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Home Audio Speakers: Considerations When Buying Home Theater Speakers

There are a number of things that you should consider before purchasing home theater speakers. Depending upon the brand you purchase and the components that make up the rest of your system, you might find that you experience unwanted distortion or that the speakers you choose simply can't handle the volumes at which you set your surround sound system. Take the time to talk to employees at the home theater equipment store and, if possible, listen to demo speakers that have been set up in-store so that you can get a feel for any distortion that might occur.

There are a lot of speaker systems out there, ranging from the PSB Image Series to the various Dali Ikon lines. To help you in making the right decision, make sure that you keep the following considerations in mind.

Distortion

One of the most common causes of audio distortion is having the volume set too high or having too much power coming through the speaker cables. Different speakers can have different amounts of distortion, so it's important that you choose a brand that will have as little distortion as possible. This is definitely one situation in which you want to talk to a professional. Provide them with as much information about your home theater system as you can, including the type of receiver and amplifier that you're using and how you plan to have the speakers mounted, so that they can better match you with something that will meet your needs.

Placement Requirements

Not all speakers are going to be mounted the same way, or even be the same size. You're going to have to consider the space that's available to you as well as the types that you want to include in your home theater system. You'll need to choose from among tower speakers, in-wall speakers, wall-mounted speakers, and even in-cabinet speakers in order to decide how you want your speakers to appear. Tower speakers will require floor space or at least something to set them on, whereas wall-mounted speakers will need to have enough support within the walls to keep them from pulling out their mountings. In-wall speakers are unobtrusive, but require alterations to the walls that can be inconvenient if you decide to remove them later, while in-cabinet speakers are built in to your entertainment center or other audio cabinet but are limited on where they can be placed. Of course, a combination of different types can be used as well to help you get the most out of your speaker arrangement.

Volume Limitations

Just as some speakers will start generating distortions at higher volumes, others can also be seriously damaged if you try to turn the volume up to a higher level than they are designed to handle. Home theater speakers that can handle higher volumes may cost a bit more, but that cost is worth it if you plan on having music, movies, or other audio playing at higher levels. If you don't want to have your audio system turned up very high, you might be better off with standard speakers.

Bass/Treble

It is important to remember that specialized speakers such as woofers and tweeters are also available and can be used to customize your audio experience to your preferences. Be sure to get assistance in designing your home theater system's speaker arrangement so that you can bring out exactly the sounds that you most want. Many audio professionals can help you to find the perfect balance that will take your surround sound audio to the next level and make sure that you're finished with the end result.

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