

## 1-Year Limited Warranty

To the original purchaser, ZVOX Audio will warrant the ZVOX ZB550 system to be free of defects in material and workmanship for a period of one (1) year from date of purchase. With respect to defects, ZVOX will, at its option, replace the product or repair the defect in the product with no charge to the original purchaser for parts or labor. Customer is responsible for shipping charges where required.

This warranty does not extend to any defect, malfunction or failure caused by misuses, abuse, accident, faulty hookup, defective associated equipment or use of the system with equipment for which it is not intended.

This warranty is only valid when the system is returned to the retailer that sold the ZVOX ZB550 system to the original purchaser.

This is the sole and express warranty. This warranty is in lieu of all other warranties, expressed or implied, of merchantability, fitness for purpose or otherwise. In no event shall ZVOX Audio LLC be liable for incidental or consequential damages or have any liability with respect to defects other than the obligations set forth as stated. Except as provided herein, ZVOX Audio LLC shall have no liability or responsibility to the purchaser or any other person or entity with respect to any liability, loss or damage caused directly or indirectly by use of the product, including, but not limited to, any incidental or consequential damages.

To ensure warranty coverage, it is incumbent upon the original purchaser of the ZVOX ZB550 system to inform the retailer of the defect within the warranty period. The only acceptable method of establishing warranty status is a copy of the original proof of purchase indicating customer's name and purchase date.

**ZVOX®**  
Great Sound Made Simple

Questions? E-mail us at [info@zvoxaudio.com](mailto:info@zvoxaudio.com)

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# ○ ○ ○ ZVOX Z-Base™ 550 ○ ○ ○ Single-Cabinet Surround Sound System

## OWNER'S MANUAL

Don't Worry—This Is Going To Be Simple

**ZVOX®**  
Great Sound Made Simple

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# READ THIS FIRST

## Important Safety Instructions For ZVOX ZB550 System

### READ AND HEED IMPORTANT SAFETY WARNING ON POWER SUPPLY.

# WARNING

- TO PREVENT FIRE OR SHOCK HAZARD. DO NOT EXPOSE THIS APPLIANCE TO RAIN OR MOISTURE.
- THIS APPLIANCE SHOULD NOT BE EXPOSED TO DRIPPING OR SPLASHING WATER AND NO OBJECT FILLED WITH LIQUIDS SUCH AS VASES SHALL BE PLACED ON APPARATUS.

The lightning flash with arrowhead symbol, within an equilateral triangle, is intended to alert the user to the presence of uninsulated "dangerous voltage" within the product's enclosure that may be of sufficient magnitude to constitute a risk of electric shock to persons.

The exclamation point within an equilateral triangle is intended to alert the user of the presence of important operating and maintenance (servicing) instructions in the literature accompanying this product.

All safety and operating instructions should be read before your ZVOX® ZB550 is operated. Safety instructions and operating instructions should be kept for future reference.

All warnings on the product or in the operating instructions should be followed. Operate your ZVOX ZB550 in accordance with the instructions.

**Do Not Use Near Water.** Do not use your ZVOX ZB550 near water, such as a bathtub, sink, swimming pool or wet basement. To reduce the risk of fire or electric shock, do not expose this apparatus to rain or moisture. To avoid dripping and splashing, no objects filled with liquids, such as vases, should be placed on your ZVOX ZB550.

**Object Entry.** Never use probes of any kind to reach into the ZVOX ZB550 as they may touch voltage points or short parts that could result in a fire or electric shock.

**Ventilation.** The heat sink (a black metal panel located on the back of the ZVOX ZB550) REQUIRES ventilation to ensure reliable operation of the system and to prevent it from over-heating. This area must not be blocked or covered. Do not allow a soft surface such as carpet, bedding or a sofa to cover the heat sink. The system should not be placed in a built-in installation such as a bookcase or a rack unless proper ventilation is provided.

**Do Not Abuse The Power Cord.** Install the ZVOX ZB550 where no one can step on or trip on the power cord. Never yank to disconnect the cord from an outlet. Keep the cord away from heated surfaces. Do not pull the cord around sharp edges or corners. Do not allow cord to hang over the edge of table or counter.

**Heat.** Place system away from radiators, stoves, heat vents or other heat sources.

**Do not defeat the safety purpose of the polarized or grounding type plug.** A polarized plug has two blades with one wider than the other. The wide blade is provided for your safety. If the provided plug does not fit into your outlet, consult an electrician for replacement of the obsolete outlet.

**Power Supply.** Do not use a power supply with a higher voltage rating than the unit supplied.

**Power Sources.** The ZVOX ZB550 can be operated only with a 50/60HZ 120-240VAC power source.

**Do Not Overload Outlets.** Don't overload your wall outlets or power strip. This can result in the risk of fire or electric shock.

### Special Safety Warnings Regarding Placement of ZVOX ZB550 and Other Equipment

**Stable Placement.** Do not place the ZVOX ZB550 on an unstable cart, stand, bracket or table. The ZVOX ZB550 may fall, causing serious injury to a child or adult and serious damage to the product. Do not use the ZVOX ZB550 on any unstable surface.

**Placement of a TV on the ZB550.** Televisions weighing less than 90 pounds, and with base dimensions of less than 26" in width and less than 14" in depth, can be placed on top of the ZVOX ZB550—**BUT ONLY WHEN THE FOLLOWING SAFETY PRECAUTIONS ARE STRICTLY OBSERVED. PLACING A TV ON TOP OF THE ZB550 WITHOUT FOLLOWING ALL THE PRECAUTIONS IS DANGEROUS AND SHOULD NOT BE DONE.**

- The television must weigh 90 pounds or less.
- The base of the TV, or the TV stand, must be 27" wide or less.
- The base of the TV, or the TV stand, must be 14" deep or less.
- The TV **MUST** be anchored to the rear wall using anchor bolts and supporting cables supplied by the TV manufacturer, following the installation guidelines provided by the TV manufacturer.
- Be sure to take measures to prevent the ZVOX ZB550 from becoming uneven or unstable. Install the ZVOX ZB550 on a solid and flat surface.

# CAUTION

RISK OF ELECTRICAL SHOCK,  
DRY LOCATION USE ONLY

# ATTENTION

POUR UTILISATION  
A L'INTERIEUR



CAUTION: TO REDUCE THE RISK OF ELECTRICAL SHOCK,  
DO NOT REMOVE COVER (OR BACK)  
NO USER SERVICEABLE PARTS INSIDE  
REFER SERVICING TO QUALIFIED SERVICE PERSONNEL



**Damage Requiring Service.** Unplug your ZVOX ZB550 and refer servicing to an authorized service center when the following conditions occur:

- When the power supply cord or plug is damaged or frayed.
- If liquid is spilled into the unit.
- If the unit has been exposed to rain or water.
- If the unit does not work normally by following the operating instructions.
- If the unit has been dropped or physically damaged.
- If the unit exhibits a distinct change in performance.

**Lightning.** Unplug your unit during a lightning storm, or when it is left unattended and unused for long periods of time. This will prevent damage due to lightning and power line surges.

**Unplug Before Cleaning.** Unplug your ZVOX system from wall outlet or other power source before cleaning. Use a damp cloth for cleaning. Do not use solvents or chemical cleaning agents.

**Disconnect Device.** The MAINS plug is used as the disconnect device. Do not do anything to make it difficult to disconnect the MAINS power plug—it should remain readily operable.

**Attachments.** Do not use any adapters or attachments not recommended by ZVOX Audio, as they may cause hazards.

**Servicing.** Do not attempt to service this product yourself. Do not remove the cover. Refer all servicing to qualified service personnel.

**Replacement Parts.** Do not allow anyone to use replacement parts other than those recommended by the manufacturer. Unauthorized substitutions may result in fire, electric shock or other hazards.

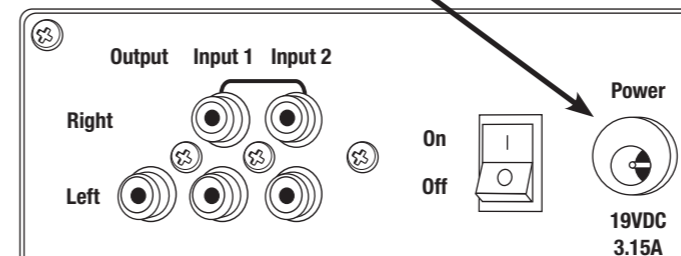
**Safety Check.** Upon completion of any service or repair to this product, ask the service technician to perform safety checks to determine whether the product is in proper operating condition.

- Do not allow the ZVOX ZB550 to be installed at an angle or incline.
- Do not install the ZVOX ZB550 in a place subject to direct sunlight or near a heater.
- Do not install the ZVOX ZB550 in a hot or humid place, or outdoors.
- Be sure to install the ZVOX ZB550 on a solid and perfectly flat surface.
- Be sure that the circular feet on the bottom of the ZVOX ZB550 are properly and firmly attached to the bottom of the cabinet.
- Do not use the ZVOX ZB550 if it has sustained any cracks.
- Do not lean on or hang from the TV. This may cause the TV and/or the ZVOX ZB550 to fall and cause serious injury or death.
- Do not allow children to climb on the ZVOX ZB550 or the TV. If children climb on the ZVOX ZB550 or the TV serious injury or death could occur if the ZVOX ZB550 or the TV were to topple over.
- Do not move the ZVOX ZB550 when anything is on top of it, or when it is connected to other equipment. Moving the ZB550 when there is a TV on top of it could cause the TV to topple over and cause serious injury. Connected equipment may fall and cause injury or property damage.

# Installation and Operating Instructions: ZVOX ZB550 Single-Cabinet Surround Sound System

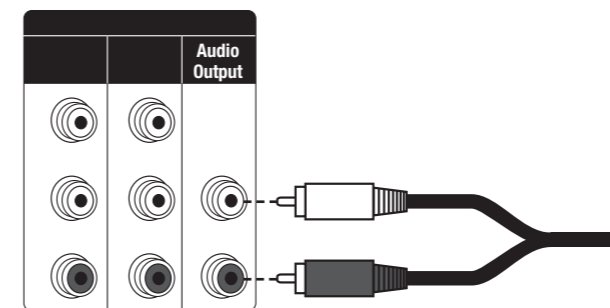
1. Unpack ZVOX ZB550 cabinet, external power supply and AC cord, remote control and audio connecting cord.
2. Place cabinet on sturdy surface. Unit should face listening area.
3. Connect AC power supply cord to 19V outlet on back panel.

**WARNING: DON'T PLUG AC CORD INTO OUTLET BEFORE IT IS CONNECTED TO THE POWER CONNECTOR ON THE REAR OF THE UNIT.**



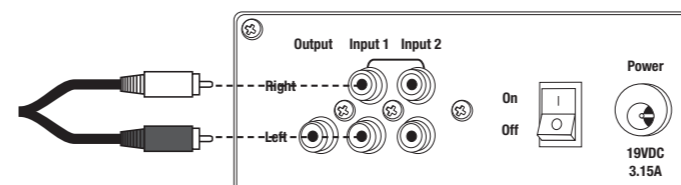
Rear input panel of ZB550

4. Plug the supplied audio connecting cord into the "Audio Out" jacks of your TV, DVD player, cable box or satellite receiver.



Rear jack panel of TV

5. Plug other end of audio connecting cable into the red and white RCA jacks labeled "Input 1" on the back of the ZVOX ZB550.



Rear input panel of ZB550

6. Push the "MENU" button on your TV remote control, then choose "AUDIO"—and navigate through the menu options to choose "SPEAKER: OFF" and "AUDIO OUT: VARIABLE" (sometimes called "AOV" on a TV's menu). This allows you to control the volume of the ZVOX system using your TV's remote control. If your TV's audio output can't be switched to "VARIABLE," simply control the volume of the ZVOX ZB550 by using the supplied remote control. Alternatively, you may be able to program your TV remote, or a programmable/learning remote to control audio levels with any of the following codes: Candle 1004, Hisense 1237 or Aiwa 1036.
7. Insert the battery in the ZVOX ZB550 remote control. To do so, use a thumbnail to gently pinch in the two small vertical ribs on the bottom of the back of the remote—while at the same time pulling out the battery tray, using the horizontal slot. Place the battery in the battery tray (with the printed side facing up), and gently push the tray back into the remote.

8. Turn on the ZVOX ZB550 by pushing the power button on the remote control. A blue LED light should come on.

**NOTE: IN NORMAL OPERATION THE UNIT WILL GO INTO STANDBY MODE 2-3 MINUTES AFTER IT STOPS RECEIVING AN AUDIO SIGNAL (FOR EXAMPLE, WHEN YOU TURN OFF YOUR TV). THE FRONT PANEL LIGHT WILL TURN FROM BLUE TO GREEN IN STANDBY MODE. WHEN THE SIGNAL RETURNS (AFTER YOU TURN YOUR TV ON), THE LIGHT WILL TURN BLUE AGAIN. TO DEFEAT THIS "AUTOMATIC STANDBY" MODE, PRESS THE "AUTO ON/OFF" BUTTON ONCE (THE LIGHT WILL BLINK). TO RESTORE THE SETTING, PRESS THE BUTTON AGAIN.**

9. Adjust volume with the Volume "+" and "-" buttons. Note that the blue LED light under the grille will flash with every push of a button. When you have reached maximum (or minimum) volume, the blue LED will stop blinking. The LED reacts this way for all settings—VOLUME, PHASECUE™, SUBWOOFER and TREBLE.

10. When "MUTE" button is pushed, and volume is muted, the blue LED will flash until volume is un-muted with a second push of the button.

11. PHASECUE buttons control the ZVOX virtual surround sound system. There are nine (9) levels of PHASECUE adjustment. When you turn up the PHASECUE control, the audio should sound wider or "bigger." In many cases you will hear sounds from places where there are no speakers. This effect is stronger with live music, live sporting events and well-recorded movies and TV programs. With many programs—especially news shows and sitcoms—PHASECUE will have little effect.

**NOTE: IF YOU FIND THAT CROWD NOISES OR MOVIE SPECIAL EFFECTS ARE "DROWNING OUT" THE DIALOG, TRY TURNING DOWN THE PHASECUE CONTROL. THIS WILL PUT MORE FOCUS ON DIALOG CLARITY.**

12. There are nine (9) levels of SUBWOOFER control. You may need to experiment with SUBWOOFER levels because speaker position and program material have a big effect on bass. If the audio sounds thin, try turning up the SUBWOOFER control. If the bass sounds overly loud, "boomy" or distorted, turn down the SUBWOOFER control.

13. There are nine (9) levels of TREBLE control. The adjustment this control makes is very subtle. Experiment until you think the sound is not too "bright" and not too "dull." Most people set the treble control once and leave the setting in that position.

### Inputs & Controls

- "Input 1" jacks are for audio connecting cable from TV, PC or other audio source.
- "Input 2" jacks are for a second, mixing input. They will work correctly only if another device is already connected to the "Input 1" jacks. Note: If you have two devices connected and playing at the same time (e.g. TV and MP3 player), you will hear both devices. If you want to connect 3 or more devices – we suggest you use an input switching device (available at RadioShack®).
- "Output" jack is for use with an optional external powered subwoofer. This is a "full range" (all frequencies, not just bass) monaural connection, and should only be used with a subwoofer that has a variable crossover. We suggest you set the subwoofer's crossover at approximately 90 Hz—but you should experiment with different settings near there.

### A Few Opportunities for Fine-Tuning

- If you hear a consistent "hiss" or hum, try turning UP the volume of your TV or other audio source, and then set the ZVOX volume level LOWER.
- Please keep in mind that your ZVOX ZB550 is a highly accurate audio system that may reveal noise or distortion that other speakers did not reproduce.
- The PhaseCue control adjusts the size of the perceived "sound stage." Feel free to adjust it when playing different kinds of audio. Some people prefer slightly more, or less PhaseCue effect. Some people prefer higher settings for movies, and slightly lower settings for music. The "five" setting (of nine) is the default setting.

