

## Journal #3

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**Introduction**

*This is the third **Audio Perfectionist Journal**. In this issue we will continue the discussion of subwoofers that began in Journal #2 and start to examine system components and the signal path through these components. Then we'll consider the question of how many channels we really need to accurately reproduce musical performances in the home.*

The subwoofer articles in **Journal #2** raised many questions from readers so we'll start this issue with a continuing discussion of that topic and offer some additional explanations about the previous articles. Then we'll talk about the signal path through an audio system.

It's important to understand the sequence and function of the basic components in an audio system in order to properly allocate resources for the best sonic results at the lowest cost.

The final article in this issue discusses the number of audio channels necessary for accurate music reproduction. This is another subject to consider when allocating resources to parts of a home entertainment system. Do you really need eight channels of amplification and speakers?

**In This Issue**

The article titled More About Subwoofers continues the discussion of subwoofers from a high-end perspective that began in **Journal #2** and explains the previous articles in greater detail. This article states my positions in simple terms and presents arguments to support them. It also answers some questions raised by readers following the publication of **Journal #2**.

The article titled *The Natural Order of Things* describes the purpose of various system components

and the signal path through them. It attacks some common myths that mislead consumers causing them to spend too much on some components and not enough on others.

The article titled *How Many Channels Do We Really Need?* debates today's popular assumption that more is better when it comes to multichannel audio.

**How It Fits Together**

This issue begins the discussion of the individual components in an audio system by tracing the signal path through the system and dividing the system into sections. This information stresses the importance of the proper allocation of resources. Future editions of the **Audio Perfectionist Journal** will concentrate on components from each section of the system, describing what they do.

We'll discuss how each component in a home audio system works and I'll tell you which types I prefer and why. You'll learn about a lot of stuff that you shouldn't waste your money on and why.

We'll examine measurements and discuss the ones that are the most revealing and I'll tell you how to perform some of your own tests. You'll learn how to interpret the test graphs printed by some of the magazines and what to listen for when auditioning components.

I'll review specific products of exceptional merit as we go along, with the emphasis on why these products offer superior performance. The knowledge you gain will help you to become a more informed consumer. That way, you can spend less money on your audio hobby and enjoy it more. [APJ](#)