

*Definitive Technology*<sup>®</sup>  
The Leader in High-Performance Loudspeakers<sup>®</sup>

# Mythos<sup>™</sup> Four & Mythos<sup>™</sup> Five Towers

Main or Surround  
Audio/Video Magnetically Shielded Loudspeakers

## Owner's Manual

### *Congratulations*

Congratulations on your purchase of a Definitive Technology Mythos Audio/Video Loudspeaker System. These superb loudspeakers utilize state-of-the-art components (cast-basket homopolymer-coned bass-midrange drivers, moving coil ferrofluid-cooled pure aluminum dome high frequency radiators, long excursion pressure coupled woofers, uniphase crossover networks, etc.), a non-resonant aircraft-grade aluminum mono-coque cabinet, low diffraction construction and complete magnetic shielding in order to achieve the most lifelike sound possible in your listening room for many years to come.

The Definitive Technology Mythos loudspeakers are high-definition loudspeaker systems designed for use in audio/video systems of the highest quality. Because of their wide range, high power handling and natural articulate clarity, they are ideal for use in conjunction with all surround sound decoding systems, including Dolby Pro Logic\*, Dolby Digital AC-3\*, DTS\*, Dolby Digital EX\*, as well as all 6.1 and 7.1 systems. In addition, the Mythos loudspeakers are ideal for use as rear or side surround speakers in all surround sound decoding systems or as audiophile quality main speakers in a high quality stereo system.

In order to ensure that you experience the finest performance possible, we encourage you to take a moment to fully read this owner's manual and familiarize yourself with the proper installation and set-up procedures.

## Unpacking Your Mythos Loudspeakers

### Please Inspect For Shipping Damage

Each loudspeaker leaves our plant in perfect condition. Any visible or concealed damage most likely occurred in handling after it left our plant and should be reported at once to your Definitive dealer or the delivery company that delivered your loudspeaker. Please unpack your system carefully. Save all cartons and packing materials in case you move or need to ship your system. Record the serial number found on the back of the Mythos loudspeakers in the appropriate place on your warranty card.

## Base Installation Instructions

**Tools required:** 4mm (or 5/32") Allen Wrench  
(also called Hex Key driver) (supplied)

**Parts required:** Tempered Glass Base (supplied), four Allen head bolts (supplied), four plastic washers (supplied)

### Instructions:

1. Carefully lay the Mythos on its side. Lift the base of the speaker about six inches and support it with a soft padded object, such as a pillow. Do NOT support the speaker with a hard object, as you might dent or scratch the aluminum finish.
2. Place one plastic washer on each bolt.
3. Insert the bolts into the glass base from the same side that the silver feet are attached to.
4. Finger tighten all four bolts into the threaded hole on the bottom of the Mythos. If this has been done correctly, washers will be located between the glass base and the heads of the bolts.
5. GENTLY tighten each bolt with the Allen head wrench. Do NOT overtighten or you may crack the glass.
6. Note the label showing the height adjustment ring and locking collar on the silver feet. Carefully return the speaker to the upright position and adjust the feet to level the speaker.

## “Spiking” Your Loudspeakers

An optional “spiking” kit has been provided should you desire to “spike” your loudspeakers. “Spiking” your loudspeakers will provide much greater stability when placing your loudspeakers on carpeting. It will also, according to many experts, result in an overall improvement in sonic performance. Care should be taken when using spikes as they may cause damage to wooden or other floors which are susceptible to being scratched. Definitive Technology is specifically not responsible for damage which may result from the use of spikes.

The spike kit contains five spikes. To install, unscrew the non-marking tips from the centers of the five leveling feet and screw the five spikes in their places. Then, with the help of another person, lift the speaker upright and lower it to its exact desired position on the floor. You must lower the speaker to the exact position you want because once the spikes are in place you cannot move the speakers sideways on the rug or floor – this may damage the floor or the speakers. Next, adjust the spikes so the speaker sits solidly on all five spikes (and does not rock).

## Positioning Your Mythos Speakers in Your Room

Your new Mythos speakers are very flexible in terms of positioning and placement options and they will produce excellent sound in almost any location. Following a few simple guidelines can, however, optimize their performance for the more critical listener. Please remember that although the following recommendations are usually valid, all rooms and listening sets-ups are somewhat unique, so do not be afraid to experiment with the speakers. Remember, whatever sounds best to you is correct.

## **Positioning Mythos Towers as Left/Right Main Speakers**

When used as left and right front speakers, the Mythos Towers can be placed right next to your TV with excellent results or may be separated by a distance greater than the width of the TV. As with any speaker, a greater separation (5 to 7 feet or more) will normally result in a bigger sound-stage and this is recommended from a sonic point of view. Speakers may be angled in toward the listening position or left parallel with each other. Angling the speakers in (pointed directly at the listener) will result in a somewhat brighter, clearer sound with a sharper focus and a more solid central image (generally, we recommend this), while leaving the speakers parallel with each other will result in a less bright, warmer sound.

## **Positioning Mythos Towers as Rear/Side Surrounds**

When used as rear or side surround speakers, Mythos Towers may be located on the side or behind the listeners. When used on the sides, take care never to locate the speakers forward of the listeners. If the speakers are placed on the rear wall, it is suggested that they be positioned fairly wide apart if possible. (For instance, if there is a couch in the center of the rear wall on which the listeners will sit, try to position the speakers wider apart than the couch.)

### **Speaker Break-In**

Your Mythos loudspeakers should sound good right out of the box; however, an extended break-in period of 20-40 hours or more of normal playing is required to reach full performance capability. Break-in allows the suspensions to work in and results in fuller bass, a more open “blossoming” midrange and smoother high frequency reproduction.

# Connecting Your Mythos Loudspeakers

## Hooking Up Your Mythos Loudspeakers

Your Mythos loudspeakers each have one pair of gold 5-way binding posts. Normally, you will hook up the left main/front channel red(+) terminal of your receiver or amplifier to the red(+) terminal of your left Mythos loudspeaker and the left main/front channel black(-) terminal of your receiver or amplifier to the black(-) terminal of your left Mythos loudspeaker. Connect the right channel main/front channel red(+) terminal of your amplifier or receiver to the red(+) terminal of your right Mythos loudspeaker and the black(-) terminal of the right main/front channel of your receiver or amplifier to the black(-) terminal of your right Mythos loudspeaker.

If you are using the Mythos as side/rear surround speakers, hook up the left surround red(+) terminal of your receiver or amplifier to the red(+) terminal of your Mythos left surround speaker and the left surround black(-) terminal of your receiver or amplifier to the black(-) terminal of your Mythos left surround speaker. Connect the right surround red(+) terminal of your amplifier or receiver to the red(+) terminal of your Mythos right surround loudspeaker and the black(-) terminal of the right surround channel of your receiver or amplifier to the black(-) terminal of your Mythos right surround loudspeaker.

If your receiver/ decoder has a bass management system and you are using a separate subwoofer, set bass management to “Small” left and right main speakers, “Small” center channel, “Small” surround speakers and “Yes” subwoofer. If your receiver/decoder has a choice of crossover frequencies, set the crossover to 80 Hz. If you are not using a separate subwoofer, set bass management to “Large” left and right main speakers, “Large” center channel and “Large” surround speakers, and “No” subwoofer. Normally we recommend that these speakers be used with a subwoofer in order to realize their full performance potential.

## Setting Bass and Treble Controls on Your Receiver or Amplifier

Normally we recommend that you set the Bass and Treble controls on flat or 0 dB. This will give you the most linear and natural sound. Also, if your amplifier or receiver has a graphic equalizer, we recommend that you leave it flat. The reason for this is that we have spoken with many consumers about what they thought were improperly sounding speakers when, in fact, the problem was misadjusted tone controls. **When in doubt, leave them flat; this almost always sounds the best.**

**Usually if distortion is heard when the speakers are being driven at loud levels, it is caused by driving (turning up) the amplifier too loud and not driving the speakers with more power than they can handle. Remember, most amplifiers put out their full-rated power well before the volume control is turned all the way up! If your speakers distort when you play them loud, turn down the amplifier or get a bigger one.**

## Mythos Tower Home Theater Systems

A complete Mythos Home Theater System will normally combine your Mythos front left and right Tower loudspeakers with a Mythos Three or Seven center channel loudspeaker and rear surround speakers (which can also be Mythos or any other Definitive Surround Loudspeaker, our Bipolar In-Walls, ProMonitors, StudioMonitors, etc.) and one or more Definitive subwoofers. These superb systems offer exceptional music and home theater performance with all decoding technologies. Remember, to achieve proper blending and full performance, it is essential to use only Definitive speakers to complete your home theater system.

## Using Your Mythos Loudspeakers with a Separate Subwoofer

If you use a subwoofer, we strongly suggest using a Definitive PowerField SuperCube, PowerField or ProSub in order to achieve the highest level of sound quality possible.

### With Dolby Digital Receivers and Decoders

Most systems using the Mythos loudspeakers with a subwoofer will be Dolby Digital Systems. Simply hook the Mythos speakers up to the left and right front (main) channels (assuming you are using them as front speakers) and hook the Mythos Center Channel to the center channel. Using a low-level RCA cable, hook the subwoofer up to the LFE output on your receiver or processor (if you are using a Definitive subwoofer input this LFE cable into the LFE input on the sub). Then set the bass management system on the receiver or decoder to “Small” left and right main speakers, “Small” center, and “Yes” subwoofer. If your receiver/decoder has a choice of crossover frequencies, set the crossover to 80 Hz. The circuitry inside the receiver or decoder will perform the necessary crossover functions.

### With Non-Dolby Digital Systems

With non-Dolby Digital systems, there are many options for using your Mythos loudspeakers with a subwoofer. The specific hook-up will depend on the specific subwoofer you are using. With Definitive subwoofers, you can run the Mythos loudspeakers full range (i.e. hook them up normally to the amplifier receiver) and connect the subwoofer to the sub-out with a low-level RCA cable (with Definitive subwoofers this would input into the left or right channel input). You would then set the woofer’s low-pass crossover. We would suggest starting around 80 Hz and then experiment up or down from there.

You also have the option with Definitive subwoofers of using the subwoofer’s built-in speaker level high-pass crossover as described in the subwoofer instruction manuals. In this case, also start with the subwoofer low-pass crossover at about 80 Hz and experiment.

## Use of Mythos Towers as Rear or Side Surround Speakers

Mythos Tower loudspeakers make excellent rear or side surround speakers. In order to use the Mythos speakers as rear or side surround speakers, simply hook them up as normal to the rear or side channel amplifier outputs of your system. Set the bass management system of your decoder to “Small” rear and/or side surrounds if your system is using a separate subwoofer, or “Large” rear or side surrounds if your system is not using a separate subwoofer.

## Technical Assistance

It is our pleasure to offer assistance if you have any questions regarding your Mythos loudspeakers or their set-up. Please contact your nearest Definitive Technology dealer or contact us directly at 410-363-7148 or [www.definitivetech.com](http://www.definitivetech.com).

## Service

Service and warranty work on your Definitive loudspeakers will normally be performed by the Definitive Technology dealer from whom you have purchased your loudspeakers. If, however, you wish to return the speaker to us, please contact us first, describing the problem and requesting authorization as well as the location of the nearest factory service center. **Please note that the address given in this booklet is the address of our offices only. Under no circumstances should loudspeakers be shipped to our offices or returned without contacting us first and obtaining return authorization.**

Definitive Technology Offices  
11433 Cronridge Drive  
Owings Mills, Maryland 21117  
Phone: 410-363-7148

Visit us at [www.definitivetech.com](http://www.definitivetech.com)



## **VERY IMPORTANT:**

### **SETTING CHANNEL BALANCE AND BASS MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS**

Dolby Digital and Dolby ProLogic systems and decoders have a critical channel balancing procedure for the left and right front speakers, center channel, rears and subwoofer (if it is hooked up through the LFE or Sub Out low level connection) which must be followed if the system is to perform properly. We have spoken with many system users with problems relating to the overall sound of their system which could be clearly traced back to improper system balance.

Also note that Dolby Digital decoders have bass management systems (systems which direct the bass to the various channels) which vary from unit to unit. This bass management system must also be properly adjusted. If your Mythos loudspeaker is hooked up with speaker level wires and you are using a separate subwoofer, your receiver or decoder's bass management system should be set for "Small" left and right main speakers, "Small" center, "Small" surrounds, and "Yes" subwoofer. If you are using rear surround speakers with very extended low frequency response set the rear channels of your decoder's bass management system to "Large." If not, set them to "Small" (if you are using the Mythos speaker as a rear or side surround speaker, set the rear or side surround bass management to "Small"). If you are using Mythos loudspeakers without a separate subwoofer, set bass management to "Large" left and right main speakers, "Large" center, "Large" surrounds, and "No" subwoofer. (Also, do not be afraid to experiment.) Remember, whatever sounds best to you is correct.

# Mythos Specifications

## Mythos Four

**Dimensions**

5.19" W x 5.13" D x 44" H

**Frequency Response**

35 Hz – 30 kHz

**Efficiency**

91 dB

**Nominal Impedance**

4 – 8 ohms

**Driver Complement**

Two 4.5" cast-basket high-definition bass/midrange drivers, two 4.5" cast-basket high-definition bass drivers, two 4.5" pressure-driven planar low-frequency radiators, one 1" pure aluminum dome tweeter

**Recommended**

**Associated Amplification**

20 – 225 watts/channel

**Magnetically Shielded**

## Mythos Five

**Dimensions**

4.07" W x 4.07" D x 40.5" H

**Frequency Response**

40 Hz – 30 kHz

**Efficiency**

89 dB

**Nominal Impedance**

4 – 8 ohms

**Driver Complement**

Two 3.5" cast-basket high-definition bass/midrange drivers, two 3.5" cast-basket high-definition bass drivers, two 3.5" pressure-driven low-frequency radiators, one 1" pure aluminum dome tweeter

**Recommended**

**Associated Amplification**

10 – 200 watts/channel

**Magnetically Shielded**

## **Limited Warranty: 5-Years for Drivers and Cabinets, 3-Years for Electronic Components**

Definitive Technology warrants to the original retail purchaser only that this Definitive Technology Loudspeaker Product (the "Product") will be free from defects in materials and workmanship for a period of five (5) years covering the drivers and cabinets, and three (3) years for the electronic components from the date of the original purchase from a Definitive Technology Authorized Dealer. However, this warranty will automatically terminate prior to the expiration of five (5) years for the drivers and cabinets and three (3) years for the electronic components if the original retail purchaser sells or otherwise transfers the Product to any other party. The original retail purchaser shall hereinafter be referred to as "you." Defective Products must be shipped, together with proof of date of purchase, prepaid insured to the Authorized Dealer from whom you purchased the Product, or to the nearest factory service center. Product(s) must be shipped in the original shipping container or its equivalent; in any case the risk of loss or damage in transit is to be borne by you. If, upon examination at the Factory or a Definitive Technology Authorized Dealer, it is determined that the unit was defective in materials or workmanship at any time during this Warranty period, Definitive Technology or the Definitive Technology Authorized Dealer will, at its option, repair or replace this Product at no additional charge, except as set forth below. All replaced parts and Product(s) become the property of Definitive Technology. Product(s) replaced or repaired under this Warranty will be returned to you, within a reasonable time, freight collect.

*This Warranty does not include service or parts to repair damage caused by accident, misuse, abuse, negligence, inadequate packing or shipping procedures, commercial use, voltage in excess of the rated maximum of the unit, cosmetic appearance of cabinetry not directly attributable to defects in materials or workmanship, or service, or repair or modification of the Product which has not been authorized by Definitive Technology. Definitive Technology makes no Warranty with respect to its Products purchased from dealers or outlets other than Definitive Technology Authorized Dealers. This Warranty is in lieu of all other expressed Warranties. If this Product is defective in material or workmanship as warranted above, your sole remedy shall be repair or replacement as provided above. In no event will Definitive Technology be liable to you for any incidental or consequential damages arising out of the use or inability to use the Product, even if Definitive Technology or a Definitive Technology Authorized Dealer has been advised of the possibility of such damages, or for any claim by any other party. Some states do not allow the exclusion or limitation of consequential damages, so the above limitation may not apply to you.*

*All implied warranties on the Product are limited to the duration of this expressed Warranty. Some states do not allow limitation on how long an implied Warranty lasts, so the above limitations may not apply to you. This Warranty gives you specific legal rights, and you also may have other rights which vary from state to state.*



This product complies with the essential requirements of  
EMC directives 89/336/EEC and 73/23/EEC (inclusive of  
93/68/EEC) and carries the CE mark accordingly.