

Audio Visual Jargon Buster

This is the Roger Green Sound and Vision Jargon Buster. Too much technical jargon used in our web site? Check out what the jargon is right here

KeywordDescription100HzA normal television scans its picture at 50Hz, which means that the picture is flickering all the time which can make a picture look unrealistic. A 100Hz set doubles this scan rate giving a flicker free picture and the most realistic and deep picture reproduction available when combined with a super flat tube

2-HeadA 2 head VCR won't give as good a playback in long play, a very jumpy pause picture or no pause picture at all and doesn't have stereo sound.

4-HeadA 4 head VCR gives good quality long play recording, a perfect still picture in standard (not long) play and has stereo sound.

AnalogueAnalogue means copy, as analogue signals copy the pattern of the vibration in air pressure caused by the original sound, or the vibration in the ear drum as it hears the sound. Electronic analogues are created from the sounds which can then be reproduced by a wide range of equipment. Contrasts with digital technology which represents a signal with binary digits rather than attempting to copy it.

ANSI LumensThis represents a measurement of brightness and is used in reference to projectors. Generally, the higher the better, though as people are "Willing to control the ambient light conditions", home cinema projectors can get away with a lower rating than presentation units.

Audio Digital Optical OutputUsing an optical cable, this output allows you to connect your Hi-Fi system to products such as mini-disc recorders and DVD players. This takes full advantage of high performance digital signals and allows you to playback sound through a Dolby 5.1 amplifier/decoder.

Auto 16:9A signal is used to identify programmes in 16:9 format and allows you to record and playback these programmes in the correct format so you don't miss any of the picture.

Auto clockThis function automatically sets the video recorders date and time.

Auto FormatWhen receiving programs in different picture size formats (16:9/4:3/letterbox) the television automatically switches to the right format, so you don't get black bands on your screen.

Auto InstallThis function automatically finds the channels and tunes them into your television or VCR. Afterwards you simply put them in the right order.

Auto Long PlayWhen the length of a recording you have programmed is longer then the time left on the tape the VCR will automatically switch to long play (doubles the length of your tape) so as not to cut off the end of your recording.

AV (front)Phono sockets located on the front of the video recorder or Television for easy connection to other pieces of equipment such as camcorders.

Blu RayThis is a new type of DVD, Blu Ray is a high definition format with many of the biggest names in the industry behind it. A Blu Ray disk is capable of storing over five times as much data as a DVD. The name originates from the blue violet laser used to read and write the data.

CDR/CDRW PlaybackPlays back CD's you have recorded on to a blank CD using a CD writer.

CoaxialA type of digital audio connection that passes raw digital data from an output, such as DVD player, to a home cinema receiver interface and degradation of the audio signal is kept to a minimum.

Composite VideoThe least satisfactory way to connect a DVD player to a television, composite video uses single RCA jack to transmit all the picture information.

Conventional (4:3)The 'Old' style screen aspect ratio (not widescreen) there are very few conventional sized televisions left on the market.

CrossoverThis refers to a system of filters which divide the audio between each driver in each speaker

CRT ProjectorUsually used for large scale presentations, CRT offers better picture quality than an LCD projector, but is bigger, heavier, more expensive and harder to set up

Custom InstallationThe practice of installing a proper full blown home cinema set up.

Digital TelevisionDigitally transmitted television signals carrying superior picture and sound quality and a larger number of channels using either an aerial or minidish. For more information on digital see our 'digital latest' section.

DiscreteAs opposed to 'matrixed', a discrete channel or signal is one that is separate from the other channels

DLPMMore common than CRT in home cinema projectors, Digital Light Processing uses mirrors to reflect light in home cinema projectors.

Dolby Digital (Dolby 5.1) Surround SoundRecreates the sound system used in a cinema in your own home using 5 speakers and 1 subwoofer (low frequency loudspeaker for powerful bass) positioned around the room each with their own sound channel so you can have a different sound coming out of each speaker

Dolby Digital EXAn improved version of Dolby Digital, which came about with release of the Phantom Menace in cinemas. This adds a matrixed rear speaker to proceedings

Dolby ProLogic IIThis later version of Dolby Pro Logic enables multi Channel playback, so long as the amplifier supports it

Dolby Pro-Logic Sound4 Channel sound using rear speakers to give a surround sound effect

DSPDigital Signal Processing is a kind of vanilla version of surround. It uses echo reverb and spacing to create pseudo surround effects, such as stadium and hall.

DTSDDigital Theatre Surround is the other prevalent surround sound format and a direct rival to Dolby Digital. It uses less compression than Dolby Digital and therefore offers a clearer sound

Extended PlayThis feature increases the length of your tapes which have been recorded in Long Play, giving you 16 hours recording time on a 4 hour tape.

HD ReadyReady for High Definition TV

HDDHard Disc recording is apparently the future and can be programmed to seek out your customers favourite films

HDTVHigh Definition television, offering 1.080 active lines as opposed to the 626 that makes a standard television picture

IDTVIntegrated Digital Televisions receive all the free to air channels as well as being upgradable to pay channels.

InterlacingIn order to generate greater picture definition, some units use a technique called interlacing. In this way, a second set of lines are generated and interlaced with the original picture

Long PlayThis feature doubles the length of your tapes, giving you 8 hours recording time on a 4 hour tape.

MiniDiscA new audio recording method that records CD quality sound onto a disk smaller than a normal audio tape. Easy to edit and rerecord on, with features such as long play.

Mono SoundThe most basic sound format coming out of only one channel.

Stereo SoundAllows a much fuller and realistic sound reproduction than from mono equipment separating sound into the left and right channels.

Sub WooferLow frequency loudspeaker used in Dolby 5.1 systems (see above) for a powerful base sound.

Super Flat ScreenThe screen on these televisions is 100% flat, eliminating any reflection or glare, giving a much sharper and realistic picture. This combined with 100Hz Scanning (see above) give one of the most realistic pictures available.

TeleTextAllows you to access up to date information on just about

anything over your television set, from share prices to star gossip and TV listings. **Twin Tuner** A twin tuner televideo allows you to watch and record different channels, so you can watch BBC1 and record ITV at the same time. **Video Heads** See above for 2-head and 4-heads. **VideoPlus** Easy recording. Next to the TV listings in most publications there is a plus code. Simply enter this code into your VCR and your record timer will be set to record that program. **Virtual Dolby** A sound system that uses different powered speakers actually in the unit to produce a surround sound effect without the rear speakers. **Widescreen (16:9)** The new format of screen size. This new aspect ratio uses the same viewing ratios as your eyes making everything look a lot more realistic. It is also the same ratio used for cinema screens, so you are viewing films how they are meant to be, without losing any of the picture or having big black bars. All new technology is being made with widescreen in mind and nearly all digital programs and DVDs are in widescreen.