

The Sense of Hearing

Most people rarely really listen to music. Music is everywhere, pouring from speakers in the supermarket, the train, and the elevator. We have become surrounded by it, so much so, we tune it out. Music is heard, but rarely listened to. It has become no more than noise, much like the constant drone of traffic in the background, we tune it out.

"None as deaf as those who don't want to hear".

Our ability to tune out sounds is studied with Psycho-acoustics.

psy·cho·a·cous·tics

n. (used with a sing. verb)

The scientific study of the perception of sound.

psy'cho·a·cous'tic, psy'cho·a·cous'ti·cal adj.

Supermarkets use music to influence our purchasing behaviors, to speed up or slow down. Councils have installed sound systems playing classical music in areas known to attract undesirables with the intention of moving them on. Music is an extremely powerful medium; unfortunately many of us have forgotten how enjoyable it can be.

The vast majority of people don't have much idea of what High Fidelity really is. Many will recognize the word "Hi-Fi". Usually associated with the marketing of "Mid and Low Fi retailers, ask what the definition of HiFi is and more often than not you'll get a blank expression. And there's a good reason for this. They have never heard High Fidelity. Indeed, a large percentage never will!

How much of the population actually listen to music, 40%? 60%? So why is it that less than 1% of the population know what real High Fidelity is or where to get it?

Genuine High Fidelity can change your life!

Think. When was the last time you purchased music?

Now ask yourself have you heard all the music that is in that recording?

The Art Of Hearing

For background music listening, (Hearing) most moderately-priced systems are acceptable, and unless they suffer from gross distortions, they can fill most spaces adequately. Though such systems are falsely labeled "Hi-Fi," they are in fact what most audiophiles would call, "mid-fi"...a polite label that reserves the name "low-fi" for things like MP3 players and the Telephone. They do not invite focused listening.

Generally systems of this nature encourage the listener to be easily distracted. The musical values, the emotional message, the content within the music, are not present, and the music does not engage the listener. They cannot truly portray what the composer and musicians are trying to express. This is true for all music especially if the music is solo acoustic in nature, not just complex music, like rock or classical. From solo guitar to a heavy rock band, if the system isn't capable then it makes no difference the style or genre of music, the fact remains the fundamental flaw with the musical performance isn't the music at all, but the reproduction capabilities of the system. Music, when played through a mid-fi system, is in comparison, to a true hi-fi being played behind a curtain of filters, taking out everything interesting. In essence there is.

The Art Of Listening

The intangibility of Hi-Fi is to emotionally engage the listener in the music, to effortlessly touch a soul if you like. Musical reproduction performance, of any competent Hi-Fi system, can engage the listener, with the Fundamental musical values of a recording. Enabling you to hear without effort, the nuances of the music as well as follow the melody, feel the beat, perceive the harmonics of the music, regardless of the genre, be it, orchestral or hard rock. Music that appeals to your soul, will have the hair on your neck stand, or give you goose bumps, fully captivating your attention within the music.

A well designed and balanced Hi-Fi will invite you to sit in your favorite chair and escape the stresses and worries of the world. With your favorite piece of music, which you have heard many times before, you will listen, you will experience the music, and that experience is the enigmatic enjoyment, the X factor of the emotional engagement of the musicians' message to the listener.

High fidelity removes the blanket, leaving out the filters and creates a Holographic illusion the musicians are there in front of you.

With eyes closed, the mental image of where on stage the guitarist, the vocalist and other musicians are, can easily be defined, encouraging you to be absorbed into the musical performance, this is especially true of a live event.

Studio engineers strive to replicate the positioning of musicians, but also with some artistic license, create a moving soundstage, as some instrumentation appears to move from left to right of stage as well as front to back, enhancing the listening experience.

The sheer enormity of this topic is so vast I could write a book on the subject and still not have scratched the surface, just as a picture tells a thousand words, a sound expresses millions.

I invite you to discover the real world of HIFI, make an appointment at Audio Trends Ringwood and really hear what is possible.

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