

Reference Systems

REFERENCE SYSTEM L

DVDs & LaserDiscs are reviewed on a properly calibrated home theatre system with the following equipment:

DVD Video Player: Sony® Model DVP-S7700/Model DVP-S7000 On Townsend Audio Seismic Sink, RKR Video Cassini Progressive Scan DVD-ROM Player
LaserDisc Player: Pioneer® Elite Model CLD97/RF
D-VHS Recorder: Panasonic® PV-HD1000
DTV Decoder: Panasonic® TU-DST51
Video Processor: Runco® VHD-4403 Ultra
Satellite Systems: DISH Network™ Model 6000 HDTV & RCA®/DirecTV® DTC100 HDTV
Projector: Runco® DTV-991RP With 1.78:1 66-Inch Wide Stewart Filmscreen AeroView 100 Screen D6500° Kelvin Color Temperature Calibrated
Switcher: Extron® System 8 Plus
Surround: Classé® SSP-75 Preamp/Amplifier/Surround Sound Dolby® Digital/DTS® Processor
Surround Extended: SMART® Devices Center Surround 3X™ (CS-3X, Jr.)/DTS® ES Adapter
D/A: Camelot Arthur v3.0
Amplification: Two Classé® CAM-200 Mono Block 200 Watt Amplifiers, One Classé® CAV-500 Five Channel Amplifier 250 Watts/Channel
RTAs: Two Audio Control® R-130 One-Third Octave Real Time Spectrum Analyzers (Front Pair & Surround Pair)
Speaker Systems: Dunlavy Signature Series SCIII.A (Front Pair), SM-I (Center), SCIII.A (Surround Pair & Center Back), SCIII.A (Center Front DVD-Audio/SACD), Two Mirage® BPS400 (Twin 12-Inch Powered) ".1" LFE Bipolar Subwoofers
Cables/Connectors: Monster Cable® MΣSigma Retro Series® MΣ2 Retro Speaker Cable Bi-Wired, MΣSigma Retro Series® MΣ2000 Interconnect Cable, Monster® Silver Digital® M1000D®, M Series® Silver Video® M1000V/ M1000SV (S-Video) Monster® M Spade®, X-Terminator® 2, Turbine Design® RCA, Power Drive®, GroundControl® EAD/MIT® RF SmartCable®
Acoustical Treatment: RoomTune™ Pressure Zone
AC Power Optimization: Equi-Tech Model Q Balanced Power System, Ten Richard Gray's Power Company Model 400S
Reference Setup: Video Essentials, AVIA & WOW!
Signal Monitor: Dorrugh® Six-Channel Loudness Meter
Equipment Racks: Two RoomTune™ ClampRacks®
AV Furniture: Premiere Surroundings

REFERENCE SYSTEM F

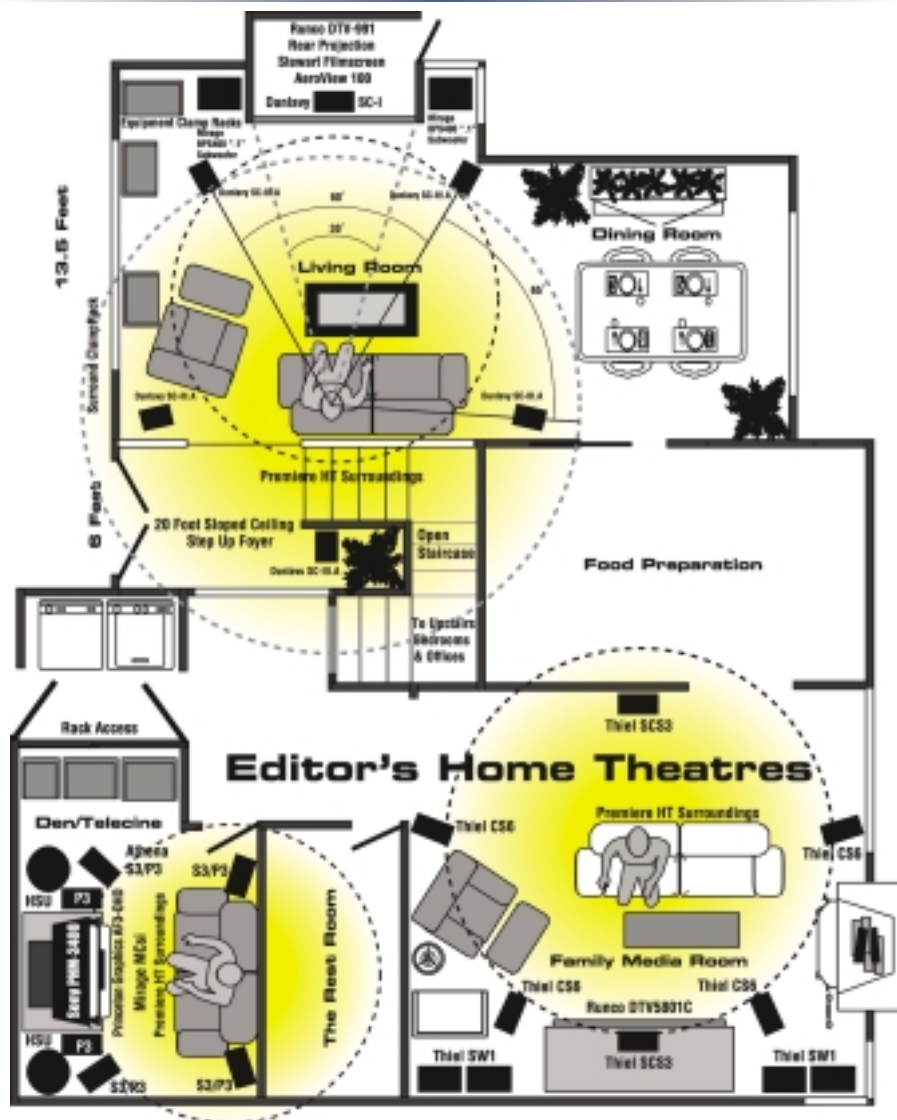
DVDs & LaserDiscs are reviewed on a properly calibrated home theatre system with the following equipment:

DVD Video Player: Proceed® PMDT/PVP DVD Transport
LaserDisc Players: Faroudja® Model LD1000 Picture Plus™ Runco® LJR II THX®AC-3® DA Super LaserDisc Player On Monster Cable® Tranquility Base® 2 Plus
D-VHS Recorder: Panasonic® PV-HD1000
Digital Television Decoder: Panasonic® TU-DST51 (Interchangeable Feeds To Reference System L)
Satellite Systems: DISH Network™ Model 6000 HDTV & RCA®/DirecTV® DTC100 HDTV (Feeds To Reference Systems L and D)
Switcher: Runco® OVSS-8 Omni Video Sync Switcher
Monitor: Runco® DTV-5801C 16:9 57-Inch Diffusion Screen D6500° Kelvin Color Temperature Calibrated
Surround: Proceed® AVP Audio/Video Preamp/Amplifier/Dolby® Digital/DTS®/THX® Controller
Surround Extended: SMART® Devices Center Surround 3X™ (CS-3X, Jr.)/DTS® ES Adapter
Amplification: Proceed® HPA-2 Stereo 125 Watts/Ch., Proceed® AMP 5 Multi-Monaural 125 Watts/Ch.
RTAs: Two Audio Control® R-130 One-Third Octave Real Time Spectrum Analyzers (Front Pair & Surround Pair)
Speaker Systems: Thiel Coherent Source® CS6 (Front Pair), SC53 (Center/Back Surround), CS6 (Surround Pair) Three Thiel® SW1 SmartSubs™
Cables/Connectors: Transparent Audio® Reference Series Component Cable, Speaker Cable, Digital Cable & Video Cable
Acoustical Treatment: RoomTune™ Pressure Zone
AC Power Conditioner: Four Richard Gray's Power Company Model 400S
Equipment Racks: Sanus Systems™ Natural Furniture
AV Furniture: Premiere Surroundings

REFERENCE SYSTEM D

DVDs & LaserDiscs are reviewed on a properly calibrated home theatre system with the following equipment:

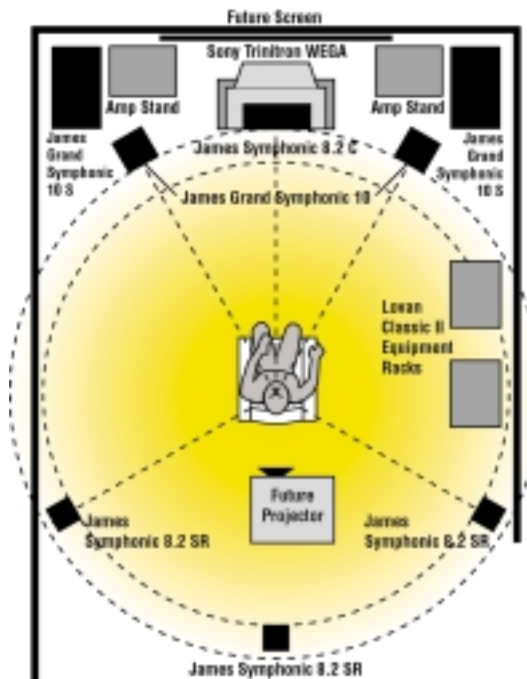
DVD Video Player: Pioneer® Elite Model D-09
LaserDisc Player: McIntosh® 7020 On Monster Cable® Tranquility Base® 2 Plus Isolation Platform
Comb Filter: Crystal Vision® VPS-1
HDTV VCR: JVC® W-VHS SR-W320U
Monitors: Princeton Graphics® AF3.0HD 1.78:1 30-Inch Sony® PHM-3400 HDVS 16:9 34-Inch & D6500° Kelvin Color Temperature Calibrated
Scan Converter: Faroudja® VP251 Line Doubler
Surround: Proceed® Dolby® Digital/DTS® PDS, Proceed® PAV Processor/THX® Controller
Amplification: Two Proceed® AMP 3 100 Watts/Ch.
Speaker Systems: Athena® S3 (Front Pair), S3 (Center), S3 (Surround Pair), Five P3 Active Subwoofers, Two P3 ".1" LFE Active Subwoofers
Cables/Connectors: Monster Cable® MΣSigma Series® Component Cable & Speaker Cable Monster Cable® M Series® Silver Video® M1000V®
Acoustical Treatment: RoomTune™ Pressure Zone
AC Power Conditioner: MIT® Z Series
Accessories: CinemaQuest Ideal-Lume™ Pro D6500 Bias Lighting
Equipment Racks: Two RoomTune™ ClampRacks®
AV Furniture: Premiere Surroundings



Our Reference Systems are important aspects of the magazine's responsibility to make correct judgements as to DVD and HDTV picture and sound quality. We use, primarily, seven reference systems, each distinctively different in scope and equipment make-up. Monitors are calibrated at 6500° Kelvin color temperature and adjusted using Joe Kane's Video Essentials test patterns, along with the magazine's CRT and Projector Color Analyzer, manufactured by Philips TV Test Equipment. Five of the systems are situated in Editor-In-Chief Gary Reber's large home in rooms that would generally be used for home theatre entertainment—living, family, den ("telescope" picture evaluation), bedroom and office—and are designated as Reference Systems L, F, D, and O1. The fifth system is in Managing Editor Perry Sun's large home. The sixth and seventh systems, Reference Holosonic™ Home Theatre Laboratory and SurroundMusic Reference are situated in our Temecula Valley office. Our Reference Holosonic Home Theatre Laboratory is used for equipment testing and evaluation. The equipment in each system is regarded as high-end audiophile and videophile quality. From time to time equipment will change in our systems to reflect new products that we decide to use. Our product decisions are based on performance and personal taste, not generally price, although equipment that is priced in the stratosphere is too rich for our budget. We wished we had more facilities that would allow us greater latitude to experiment with other equipment, because there are lots of quality performance products that we would like to use in our reference systems. All systems are acoustically and mechanically treated using various treatment devices from RPG Diffusor Systems, Acoustic Sciences Corporation (ASC), and Michael Green Designs' Room Tune™. Each of our contributing editors have their own calibrated reference systems as well at their respective locales. Our home theatre testing Reference Holosonic Laboratory is equipped with test equipment from Leader Instruments, Sencore, and AccuPel, plus various Extron Electronics switchers and component converters.

Perry Sun's Reference System

Surround Processor: TAG McLaren® AV32R^{HD-192}
Speaker Systems: James Loudspeaker Grand Symphonic 10, Symphonic 8.2 C, 8.2 SR, 10 S Subwoofer, Monitor Audio FB212 Subwoofer (2)
Power Amplifiers: Proceed® HPA3 Power Amplifier, SMART® Theatre Systems 2X150VT (3)
DVD Reference Player: California Audio Labs® CL-2500
Monitor: Sony® KV36XBR400 Trinitron® WEGA®
HD Satellite/OTA Reception System: DISH Network™ Model 6000 With 8-VSB OTA Tuner, Channel Master® CM 4248 UHF Antenna, CM 7775 Titan™ Preamplifier, CM 9521 Antenna Rotor
Cables/Connectors: Kimber Kable® Hero & PBJ Analog Interconnects, D-60 & OPT-1 Digital Interconnects, Monocle™ XL, 8TC & 4TC Speaker Cables, DV-30 & SV-Cu Video Interconnects, PowerKord™ & PowerKord Palladian™ Model 10/14 Gold Power Cables, Wattgate® 381 AC Receptacles, BetterCables.com Premium II Speaker Cable, Silver Serpent Digital & Audio Interconnects, Premium Toslink Interconnects
Power Conditioner: SMART® Theatre Systems GC-120, Richard Gray's Power Company Model 400S (2)
Acoustical Treatments: ASC Tube Traps™, RoomTune™ Pressure Zone
Equipment Racks: Lovan® Classic II & Sovereign Series
AV Furniture: Billy Bags®, ImageCrafters
Control/Automation: Leviton® Decora Home Control (DHC)
Accessories: CinemaQuest Ideal-Lume™ Pro D6500 Bias Lighting
PC: Dell Inspiron™ 8000 1 GHz Intel® Pentium® III Laptop



Reference Holosonic™ Home Theatre Laboratory

Projectors: Runco® DTV-1101, Sony® VPH-G90 (Nine-Inch CRTs), Runco® Double-Stack Reflection Series VX-1000c DLP™ Projectors & Pixel For Pixel™ (PFP™) Controllers With VIVIX™ Technology & Installed With Premier Mounts
Video Processors: Runco® VHD-4404 Ultra, Faroudja® DVP-5000
Screens: Stewart Filmscreen® AeroView® 100 (84-Inch Wide 16:9) With ElectriMask System, GreyHawk® 84-Inch & 120-Inch Wide 16:9 Screens With ElectriScreen Systems, StudioTek® 130 72-Inch 4:3
Video Switching: Extron® Matrix 128 HV/ Crosspoint/Component Converter
Aspect Ratio Measure: Pandora® International Ltd. PBX3001A Cursor Generator
Motion Simulation: D-BOX® Technology Odyssee Motion Simulator
DVD Reference Players: Two Sony® DVP-S9000ES
LaserDisc Reference Player: Pioneer® Elite CLD-99
SACD Players: Sony® XA777ES, Sony® SCD-C555ES
D-VHS Recorder: JVC® HM-DH30000U Digital VCR
Coaxial/Optical Converter: M-Audio® CO2 For Odyssee Controller
HD Satellite System: DISH Network™ Model 6000 Plus Over-The-Air HD Reception Via TDP Electronics' Antennacraft™ MXU59 100-Inch 59 Element UHF Antenna
Amplification: Five California Audio Labs® 1000 Watts/Ch. (6 Ohms) Two-Channel Custom Power Amplifiers In CL-2500 Chasses
Speaker Systems: Six Dunlavy® Audio Labs Signature Series SC-V, (Front And Surround Pair, Back Surround, Center), Two TSW-V Tower Subwoofers, HR-CC (Center), SM-I (Height Channel)
Surround Processor: Theta Digital® Casablanca II (Dolby® Digital/DTS®/Circle Surround®) With Xtreme Balanced DACs & Active Thermal Mangement System 1 Cooling System, R.E. Designs SCPA 1 Preamplifier & SB 1 Switcher, Sony® TA PA9000ES Multichannel Preamplifier
Audio Switching: MartinSound® MultiMAX™ EX Multifomat Monitor Controller
Back Surround Decoder: SMART® Devices Center Surround 3X™ (CS-3X, Jr.)
RTAs: Three AudioControl® R-130 One-Third Octave Real-Time Spectrum Analyzers
Cables/Connectors: Monster Cable® M Series® M2.2S™ Speaker Cables, M1000i & ProLink™ Studioliink 500 Interconnects, Interlink™ Lightspeed 100 & M1000D Digital Interconnects, M1000V, M1000RGB, M2000HDSV Video Interconnects, Transparent Audio® Reference Series Interconnects & Speaker Cables, Digital Audio Toslink & Coaxial Interconnects, Transparent Video Datalink RGB Video Interconnects, Premium Transparent Component Video Interconnects, Extron® Component & RGB Video Interconnects, Dunlavy Ultra-Zip
Two-Channel Audio Source: Linn Sondek® LP-12 Cirkus Turntable with Ekos Arm & Arkiv Cartridge & Lingo Power Supply
AC Power Conditioners: Twelve Richard Gray's Power Company Model 400S, Two Richard Gray's Power Company Model 1200S, Equi-Tech Model ET 12.5W SIF Balanced Power AC System
Construction: Owens Corning Quiet Zone® & Industrial Acoustics Corporation (IAC) Doors
Acoustical Treatments: RPG Diffusor Systems, Inc. VariScreen™ Panels And Skyline® Diffusors, Owens Corning ScreenSelect™ Theater Boards
Signal Monitor: Dorrrough® Eight-Channel Loudness Monitor/Signal Meter
Video Test Equipment: Leader Model 5100 Component/HD Waveform Monitor/Model 5870 Vector/Waveform Monitor
HDTV Testing Source: Sencore®
Setup And Calibration: Video Essentials, AVIA Guide To Home Theater, Home Theatre Optimizer™, The 5.1 Audio Toolkit, AccuPel HDG-2000 HDTV Component Video Calibration Generator, Sound Alignment Systems™ Laser Measurement Tools, Sencore VP300 Multimedia Video Generator, Sencore CP291 Auto ColorPro II Color Analyzer
Equipment Racks: Billy Bags® Pro-Stand™ Series
AV Furniture: ImageCrafters & First Impressions
Lighting: ImageCrafters

