

BASIS

BASIS AUDIO, INC.

CALIBRATOR BASE
FOR 2000 SERIES TURNTABLE

USER'S GUIDE

INTRODUCTION

Thank you for purchasing the BASIS 2000 Series Calibrator. We are confident that you will come to view your decision to use the Calibrator with your BASIS turntable as one of the most musically rewarding equipment choices in your audio experience. The BASIS Calibrator will bring the 2001, 2200, 2500, and 2800 turntables to new levels of precision, allowing you to feel the emotion of the music's natural flow.

The Calibrator Base is a precision-machined, acrylic mounting base for the turntable, which centers each Resonance Annihilator directly under its mounting point on the subchassis, allowing each Annihilator to work most effectively to isolate the turntable from the listening environment. The Calibrator also places the free-standing motor in the ideal position for proper belt tension and for the least interaction with the suspension. In addition, if you are using the BASIS Vector Tonearm or SuperArm with your 2000 Series turntable, the cable support structure can be used to completely de-couple the tonearm cable from the isolated subchassis. The combination of these features will open up your system's soundstage and permit precise imaging, letting you hear low-level details such as echoes deep in the soundfield more clearly than you have experienced before. Each instrument's natural timbre will be portrayed with uncanny realism, and the entire presentation will be without the exaggeration and artificial air that the resonances of lesser designs create. Our goal at BASIS is that this effortlessness and realism allows you to relax and appreciate the music more than you ever have before.

→ To realize the potential of your new Calibrator, and to prevent any damage that would delay your enjoyment, please carefully read these instructions before attempting to install your Calibrator.

UNPACKING AND SETTING UP YOUR CALIBRATOR BASE

NOTE: You will find some white cotton gloves packed with your Calibrator, in the Calibrator Accessories box. You may wish to use the gloves while you are handling the acrylic pieces of the base, to prevent fingerprinting and scratching of your finely finished Basis Calibrator and turntable.

You will also find a bubble level, which will help when you are leveling the Calibrator and turntable.

1. Locate the box labeled "Calibrator Base".

2. Unpack the base. CAUTION: take care not to cut into the acrylic base when opening the package. If you use a knife to cut the tape, cut just deep enough to cut the tape.
3. Note that the Calibrator Base has adjustable feet on the bottom, which can be screwed out or in to allow precise leveling of the Calibrator. Note also that the Calibrator has four large counter-bores on top, which will receive the Resonance Annihilator spring cups from the turntable. There are also four small counter-bores, which will receive the motor isolation feet, and a ½ inch (12 mm) through-hole with a set-screw which is accessible from the rear.
4. If you are not using the Calibrator Base with the BASIS SuperArm or Vector tonearm, proceed to instruction number 6. Otherwise, locate the Calibrator Accessories box, and remove the Cable Support Block and the Cable Support Rod. If you have an older Vector tonearm, you will be replacing your current cable block and Velcro attachment, with the new Cable Support Block and Rod. This new cable support structure will completely de-couple the tonearm cables from the subchassis. If you have a new SuperArm or Vector tonearm, the proper cable block is already installed on and packed with the tonearm.
5. Fit the Cable Support Rod into the ½ inch (12 mm) through-hole at the rear of the Calibrator Base. There is a set screw already installed in the base, which will hold the Support Rod in place. Use the 3/32 inch hex key to lightly tighten the set screw. The bottom of the Support Rod should be flush with the bottom surface of the base. If this Calibrator is for a 2502 or 2802 Dual arm turntable, there is a second cable support rod and an acrylic mounting block in the accessories box, along with two screws for attaching it to the front edge of the calibrator.
6. Prepare your turntable and tonearm for temporary removal from your stand or rack. Unplug cables from the phono stage. Remove the belt and put the motor aside. Install a protective cover on your cartridge, and engage the travel lock on the tonearm. Disconnect the bearing grounding wire, and the tonearm grounding wire. If you have the BASIS Vector tonearm, you should carefully remove the cable block and Velcro strip from the rear edge of the subchassis. Coil the tonearm cables on top of the platter. Check that the four Resonance Annihilators are threaded into the subchassis far enough that they will stay attached to the subchassis when you lift and carry it. Move the turntable carefully to a safe place nearby, being careful NOT TO TIP the turntable. Tipping more than 15 degrees can allow the damping fluid to leak from the Resonance Annihilator suspension pods. To clean any glue residue left on the subchassis after removal of the Velcro strip, you can use a little alcohol on a paper towel.
7. Place the Calibrator Base on the stand or rack, and level it with the bubble level by adjusting the feet. Be sure that all four feet are in firm contact with the stand.
8. If you have a dual arm turntable, temporarily remove the cable rod from the front mount of the Calibrator. Place the turntable on top of the Calibrator Base, guiding the four suspension pods into their respective counter-bores. Now level the turntable with the bubble level, by adjusting the four suspension pods.

9. If you have the older BASIS Vector tonearm, move to the rear of the turntable and use the included 1/16 inch hex key to loosen the two set-screws in the sides of the old acrylic cable support block, then remove it by sliding the cables down until the thin tonearm wire can slip through the slots in the cable block. Attach the new cable support block to the Vector tonearm cable. Note that the two slots for the wire now face in the opposite direction (toward the back edge of the subchassis) so that the set-screws are accessible from the rear. The ½ inch through-hole will be to the right (toward the motor location) as you attach the new cable block. Tighten the set-screws only enough to hold the tonearm cable in place, over-tightening can damage the cable. Now attach the new Cable Support Block to the top of the Cable Support Rod and lightly tighten the set-screw in the side of the block. This set-screw has a nylon tip, so that the Cable Block can be moved and adjusted without changing the set-screw. Adjust the tonearm wires into a smooth loop between the tonearm and the Cable Support Block. If necessary, loosen the set-screw for the cables and rotate or otherwise dress them to achieve a smooth vertical loop, with no kinks.
10. Be sure all four isolator feet are fully screwed into the bottom of the motor, then place the motor on the Calibrator Base with the four rubber isolator feet in the counter-bores at the rear. Install the belt, and turn on the motor. Check the relationship between the pulley and belt, to be sure the belt is running on the center of the crown of the pulley. If there is any tendency for the belt to ride high or low and rub on the pulley flange, adjust the motor feet to tilt the motor slightly UP ON ONE SIDE to center the belt. Do not adjust the motor to tilt front to back, this will not make the desired correction.
11. Now you are ready to reconnect all of the cables and grounding wires, and put the turntable back in operational mode.

If you have not purchased the Basis Reflex Record Clamp with your turntable, you should consider this purchase to optimize your vinyl playback system (not applicable to Vacuum models which ship with a vacuum clamp). The matched bearing/platter interface on BASIS turntables aligns the platter and bearing for repeatable accuracy. **Using the Basis clamp** will add substantial pressure to this critical interface, **resulting in the highest performance** from this standpoint as well as from the standpoint of better record/platter coupling. During the quality control stage of matching platters and bearings at Basis all measurements are taken when using the Basis clamp, which substantially increases the accuracy of the rotating platter.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CONCERNING THE 2000 SERIES CALIBRATOR

Question:

“What are the sonic affects of raising or lowering the subchassis by turning all four Resonance Annihilators a certain number of turns?”

Answer:

There are none. This merely adjusts the height of the subchassis, which does not affect the sound.

Question:

“The belt is rubbing against the bottom flange of the pulley, how do I get the belt to ride on the center of the crown?”

Answer:

You should adjust the motor feet to tilt the motor slightly to one side. To make the belt ride higher on the pulley, screw the two feet on the right side (tonearm side) out to raise the right side of the motor. Turn the feet about ½ turn at a time until the belt runs on the center of the pulley crown.

Question:

“What type of turntable stand should I use with the Calibrator?”

Answer:

We have not yet found a stand that makes a significant sonic difference. We suggest using a stand that represents to you the best compromise regarding fit of the turntable, aesthetics, and cost.