

## Why is audio so important?

Know  
How

Choosing an audio solution to suit your needs can be a minefield, there is a vast array of solutions available on the market today to fill nearly every possible requirement. An audio system should be considered as 50% of your home entertainment system and, although many of today's large screens have very good built-in speakers, to benefit from the full digital audio experience you will need a separate audio system.

A good audio system will allow you to listen to digital surround sound that is broadcast on much of today's digital television and will allow you to enjoy the full digital audio of your DVD collection. In its basic form a one room digital audio solution, most of which have built in DVD players, can be purchased for few hundred pounds and will support both Dolby Digital 5.1 and DTS digital surround. At the top end are bespoke systems which can support 6.1, 7.1 and through to THX but can cost a great deal more.

## Which solution will suit me?

Budget will always play a part in your choice of system, and we recommend that you consider a number of factors before making your choice:

1: What do you want to do, just watch broadcasts and films with a digital audio track, or would you like to do more such as connect your i-Pod or a games console?

2: Room size and layout. Before purchasing your system consider your room layout and size, where will you put the speakers and how will you get the cables to them? Remember that even a basic system will have 6 speakers - front L/R, rear L/R, centre and sub, it is worth remembering that a sub should be felt rather than heard this allows you to place the sub nearly anywhere in the room.

There are a number of possible solutions

- **Out-of-the-box home theatre solution**  
Consists of Amp normally with built in DVD and 6 speakers and cables, good solution for most livingrooms, relatively low cost.
- **Separates**  
This requires either an AV receiver or Amp, and you will need to purchase cable and a set of speakers. This solution allows for more flexibility in terms of audio format choice and, depending on setup and speakers, can vastly increase quality. AV receivers have more inputs and outputs which allows for better connectivity and control. The cost of this type of system can range from hundreds to tens of thousands of pounds.
- **Bespoke**  
From a one room system to a home cinema with THX surround, bespoke audio systems can be designed and installed providing you with the ultimate solution. Of course the cost will depend on the type of installation and equipment used.

## Key considerations

- A surround sound system's performance is dependent on room set-up and acoustic balancing.
- Format compatibility is crucial, audio systems should be able to handle all modes.
- Always make sure you have good quality connecting cables either digital coax or a fibre TOS link.

Please feel free to contact us for any further information or advice.

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