



Title:
Distributed Audio

Assignment:

White Paper to introduce the reader to distributed audio: music distributed and accessible throughout the home. This article shows how to select the right type of speakers for different rooms and to introduce an upscale brand - Revel.

Context:

Content was on the website of an audio/video custom installation & design firm. Article was written as an introduction to many desirable options for the residential customer and introduce upscale brands while setting the stage for sales development by in-house sales consultants.



Distributed Audio

Love your car stereo? Use it all the time? One of the great things about car stereo is that no matter what time you drive, or what street you're cruising along, it's always right there with you.

Adjusting the sound is simple because it's within arms reach. Car stereo is a breeze to operate and so you use it. All the time. Distributed audio offers the same advantage. The music follows you around the house, so no matter what time it is, or what room you're in, the music is there - with you.



Don't like the channel? In-wall keypads allow you to switch stations and adjust the volume just like your car stereo. What's most desirable about distributed audio is that just like your car stereo, it encourages constant use. It's easy to use - so you use it.



Whether you're entertaining guests or going through the usual routine of the day, distributed audio is a great way to enjoy music, no matter which hallway you're cruising through, or what time it is. In fact, you may find it a great way to get the engine started in the morning.

Routine tasks don't seem so routine with your favorite music. Deciding which speakers depends on your activities in the room and your interest in listening.



Entertainment listening

To determine what type of speakers are best for you, consider those spaces in your home where you spend most of your time, and the type of listening you'll be doing there. For example, many of our clients select higher quality in-ceiling speakers for the kitchen area because they enjoy spending much of their time there. In-ceiling speakers such as the REVEL C383 or C583 provide great room coverage, are inconspicuous and when located properly in the room, they can sound amazingly good. We encourage you to spend the money - where you spend your time.



Avid listening

“Avid listening” is for those spaces where you want to listen intently and let the music sweep you away. In “avid listening” rooms, the speakers are oriented toward the prime listening seats and you are positioned to be an appreciative listener.

After a long day, the vitality and tempo of the music may be just what you need. High quality sound is what we're after and a “you are there” believability. Candidates for these locations can be bookshelf designs, such as the REVEL M105 OR M106 or if you desire a more subtle solution, consider the in-wall W893 or W990 speakers. Either way, you won't want to leave your seat.





Background listening



Think of the rooms in which you and your family gather to dine, entertain, and hopefully, relax. Typically it's the great room, dining or family room. These are the areas that are used often, and conversations are the centerpiece.

Most of the time - you play music at moderate volumes, but occasionally you may want to turn it down, when the setting is more intimate, so a well placed volume control is essential.

If you want the speakers to completely shrink from your home landscape, the new line of REVEL flush-mount in-wall and in-ceiling speakers such as the C563 or W563, are engineered with no frame and can blend in with the home. They can be painted to match your décor and simply disappear.

REVEL in-wall and in-ceiling speakers are moisture-resistant, which means they can be installed in bathrooms, laundry rooms and other high humidity areas. Built-in speakers require more planning and require correct placement for best acoustics. When done properly, the sound can be very entertaining - and may make you even... look forward to folding laundry.





Speaker placement for *avid* listening

For best performance, place the left and right speakers an equal distance from your prime listening seat, so that the tweeters are close to ear level while seated. The desired layout is an equilateral triangle. If you're installing speakers in a wall that's ten feet from your chair, place them no more than ten feet apart from each other and not less than six feet apart.

Be careful about placing speakers near a corner as its bass output is reinforced by the room acoustics. You hear more bass, but not necessarily tight bass. This "boundary effect" of a close wall can make the bass sound "muddy" and "boomy." Speakers should be at least two feet away from a corner or a wall or ceiling boundary.



Speaker placement for *entertainment* listening



In rooms you frequently entertain in, people won't be in the "sweet-spot", so speaker placement for avid listening won't work. The music will be loud in one area and quiet in another. The solution is high dispersion of the sound into the room. By employing three or four speakers in a room, you can create a sound field that is relatively even. The result? Music evenly dispersed into the room, and no "hot-spots" or places in the room that are louder or quieter than another.



Ceiling speakers are often a great choice for entertainment and background listening, because they can provide the most even dispersion of sound throughout a room.



Speaker placement for *background* listening

If walls offer an easier installation or a better match with your décor, place the speakers at least six feet off the floor. Both in-wall and in-ceiling speakers should also be placed at least two feet away from corners to keep the reflected sound in balance with the direct sound.

In small rooms, such as as bathrooms, just one stereo speaker will be all you need. When a room is long and narrow, or L-shaped, consider using two speakers or more. If your décor or budget will not allow more than two speakers in a large or irregular room, consider placing a stereo speaker. That's a single speaker that plays both left and right channels of stereo music, in one speaker. REVEL features the C363DT and the C563DT, which are incredible at creating a broad stereo sound in the tightest of spaces. This solution allows all the music to be heard - no matter how small the space or where you choose to stand.



With distributed audio the music follows you around the house, so no matter what time it is, or what room you're in, the music is there - with you.