



HOME AUDIO AND CINEMA BUYERS GUIDE



1. How important is listening to music, watching movies/sport or gaming to my lifestyle?

You more than likely do at least one of these activities at home, but how important they are to your lifestyle is down to the individual. You may spend lots of time listening to music, watching sport or movies and gaming, so investment in audio and cinema should probably be at the top of your wish list. The right investment can bring hours of fun.

2. What sort of content do I enjoy most and where?

Think about what makes you happiest. Whether you are a big music fan, movies are your thing, you are a sports nut or gaming is a top priority, this will influence the type of system and products you choose.

Multiroom music for music fans, or a home cinema system in the main living area for sport, movie fans and gamers - or a combination of both. Think about which parts of your home these activities are most likely to take place in now and in the future and factor this into your smart tech plans.

3. Should I invest more to get a higher quality audio-visual experience?

High quality, as a frame of reference, is different for different people.

Some people really relate to and enjoy high-performance audio-visual systems, whilst others are just happy with the convenience of being able to access what they want, how and when they want it. If you want both: convenience and the latest high-performance system, investing in the quality of the playback will pay dividends.

4. Will my home network be strong enough to support all my home entertainment activities simultaneously?

Many of today's movie and music delivery systems rely on a strong network to support streaming services. If Spotify, Tidal, Netflix and Disney+ are part of your world, make sure you also invest in a strong home network to support it all.

5. I want to keep playing my old vinyl or Blu-Ray, but will it fit into my new smart home technology?

If you have a significant collection of legacy media that you still want to access such as CDs, LPs, DVDs or Blu-Rays, take this into account when planning your audio-visual system.

A wide range of playback systems are still available, and the technology now exists to plumb 'analogue' systems like a record player into a fully modern networked audio system, so you can play your precious vinyl in any room in your home. Despite the advent of streaming services, one of the best ways to enjoy a movie is still a HD Blu-Ray disc partnered with a quality TV or projector. If you have a large collection of Blu-Ray movies you want to enjoy, make this part of your planning.

6. How much will surround sound enhance my listening experience?

The way audio can be delivered into a room has evolved greatly in the last decade. Technologies such as Dolby Atmos and DTS:X have come from commercial movie theatres into the home surrounding viewers with immersive audio experiences.

The general quality of speaker systems has also improved significantly. Some sort of 'surround sound' effect can be achieved in many ways. A simple soundbar will improve your audio experience significantly compared to the speakers of a TV. Adding some decent quality speakers either side of the screen and a subwoofer will improve things again and is more than enough for many people, but for a fully immersive movie experience, go for a complete surround sound package.

7. Is less more?

Much of the emphasis in modern life can be on the 'have it all' mantra. However, if budgets are a constraint, it is often the best option to invest in a smaller number of better-quality products and systems. This will give you more pleasure and better value in the long run. For example, if you feel you are unlikely to listen to music in the bedroom or bathroom, invest all your available budget in the main living space in better speakers and superior playback systems. You can always expand later if you want to.



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