Subject: First big audio purchase?
Posted by funkymusic on Sun, 26 Nov 2017 21:57:47 GMT
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I have yet to drop a significant amount of money on any single audio purchase but I'm finally in a position where I can do so without breaking the bank. I'm curious what your first major purchase was or what you think are the things you should really invest in in order to have a good set-up? The obvious answer seems to be speakers, but I'm curious if anyone thinks otherwise or if anyone started with something else.

Subject: Re: First big audio purchase?
Posted by Strum Drum on Mon, 27 Nov 2017 08:29:05 GMT
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I started with a good television. I recently bought a 65 inch Sony Bravia and both the picture and audio are sharp. It was worth every penny. I think my old iPod was the first big audio purchase I made which was several years ago. That counts, right?

Subject: Re: First big audio purchase?
Posted by gofar99 on Mon, 27 Nov 2017 22:52:08 GMT
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For strickly speaking audio....probably what gear you are going to use as a source component. Since most folks like digital...I would go for something that will stream digital web music and store it internally. I would want it to also be a headphone amp so I can listen to the music. They now make preamplifiers and receivers that do this. Alternatively if you have a source...(tablet, phone etc) then an integrated receiver might be my choice. Either with or without built in digital abilities. Speakers would likely have to be bought at the same time. Money spent on good speakers is IMO always well spent as they will usually outlast everything else and make a huge difference in how something sounds. Elac makes some that are generally suitable for new modest systems the B5 and B6 are over achievers and not very costly. Parts Express has some under their own brand (Dayton) that seem to be good buys as well. used ones are iffy if you don't know what you are buying and really what their condition is. I personally like them, but then I can (and have) fixed several in the past.

It really is tough to know where to start as pretty much any one component will not be able to work without other ones.

Subject: Re: First big audio purchase?
Posted by Tikki on Tue, 28 Nov 2017 17:39:37 GMT
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That's quite a detailed answer. I'm glad to hear that you also think new speakers are the way to go. I found that out the hard way. I spent a lot of my hard-earned money on used speakers, and

now I regret it. I should have just paid a bit more for new ones, and I wouldn't be having the issues I'm having with them right now.

Subject: Re: First big audio purchase?
Posted by GoldenOldie on Thu, 30 Nov 2017 19:37:15 GMT
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Wow, Bruce! What a great answer. I like the fact that you went into that much detail to help this person. I'm afraid that I will never put that much money into a system that I didn't build myself. Audiophiles rock!

Subject: Re: First big audio purchase?
Posted by gofar99 on Thu, 30 Nov 2017 21:41:58 GMT
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FWIW, I design and build all my gear. Everything from new plinths and tone arms on turntables to the tube amps that drive the speakers that I rebuilt. It is enjoyable and the end product is exactly what I wanted.

Subject: Re: First big audio purchase?
Posted by funkymusic on Mon, 18 Dec 2017 02:45:16 GMT
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Bruce, that was the best answer ever. Thank you so much for going into so much detail! Thank you to everyone else as well. You've all given me a lot to think about.

Subject: Re: First big audio purchase?
Posted by Solitary on Thu, 28 Dec 2017 09:33:49 GMT
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It's not my first night purchase, but it's certainly going to be my next big one! I'm seriously thinking about getting myself a new system for the new year.

Subject: Re: First big audio purchase?
Posted by Lohan on Thu, 18 Jan 2018 21:42:12 GMT
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What an interesting thread. It's of particular value to me right now seeing as I am actually in the process of making my very first big purchase. I'm here to find out as much as I can about how to go about getting the best sound system I can afford.

Subject: Re: First big audio purchase?
Posted by Tikki on Fri, 19 Jan 2018 03:06:55 GMT
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Welcome, Lohan. Don't worry, you'll soon know everything you need to know to make the right decision when purchasing your first system. What an exciting time this must be for you! I know it certainly was for me.

Subject: Re: First big audio purchase?
Posted by monster on Fri, 02 Mar 2018 17:38:47 GMT
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I'm going to second what Bruce said and say that buying secondhand speakers can definitely be iffy. I did that recently and I'm regretting it. I wish I'd just invested in new speakers to begin with. I'll have to look into the options Bruce suggested since they're supposed to be cost-efficient. An integrated receiver sounds like it might be next big purchase after the speakers.

Subject: Re: First big audio purchase?
Posted by Wayne Parham on Sat, 03 Mar 2018 17:31:01 GMT
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I generally agree that buying used speakers is risky. They're electro-mechanical and can be potentially subjected to the most abuse, which is sometimes not obvious to the eye.

There are two execeptions. First is if you know the history of the speaker very well and/or have the ability to measure it. Those kinds of things can raise confidence. The second exception is where drivers have factory-manufactured recone kits available. This is rare - most companies don't make available recone kits for their drivers. But some do, and where that's possible, you can buy a speaker with the understanding that you'll have it reconed to make it 100% refurbished, good as new.

I'd also swap the capacitors in the crossover if buying used, just to make sure those are undamaged high-quality parts. I recommend only using poly caps in loudspeaker crossovers. Always replace any non-polarized electrolytic caps with polypropylene capacitors. They're much better.

Subject: Re: First big audio purchase?
Posted by SamW on Sat, 31 Mar 2018 13:36:54 GMT
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My first big audio purchase was surround sound Band and Olufsen speakers. I was a student and

I used most of my student grant on the speakers. The trouble caused at home was worth it because my superior sound made my parties very popular. Years later I still have a soft spot for B&O and am looking at their Bluetooth options.