

Audio-Consumer Buying Guide

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System Types & Features

Selecting the right audio system may seem confusing, but by following these guidelines you'll find it easy to design your perfect audio system.

| TOPIC | DETAILS | | | |
|-------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Pick a System Type | Audio systems typically fall into one of three categories. | | | |
| | System Type | Description | Best suited for | Considerations |
| | All-In-One Systems (Good) | Audio system with integrated DVD player and matching speakers in one package. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primarily for watching DVD movies Small spaces (200 sq. ft or less) like bedrooms, dorm rooms, etc. | System size and power output suited for small spaces however, typically limited in terms of their features and options for connecting other sources. |
| | Components (Better) | Consists of a receiver that controls system volume, input, sound processing and amplification plus separate source components and speakers. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most home entertainment applications Dedicated media room or home theater | Allows you to integrate existing components and sources, select the perfect speakers and build and grow your system over time. |
| High-Performance (Best) | Separate pre-amp, surround processor and amplifier, plus source components and speakers. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High-fidelity stereo or surround music Impressive home theater performance and features Audiophiles and custom installations High-end home theaters | Separate pre-amp, processor and amplifier offer the highest-fidelity sound reproduction. "Separates" can be purchased individually allowing for easy upgrades and expansion. | |