

Acoustat Spectra Bass Equalization (Andy Szabo)

MK-2123 Bass Equalization

Wire Color	2-panel	3-panel
Red	normal	+1 dB
Orange	-1 dB	normal

MK-2146 Bass Equalization

Wire Color	4-panel	6-panel
White	-2 dB	normal
Blue	-1 dB	+1 dB
Green	normal	+2 dB
Yellow	+1 dB	+3 dB

The charts above describe the possible combinations of bass equalization utilizing the transformer taps. The 2- and 3-panel chart applies to the Spectra 2, 22, 2200, 3, 33, and 3300, all using the MK-2123 interface. The 4- and 6-panel chart applies to the Spectra 44, 4400, 66, and 6600, all using the MK-2146 interface. The exact amount of boost or cut will depend on frequency: the values shown are typical.

The combination marked 'normal' is the factory-applied equalization, and will yield the best results in most situations. The taps are not easily accessible, and are not considered 'user-adjustable'. Few, if any, Spectra owners ever make this change.

That probably makes the subject of changing the bass equalization somewhat moot, since there has been so little interest in doing so. However, anyone with the ability to perform significant disassembly of the interface, with good soldering skills, and about 3-4 hours to kill, can perform the modification. Do keep in mind that if the results are not as expected, the tedious procedure must be repeated!

The taps are located underneath the two audio transformers. The 'normal' taps (one per transformer) are soldered to the high-voltage PC board, and the 'unused' taps are tied-off and insulated with PVC tubing to prevent shorting to adjacent parts.

The two audio transformers are bolted to two wooden rails, and should be removed as a single assembly. However, some disassembly of the high-voltage PC board mounting, and unsoldering of the primary wires, is required before the transformer assembly can be unbolted and lifted out of the chassis. Once access is gained to the transformer taps, de-solder the 'normal' wires from the high-voltage PC board, and substitute the desired taps. Note that there is a tap on each transformer: both must be changed to the same color. Be sure to fully insulate the 'unused' taps with PVC tubing, and be careful not to pinch any of the wires when bolting down the transformer assembly.