

Turn On, Tune In, Crank Up

AN "ALL-IN-ONE KIT" IS GREAT FOR THE DORM, BUT GROWING UP MEANS FIGURING THINGS OUT, LIKE HOW TO MAKE YOUR HOME SPACE BANG. IF YOU'RE READY TO **UPGRADE YOUR INTERIOR SOUND**, TAKE NOTES AND PLAN ACCORDINGLY.

STANDING OVATION

A single driver doesn't produce a full range of sound well, so manufacturers separate varied frequencies across multiple speakers.

TWEETERS

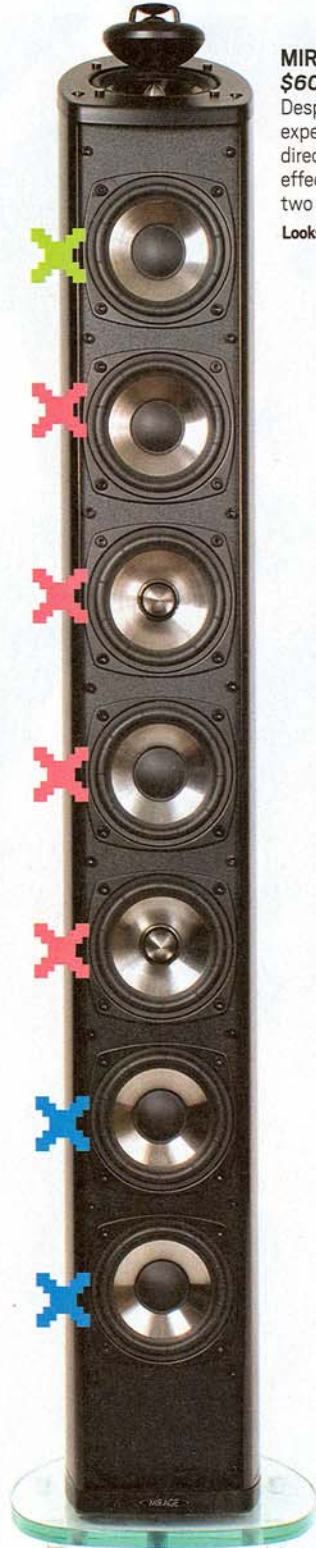
Handle higher frequencies like strings and flutes. Cone tweeters are the most common in traditional floor speakers, but some higher-end models use dome-style tweeters to give more accurate high-pitch sound replication.

MID-RANGE DRIVERS

Provide the broadest range of sounds that the human ear can process, and are the workhorses of your system. If you're going to be dropping real money, ask to run a speech or voice sound check through the mids to feel the quality of their specific range. Something that makes Top 40 sound great in Best Buy could be on the curb in six months.

WOOFERS

Produce the low-end frequencies (bass) from your music or movies. You want bass to sound rich and round, but not so much so that it overpowers the rest of the music. Systems with small woofers typically augment the bass with a stand-alone subwoofer, which allows for better bass control.



MIRAGE OS3

\$600 each, miragespeakers.com

Despite its slim size (5.5" wide), Mirage's OS3 series creates a complete surround-sound experience using its Omnipolar and Omnidirect technology. In English: Two deflectors direct the mid-range drivers both in your face and around the room so you get a surround effect without a full system. Of course you can always pair a set with the whole OS3 kit—two sats, a sub and a center speaker—but baby steps will get you there soon enough.

Looks **XXXXX** Sound **XXXXX** Value **XXXXX**



APERION INTIMUS 4T

\$325 each, aperionaudio.com

If you don't have the space, or the cash, for full floor-standing speakers but still want that all-encompassing sound, look to the 4T. It rocks with award-winning woven fiberglass mids and woofers that produce excellent full-range sound.

Looks **XXXXX**
Sound **XXXXX**
Value **XXXXX**

Polk VM 30

\$2,000 for pair, polkaudio.com

Polk's VM series is all about sounding as good as it looks. Its High Velocity Array tech uses smaller directed tweeters instead of one big one to achieve room-filling sound in a tight two-speaker package that rivals a full surround kit.

Looks **XXXXX**
Sound **XXXXX**
Value **XXXXX**

JBL Cinema Sound CST55

\$380 for pair, jbl.com

From the looks of these stunners, you'd think three stacks, minimum. Luckily, JBL puts on for those without huge bankrolls. The CST55 deftly recreates sound pitch with its proprietary PolyPlas-reinforced woofers, which produce well-rounded bass.

Looks **XXXXX**
Sound **XXXXX**
Value **XXXXX**