Subject: Re: speaker location and type
Posted by Wayne Parham on Tue, 18 Dec 2012 15:33:38 GMT
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Speaker placement depends largely on the type of speaker you choose. Some need to be in free space, not near walls. Others work better when placed close to walls. Some are designed to be placed in corners. Some should be pointed at the listening area, others should not me. However, one thing that is common to all is they should be placed approximately at ear level, never overhead. Surrounds can be placed slightly overhead, but none should be at ceiling level. That is an unnatural sound source location, because sounds rarely come at you from above (except for birds and airplanes). For background music like in an elevator or something, speakers are sometimes placed overhead, mostly for convenience. But it is not good for home theater or hifi.

My expertise in in speakers that provide uniform directivity, meaning they sound the same in all areas of the room. Those should generally be placed near room boundaries and should be pointed so that their axes cross in front of the listeners. They also should be augmented with two to four subwoofers, distributed through the room. Two should flank the main speakers, and sometimes one or two more should be placed further away. This multisub approach works well for all speaker types, because it smmothes room modes.
High-Fidelity Uniform-Directivity Loudspeakers
Speaker placement and wavefront launch
Room modes, multisubs and flanking subs