

SOFA

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Scoring Tips for Surround Speakers

Use these tips to as a guide when filling out the buying scorecards in Sofa. These let you when assess the merits of the products you are contemplating buying and will help you shortlist a range of suitable products, thus making investing in home entertainment equipment a whole lot more enjoyable and rewarding.

Brand

The name of the relevant manufacturer or developer.

Model

The name of a product in a range.

Cosmetic design

It's simply got to look good.

Construction quality

Does it look and feel well made?

Cabinet finish

Is it real wood veneer or a synthetic finish?

Magnetic shielding

No mandatory but a good idea for overall system flexibility.

Driver array

The front panel low range and tweeter positioning.

Low range drivers

High quality high tech designs?

High range drivers

Dome tweeters are best for good dispersion.

Bass loading system

Bass reflex can give added oomph in a small enclosure.

Frequency range

Must be wide range to cater for 5.1 surround systems.

Speaker sensitivity

Will it be difficult for the A-V receiver to drive?

Impedance

8 ohms is best but 6 ohms could do.

Power handling capacity

The more real watts it handles the better.

Sound character

Your impressions of the overall sonic experience.

Sound quality

Is it balanced and smooth across the range it reproduces?

Sound detail

Mandatory for clear dialogue during heavy movies.

Sound accuracy

This will manifest as an honest, natural sound.

Sonic directionality

How clear are directional sound effects relayed to you.

Output connectors

Gold plated binding posts are best

Bi-wire terminals

You never know when it will come in handy

Dimensions

Do you need it to fit in a shelving storage options or is it in the open room.

Weight

Can you move it freely without getting a hernia.

Total Points Awarded

A tally which gives you the value a product's worth.

Comments

Where you place notes of your personal experiences when auditioning the relevant products.

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