Subject: Furniture & Room Sound
Posted by audioaudio90 on Tue, 12 Apr 2011 15:24:51 GMT
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It's amazing how much furniture can change the sound of a room. We had to clear out a room to paint it and now it's reverb and flutter echoes galore.

Subject: Re: Furniture & Room Sound
Posted by Wayne Parham on Tue, 12 Apr 2011 15:54:32 GMT
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Oh, yes, definitely. The furniture has a major impact.

Subject: Re: Furniture & Room Sound
Posted by audioaudio90 on Wed, 13 Apr 2011 15:22:10 GMT
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Yes. It's one of those factors that you are aware of intellectually, but really hits you viscerally when you change it. That's why I think it's important to experiment.

Subject: Re: Furniture & Room Sound
Posted by Wayne Parham on Wed, 13 Apr 2011 15:36:44 GMT
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Definitely. Most rooms are pretty lively empty. Large (padded) furniture does a world of good damping midrange frequencies and higher. Shelves can diffuse sound, which can be especially helpful along the opposite wall, where the speakers are facing.

One piece of furniture that isn't helpful is a large coffee table placed in front of the listeners, between them and the speakers. This can cause a very large midrange notch. Best to avoid that, use end tables instead.

Bedrooms are sometimes pretty good acoustically, in spite of the fact they are usually smaller than living rooms, dens or home theater rooms. The bed damps the lower midrange, prevents what would otherwise be a floor bounce notch. It's the opposite of a coffee table, in that the bed absorbs sound rather than reflecting it. It is also usually closer to speaker height, so the path length delta isn't as great. Of course, the speaker must be above the bed surface a little bit, maybe a foot or two.

Subject: Re: Furniture & Room Sound
Posted by Nymeria on Sat, 30 Apr 2011 15:49:06 GMT
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Yes, I've noticed the same phenomenon.  I didn't realize a coffee table could have such an effect, so I'm going to try moving it today and listen for the difference.

Subject: Re: Furniture & Room Sound
Posted by BluesBrother77 on Sun, 01 May 2011 18:49:01 GMT
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I never really thought about the coffee table making that big of a difference either. Maybe we will have to do some rearranging in the living room.

Subject: Re: Furniture & Room Sound
Posted by gofar99 on Sun, 01 May 2011 22:31:52 GMT
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Hi All, Absolutely, I moved my system from one room (spouse took it over for HT use  . So I took over the room she vacated - the living room.  High ceilings, hard floor (ceramic tile) sheetrock walls (two over top of brick) I think you get the picture.  Reflections galore.  Careful use of thick rugs, furniture, wall hangings and speaker placement finally did the trick.  It was complicated as I use Martin Logan ESLs.  They need to reflect.

Subject: Living room revamp
Posted by Jenna on Mon, 29 Aug 2011 00:00:16 GMT
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I am in the process of re-doing my living room. I realize that the layout of a room can affect the acoustics of the room.  I have a lot of furniture that includes a sofa and love seat, two bookshelves, a TV stand with a storage unit on either side, a coffee table and two large plants. Should I get rid of some of this furniture? I want to install a home theater sound system in the room.

Subject: Re: Living room revamp
Posted by Chicken on Mon, 29 Aug 2011 14:55:37 GMT
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You can set up with everything in there and see how it sounds, but frequently I read of the coffee table being an issue, so that may have to go.

Subject: Re: Living room revamp
Posted by gofar99 on Mon, 29 Aug 2011 22:25:34 GMT
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Hi, Fireplaces (brick) and flat screen TVs can be problems as well. I have found that some good hints from Martin Logan on how to deal with some things that can crop up. At least one end of the room (either front or back) should be largely non-reflective. Side walls are best if non-existent (hard to do usually) but keeping speakers about 3-4 feet from them helps. With HT setups the problems are compounded. I mounted my 4 corners suspended from the ceiling. Front center just under the screen and rear center close to the ceiling. I use a pair of powered subs close to but not in the front corners. When they were in the corners they sounded muddy.

For HT setup one thing I really liked was on the Sony HT I had. You placed a microphone at the main listening spot and the unit sent sounds to each of the speakers and calibrated the delays automatically. It drove the cats nuts!

Subject: Re: Furniture & Room Sound
Posted by Equinom on Thu, 08 Sep 2011 18:22:14 GMT
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I never really thought about that! I suppose furniture does really affect sound in a room. That's just not something that you think about everyday!

Subject: Re: Furniture & Room Sound
Posted by gofar99 on Fri, 09 Sep 2011 02:32:34 GMT
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Hi, It does so in a big way. Sometimes it is to great advantage - if you have a very reflective room some overstuffed furniture can tame it. If the room is fine as is and you add some of the same type of furniture then you can end up with rather dull sound. This is a problem with HT setups as the norm seems to be lots of fluffy furnishings. Good to sit on , bad for sound

Subject: Re: Living room revamp
Posted by Danny on Wed, 03 Apr 2013 12:03:14 GMT
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As long as you focus your speakers to the seating areas, you should be fine. Don't get rid of the furniture - rather, add more speakers!