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Subject: Re: How Many Speakers For A Home Theater System?

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Wed, 30 Jun 2010 23:39:05 GMT

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The left, right and center front speakers should all be the same. This is often difficult to do, since the front speakers have to be positioned at approximately the same height as the screen. That makes center speaker configuration and placement difficult. Some people use a horizontal array (woofer-tweeter-woofer laying side by side) or some similar arrangement and that's the worst possible thing you could do. If you are considering that, don't even use a center speaker, and go for a phantom center instead. That can be done with great success using the right speakers.

The surrounds don't have to be the same as the front speakers. In fact, I prefer speakers with a 90°x40° constant directivity pattern for the fronts, toed-in so the left/right speaker axes cross just in front of the listening position. The surrounds don't need to be done this way, since they are primarily for ambience. I prefer to have them beside the listeners and just behind them, pointing inward nearly straight inward, with just the slightest toe-in towards the listeners. They shouldn't be so much behind the listeners as beside them, and slightly above.