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Subject: Long Term Investment?

Posted by [Kingfish](#) on Thu, 28 Jul 2016 08:24:32 GMT

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When you are shopping for audio equipment, do you look at the purchase as a long term investment? Or do you look for the best sound to suit your needs?

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Subject: Re: Long Term Investment?

Posted by [Azuri](#) on Thu, 28 Jul 2016 12:33:24 GMT

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I suppose I do. Kind of, sort of. I tell myself that I want it to last as long as possible and then make my choice based on the sound quality I'm going to listen to for the next 10 or 15 years.

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Subject: Re: Long Term Investment?

Posted by [johnnycamp5](#) on Thu, 28 Jul 2016 18:04:45 GMT

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A few years ago, I decided it was the right time for me to build a home, hifi rig.

In my build process, I buy a component because I need it to start with, and/or I wasn't happy with the recently purchased existing one.

I don't believe I am one of those audiophiles that gets bored with his equipment after a few years, and needs to try something new, no matter how good the current system sounds.

In my case, I am satisfied with my current speakers, amps and dac.  
I am only left looking for a turntable to play some of my old albums.

After that, I should be good for the rest of my life.  
So I guess in my case, it's a "long term investment".

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Subject: Re: Long Term Investment?

Posted by [drake](#) on Sun, 31 Jul 2016 15:05:39 GMT

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Incidentally, when I bought my first audio equipment, I wasn't really looking to own it for the long term. Eleven years later, it is still in good condition and my brother now uses it on his PC. When I bought the next one, longevity was something I was looking to achieve and I think I got a good deal.

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Subject: Re: Long Term Investment?

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Posted by [mamoss](#) on Sun, 31 Jul 2016 21:26:12 GMT

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I think what immediately comes to mind when shopping is the quality of what I want to buy. Hypothetically speaking then, anything that is of good quality will definitely last for a long time.

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Subject: Re: Long Term Investment?

Posted by [gofar99](#) on Wed, 03 Aug 2016 19:51:17 GMT

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Hi, I always go for quality. But then I also design and build much of my stuff. Quality though in the market place is a bit difficult to accurately determine. Manufacturers know that bright and shiny stuff sells well and boring things don't. They also often hide the performance characteristics in flowery terms like powerful, wide response, low distortion.... But without some sort of reference they are meaningless. Worse some inflate the characteristics. If I could have a dollar for every add I have seen for mini speakers that handle 100,200 or more watts of power I could buy a mansion. Try that with most and they will quickly become incandescent. It used to be that how much something weighed was a fair indication of quality. The shysters figured that one out and added chunks of iron (they banned lead) to the cases of their products and then doubled the price. Reviews were a good idea until the companies "hired" folks to write good ones for them.

So...what to do? After deciding on something that might work for what you want and listening to it (when possible) look at fit and finish. Look at the materials used to make it. Are the markings painted on, or etched, engraved or powder coated? Is it made of something other than plastic? Real wood not plastic, thick metal panels not super thin ones? If it has connectors are they sturdy, do not be fooled by "gold plated" parts as that is only one aspect of connectors. BTW I have many connectors that are tin or copper and not gold. Each kind has good and bad points.

Check the warranty. Do you have to pay to send it to them? How long does it last? What is actually covered? What are their options if something isn't right? How about returns to sellers? Do they allow it?

Finally don't be fooled by name brand stuff. Most of the legacy brands have been sold to companies that have nothing to do with the company that established the brand. I get a real laugh out of "Jeep" brand boom boxes. Get real folks.

'nuf from a guy who has seen (and bought often times) the good stuff. Right now I'm listening to a 40 year old LP through a Marantz amp I bought in 1969.

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Subject: Re: Long Term Investment?

Posted by [sawyer25](#) on Fri, 05 Aug 2016 04:06:56 GMT

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What a review gofar, coz you nailed it! I think you been there, seen and done it all. You mention really valid points and I like when you talk about brand. A lot of people are normally blinded by particular brands which should never be the case. I will definitely be keener next time.

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Subject: Re: Long Term Investment?  
Posted by [moss24](#) on Thu, 22 Sep 2016 22:36:27 GMT  
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I look for quality because this more or less translates to durability whichever way you look at it. I would rather spend much more now and have some audio equipment for the long term.

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Subject: Re: Long Term Investment?  
Posted by [gofar99](#) on Mon, 26 Sep 2016 02:23:48 GMT  
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Hi, One thing I didn't really address is that some technology is changing so fast that it doesn't make good sense to buy the best. This is certainly true in the digital world. Today's best will be several notches lower in just a year. When I shop for digital gear I usually look at one or two year old stuff. Usually a lot less costly and will do nearly everything as well as the newer gear. For established technologies getting top notch gear does make sense IMO.

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Subject: Re: Long Term Investment?  
Posted by [chatzy02](#) on Thu, 06 Oct 2016 21:16:49 GMT  
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I love my music and my movies and so that experience has to be the best it possibly can be for me. I make sure that I buy the best video and audio equipment every time. Quality is very important to me and I don't mind paying more for the good stuff.

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Subject: Re: Long Term Investment?  
Posted by [Odie](#) on Tue, 27 Dec 2016 09:28:51 GMT  
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Quality is the key. However, remember that things change so quickly these days, something new and better may come out next week. We had an older 500Watt amp that we had a hard time unloading because it was so old. Still in great working order but ancient. Just be aware.

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Subject: Re: Long Term Investment?  
Posted by [Azuri](#) on Sun, 15 Jan 2017 16:12:34 GMT  
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What they need to do is make upgrades possible for your stereo system the way they make upgrades possible for your computer system. Now that would be something I would term as a long term investment.

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Subject: Re: Long Term Investment?

Posted by [gofar99](#) on Tue, 17 Jan 2017 01:41:29 GMT

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Hi, I disagree with that.... if my stereo system was off line for updates as often as my PC I would give up listening. I would suggest that certain pieces of equipment might work that way. Plug in modules that would allow new capabilities in say a DAC might be useful. The cost would have to be a factor though. If the upgrades cost nearly as much as a replacement piece of equipment then it would be a no go. Much of the current gear is throw away stuff. Use it for a few years and toss it. (there are as always some exceptions) Vintage gear made by quality companies is now often worth much more than when it was new and often will equal or exceed newer stuff. I use two turntables that are over 40 years old that are not only worth a lot more now than when new, they perform better than new ones that cost considerably more. I have three pieces of vintage Marantz gear that are also over 40 years old and work perfectly and they too are worth more now than when new. They easily match newer stuff for sound quality and obviously durability. On the flip side there was a lot of equipment made in the 80s and 90s that is junk and pretty much worthless. YMMV

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Subject: Re: Long Term Investment?

Posted by [moss24](#) on Thu, 23 Feb 2017 08:54:41 GMT

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Well, depending on what 'long term' means, I think the guiding factor should be the cost. The higher the cost, the better the durability and/or quality. So for me, what's important is that I am getting value for money.

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Subject: Re: Long Term Investment?

Posted by [gofar99](#) on Thu, 23 Feb 2017 20:43:19 GMT

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Hi In some ways I agree and in others not so. I have seen too many costly pieces of gear that were no better than budget models. I call it "chrome plating" (others say gold plating). Key factors to me remain ....reputation of the company (not the brand as they get swapped around all the time), how long has the company been in business, what is the product made of... plastic cases to me indicate a lower quality product than one with a metal case, return policy of the company, and one important but not always consistent one....what do folks on the forums say about it.

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