

# Plan an Epic Sound System

If you think a whole-home stereo system is out of your budget, you will be surprised to learn how inexpensive the technology has become.

While it is relatively more affordable than years ago, the process still requires serious planning and understanding to be performed correctly.

If you are planning to go to market soon, this modern system will boost the value by enticing potential buyers.

Whether you will be performing the installation yourself or hiring a professional to complete the project, considerations must be made. Make sure to determine how many rooms will be included and which type of system will offer you the most benefits. Before you begin shopping for a stereo system, answer these questions regarding your setup.

## HOW MANY ROOMS IN THE NETWORK?

To find out the type of equipment you will require, it's important to determine how many rooms will be included in the system. You should consider using a receiver with multi-zone features so you can choose which areas feature music and when.

This will ensure you won't disturb other occupants when they are sleeping or watching television.

Once you determine how



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many rooms will be included, you can decide which number and type of speakers will work best. Some options to consider are floor-standing, in-wall or bookshelf. If you lack space, in-wall or in-ceiling are great options, however, they may require a more intense installation process.

## WIRELESS OR WIRED?

In today's world, it seems nearly everything can be wire-

less. While it's a great option for those who don't want to fish wires throughout their home's walls, some inefficient systems may have trouble communicating and maintaining a signal.

One downside to wireless technology is that it's typically more expensive than its wired counterparts. Wireless systems offer awesome flexibility for those who may want to rearrange rooms or relocate speak-

ers often.

However, if you feel confident with the placement of your system, you can save a few bucks by choosing a traditional setup.

Regardless of which type works for you, make sure to test each individual component of the system before attempting the installation. Even high-end equipment may occasionally come with a defective unit.

Testing first will help you avoid the frustration of a faulty speaker once you have spent the time and money of wiring it in your home.

## DIY OR CONTRACTOR?

Depending on the difficulty of your install, the process might be best left in the hands of a professional. Some high-end systems require keypad controls in separate rooms and a sometimes-difficult programming protocol.

If you think you might have trouble learning to use the software or programming it properly, don't hesitate to hire an expert to show you the ropes.

While installing a wired system isn't impossible for a homeowner, the process can be time consuming and difficult if there is no access to an attic or crawlspace.

If you can't easily transfer wires from room to room, you must modify your walls to fish them through. Once the installation is complete, you will then be required to repair any holes you made.

## HOW MANY SOURCES?

You also should consider how many audio sources you intend to hook up to your in-home network. If you intend to use different sources in separate rooms, ensure a receiver supports multi-zone features.



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## REAL ESTATE 101



### Talk it Up to Buyers

If you're planning to sell and the sound equipment will stay with the home, it'll be your job to point out to your Realtor, and thus to buyers, the value of your home entertainment system. According to CNBC, educating buyers can go a long way toward moving your home once it's on the market. In addition to a new roof, appliances and remaining warranties, you should point out your high-end sound system. You might even consider adding up all the components to let buyers know how much the system is worth. Combined with other improvements, your home could see a significant boost in value.

## HOMEWISE GLOSSARY

**Loan origination:** The process by which a loan is made, which may include taking a loan application, processing and underwriting the application, and closing the loan.  
SOURCE: Federal Trade Commission

# AD SPACE