

Are Orpheus loudspeakers compatible with home theatre/home cinema?

The goal of cinema sound, is to help you suspend belief and feel that you are actually there with the actors on the screen. This is the same goal to which the high end of audio aspires to. A very good music reproduction speaker will make a very good cinema speaker. You should feel confident in using any of our speakers for home cinema. You will be astonished how good movies and even television shows sound through a pair of Orpheus loudspeakers.

Is it advisable to install a subwoofer?

If you want more bass from your system use a subwoofer. Our loudspeakers are designed to provide accurate reproduction of all frequencies including the bass. For cinema soundtracks, the bass level can be very high since by their nature these soundtracks are completely synthetic constructions made up of different snippets of recordings. In addition, throughout your life as a movie goer you have been preconditioned to want a lot of bass when viewing a film. Basically our expectations of movie soundtracks, based upon our experiences in the cinema, are out of sync with the kind of sound actually produced in real life. If you feel like you are missing out on something, then by all means, get a subwoofer.

What are the benefits of a centre channel?

For discrete surround sound like dolby digital the centre channel provides a place for the discrete centre channel sound to come out. If the film is skillfully mixed then this centre channel information will actually improve the experience. Buying a centre channel is basically a concrete expression in your confidence in the recording engineer's skill and discretion.

How powerful should my amplifier be?

The factors involved are, how sensitive is your speaker and how big is your room. (And for some people, how loud do you like your music.) Most Orpheus loudspeakers will produce 90 dB sound pressure level at 1 metre for 28.3 Volts of input and 110 dB for 28.3 Volts of input. To actually get 110 dB continuously, you would need a 200 Watt amplifier (into 4 ohms) with enough reserve to reproduce the peaks in the music correctly. If you were in a factory and were exposed to 110 dB they would be required, by law, to send you home after 1 minute 52 seconds. So a 200 watt amplifier with adequate reserve is all you would ever need in a normal room (This is a little simplified, since the reverberant field level is less than the 1 metre level). At the other end of the scale a 30 Watt amplifier could give you 101dB, which is not as loud as real music gets, but in a small room might sound like plenty. Strangely enough, even a 10 Watt Single Ended Valve (Tube) amplifier can sound quite satisfying, and since this kind of amplifier is so benign in its clipping characteristics, it won't blow up your tweeters either.

From a practical standpoint, there are not very many excellent 30 Watt amplifiers out there with the reserve capacity to do the job, so go for 70 to 100 Watts unless you have a really big room or like your music dangerously loud.

What is dangerously loud?

Rub your thumb and index fingers together near your ear while listening to music. If you can't hear the fingerprints rubbing together at any time then it is probably too loud.

Does it matter what kind of recordings I play on my system?

There is a saying in engineering circles which goes like this, "Garbage in, Garbage out". Your system can't make a bad recording good. The best you can hope for is to get

everything out of a poor recording which is there. The good news, is that most master tapes which are used to make recordings are excellent compared to what you are used to. This means that a company like Mobile Fidelity, can come along and remaster a recording in a way which captures all the excellent sound on the master. Just listen to the Modern jazz quartet in 1964 on MFSL-XXXX. You wouldn't believe that it is at least forty years old.

