

Audio-Consumer Buying Guide

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Setup and Connections

Setting up your new system involves more than just plugging in cables. Where you place the speakers, what types of connections and cables you use, and even the orientation of your room can drastically affect sound quality. Here are some practical tips for setting up your new audio system.

TOPIC	DETAILS										
Speaker Placement	To recreate the movie theater or concert hall experience at home, you will want to position your speakers just right.										
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How Your Room Affects Sound	Certain characteristics of your room will affect how your system sounds. Consider these factors as you create your listening space.										
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System Calibration	Here are three common audio system calibration problems and solutions for each.		
	Symptom	Explanation	Solution
	Too much surround	Sound from surround speakers should be subtle.	Reduce output levels to surround channels.
	Too much bass	Too much bass can obscure other sounds and frequencies and make dialogue more difficult to understand.	Fine-tune bass levels.
	Improper delay	Too much delay in the surround channels can affect surround and special effects.	Adjust delay settings and set speaker-distance settings.
Must-Have Accessories	These must-have accessories will help you get the most enjoyment and the best possible performance from your audio system.		
	Accessory	Benefit	Considerations
	Universal remote	Programmable or pre-programmed remotes add convenience. You are more likely to use your entire system when all components can be operated from single remote. Also, upscale remotes often easier to use than supplied remotes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider a remote with RF-feature for multi-room operation Models range from simple replacements to elaborate touch-screens
	Cables and interconnects	High-quality cables and interconnects can improve system performance compared to supplied cables.	<p>Interconnects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better materials, construction, signal transmission and shielding than supplied "patch cords" <p>Speaker cables and connectors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Usually much heavier gauge for better signal transmission Connectors much more dependable and convenient than "screw type" connections
	Power filters and conditioners	Protects components and improves system performance.	Line conditioners must be able to meet total amperage draw of all components connected to them to be effective.
	Furniture	Décor-friendly racks or shelving systems improves look of home entertainment components.	Shelving systems or racks can enhance access to equipment, simplify hookup and provide easier operation.
	Speaker stands and brackets	Essential for proper positioning of bookshelf or satellite speakers.	Ideal speaker placement positions main speakers at listening level and surrounds slightly above listening level. See Speaker setup section for more details.

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Audio and Video Connections	Video Connections		Connection Color	Typically Connects To
	Composite		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yellow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DVD Players • VCRs • Digital Cable Boxes • Satellite Receivers
	S-Video		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DVD Players • VCRs • Digital Cable Boxes • Satellite Receivers • LaserDisc Players
	Component Video		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red, Green and Blue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DVD Players • Progressive-Scan DVD Players • HDTV Receivers • Gaming Consoles
	HDMI		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most HDTV receivers • “Up-convert” DVD Players • Next-generation high-resolution DVD players • Gaming Consoles
	Audio Connections		Connection Color	Typically Connects To
	Stereo Audio		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White and red 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DVD Players • Progressive-Scan DVD Players • HDTV Receivers • Gaming Consoles
	Multi-Channel		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red, White and Black 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DVD-Audio Players • SA-CD Players
	Optical (TOSLINK)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DVD Players • Digital Cable Boxes • Satellite Receivers • HDTVs • Digital Music Server
	Coaxial		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orange 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DVD Players • LaserDisc players
Speakers		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Left - White • Right - Red • Center - Green • Left Surround - Blue • Right Surround - Grey • Subwoofer - Purple 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speakers 	
Subwoofer Pre-Out		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Powered Subwoofer • Bass “shakers” 	