



Tech Talk

by Steve Metcalf,
Gibson Sound & Vision

Amplifiers

Following last month's article on speakers, we move on to choosing an amplifier for your speaker system. There are two categories of home audio amplifiers. Two (2) channel or "stereo" and there are "multi-channel" amplifiers, which are designed for various surround sound formats. The most common type of amplifier now is the "surround sound" receiver.

For your audio dollar the receiver is the heart of the system. It has many inputs and outputs for both audio and video signals. The amplifier becomes the switch for all of your media. This makes changing from cable to DVD as simple as touching a button. Some receivers even offer the ability to connect to your ipod or home computer network. When selecting the right amplifier, choose one that can help streamline the operation of your system.

Now that we have an amp that fits your requirements, it's time to look at sound quality. Some people turn to specifications for the answer. This can give you a general idea as to what can be expected but it is not the complete answer. It is far too complicated to have a spec tell you exactly what an amp will sound like, so we have to keep it simple and use our ears!

The right way to find the best match in an amplifier is to listen to it with the speakers you have chosen. Once you have been able to look at the features and narrow your choices down a bit, your ears will tell you the rest. To save you time, our experienced salespeople will be able to offer you guidance regarding the features and sound quality differences each model presents to you.

At Gibson Sound and Vision, our amplifier selection for 2 channel and multi channel ranges from a few hundred dollars all the way up. When it comes to audio or video, we have what you need! Drop into the store and speak with one of our industry veterans. We would be pleased to assist you in making the right decision for your needs.



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