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Residential Systems

ResidentialSystems.com

FEATURING

- Showroom Showcase 2026
- Five Practical Tips for Designing a High-Performance Theater
- Elevating Outdoor Lighting

SHOWING THE WAY

FUTURE

The New Five Smooth Stones Experience Center Demonstrates the Company's Latest Business Pivot



Review: Magnetar UDP900mkII Reference Universal Disc Player



Showroom Showcase 2026

Our annual look at the creative ways dealers show off their capabilities and product lineups.

Welcome to the sixth annual Showroom Showcase, where we present some of the newest — or most renovated — experience centers in the industry. With facilities ranging from 5600 square feet all the way down to 247 square feet, there is no shortage of innovation and inspiration in these spaces.

Crestron Experience Center Mechelen

Website: www.crestron.com/How-To-Buy/experience-centers-and-showrooms/Mechelen
Location: Mechelen, Belgium
Showroom Dimensions: 3000 square feet
Brands Featured: Crestron Electronics
Fun Fact: On May 5, 1835, Mechelen became the destination of a milestone in European transport history: the first public steam-powered railway journey on the European mainland, running from Brussels to Mechelen. Belgium had envisioned Mechelen as the central hub of its newly planned national railway network, making this site a strategic focal point during the rapid expansion of the country's rail infrastructure.

Today, the Crestron EMEA Headquarters stands on this historically significant location: a place where Belgium's pioneering spirit in mobility and innovation first took shape. The building anchors Crestron's forward-looking technology in a setting defined by transformation, progress, and continental firsts.

It is a modern experience center built on ground that helped launch Europe's railway era.







Gryphon Audio Los Angeles

Website: www.gryphonaudiola.com
Location: Pacific Design Center, West Hollywood, California
Showroom Dimensions: 3200 square feet
Brands Featured: Gryphon, Innuos, Revox
Fun Fact: Gryphon Audio Los Angeles started out of a small 17- x 22-foot space at the Pacific Design center suite M60 where we squeezed in demos for all of the systems except the Kodo speakers, which we demonstrated out of our home, and it grew into what we have now — a full 3200-square-foot mono-brand showroom.

Audio Advice Wilmington

Website: www.audioadvice.com/pages/wilmington
Location: Wilmington, North Carolina
Showroom Dimensions: 3200 square feet
Brands Featured: Alarm.com, AVPro Edge, Araknis Networks, Denon, Chief, Lutron Electronics, Control4, JVC, LG, Epson, JBL Professional, KEF, Samsung, Snap, Sony, Sonos, Strong, WattBox, Coastal Source, McIntosh, Sonus Faber, Bowers & Wilkins, Paradigm, KEF, REL. 9.4.4 Certified JBL Theater: JBL, madVR, Kaleidescape, Audio Quest, Acoustic Innovations, Control4
Fun Fact: With the launch of our Wilmington, N.C., location, we set out to reimagine what a 21st-century smart living AV showroom should deliver: immersive, lifestyle-driven demonstrations that go beyond showcasing products to illustrate how thoughtful design and integrated technology can elevate everyday living without compromise.



The space has an open, lifestyle-first concept, designed to show how lighting, audio, video, and automation work together in everyday spaces. From the moment you walk in, you're welcomed to an open concept living room, working kitchen, and full bar where high-performance technology disappears into the architecture rather than competing with it. Layered lighting flows effortlessly from room to room, while audio follows you around every corner. With thoughtfully programmed scenes, the entire space can shift moods, instantly creating a cohesive, whole-home experience.

The flagship 9.4.4 JBL Synthesis certified home theater features SCL Series speakers, dual amplification, and four SSW-3 subwoofers, all driven by the JBL SDP-58 processor for truly uncompromising performance.

In partnership with ADI's curated brand portfolio, the space brings together a mix of solutions ranging from accessible upgrades to high-performance, luxury components. Audio Advice Wilmington sets a new standard for what a showroom can be — an immersive environment that inspires, educates, and defines the future of connected living. Res



TECH SHOWCASE

ARCHITECTURAL SPEAKERS AND SUBWOOFERS

A solution for space concerns and designer anxieties, this category continues to grow in popularity.

Today's luxury clients and architects are looking for audio systems that respect a minimalist aesthetic while delivering the immersive power required for Dolby Atmos and immersive audio. Here, we look at the latest innovations that can solve many of the conflicts between the interior designer and the integrator.

1 Triad InWall, InCeiling, and OnWall Speakers

Triad's InWall/InCeiling LCRs and Satellite Speakers bring high-performance sound and simplified installation to any project with the patent-pending spring dog installation feature. With extended bass response, these speakers are designed for multiroom audio, home theaters, media rooms, and surround sound systems. Custom color grilles are included in the price of the product.

Triad OnWall and InWall Surrounds are core to the updated Triad product line and can switch between bi-pole and mono-pole operation, tailoring performance to the room's layout and acoustics. OnWall Surrounds feature gravity-locking cleat mounts to provide secure, clean, and adjustable wall installation, ideal for heavier speakers. InWall Surrounds feature ADI's patent-pending spring dog system, which holds the speaker securely in place, frees installers' hands, and can rotate 90 degrees to avoid studs or joists.

2 Meridian DSP750 and DSP730 In-Wall Speakers

The 2026 Editions of the Meridian Audio DSP750 and DSP730 in-wall loudspeakers feature enhanced driver design, advanced DSP processing, and refined acoustic engineering. At the heart of both models is Meridian's Atlas software core, a platform that increases DSP capability and a foundation designed to evolve. A sealed aluminum enclosure and double-baffle design minimizes unwanted resonances, ensuring consistent sound quality regardless of wall type or room conditions. Both models feature an array of proprietary Meridian technologies, including Image Focus +. For under-screen installations, the DSP750 and DSP730 support Meridian's Image Elevation, helping to anchor dialog and key sound elements to the picture and solving a long-standing challenge in home cinema design. The 2026 Editions also introduce Pro-TEC, a new technology that extracts higher output levels while maintaining sound quality and system balance.



3 Grimani Systems Epsilon-S Slimline In-Wall Subwoofer

The Grimani Systems Epsilon-S Slimline in-wall subwoofer with external DSP amplifier is designed for projects where aesthetics matter as much as performance. The Epsilon-S provides deep, "punchy" bass and the detail expected from Grimani Systems. Designed for luxury cinemas and media spaces, it blends invisibly into the architecture while delivering thunderous audio.

4 KEF Ci5120QLM-THX and Ci3120QLM-THX Architectural Speakers

The KEF Ci5120QLM-THX and Ci3120QLM-THX architectural speakers, part of the Extreme Home Theater range, feature advanced technology from KEF's premium ranges to deliver sound with detail and depth. At the heart of Ci5120QLM-THX and Ci3120QLM-THX sits KEF's signature driver array – Uni-Q. Now in its 12th generation, this feat of engineering acts as a point source, dispersing sound more evenly, allowing everyone to experience the same natural, detailed sound, wherever they are in the room.

These speakers benefit from another KEF acoustic innovation: Metamaterial Absorption Technology (MAT). MAT is a highly complex maze-like structure that absorbs 99% of the unwanted sound from the rear of the tweeter, delivering a crisper, more natural treble performance.

5 PSB Speakers PWM Sat On-Wall Speaker

The PSB Speakers PWM Sat on-wall speaker is available in satin black or satin white finishes, the PWM Sat delivers audiophile performance in a slim, décor-friendly design that integrates into any room. Compact in size yet full of capability, the PWM Sat brings PSB's Synchrony-based driver technology to a streamlined design. Its 1-inch titanium dome tweeter and 4-inch woven carbon fiber woofer produce lifelike clarity and natural detail

across music, movies, and surround sound. The PWM Sat's two-piece locking bracket system supports secure installation in horizontal, vertical, or ceiling orientations. This flexibility makes it ideal as a main left/right channel, side or rear surround, height channel in an immersive Dolby Atmos system, or as a compact 2-channel solution paired with a subwoofer.

6 Lyngdorf Audio Discreet Series

The D-5 IC N is part of Lyngdorf Audio's Discreet Series, designed for custom installations in home cinemas, media rooms, and living rooms. Its key features are a low-resonance MDF enclosure to ensure the best sound quality and an angled, adjustable tweeter, which allows the sound to beam from the ceiling toward the listening area. The Lyngdorf Discreet models are designed as installation speakers for in-wall or in-ceiling integration. As with other models in the range, the D-5 IC N comes with its own MDF speaker enclosure, so no aftermarket backbox or closed-wall cavity is required. This also ensures that the sound performance is always defined and consistent, depending less on the wall construction and the available space behind the wall, and prevents resonances and sound leakage.

7 Monitor Audio Creator Series In-Wall Large Speakers

The Monitor Audio Creator Series In-Wall Large speakers extend the portfolio and performance envelope of Creator Series with three highly distinctive models, covering Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3 levels. The W1L is a large in-wall speaker featuring C-CAM drivers that is ideal for entry-level installations where product simplicity and solid acoustic performance are required. The W2L is a large in-wall speaker featuring Rigid Surface Technology and C-CAM drivers, offering improved acoustic performance and better power handling. Contains additional features for easy placement. The W3L — the best Creator Large in-wall speaker — features the same driver technology found the flagship Platinum and Cinergy Series. It offers high SPL capabilities with outstanding control, making the W3L the ideal speaker for high-performance installations.

8 Procella Audio P50CW On-Wall and On-Ceiling Speaker

The Procella Audio P50CW On-Wall and On-Ceiling Speaker introduces a rotatable/aimable front baffle, a solution that solves real-world installation challenges.

9 James BE MKII In-Wall Theater Speaker

The James BE MKII in-wall theater speaker series brings significant acoustic improvements designed to simplify installation while delivering exceptional home theater performance. The new lineup includes the BE806 MKII, QX-BE806 MKII, BE808 MKII, and BE812 MKII models. The BE MKII series features enhanced CDX crossover technology that delivers smooth frequency response and consistent coverage both on and off-axis. A key advantage of the BE MKII series is its neutral voicing, which streamlines setup and calibration processes for integrators. Rather than requiring extensive speaker correction, the neutral voicing allows installers to focus their EQ work on room tuning, significantly reducing installation time while improving final system performance.

10 JBL Professional Control 400 Ceiling Speakers

The JBL Professional Control 400 Standard Coverage Series and Control 400 Premium Coverage Series ceiling speakers are comprised of 15 models. Building on the legacy of the JBL Control 10, Control 20, and Control 40 ceiling speaker families, the Control 400 Standard Coverage Series, Enhanced Coverage Series, and Premium Coverage Series share many core features, including superior sonic performance, reliability, helpful installation features, and a contemporary design aesthetic.

The Enhanced Coverage Series includes JBL's Coplanar Radiation Boundary Integrator (CRBI) to provide a more even frequency response throughout the coverage area and strikes an elegant performance-to-cost balance between the Standard and Premium models.



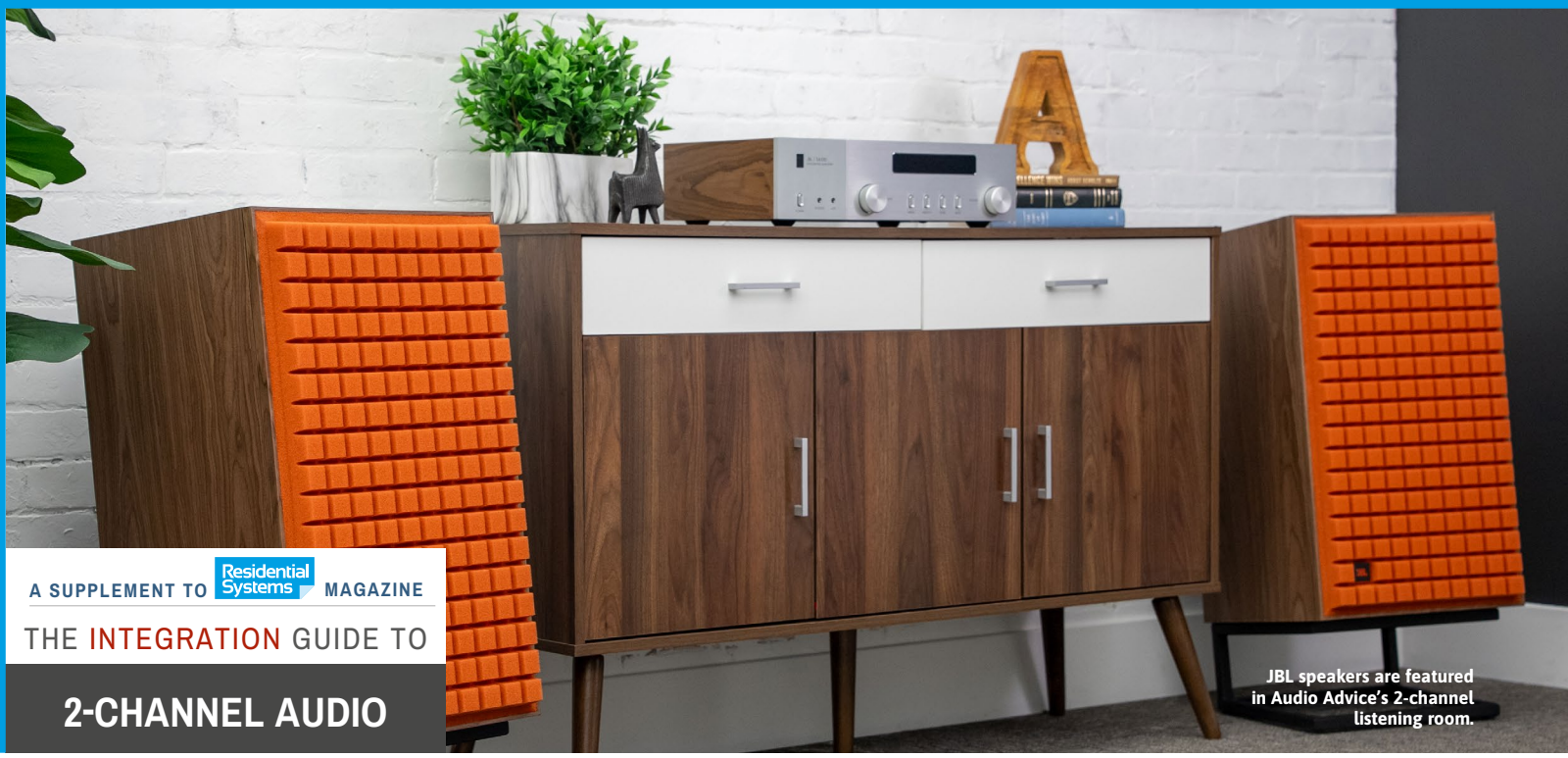


11 Focal In-Ceiling Speakers

Focal's 100 IC8-T UL and 100 ICS6-T UL in-ceiling speakers enhance its 100-T Series range, designed for large public spaces such as luxury hotels and high-end restaurants. These fire-resistant in-ceiling loudspeakers feature two coaxial drivers, a medium/woofer, and a tweeter, as well as UL 1480 and UL 2043 certification. For increased robustness and optimum protection, the flush-mounted enclosure of the loudspeakers is designed using materials specially adapted to very high temperatures. It ensures the safety of the installation and provides sound insulation.

12 Episode Outdoor Speakers

The new Episode Extreme Series has undergone rigorous environmental testing, including accelerated salt spray, wind exposure, and high-heat endurance trials, ensuring these products meet the expectations of today's most demanding commercial and residential audio applications. Episode Extreme Series outdoor speakers are engineered to thrive where other architectural solutions fail — withstanding temperatures up to 90 degrees C, IP67-rated water intrusion, and hurricane force winds. Res



A SUPPLEMENT TO Residential Systems MAGAZINE

THE INTEGRATION GUIDE TO

2-CHANNEL AUDIO

JBL speakers are featured in Audio Advice's 2-channel listening room.

WHEN MUSIC MATTERS

Though it has been around for decades, high-end 2-channel audio remains an integral part of the industry — and is experiencing a rediscovery.

By Karen Mitchell

Although it has been around since the beginnings of the CI industry, 2-channel audio still brings in clients.

Scott Newman, CEO, Audio Advice, a Harman Luxury Audio dealer, says over the past few years, he's seen a surge in consumer interest around a new category of home audio components: the all-in-one streamer/amp. "While earlier versions existed in the whole-home audio space through platforms like Denon HEOS and Sonos, the latest generation has evolved significantly, delivering true audiophile-level performance in full-size components like the Marantz Stereo 70s," he says. "This new breed of high-performance, all-in-one pieces means a music lover no longer needs a huge stack of components to get great sound."

At Maximum Audio Video, a Paradigm dealer, there is a shift back toward dedicated 2-channel listening, even in homes that already have full automation and dedicated theater systems. "Clients are realizing that, while distributed audio is great for convenience, nothing replaces a properly designed stereo setup when it comes to pure music enjoyment," says COO Gabe Martinez. "Once you hear a properly set up 2-channel system, you quickly realize how magical it can be. We have many clients who choose a hybrid solution where the space is shared between both system types, theater and 2-channel, and the results are still incredible!"

One of the biggest trends right now is the integration of high-end streaming platforms and visually engaging components like HiFi Rose. "Products like this are changing the game, especially with features like RoseTube, which gives you access to high-resolution music videos in a really clean, immersive interface," says Martinez. "We're also seeing a resurgence in vinyl, paired with modern DSP, room correction, and high-performance amplification. The combination of analog warmth with digital precision is where things are heading. And aesthetically, these systems are becoming statement pieces as clients want performance, but also want something that looks incredible in their spaces."

The history of 2-channel audio can be viewed as a continuous quest to elevate the listening experience in both accuracy and fidelity, says Kevin Learmann, L-Acoustics sales manager, Home & Yacht. "Traditionally, this has been pursued through the development of higher-quality speakers and amplification, along with ongoing experimentation in design and materials," he says. "On the speaker side, innovations include planar versus cone drivers, alternative diaphragm and enclosure materials, varied crossover and driver configurations, omni-polar versus bi- or dipolar designs, and active versus passive systems. In amplification, comparisons such as tube versus solid-state and Class A through Class D architectures illustrate the breadth of technological exploration. The list goes on.

"It is important to remember, however, that a 2-channel system is only as



strong as its weakest link. For roughly the past 30 years, that weak link has often been the source material itself, specifically the tradeoff of convenience over quality as the industry shifted from analog to digital formats. This trend can be traced back to early platforms like Napster, which offered vast libraries of highly compressed MP3 files, often of inconsistent quality, at a time when storage capacity was limited. The ability to carry hundreds of songs on a single CD or a 64 to 128 MB portable player outweighed concerns about fidelity for most listeners compared to the inconvenience of physical media. This compromise persisted into the early era of streaming, where bandwidth limitations on both cellular networks and home internet still necessitated compression. As a result, listeners gained unprecedented access to music libraries, but still at the expense of sound quality.

"Fortunately, this constraint has largely been resolved. Advances in storage, portability, and network bandwidth now allow streaming platforms such as Tidal, Spotify, and Deezer to offer high-resolution, lossless or near-lossless audio. This shift has helped renew appreciation among listeners for the importance of high-quality source content. Ultimately, even as source quality has improved, the pursuit of superior playback returns to speaker and amplification design. Today, professional audio companies such as L-Acoustics, backed by decades of innovation and trusted by leading artists and venues worldwide, are bringing concert-grade playback solutions into the home, enabling a new standard for high-fidelity listening."

With the resurgence of the turntable and the addition of high-resolution music services such as Amazon, Spotify, Tidal, and Qobuz, accessibility to material is producing a renaissance in music listening. "What we see changing, however, are the listening systems," notes David Kroll, vice president, KEF America. "With today's flat TVs, deep cabinets with room for large stereo components have become fewer and farther between. To address this, KEF has put significant resources into developing a family of loudspeakers where all the electronics are contained inside the speaker cabinet. Whether connected to a turntable, a TV via HDMI-ARC, your phone via Bluetooth, or streaming high-resolution (24-bit/192 kHz) audio from the internet, all you see in the room are the speakers themselves. From the small bookshelf LSX II to the floorstanding LS60, all you now need is the speaker and your phone to control it."

Spreading the Word

"The goal of a 2-channel system is to deliver the music as you would hear live in concert," Kroll says. "This includes an element called 'imaging,' where when you close your eyes you can hear the 3-dimensional positions of the musicians on stage. Speakers capable of this level of detail and accuracy are also ideal for a surround/Atmos system to let you pick out the precise positioning of a sound object as it moves about the room.

"Since the early '60s, when KEF was the first audio company to test on computers to measure loudspeakers, the singular engineering focus has been to deliver loudspeakers able to reproduce the finest detail so that the stereo image or the surround sound positioning can be heard with pinpoint accuracy. Our Uni-Q technology, with its wide off-axis response, means that the entire seating area between left and right speakers is in the sweet spot where the image can be heard. Additionally, no matter the form factor — bookshelf, floorstander, on-wall, or in-ceiling — they are engineered to deliver this same experience. You do not have to worry about where the speakers must go; you only must enjoy the experience. This is why we make a Reference in-wall that is sonically indistinguishable from our Reference floorstanding speakers."

Audio Advice offers a wide range of 2-channel audio systems across its showrooms, spanning from approachable, entry-level setups to reference-grade, ultimate high-performance solutions. "On the speaker side, clients can experience everything from flagship models like Bowers & Wilkins 800 Series or JBL Summit down to more accessible options, allowing them to clearly hear how performance scales as you move up the line," Newman says.

"With the rise of high-performance all-in-one streaming amps, great sound is no longer intimidating," he adds. "We help customers see that achieving high-quality audio can be as simple as pairing a single component with the right set of speakers; no racks of gear or complicated setup required. Once they experience the impact of truly great sound, the idea of adding a system to their home becomes a natural next step. That's where our investment in world-class showrooms and our expert team comes in. By delivering a best-in-class demo experience featuring a thoughtfully curated selection of systems that reflect real living spaces and are always ready to play, we make it easy for customers to connect with the experience and envision it in their own home."

There's no one-size-fits-all system, Martinez notes. "At Maximum, we take a very tailored approach to 2-channel," he explains. "We design everything around how the client listens to music, what they value, and how the system integrates into their home. We offer a wide range of solutions from brands like Paradigm, Anthem, and McIntosh, along with other high-performance options depending on the project. Whether it's a clean, minimalist streaming system or a full analog/digital hybrid setup, we build it with intention.

"The Maximum process usually starts with a conversation — not about gear, but about experience," he says. "What do you listen to? Where do you listen? What do you want to feel when you hit play? From there, we guide clients through speaker selection, amplification, source components, and proper placement. We also factor in room acoustics, because that's just as important as the equipment itself. And if it makes sense, we integrate it into their larger system so that it works seamlessly with their automation platform but still performs as a true audiophile setup when it needs to."

L-Acoustics offers a breadth of 2-channel solutions for residential and pri-



A living room featuring an L-Acoustics audio system.

vate marine customers, ranging from approximately $11k to $66k MSRP. "This puts us on par or even at a lower price point than many of today's consumer-grade 'premium' residential offerings," Learmann says. "Yet we are delivering science-backed, concert-grade solutions, with meaningful differences in sonic clarity, performance, and emotional response; engineered and refined by an international team of dedicated audio engineers and specialists who have worked diligently for more than four decades to satisfy the most exacting artists, sound engineers, and their audiences.

Final Notes

Newman suggests, when explaining the benefits of 2-channel audio to customers, to start with the data to understand how people consume music today. "Listeners are spending more time than ever with music, averaging 20-plus hours per week," he says. "The days of waiting for a CD release are over; music has been made instantly available through streaming services. That's exactly why 2-channel audio is so important and has become the foundation for delivering the highest-quality music experience in the home. From improving the whole-home audio experience with upgraded architectural products to installing a dedicated but simple system in another room, it's pretty easy when you just ask customers how much music they listen to in a week. If you have the right gear on demo to show them, it's a win for everyone."

"KEF customers and integrators know that any system capable of accurate sound reproduction should deliver the finest performance, whether you are playing a 2-channel stereo track or a movie in Atmos," Kroll notes. "The latest trend in music is immersive audio. While it is still early for the format, we see musicians and mix engineers experimenting and learning how to best use these new tools. The results are quickly maturing from cool party effects to subtle enhancements to the stereo track that help the music engulf you emotionally. Ironically, this is bringing about a convergence of 2-channel and surround systems so that they are becoming one and the same. To this end, our new XIO streaming soundbar was engineered to be equally at home playing 2-channel stereo, a blockbuster movie, and multichannel immersive audio."

"L-Acoustics is constantly on the move these days," Learmann says, "We're often pairing audio with video, so headphones and spatial audio tend to dominate. I am a genuine fan of that space; innovations like L-Acoustics Hyperreal Immersive Sound Space (HYRISS) technology are truly next-level. That said, it is important to carve out time to slow down and recharge, and this is where a dedicated 2-channel system offers something special. It encourages you to stay in one place, settle into the sweet spot, and experience music for its own sake, free from distraction."

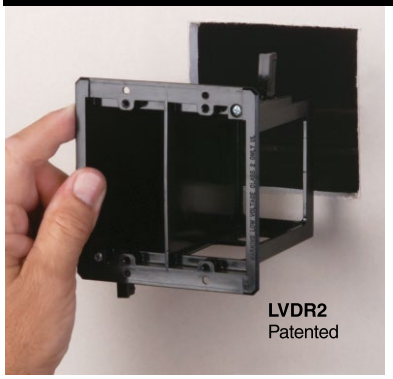
"There are also natural opportunities within the home to enjoy this kind of listening," he adds. "A kitchen prep area, for example, can align surprisingly well with a stereo sweet spot. For someone who loves to cook, the kitchen can be an ideal zone in which to invest in elevated sound quality. A home office desk position is another natural fit, and I am sure many more come to mind. For those looking to take that experience even further, high-performance solutions from companies like L-Acoustics can bring a refined, immersive listening experience into the everyday spaces where life actually happens."

"At the end of the day, music is emotional," Martinez says. "It's one of the few things that can instantly take you back, whether to a memory, a moment, or a feeling. A properly designed 2-channel system lets you experience that in a way that distributed or background audio just can't replicate. For most of our clients, this becomes the space where they actually sit down and listen. It's not just about having music throughout the home; it's about having a place where music matters.'" Res

POWER & LOW VOLTAGE

COMBO BOX

FOR RETROFIT PROJECTS



This convenient combo box has power and low voltage openings in the *same box* for a neat, time-saving installation.

The box adjusts to fit wall thicknesses from 1/4" to 1-1/2." Mounting wing screws hold it securely in place.

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- Includes NM cable connector (Power side)
- 2-Hour Fire Rating

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