

Instructions for painting CBT cabinets

100220RK, updated 121128RK

Remove the grille by removing the grille logo (pulling it straight outward) and unscrewing the two screws underneath the grille logo. Make sure the plastic channels around the sides of the grille are also removed. Save all parts for reassembly.

CABINET

- Masking:
 - The switch setting markings are silkscreened on the side of the cabinet. If you want the switch markings to remain, then mask them during the painting.
 - Mask the entire front baffle, including the drivers, all the way over to the side channels for the grille. Regardless the color of the original cabinet (white or black), the baffle is black. It should remain black, which makes the details behind the grille recede visually.
 - Mask the brass insert points and the terminal cup which are both on the back of the cabinet.
- The cabinet is made of ABS. If the cabinet surface is dirty, lightly wipe with a sponge and a small amount of mild liquid dish soap and then rinse. Dry the surface and let it completely air dry for about half an hour.
- It is usually best to lightly roughen ABS to provide a surface to which the new paint can grip. Rub the surface with a fine-grade sandpaper. The surface should not feel “glass smooth” when you are done. ABS requires no primer paint, but the surface must be abraded before the paint is applied.
 - Alternatively, home centers sell ABS primer/clearer. Rub it lightly over the cabinet using a soft cloth. After it dries in minutes, you can go ahead and paint.
- Just about any solvent-based paint can be used. Although we have not tested the adhesion of various brands, three brands known for their quality paint for ABS materials are Rustoleum, Hercules, and Krylon for plastic.
- Always test the paint on a small area first. Watch to see if the paint reacts in any way with the plastic. If it does not, continue painting. Even if your paint is specifically designed for ABS, there may be a reaction. If the paint and plastic do react to each other (the plastic gets soft or the paint might streak and refuse to stick), then clean the wet paint off the ABS and try a different kind of paint.
- Apply the solvent-based paint in thin layers. Allow each layer to dry completely according to the instructions on your brand of paint before applying the next layer.

GRILLE

- The backing to the grille is glued strongly in place because it needs to survive environmental high velocity spray testing for IP certification. It is extremely difficult to remove. Leave the grille backing in place. (If you do decide to remove the backing, the backing material is likely to be destroyed and it may require extra effort to remove the remaining backing material and glue).
- Spray the grille lightly using thinned paint. Make sure the spray is light enough that when the grille is held up to the light, you can still see light through the grille holes (which means that sound can also get through). Spray only the front of the grille, not the back. The fact that the grille backing picks up the new color (in addition to the metal of the grille) means that you can achieve the proper color without a heavy spray of paint. Rolling or brushing the paint is discouraged because the mesh and/or backing may become clogged with paint and poor sound quality may

result, however we've been told of success from some who use very short-knapped rolling. Again, do not clog the backing with paint.

RE-ASSEMBLY

Place rubber u-channel pieces in place on the sides of the grille.

Before reassembling the grille onto the speaker, add a small amount of outdoor-capable rope caulk at the top end of the grille (the opposite end from the where the grille screws are located) to increase the adhesion of the top of the grille (which can otherwise be lowered by the painting and could otherwise result in the end of the grille coming loose).

Line up the screw holes with the corresponding screw receptor tab that extends out from the baffle of the speaker. Starting in the middle of the grille, gently press-fit the grille from the center out, moving out toward the ends. Go over each area multiple times. Do not use excessive pressure because the grille is made of soft aluminum (to minimize rusting when used outdoors) and once deformed it is difficult to get back into exact shape. Be patient and slowly press the sides of the grille into the slots on the cabinet, working from the center out and back again. When the grille is in place, secure with the two grille screws and reinstall the grille logo.