



# Practical Home Theater: A Guide to Video and Audio Systems (2016 Edition)

By Mark Fleischmann

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## Practical Home Theater: A Guide to Video and Audio Systems (2016 Edition) By Mark Fleischmann

How can an average person navigate the maze of audio/video technologies in a home theater system? Turn to Mark Fleischmann's Practical Home Theater: A Guide to Video and Audio Systems. The 15th edition has been thoroughly revised and updated for 2016. The ultimate answer book for beginners and intermediate-level readers, it tells you everything you need to know when shopping for video displays and surround sound gear including how to read a spec sheet, how to separate fact from hype, and how to get good value for your money. This year's edition goes into detail on new developments such as Ultra HDTV (4K), including HDR picture-quality improvements, and both Dolby Atmos and DTS:X surround technologies. The book weighs the pros and cons of video display technologies such as LED-backlit LCD, plasma, and projection systems, plus next-generation Quantum DOT and OLED displays. It dispels the confusion surrounding such topics as HDTV, 3DTV, smart TV, refresh rates, and exotic screen shapes. It explains the differences between Dolby, DTS, THX, and Audyssey surround technologies and high-resolution audio formats. It covers all formats under the sun including Blu-ray and DVD, DVRs, streaming from a multitude of devices, and wireless connectivity. And it explores often ignored topics such as buying a DTV antenna, power-line accessories, and cables. A richly detailed connections chapter tells how to hook up every component. By knowledgably guiding readers through the briar patch of video and audio, Practical Home Theater has become the standard reference work for home theater buffs. This edition is dated 2016 and will be sold between October 2015 and October 2016. Readers are warned to buy only the latest edition. Future annual editions will continue to track changes in home theater technology.

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### **Editorial Review**

#### **Review**

If you've been looking to have all your home theater questions answered in one place, this book will do it. -- Brian C. Fenton, Sound & Vision

Practical Home Theater ... succeeds as both a primer on existing technology and a preview of emerging technology like digital television.... For less than the cost of a DVD, it'll remove the power of intimidation from your home theater. --Kevin Hunt, The Hartford Courant

Seasoned journalist Mark Fleischmann ... loves the subject and glories in its highest possibilities. But he also knows mere mortals are not tech experts and can't afford to spend more for their TV set than their car. -- Jonathan Takiff, Philadelphia Daily News

A sweeping guide... Affords much useful information in an accessible tone. Just as any shopper would need to do, he breaks down home theater into the manageable topics of television, surround sound, picture and sound sources, accessories and connections. --Lawrence B. Johnson, The Detroit News/USA Today

Mark is well qualified to write about this subject.... An excellent primer for consumers, retailers and manufacturers.... It's both enjoyable and educational at the same time. --Steve Smith, This Week In Consumer Electronics

#### **About the Author**

Mark Fleischmann has been a technology writer and expert on home theater for more than 30 years. Currently Audio Editor of Home Theater Magazine, he has also served as founding editor-in-chief of etown.com, audio critic of Rolling Stone, senior editor of Video Magazine, and columnist for Audio Video Interiors, Premiere, and The Village Voice. His writing has appeared in Bloomberg Personal, CrutchfieldAdvisor.com, DigitalTrends.com, E-Gear, Entertainment Weekly, The Men's Journal, Newsday, Spin, The Stereophile Guide to Home Theater, The Washington Post, and many other publications.

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##### **Brian Andres:**

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**Eric Ballentine:**

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