

SOFA

entertainment@home magazine

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Scoring Tips for Packaged Systems

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?

5.1 channel amplifier

It ain't home theatre if it doesn't have six-channel capability.

Dolby Digital processing

Mandatory for DVD reproduction.

DTS Surround processing

A good system to have if you can afford it

Dolby Pro Logic processing

Makes the gear retro-suitable with older movies.

Acoustic functions

Hall, church, live stadium ... do you want them?

Power output

Make sure they are quality watts RMS rated.

System functions

What can the system do and how does it do it.

Remote control

Rate its functions and how easy it is to use.

Front speakers

Quality and floor standers or stand mount?

Centre speakers

Quality and voice matched to front speakers?

Surround speakers

Quality and do they match the system properly?

Subwoofer

Is one included or is it optional?

Overall performance

Are sound levels sufficiently high and appealing?

Sonic quality

Is it natural and clean without falseness?

Sonic detail

How well can you hear sounds and directional effects.

Versatility

What can you do with the system and where can you do it?

Input/output options

Do they allow adequate connection to your DVD player and television?

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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