

What is the minimum size allowed for R1 that will not damage the speaker in the circuit in Fig 1?

Let I_s equal the current flowing through the speaker
 Let V_s equal the voltage drop across the speaker

Using Ohm's law ($V = I \times R$ or $I = \frac{V}{R}$)

Eq 1: $I_s = \frac{V_{total}}{R_{total}} = \frac{5}{R1 + 8}$

Using Ohm's law again

Eq 2: $V_s = I_s \times R_s = I_s \times 8$

Substituting I_s from Equation 1 into I_s in Equation 2 yields

Eq 3: $V_s = \frac{5}{R1 + 8} \times 8 = \frac{40}{R1 + 8}$

Using the formula for Watts ($W = V \times I$) the wattage consumed by the speaker is

Eq 4: $W_s = V_s \times I_s$

Using 100mW for W_s and substituting V_s from Equation 3 and I_s from Equation 1 into Equation 4 yields

Eq 5: $100mW = \frac{40}{R1 + 8} \times \frac{5}{R1 + 8} = \frac{200}{R1^2 + 16R1 + 64}$

Multiplying both sides by $R1^2 + 16R1 + 64$ and dividing both sides by 100mW yields

$$R1^2 + 16R1 + 64 = \frac{200}{100mW} = 2000 \text{ or } R1^2 + 16R1 - 1936 = 0$$

This quadratic equation has two solutions 36.72 and -52.72

Negative value resistors are extremely hard to come by which leaves

36.72Ω as the minimum resistance value for R1

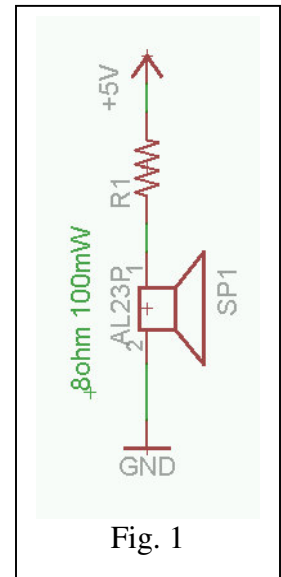


Fig. 1