Subject: Independent or Chain Retailers?
Posted by Leonardo on Wed, 01 Nov 2017 17:11:03 GMT
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Do you prefer to buy your audio goods from chain retailers or independent stores? I like to support my community and use local businesses when I can, but a lot of the ones around me just don't have anything close to the variety of the larger chains.

Subject: Re: Independent or Chain Retailers?
Posted by Leonardo on Fri, 03 Nov 2017 16:13:50 GMT
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I realize I left out the option of buying online. Do you prefer that over visiting somewhere in person? I can't imagine why someone would, but I'm interested to hear why someone might.

Subject: Re: Independent or Chain Retailers?
Posted by mamoss on Fri, 03 Nov 2017 16:47:07 GMT
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I choose not to specific in such instances. Going to a store seems like the more natural thing to do when looking to buy audio goods. I remember a friend that once bought a 300W home theater system online but when it was dispatched, it really fell short of his expectations.

If I have to purchase anything online, then it has to be something that I have researched well about and/or sampled. You can't afford to go wrong here.

Subject: Re: Independent or Chain Retailers?
Posted by Ziggy on Fri, 03 Nov 2017 23:04:45 GMT
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If you go to the retail location, most of them will allow you to play your own music to test the system so you can see if you can get the effect you want. Other than that, I like to shop online.

Subject: Re: Independent or Chain Retailers?
Posted by Zohanna on Fri, 03 Nov 2017 23:07:05 GMT
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I like the brick and mortar places myself. I like to see, touch, look in depth at the systems that I am going to spend my hard earned money on.

Subject: Re: Independent or Chain Retailers?
Posted by Charlie82 on Wed, 15 Nov 2017 16:54:24 GMT
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I've bought headphones online but that's about it as far as any audio needs are concerned. I prefer going in person and getting my hands on things. I've known people who have had good experiences buying online...but I also know people who haven't.

Subject: Re: Independent or Chain Retailers?
Posted by GoldenOldie on Sun, 03 Dec 2017 20:13:42 GMT
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I agree that it is a good thing to support your local economy when possible, however, with price differentiations with chains usually being lower, if price is a big consideration, chains are usually cheaper.

Subject: Re: Independent or Chain Retailers?
Posted by PinkHair on Wed, 30 Dec 2020 15:30:45 GMT
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I prefer to go to a small local store first, chain stores second, and lastly, online. I've found that some of the local stores will price match. I want to support local businesses, especially during the pandemic! I also like being able to touch and look at an item before I buy it.

Subject: Re: Independent or Chain Retailers?
Posted by Mica on Wed, 06 Jan 2021 01:39:09 GMT
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I buy some online and other stuff at the big box stores. We don't have any small local theater or audio stores around here. I wish we did because I would support them.

Subject: Re: Independent or Chain Retailers?
Posted by KalebTheAudioGuy on Thu, 21 Jan 2021 05:45:08 GMT
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Mica wrote on Tue, 05 January 2021 19:39I buy some online and other stuff at the big box stores. We don't have any small local theater or audio stores around here. I wish we did because I would support them.
I'm in a similar situation. I much prefer to spend my money at small businesses than at a national chain. I do avoid huge online retailors, like Amazon, if I can help it.

Subject: Re: Independent or Chain Retailers?
Posted by Rusty on Thu, 21 Jan 2021 13:40:39 GMT
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I avoid Amazon as much as possible. Having a disdain for Bezos and his emperor status for his obscene wealth, monopolistic tendencies and personnel management. Big box stores are a bore to me. Going to Costco is like being in a cattle yard. No customer service, just move um in, move um out. Mom & pop's stores now more than ever are becoming extinct. E-commerce is the way to survive nowadays.

Subject: Re: Independent or Chain Retailers?
Posted by gofar99 on Mon, 25 Jan 2021 02:26:19 GMT
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Hi,a curious thought process. If you don't like Amazon because of its owner, then do you by gasoline for your vehicle, or any number of other common things we all seem to use. A vast majority of such companies are run or owned by rather rich individuals. I think it is also worth recalling that Amazon started out as an online used text book seller. Bezos managed to turn it into a powerhouse company. It does tend to put small companies at a disadvantage, but so does any large company. A nearby Walmart plays havoc with small local stores. I personally find Amazon useful, especially in these times when I try to avoid contact with potentially virus sick folks. Arizona is now having a serious issue with new cases and I am in a high risk group. Having something I want delivered in a day or so is definitely to my advantage right now. Even more so is that many of the electronic components I use are available through Amazon at prices equal and sometimes lower than if I ordered them directly from my usual suppliers. Often with no cost shipping and fast delivery times. Considering that a number of such suppliers often charge a fee that is in the range of $10, plus shipping, plus sales tax buying stuff from Amazon makes good sense to me. So YMMV and I respect your right to disagree. I do agree that it was nice when there were local high end audio stores that would demonstrate quality gear. I used to frequent many of them. All are gone now and the remaining big box variants just don't fill the gap.

Subject: Re: Independent or Chain Retailers?
Posted by Rusty on Mon, 25 Jan 2021 13:18:24 GMT
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I find it curious that we have a system in place that allows singular individuals to have the capacity to enrich themselves so obscenely. Then stoke controversy with their business practices that imply antitrust and workplace degradation. So despite that many companies with the owner, CEO or group which control it are indeed wealthy, this can't be my sole precursor to whether or not I choose to oblige my business. As it would be hard to procure much of the goods and supplies needed. But I can try to pick and choose still, (hopefully) from what availability in the marketplace there is based on my personal ethical guide.
Which can be further realized by looking in the dungeon here regarding the way our crazy economic principals practiced in our country and around the world lead to the income disparity chronic to the bulk of humanity.