



# *OWNER'S MANUAL*



PROFESSIONAL LOUDSPEAKERS

Community Professional Loudspeakers 333 East 5th Street Chester, PA USA 19013-4511

# Community MVP™ SERIES II

## *Loudspeaker Systems Owners' Manual*

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## EC Statement of Conformity

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This document confirms that the range of products of Community Professional Loudspeakers bearing the CE label meet all the requirements in the EMC directive 89/336/EEC laid down by the Member States Council for adjustment of legal requirements, furthermore the products comply to the rules and regulations referring to the electromagnetic compatibility of devices from 30 August 1995.

The Community Professional Loudspeaker products bearing the CE label comply with the following harmonized or national standards:

**DIN EN 55013:08-1991**

**DIN EN 55020:05-1995**

**DIN EN 50082-1:03-1993**

The authorized declaration and compatibility certification resides with the manufacturer and can be viewed upon request. The responsible manufacturer is the company:

**Community Light & Sound, Inc.**  
**333 East 5<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**Chester, PA 19013**  
**USA**

**Tel: 610 876 3400**

**Fax: 610 874 0190**

**Email: [info@loudspeakers.net](mailto:info@loudspeakers.net)**

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## Introduction

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Welcome to the Community family! For over 35 years we've been creating the highest quality components you can buy, and we do our best to make sure you are satisfied with your new loudspeaker system.

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## The New Community MVP™ SERIES II Loudspeaker Systems

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MVP™ SERIES II Loudspeaker Systems are a series of systems for musicians and DJ's; designed by Musicians and DJ's. The models include the MVP12 12" 2-way full-range system, the MVP12M 12" 2-way monitor system, the MVP15 15" 2-way full-range system and MVP15M 15" 2-way monitor system, the high output MVP15HO extended-range high output 2-way loudspeaker system, the MVP215HO dual 15" 2-way full-range system and the MVP18S single 18" subwoofer.

MVP™ SERIES II systems are the first loudspeakers to include Community's DYNATECH protection technology. The MVP18S 18" subwoofer has a built-in 150 Hz high pass filter, that allows you to power both a full-range MVP™ SERIES II system and the MVP18S subwoofer with a single amplifier channel.

In order to get the best performance out of this product, we suggest you take the time to read this short manual. We've included a considerable amount of useful information to help you get the utmost in performance, operation, audio quality and reliability from your new loudspeaker.

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## Features

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- Exclusive **DYNA-TECH** circuitry provides repeatable protection by converting excessive current into heat, reducing excess power to the driver.
- New multi-layer, parallel wound voice coil for improved physical strength, better power handling capabilities and increased speaker sensitivity.
- Re-designed crossovers for increased output, better overall tonal balance, improved speech intelligibility.
- All crossovers feature new voltage sensing circuitry for added protection.
- New quick connect wiring harness for crossovers.

## Unpacking And Inspection

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These Community loudspeakers are inherently rugged and are carefully and professionally packaged for shipment. We recommend you inspect the unit carefully upon removing it from the packaging, in the unlikely event there is hidden damage due to some unfortunate accident during shipment.

Please note that once the shipment has left Community, the responsibility for damage is borne by the freight company. This means that if there is damage, you must file a claim with the freight company. Each freight company has its own regulations and procedures, and its own required forms which must be completed. It is therefore important that the freight company be contacted as soon as a shipping damage problem is discovered. Save the carton and all packing materials, as most damage claims will be denied if these are discarded. Your Community dealer and the factory will assist in any way possible. Remember, though, that it is up to the party receiving the shipment to file a damage claim.

We suggest you keep the carton and packing material in any case, in case the unit ever needs to be shipped back to your dealer or distributor.

This shipping carton contains the following items:

- |                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| 1 – Loudspeaker system | 1 – Product Registration Business Reply Card |
| 1 – Owner's Manual     | 1 – Warranty Card                            |
| 1 – Hex Key            |  |

## Important Safety Information

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The terms “Caution,” “Warning,” and “Danger” are used throughout this manual to alert the reader to important safety considerations. If you have any questions about any aspects of these cautions, contact your local dealer, distributor, or Community.

**Caution:** describes an equipment operating condition or user action that may expose the equipment or user to potential damage or danger.

**Warning:** describes an operating condition or user action that will likely cause damage to the equipment or injure the user.

**Danger:** describes an operating condition or user action that will immediately damage the equipment or be extremely dangerous or possibly life-threatening to the user.

## Cautions And Warnings

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- Don't let the frenzy of setting up the system get in the way of common sense. If it takes just a bit longer to set up your system because you double-checked your connections, or the way you stacked, mounted, or suspended the speaker systems - so be it. Make it a habit - you won't regret it.
- Don't stick your head up to the speaker to see if you can hear any background noise or hiss. That is just when someone else will decide to see if the system really can attain an output of 150 dB SPL at 6 inches (your ears)!
- While sustained feedback can be irritating to a listener, it can spell death to high-frequency diaphragms.

- If you mount the speaker enclosure on a stand or support, be sure it is sufficiently rigid to support the enclosure.
- Know how to pick up heavy items (such as speaker enclosures). If you must lift something very heavy by yourself, use your legs and arms to do the lifting - not your back. Better still, get someone to help you.
- Save your packaging. In the unlikely event that your product must be shipped to the Factory (or elsewhere) for service, it must be shipped in the original packaging to prevent shipping damage.

### **Loud Sound - Please Be Careful!**

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Community loudspeakers are capable of generating high sound pressure levels. Long exposure to sustained loud sound may cause hearing impairment. In the U.S. there are specific Federal noise exposure guidelines set down by OSHA (Occupational Health and Safety Administration). Certain local sound level restrictions may also apply. If you will be exposed to excessive sound levels when operating your speakers, you should use proper hearing protection devices. Use special care when you or others are very close to the speaker systems, such as during setup or if someone has their ears right up to the speaker.

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## Connecting Your Speakers To Your Amplifier

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We strongly recommend the use of proper cable and good quality connectors for speaker wiring. Using guitar cables or zip cord (used for table lamps) may degrade the performance of your loudspeakers. If your speaker cables will be less than 25' long, 16-gauge (1.5 mm) stranded twisted-pair cable will be adequate. If you need longer cables, you should use 14- or 12-gauge (2.5 mm or 4 mm) stranded cable. Rubber-jacketed cable is an excellent choice for reliable performance, as this type of cable will survive hard use and remain flexible even when exposed to cold.

If it is likely that the cables will be walked on, or that heavy objects will be rolled over them, you may wish to use cable with a vinyl (PVC) jacket. If you decide to go with the rubber-jacketed cable, ask your supplier for type S, SO, or SJ cable, all of which will be suitable.

The loudspeaker connection panel is supplied with two 1/4" phone jacks and two locking connectors, all wired in parallel. Keep in mind that the contact surface of the tip of a phone plug is very small and if the jack or plug gets dirty or the plug is accidentally kicked or hit, the connection may become intermittent.




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## Maintaining Proper Polarity

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It's very important to wire your phone jack connectors consistently at each end of each cable, in order to maintain proper polarity. All quality cables are manufactured with clear markings to identify the different conductors – normally by color-coding, printed markings, or textured ribbing on the cable's jacket material. Always make certain to correctly wire your connections so that tip is connected to tip, and sleeve to sleeve. Failing to do so will cause your speakers to operate out of phase, resulting in significantly reduced low-frequency output from your system.

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## What Amplifier Should You Use?

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There are several things to keep in mind when selecting an amplifier. First, you need an amplifier with enough output power. Even if you are not planning to run your system at very loud levels, an amplifier needs to have enough power so that the dynamics of speech and music will not cause "clipping." An amplifier that is pushed beyond its output power capability will clip signals. Not only does this sound bad, but the effect on a low frequency speaker or mid or high-frequency driver is similar to hitting the cone or diaphragm with a hammer. Because of this, **too small an amplifier can be more damaging to speakers than one that seemingly has too much power.** Peaks in speech or music signals can easily exceed the average power levels by a factor of ten. If your amplifier is not big enough, these peaks become clipped and distorted.

### *So how many watts can this baby handle?*

You've heard this question a thousand times, and there is no precise answer. It depends on a number of factors, including the thermal/mechanical limits of the drivers and crossover components. It also depends on the input signal, its peak/average ratio, rise times, and spectral (frequency) content.

In considering what size amplifier to use, rather than focusing on the speaker's power handling, it is more important to determine what is the **OPTIMUM** power for the speaker. For Community loudspeakers the best answer lies in the **PROGRAM** power rating. This Program power rating should determine the size amplifier you should use.

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## Determining Power Ratings

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If you can't find an amplifier with that exact rating, multiply the PROGRAM power rating by .80 and again by 1.25 to find the recommended power range. For example, the range for a 500W PROGRAM power rating is from 400W (.80 X 500) to 625W (1.25 X 500). Anything larger is potentially excessive. Anything smaller can cause damage. The amplifier will clip before activating the Dyna-Tech protection circuits.

Our RMS rating represents the thermal power limit for the loudspeaker. It is also a standard number for comparing to other products. The impedance or speaker load the amplifier "sees" is very important. If the amplifier is not rated for the impedance load, the internal protection circuitry of the amplifier may prevent full-power output. Additionally, if the amplifier is not of high enough quality or does not have good internal protection against over-load, the amplifier or the speakers may be damaged.

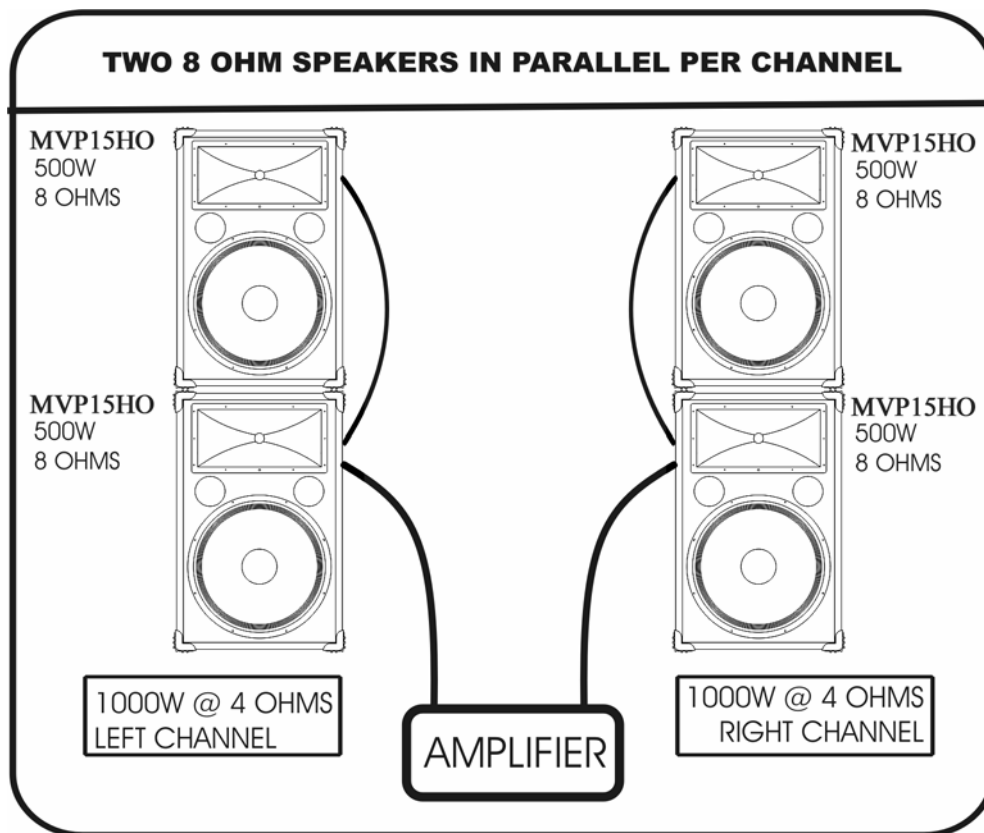


## About Impedance

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When you connect two speakers to a single amplifier channel, you are connecting them in parallel. Two speakers connected in parallel do not have the same impedance as a single speaker, and knowing the combined impedance is very important when selecting an amplifier. You need to select an amplifier that will operate at the combined impedance and produce enough power for both speakers. Be certain the amplifier you wish to use will match this requirement.

To figure out how much power you need, just add the program power of the two speakers. The drawing below shows the combined impedance for two 8 ohm speakers connected in parallel, and their combined power requirements.



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## About Dyna-Tech™ High Frequency Driver Protection

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All of the MVP™ SERIES II full-range systems (**MVP12, 12M, 15, 15HD, 215HD, 18S**) employ a unique thermally compensated protection system for the high frequency compression driver. This DYNA-TECH protection system continuously monitors the temperature of the high frequency driver and adjusts the threshold of protection mechanism to compensate for the driver's temperature. Normally, when a driver is operated at high power levels its temperature increases. When a driver becomes hot, its power capacity is decreased, and the threshold of the protection circuit must be lowered to prevent driver damage.

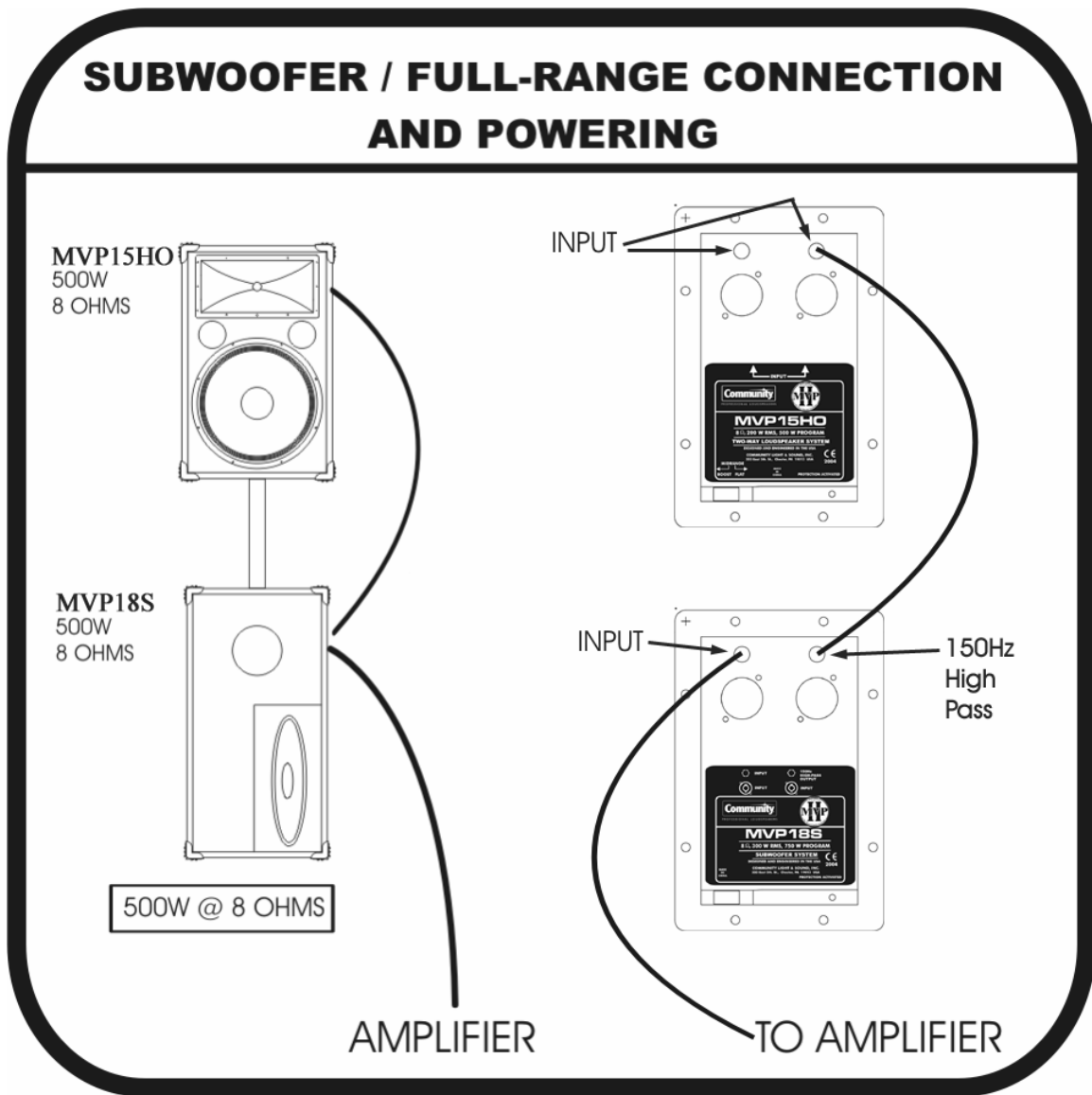
The Thermal-Link™ protection system does this automatically, enabling the speaker system to operate at its maximum output capacity with little risk of damage to the high frequency compression driver. When the protection threshold of the Thermal-Link™ system is reached, the power to the high frequency driver is reduced by 6 dB. **The Thermal Link protection circuit does not protect the woofer and does not affect the woofer output when activated.**

The Thermal-Link™ protection is solid-state and auto-resetting. There are no mechanical relay contacts or light bulbs that can burn out. When the power level to the high frequency driver is reduced to a safe level, the Thermal-Link™ system will automatically reset itself and restore full power to the driver.

For more information on Thermal-Link™, please refer to page 16.

## Using MVP18s Subwoofer Systems

While all Community full-range speaker systems have exceptional bass output, the MVP18S subwoofer has even more. A very special feature of the MVP18S is its built-in crossover with a high-pass output. This means you can use a single channel of your power amplifier to power both the MVP18S and a full-range speaker, while presenting a reasonable load on your amplifier. The amplifier only sees the subwoofer's crossover load, which is 8 ohms for the MVP18S subwoofer. Without the built-in crossover, the combined impedance of full-range and subwoofer speakers in parallel would be much lower. Some amplifiers are capable of powering very low-impedance loads, but many cannot. This feature neatly solves that problem. The high-pass crossover output also keeps very low bass frequencies from reaching the full-range speaker, preventing potential damage from excessive low-frequency energy.



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## Stacking Or Installing Loudspeaker Enclosures

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Common sense is a good guide. If you stack speakers, be sure they are on a stable surface. If there is any danger of the speakers being knocked over when stacked, don't stack them! You need to get the speakers up high enough so that the sound doesn't "blow away" the people nearest to the speakers, but piling speakers on top of a small pedestal table is asking for trouble.

Several models of the MVP™ SERIES II speakers have a socket for use with tripod stands. Be sure to position them so that no one can trip over the stand or knock over the loudspeaker.

Community **MVP12, MVP15, MVP15HO and MVP215HO** loudspeaker enclosures are provided with 5/16"-18 thread "T-Nuts" (captive threaded inserts) in the sides of the enclosures for hanging or mounting. The accessory "STRAPKIT" provides three steel straps that attach to these inserts for connecting rigging to the enclosure. The smaller models may be mounted from walls or ceilings by using the accessory WB-1.

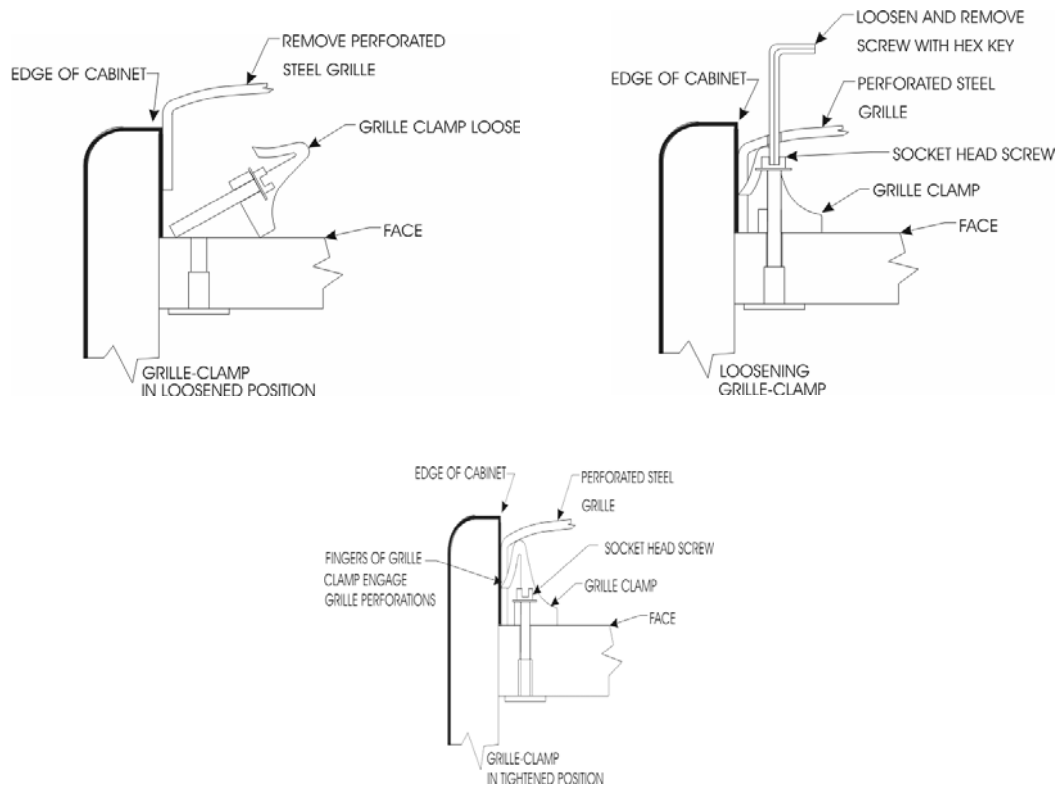
**WARNING:** For your protection, under no circumstances should any loudspeaker be mounted or suspended in a public place unless the mounting method has been approved and certified by a registered Professional Engineer. Do not suspend from handles.

## Grille Installation and Removal

The steel grilles on the MVP™ SERIES II full-range systems are mounted with four molded nylon grille clamps. These clamps are located on the face of the cabinet, two just below the lower edge of the high frequency horn, and two about 3" (about 8 cm) above the bottom edge of the face. The clamps are operated by a socket head machine screw that draws the upper portion of the clamp down toward the face. As the clamp is drawn down its outer surface engages the grille, forcing the grille down against the face and securely clamping the grille against the edge of the cabinet.

### Grille Removal

Grille removal is easiest with the cabinet facing upward. To remove the grille use the 1/8" (3mm) ball end hex key that was included in the package with this manual. Insert the long arm of the key through the grille perforation nearest to the socket head screw of the grille clamp. Engage the key into the screw head and loosen the screw five full turns. Repeat this procedure with the remaining three grille clamps.



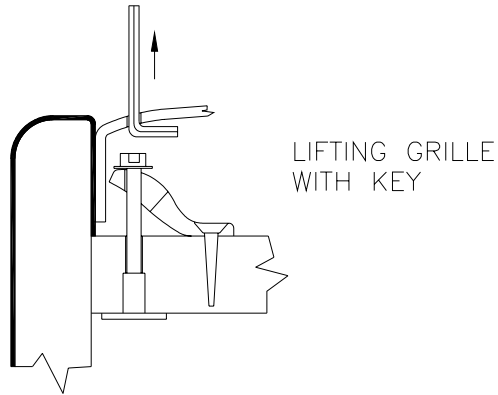
When the socket head screws of all four grille clamps have been loosened, the grille may be removed. Hook the short arm of the key through a grille perforation near a corner and pull that corner of the grille up until the edge of the grille just clears the edge of the cabinet. Repeat this with the other corner on the same side of the grille. Once one side of the grille is free, the grille will spring back to its natural flat shape. Use the key to lift the other edge of the grille and remove the grille from the cabinet. **Note: Be very careful when handling the grille near the cone of the woofer. A corner of the grille can very easily puncture the paper cone of the woofer.**

## Grille Installation

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The socket head screws in the four grille clamps should still be in their loosened condition, as they were left when the grille was removed. Pull upward on the end of each grille clamp to be sure it has returned to its natural unclamped position. Slide one side of the grille down between the clamps and the side of the cabinet until the edge of the grille rests on the face of the cabinet.

*Note: Occasionally one of the clamps will engage the edge of the grille and prevent it from seating properly on the face. If this occurs, insert the short arm of the key through the grille about  $\frac{3}{4}$ " (19 mm) to one side of the clamp. Hook the short arm of the key under the end of the clamp and pull it up. This will disengage the clamp from the grille and allow the grille to be pushed down until it is seated on the face. (see drawing below)*



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## About Community's Dyna-Tech™ Circuitry

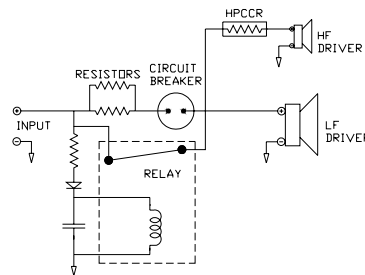
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Community uses DYNA-TECH circuitry in the MVP™ SERIES II. This circuitry provides repeatable protection for the loudspeaker system as a limiter that converts excessive current into heat. This reduces the current, and thus the power, to the driver.

When triggered by excessive inputs, a red LED on the rear panel provides indication. When the current limiting system is activated, there will be a noticeable drop in the system's level. The red LED serves as a warning to the operator about the excessive power and the need to reduce the input level to the system.

Community's DYNA-TECH circuitry not only provides protection for all drivers in a loudspeaker but offers multiple levels of protection. DYNA-TECH does not use light bulbs. Instead we use High Positive Current Coefficient Resistors (HPCCR's) specifically designed for Community with the precise parameters needed for this application: predictable impedance and a very smooth relationship between current and impedance.

For short term excessive power inputs occurring at high frequencies, the excess power to the HF drivers is absorbed by the HPCCR's wired directly in series with the high frequency driver. For longer term, lower frequency, or more excessive inputs, a voltage sensitive relay that normally bypasses the signal around the current limiters, is activated. It is tripped when the input voltage reaches a pre-determined level. When open, it puts high-wattage resistors in series with the entire system to dissipate excess current. The relay resets itself when a pre-determined reduced input voltage level is reached, taking the resistors out of the signal path. However, if the excessive voltage condition continues, the relay will re-open and reduce power to the drivers again.



**Figure 1 – Example of MVP SERIES II Protection Circuit**

There are numerous advantages to this type of voltage sensitive protection circuit. The trip point is pre-set on the crossover to trip into protection at exactly the same time on all speakers powered from the same amplifier. The protection circuitry does not rely on, and is not affected by, heat build up. Circuit breakers (both mechanical and solid-state) rely on heat build-up before they will trip, which severely limits their ability to protect a cold speaker. The trip points of these breakers are affected by heat, small variations in speaker impedance and other component tolerances, all of which will cause them to be erratic. Because the circuit does not rely on heat, it can react almost instantaneously to excessive increases in level. The circuit will also remove protection as soon as a reduced level is reached, it does not need to wait for a circuit breaker to cool down. This means your speaker can operate at its full dynamic range and still react quickly to excessive musical transient peaks without worry of damaging the speaker. It also means your speaker is protected from the instant the power amplifier is plugged into it and/or turned on.

The MVP™ SERIES II protection circuitry provides an additional protection stage for the entire loudspeaker to protect it from severe misuse and abuse. If the system is left in protection for a long period of time or the input level is increased by someone trying to overcome the volume drop from first stage of protection, a solid-state circuit breaker will trip and remove all signal from the speaker until the input level is reduced. When the input level is reduced the first-stage protection relay will close, shorting around the resistors and circuit breaker, and instantly return the cabinet to its full dynamic range.

## If There's A Problem

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Both Community and your dealer want to be sure you are happy with your new loudspeaker system. If there seems to be a problem of any type with the loudspeakers, the very first step should be to contact the dealer where the product was purchased. With the support of the dealer you should be able to determine the cause of the problem and obtain the proper replacement or repair part so that a return shipment is not necessary.

If you are unable to resolve the problem with the help of your dealer, contacting your nearest Field Service Station or the Distributor for your country should be your next choice. To obtain the name of your nearest Field Service Station or Distributor, please call Community at (610) 876-3400 and discuss the situation with the Service Department. We can help determine if it is necessary to return the unit to us for repair or replacement.

## Return Shipping Instructions

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The most common reason for returning a product to the factory is that repair is required. If you live in the United States and it becomes necessary to ship a product back to Community, do not just pack it up and send it.

***ALL RETURN SHIPMENTS MUST HAVE A RETURN AUTHORIZATION NUMBER OBTAINED FROM THE COMMUNITY SERVICE DEPARTMENT!***

Please contact Community at (610) 876-3400 if you are unable to resolve the problem with the assistance of your dealer or Field Service Station. If it is determined that it is necessary to return the unit, we will issue you a Return Authorization Number and give you further instructions on returning the product.



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## Warranty

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### **NO-FAULT TWO YEAR WARRANTY**

New Community DnD and MVP SERIES II Loudspeakers, purchased from an authorized Community dealer in the USA, carry a limited one time 'no fault' warranty on the crossover components only. This warranty is valid for the first two (2) years of use by the original owner.

### **LIMITED 5 YEAR WARRANTY**

Community MVP™ SERIES II Loudspeaker Systems are guaranteed to be free from defects in materials and workmanship for a a period of five years. The warranty period is determined by one of the following two methods, whichever is longer.

1. Starting from the date of retail purchase, as noted on the sales receipt from an authorized Community Dealer, or
2. Starting from the date of manufacture, which is coded in the serial number, if the sales receipt is not available. This warranty applies to the product; therefore, the remainder of the warranty period will be automatically transferred to any subsequent owner.

This warranty applies only to failure of Community products caused by defects in materials and workmanship during the stated warranty period. It does not apply to products that have been subjected to abuse, accident, modification, improper handling or installation, or repairs made without factory authorization or by anyone other than authorized Community Field Service Stations.

This warranty is void if the serial number has been defaced, altered or removed. Products covered by this warranty will be repaired or replaced at the option of Community, without charge for materials or labor, provided all the terms of this warranty have been met.

**Consequential and Incidental Damages:** Community is not liable for any consequential or incidental damages including, without limitation, injury to persons, property or loss of use. Some states do not allow the exclusion or limitations of consequential or incidental damages, so the above limitations and exclusions may not apply to you.

**Obtaining Warranty Service:** Warranty service may be handled by the factory, factory-authorized Field Service Stations, or Export Distributors.

To obtain factory or field warranty service for products purchased in the United States, return the product for inspection to the address below, freight prepaid, in the original packaging. If the original packaging is not available, call or write Community factory service to obtain proper packaging materials or hand carry the product to your nearest Field Service Station.

Factory Service Center  
Community Warranty Service  
333 East 5th Street  
Chester, PA 19013-4511

Call (610) 876-3400 for the name of your nearest Authorized Field Service Center. For factory service, please call (610) 876-3400 for a Return Authorization (R/A) number before shipping.

If you ship your product, be sure to include the following information:

1. Your complete name, daytime phone number, return street address and RA # (**return authorization number**).
2. The serial number of the product you are returning and retail sales receipt, if possible.
3. A complete description of the problem(s) you have been experiencing including a brief description of how the equipment is being used and with what type/size of amplifier.

Upon receipt, the Service Center will determine if the problem is covered under warranty. If covered under this warranty, the product will be repaired or replaced, at Community's option, and returned to you freight prepaid.

If the problem is not covered under this warranty, you will be notified of the problem with an estimate of the repair costs. For service outside the United States, contact your authorized Community Export Distributor.

This Community warranty is not extended by the length of time which you are deprived of the use of the product. Repairs and replacement parts provided under the terms of this warranty shall carry only the remaining portion of the warranty.

Community reserves the right to change the design of any product from time to time without notice and with no obligation to make corresponding changes in products previously manufactured. This warranty gives you specific legal rights, you may also have other rights that vary from state to state. No action to enforce this warranty shall be started later than ninety days after expiration of the warranty period.

**THIS STATEMENT OF WARRANTY SUPERSEDES ANY OTHERS FOR COMMUNITY PRODUCTS.**





PROFESSIONAL LOUDSPEAKERS

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[www.loudspeakers.net](http://www.loudspeakers.net)