with “**WARNING**” is intended to alert the user to the presence of important instructions. Failure to heed the instructions will result in severe injury or death.

### **CAUTION**

This symbol with “**CAUTION**” is intended to alert the user to the presence of important instructions. Failure to heed the instructions can result in injury or unit damage.

 **CAUTION:** To prevent injury and damage to the unit, please read and follow the instructions in this manual. We want you to enjoy this system, not get a headache.

 **CAUTION** If you feel unsure about installing this system yourself, have it installed by a qualified Rockford Fosgate technician.

 **CAUTION** Before installation, disconnect the battery negative (-) terminal to prevent damage to the unit, fire and/or possible injury.

## CONTENTS OF CARTON

A Model Punch 75 2-Channel Amplifier  
Installation & Operation Manual

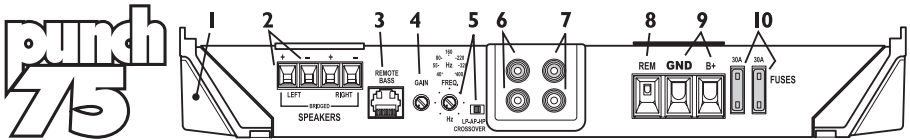
Mounting Hardware Kit  
Remote Punch Bass Kit with Cord

The hardware kit included with each amplifier contains the mounting hardware necessary to secure the amplifier to the vehicle.

Visit our web site for the latest information on all Rockford products.

[www.rockfordfosgate.com](http://www.rockfordfosgate.com)

## Connections



1. **Cast Aluminum Heatsink** – The cast aluminum heatsink of the Punch amplifier dissipates heat generated by the amplifier’s circuitry.
2. **Speaker Terminals** – The heavy duty, nickel-plated clamp wire connectors (+ and -) will accept wire sizes from 8 AWG to 18 AWG.
3. **Remote Bass** – Boosts low frequency information to overcome road noise and put the **bass in your face**. The Remote Bass control is a narrow band adjustment at 45Hz variable from 0dB to +18dB with a Gyrator based Punch EQ that eliminates frequency shift with boost. Connection is made with a RJ-45 cable and can be installed in a variety of ways for easy control access. An optional Para-Punch Remote Bass is available which adds an adjustable center frequency control with the adjustable boost control.
4. **Gain Control** – The input gain control is preset to match the output of most source units. It can be adjusted to match output levels from a variety of source units.
5. **Variable Crossover** – Is a built-in 12dB/octave Butterworth filter selectable for High-Pass (HP), All Pass (AP), or Low-Pass (LP) operation variable from 40Hz to 400Hz.
6. **RCA Input Jacks** – The industry standard RCA jacks provide an easy connection for signal level input. They are nickel-plated to resist the signal degradation caused by corrosion.
7. **RCA Pass-Thru Jacks** – The Pass-Thru provides a convenient source for daisy-chaining an additional amplifier without running an extra set of RCA cables from the front of the vehicle to the rear amplifier location.
8. **REM Terminal** – The heavy duty, nickel-plated captive c-clamp wire connector will accept wire sizes from 12 AWG to 24 AWG. This terminal is used to remotely turn-on and turn-off the amplifier when +12V DC is applied.
9. **Power Terminals** – The power and ground are nickel-plated captive c-clamp wire connectors and will accommodate up to 4 AWG wire.
10. **Fuses** – These ATC fuses are easily accessible in case of failure. Always replace fuses with same type and rating. See Specifications for fuse ratings.


## INSTALLATION


### INSTALLATION CONSIDERATIONS

The following is a list of tools needed for installation:

Volt/Ohm Meter	Hand held drill w/assorted bits
Wire strippers	1/8" diameter heatshrink tubing
Wire crimpers	Assorted connectors
Wire cutters	Adequate Length—Red Power Wire
#2 Phillips screwdriver	Adequate Length—Remote Turn-on Wire
Battery post wrench	Adequate Length—Black Grounding Wire

This section focuses on some of the vehicle considerations for installing your new amplifier. Pre-planning your system layout and best wiring routes will save installation time. When deciding on the layout of your new system, be sure that each component will be easily accessible for making adjustments.

 **CAUTION:** If you feel unsure about installing this system yourself, have it installed by a qualified technician.

 **CAUTION:** Before installation, disconnect the battery negative (-) terminal to prevent damage to the unit, fire and/or possible injury.

Before beginning any installation, follow these simple rules:

1. Be sure to carefully read and understand the instructions before attempting to install the unit.
2. For safety, disconnect the negative lead from the battery prior to beginning the installation.
3. For easier assembly, we suggest you run all wires prior to mounting your unit in place.
4. Route all of the RCA cables close together and away from any high current wires.
5. Use high quality connectors for a reliable installation and to minimize signal or power loss.
6. Think before you drill! Be careful not to cut or drill into gas tanks, fuel lines, brake or hydraulic lines, vacuum lines or electrical wiring when working on any vehicle.
7. Never run wires underneath the vehicle. Running the wires inside the vehicle provides the best protection.
8. Avoid running wires over or through sharp edges. Use rubber or plastic grommets to protect any wires routed through metal, especially the firewall.
9. ALWAYS protect the battery and electrical system from damage with proper fusing. Install the appropriate fuse holder and fuse on the +12V power wire within 18" (45.7 cm) of the battery terminal.
10. When grounding to the chassis of the vehicle, scrape all paint from the metal to ensure a good, clean ground connection. Grounding connections should be as short as possible and always be connected to metal that is welded to the main body, or chassis, of the vehicle.

## **MOUNTING LOCATIONS**

### ***Engine Compartment***

Never mount this unit in the engine compartment. Mounting the unit in the engine compartment will void your warranty.

### ***Trunk Mounting***

Mounting the amplifier vertically will provide adequate cooling of the amplifier.

Mounting the amplifier on the floor of the trunk will provide the best cooling of the amplifier.

Mounting the amplifier upside down to the rear deck of the trunk will not provide proper cooling and will severely affect the performance of the amplifier and is strongly not recommended.

### ***Passenger Compartment Mounting***

Mounting the amplifier in the passenger compartment will work as long as you provide a sufficient amount of air for the amplifier to cool itself. If you are going to mount the amplifier under the seat of the vehicle, you must have at least 1" (2.54cm) of air gap around the amplifier's heatsink.

Mounting the amplifier with less than 1" (2.54cm) of air gap around the amplifier's heatsink in the passenger compartment will not provide proper cooling and will severely affect the performance of the amplifier and is strongly not recommended.

## **BATTERY AND CHARGING**

Amplifiers will put an increased load on the vehicle's battery and charging system. We recommend checking your alternator and battery condition to ensure that the electrical system has enough capacity to handle the increased load of your stereo system. Stock electrical systems which are in good condition should be able to handle the extra load of any Punch Series amplifier without problems, although battery and alternator life can be reduced slightly. To maximize the performance of your amplifier, we suggest the use of a heavy duty battery and an energy storage capacitor.

## INSTALLATION

### WIRING THE SYSTEM

**CAUTION:** If you do not feel comfortable with wiring your new unit, please see your local Authorized Rockford Fosgate Dealer for installation.

**CAUTION:** Before installation, disconnect the battery negative (-) terminal to prevent damage to the unit, fire and/or possible injury.

**CAUTION:** Avoid running power wires near the low level input cables, antenna, power leads, sensitive equipment or harnesses. The power wires carry substantial current and could induce noise into the audio system.

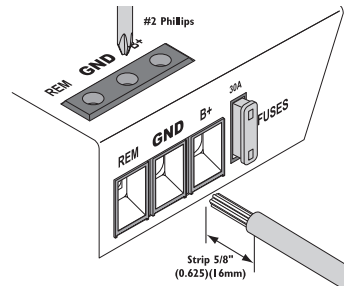
1. Plan the wire routing. Keep RCA cables close together but isolated from the amplifier's power cables and any high power auto accessories, especially electric motors. This is done to prevent coupling the noise from radiated electrical fields into the audio signal. When feeding the wires through the firewall or any metal barrier, protect them with plastic or rubber grommets to prevent short circuits. Leave the wires long at this point to adjust for a precise fit at a later time.
2. Prepare the RED wire (power cable) for attachment to the amplifier by stripping 5/8" of insulation from the end of the wire. Insert the bared wire into the B+ terminal and tighten the set screw to secure the cable in place.

**NOTE:** The B+ cable MUST be fused 18" or less from the vehicle's battery. Install the fuseholder under the hood and ensure connections are water tight.

3. Trim the RED wire (power cable) within 18" of the battery and splice in a inline fuse holder. See Specifications for the rating of the fuse to be used. **DO NOT install the fuse at this time.**

4. Strip 1/2" from the battery end of the power cable and crimp a large ring terminal to the cable. Use the ring terminal to connect to the battery positive terminal.

5. Prepare the BLACK wire (Ground cable) for attachment to the amplifier by stripping 5/8" of insulation from the end of the wire. Insert the bare wire into the GND terminal and tighten the set screw to secure the cable in place. Prepare the chassis ground by scraping any paint from the metal surface and thoroughly clean the area of all dirt and grease. Strip the other end of the wire and attach a ring connector. Fasten the cable to the chassis using a non-anodized screw and a star washer.



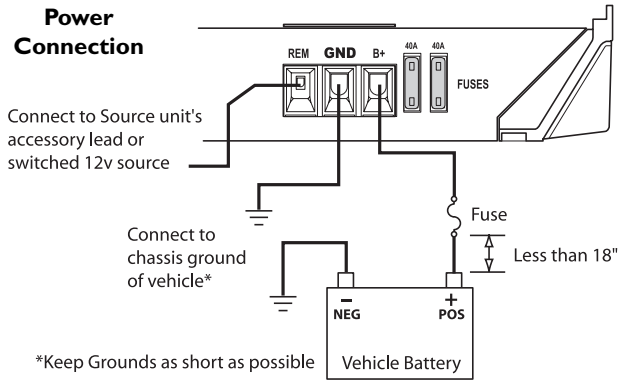
**NOTE:** Keep the length of the BLACK wire (Ground) as short as possible. Always less than 30" (76.2cm).

6. Prepare the REM turn-on wire for for attachment to the amplifier by stripping 5/8" of insulation from the end of the wire. Insert the bared wire into the REM terminal and tighten the set screw to secure the wire in place. Connect the other end of the REM wire to a switched 12 volt positive source. The switched voltage is usually taken from the source unit's remote amp on lead. If the source unit does not have this output available, the recommended solution is to wire a mechanical switch in line with a 12 volt source to activate the amplifier.
7. Securely mount the amplifier to the vehicle or amp rack. Be careful not to mount the amplifier on cardboard or plastic panels. Doing so may enable the screws to pull out from the panel due to road vibration or sudden vehicle stops.
8. Connect from source signal by plugging the RCA cables into the input jacks at the amplifier.
9. Connect the speakers. Strip the speaker wires 1/2" and insert into the speaker terminal and tighten the set screw to secure into place. Be sure to maintain proper speaker polarity. DO NOT chassis ground any of the speaker leads as unstable operation may result.
10. Perform a final check of the completed system wiring to ensure that all connections are accurate. Check all power and ground connections for frayed wires and loose connections which could cause problems. Install inline fuse near battery connection.

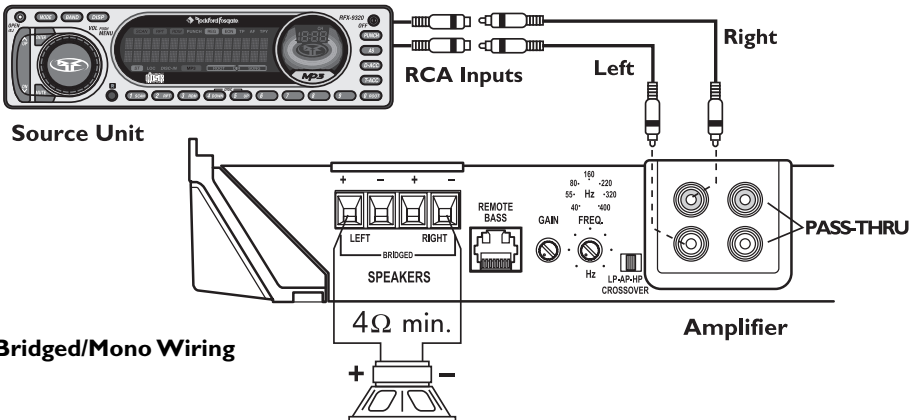
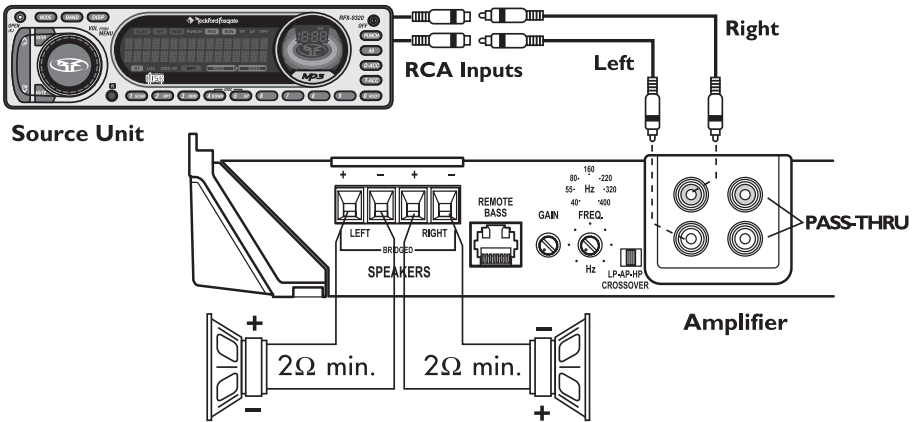
**NOTE:** Follow the diagrams for proper signal polarity.

**CAUTION:** These amplifiers are not recommended for impedance loads below 2 Ω stereo and 4 Ω bridged.

**Power Connection**



**2-Channel Wiring**



**Bridged/Mono Wiring**

## OPERATION

### REMOTE PUNCH BASS

#### Mounting and installation

1. Find a location that gives easy access to the remote.

**NOTE:** You can mount this unit in a variety of ways. Remove the back housing by using a small flat screwdriver in the slotted hole at the back. The housing can be installed with the mounting tab up or down, or left off for in panel installation.

2. Route the cable for the remote and connect to the amplifier.

#### Outside Panel Install

3. Using the screws supplied, install the mounting clip.
4. Slip the remote onto the mounting clip until it snaps into place.
5. Connect the cable to the remote.

#### Panel Install

6. Cut out a 2"x 7/8" hole in the panel, with a maximum panel thickness of 3/8". Ensure there is enough room within the panel area for connection.
7. Route the cable through the hole and connect to the remote.
8. Press the remote into the panel cutout until it clicks in place.

#### Operation

9. Turn clockwise to add Punch to amplifier bass frequencies.

**CAUTION:** Overexcursion and subsequent damage may occur at high levels of boost

**NOTE:** An optional Para-Punch Remote Bass is available which adds an adjustable center frequency control with the adjustable boost control.

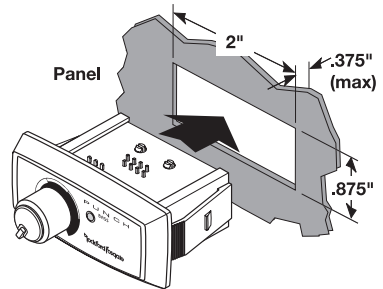
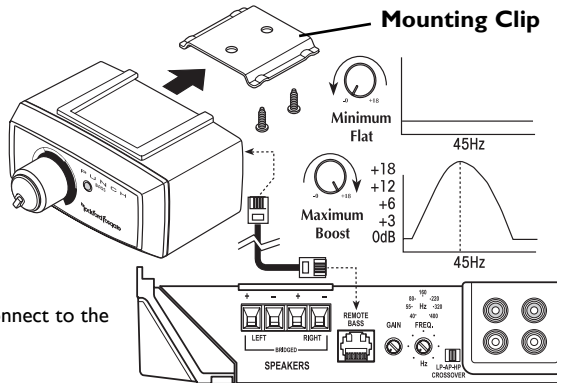
### ADJUSTING GAIN

To adjust the gain setting, turn the amplifier gains all the way down (counter-clockwise). Turn the source unit volume up until distortion is audible and then turn it down a bit until the distortion is inaudible. This will be about all the way up on most source units. Next, increase the amplifier gain setting until adequate volume is achieved. Rockford Fosgate source units do not distort, so the volume can be used at maximum setting.

**NOTE:** Best signal to noise and dynamic range are realized with the gain at minimum. Most users find adequate gain and volume is achieved at about halfway in the adjustment range.

**CAUTION:** Avoid setting the amplifier gain very high as noise and distortion will increase significantly.

**NOTE:** For a more in depth setting procedure, contact Rockford Technical Support



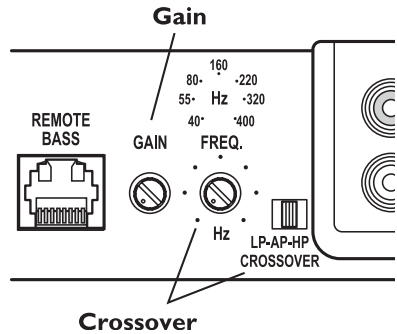
## ADJUSTING CROSSOVER FREQUENCY

Placing the switch in the HP position sets the amplifier to the High Pass mode, enabling frequencies above the cut-off point to pass, adjustable between 40-400Hz.

Placing the switch in the AP position sets the amplifier to the All Pass mode, preventing any crossover adjustment, allowing all frequencies to pass.

Placing the switch in the LP position sets the amplifier to the Low Pass mode, enabling frequencies below the cut-off point to pass, adjustable between 40-400Hz.

Turn the crossover adjustment knob all the way down. With the system playing, turn the crossover adjustment knob up slowly until the desired crossover point is achieved.



## TROUBLESHOOTING

**NOTE:** If you are having problems after installation follow the Troubleshooting procedures below.

### Procedure 1: Check Amplifier for proper connections.

Verify that **POWER light (light on Remote Punch Bass)** is on. If **POWER light** is on skip to **Step 2**, if not continue.

1. Check in-line fuse on battery positive cable. Replace if necessary.
2. Check fuse(s) on amplifier. Replace if necessary.
3. Verify that Ground connection is connected to clean metal on the vehicle's chassis. Repair/replace if necessary.
4. Verify there is 10.5 - 15.5 Volts present at the positive battery and remote turn-on cable. Verify quality connections for both cables at amplifier, stereo, and battery/fuseholder. Repair/replace if necessary.

### Procedure 2: Check Amplifier for audio output.

1. Verify good RCA input connections at stereo and amplifier. Check entire length of cables for kinks, splices, etc. Test RCA inputs for AC volts with stereo on. Repair/replace if necessary.
2. Disconnect RCA input from amplifier. Connect RCA input from test stereo directly to amplifier input.

### Procedure 3: Check Amplifier if you experience Turn-on Pop.

1. Disconnect input signal to amplifier and turn amplifier on and off.
2. If the noise is eliminated, connect the REM lead of amplifier to source unit with a delay turn-on module.

### OR

1. Use a different 12 Volt source for REM lead of amplifier (i.e. battery direct).
2. If the noise is eliminated, use a relay to isolate the amplifier from noisy turn-on output.

### Procedure 4: Check Amplifier if you experience excess Engine Noise.

1. Route all signal carrying wires (RCA, Speaker cables) away from power and ground wires.

### OR

2. Bypass any and all electrical components between the stereo and the amplifier(s). Connect stereo directly to input of amplifier. If noise goes away the unit being bypassed is the cause of the noise.

Continued....

# TROUBLESHOOTING

**OR**

3. Remove existing ground wires for all electrical components. Reground wires to different locations. Verify that grounding location is clean, shiny metal free of paint, rust etc.

**OR**

4. Add secondary ground cable from negative battery terminal to the chassis metal or engine block of vehicle.

**OR**

5. Have alternator and battery load tested by your mechanic. Verify good working order of vehicle electrical system including distributor, spark plugs, spark plug wires, voltage regulator etc.

## ACCESSORIES

**PUNCH Capacitors**

Maintain the power you need to your Punch Amplifier.

**PUNCH Install Kits**

A variety of install kits are available to help you install your Punch amplifier like a professional.

**Para-Punch Remote Bass Control**

This adds an adjustable center frequency control with the adjustable boost control.

See our web site for other accessories to help you get the most out of your system.

[www.rockfordfosgate.com](http://www.rockfordfosgate.com)

## SPECIFICATIONS

**MODEL-**

**PUNCH 75**

**Continuous Power Rating (RMS) -  
Measured at 14.4 Battery Volts**

4 Ω Load Per Channel	37.5 Watts x 2
2 Ω Load Per Channel	60 Watts x 2
4 Ω Load Bridged (Mono)	120 Watts x 1

**Dimensions:**

Height	2.6" (6.60cm)
Width	11.2" (28.45cm)
Length	13.7" (34.80cm)

Amplifier Fuse Rating (Amp/Type) (2) 30A / ATC

Battery Fuse Rating (Amp) External (Not Supplied) 60A

Signal-to-Noise Ratio	>80dB A-weighted @ 2Vrms
Crossover Slope	12dB/octave Butterworth
Crossover Frequency	variable from 40Hz to 400Hz
Frequency Response	20Hz to 20kHz ±0.5dB
Bandwidth	20Hz to 200kHz ±3dB
Slew Rate	30 Volts/μS
IM Distortion (IHF)	<0.05%

Signal Voltage Adjustment Range  
Protection

Variable from 150mV to 4V (RCA Input)  
NOMAD - Internal analog-computer output protection circuitry limits power in case of overload, plus short protection. Thermal switch shuts down the amplifier in case of overheating.

Equalization (45Hz Punch Bass)  
Input Impedance

Variable from 0dB to +18dB @ 45Hz  
10k ohms

These specifications are Amplifier Power Standard CEA-2006 Compliant

**Specifications subject to change without notice**

Rockford Corporation offers a limited warranty on Rockford Fosgate products on the following terms:

**Length of Warranty**

**Source Units, Speakers, Signal Processors and PUNCH Amplifiers – 1 Year**  
**POWER Amplifiers – 2 Years                      Type RF Amplifiers – 3 Years**  
**Any Factory Refurbished Product – 90 days (receipt required)**

**What is Covered**

This warranty applies only to Rockford Fosgate products sold to consumers by Authorized Rockford Fosgate Dealers in the United States of America or its possessions. Product purchased by consumers from an Authorized Rockford Fosgate Dealer in another country are covered only by that country's Distributor and not by Rockford Corporation.

**Who is Covered**

This warranty covers only the original purchaser of Rockford product purchased from an Authorized Rockford Fosgate Dealer in the United States. In order to receive service, the purchaser must provide Rockford with a copy of the receipt stating the customer name, dealer name, product purchased and date of purchase.

Products found to be defective during the warranty period will be repaired or replaced (with a product deemed to be equivalent) at Rockford's discretion.

**What is Not Covered**

1. Damage caused by accident, abuse, improper operations, water, theft, shipping
2. Any cost or expense related to the removal or reinstallation of product
3. Service performed by anyone other than Rockford or an Authorized Rockford Fosgate Service Center
4. Any product which has had the serial number defaced, altered, or removed
5. Subsequent damage to other components
6. Any product purchased outside the U.S.
7. Any product not purchased from an Authorized Rockford Fosgate Dealer

**Limit on Implied Warranties**

Any implied warranties including warranties of fitness for use and merchantability are limited in duration to the period of the express warranty set forth above. Some states do not allow limitations on the length of an implied warranty, so this limitation may not apply. No person is authorized to assume for Rockford Fosgate any other liability in connection with the sale of the product.

**How to Obtain Service**

Contact the Authorized Rockford Fosgate Dealer you purchased this product from. If you need further assistance, call 1-800-669-9899 for Rockford Customer Service. You must obtain an RA# (Return Authorization number) to return any product to Rockford Fosgate. You are responsible for shipment of product to Rockford.

**EU Warranty**

This product meets the current EU warranty requirements, see your Authorized dealer for details.

Ship to: **Electronics**  
Rockford Corporation  
Warranty Repair Department  
2055 E. 5th Street  
Tempe, AZ 85281  
RA#: \_\_\_\_\_

Ship to: **Speakers**  
Rockford Acoustic Design  
Speaker Returns  
3056 Walker Ridge Dr. Suite G.  
Walker, MI 49544  
RA#: \_\_\_\_\_

# Rockford Fosgate®

Installation assistance available at:

## RFTECH

[www.rockfordfosgate.com/rftech](http://www.rockfordfosgate.com/rftech)



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