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Installing a Home Theater

By **Kenny Hemphill**

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Thinking about installing a home theater system? You're not alone. Home theater is one of the fastest growing areas in home entertainment and the advent of DVD recorders means your set-up can now be entirely digital, without an inch of video tape in site.

Installing a home theater is a big decision and requires careful planning. Luckily there are a number of resources around to help you and you needn't be a technical expert or a hi-fi buff to get the job done.

One of the first decisions you'll need to make before you set about installing a home theater is whether your going to dedicate a whole room to the theater or whether it will share a space with a lounge, dining room, or office. Having a dedicated room allows you to position seating and speakers in the optimum position and you can seriously consider a projector and screen without it looking as out of place as it might in your living room.

Obviously budget is another consideration and this will dictate which equipment you buy initially and what you save for another day. As a bare minimum you'll want a DVD player, widescreen television, and a surround sound audio amplifier and speakers. We'd recommend opting for a DVD recorder like this one from Phillips, or this from Panasonic. They're obviously more expensive than a DVD player, but will give you much greater flexibility. And don't forget to budget for cabling, its a very important part of installing a home theatre and one that's often overlooked.

You'll also want to think about the interior design of a dedicated home theater room and of course the seating is all important. You're going to spend hours and hours watching movies and the last thing you need is uncomfortable seats.

Kenny Hemphill is the editor and publisher of

Home Theater eBook offers a complete guide on how to design and plan Home Theaters.

Home Theater Furniture & Seating

By Matthew Seigneur

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Home theater seating can vary widely and depends on the experience you want and your budget. You can make do with folding chairs or that garage sale sofa, but the better your seating is the better your home theater experience will be.

The first thing to think about is how many people your home theater will host for viewing on a regular basis. It isn't economical to get twice as many seats as you will regularly have guests, but neither is it wise to short yourself on seating that you will have use for. Also think about the space you have in your home theater. This will effect what sort of home theater seating will be best for your space.

The next thing to think about is how much use your home theater will see. If it will see frequent use, you will want seating that is ergonomic, as well as made of durable materials that are easy to clean. Ergonomic seating is important so that the viewers do not get any sort of strain or aches during viewing. If you do not plan to use your home theater frequently you can choose seating that isn't as comfortable or as durable or easy to clean, but keep in mind that this sort of seating may not be worth it in the long run.

Also think about what you want your home theater to look like. If you want it to look like a regular movie theater in miniature, then you will most likely prefer home theater seating that closely emulates that found in a regular theater. Alternately, if you wish to have more of a 'honey' look, you may wish to go with seating that is more like traditional armchairs.

Finally, keep in mind the features you want in your seating. This will affect not only price, but ease of use, ergonomics and comfort, and ease of cleanup. Rocker and reclining seats will be more expensive, but more comfortable. Seats with cup holders in the arms may also be more expensive, but will save space by eliminating the need for side tables, and may keep cleanup low. Viewers will have a stable place to put their drinks, rather than trying to balance them on their laps and then find a place to put the drink when they need a bathroom break. Some home theater seating even has massage units built in!

More home theater seating information:

Leather Home Theater Seating:

<http://www.home-theater-reviews.co.uk/furniture/leather-home-theater-seating.shtml>

Matinee Home Theater Seating:

<http://www.home-theater-reviews.co.uk/furniture/matinee-home-theater-seating.shtml>

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More information available at
<http://www.home-theater-reviews.co.uk/>

<http://www.home-theater-reviews.co.uk/> – For all your home cinema system needs and reviews.

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