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Subject: Visual Symmetry vs Sound

Posted by [audioaudio90](#) on Tue, 30 Jul 2013 12:08:54 GMT

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I have a friend who just moved. In her new house, they set up the TV and speakers in a narrow area. Unfortunately, they can do one of two things in this space; center the TV and speakers so they are symmetric to the couch (which can't be moved due to a second couch) and off-center on the wall or set them up so they look centered on the wall but then are off-center relative to the couch.

I told them they were being too inflexible in their living room arrangement and if something had to give, it should be the visual effect and not the sound, but they didn't listen to me.

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Subject: Re: Visual Symmetry vs Sound

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Tue, 30 Jul 2013 15:20:16 GMT

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Center the TV and speakers so they are symmetric to the couch. This will give the best sound and overall presentation.

Even if the speakers are capable of a tight pattern and uniform directivity, you want the mains to be symmetrical with respect to the listeners, if possible. A proper setup has a wide "sweet spot" so people sitting off-center will still get good sound, but still, it is better if they're generally centered, not too far one way or the other.

Most speakers do not provide uniform directivity, so they will sound bad if the listeners aren't close to being centered. Listeners will be drawn towards the nearer speaker, and the other one will sound almost like a surround. So it is even more important in this case that the speakers be symmetrical with respect to the audience.

Either way, you want the speakers and TV centered, symmetrical about the listening area.

Imaging, placement and orientation

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