

Mission Create a money-no-object projector and screen cinema system for the ultimate movie experience Budget £16,000 Location 9x8m living room in a mansion

Sit down, pour yourself a stiff drink, and then look at the bill below – yes, that one. If you buy this system you will single-handedly do your bit to help the Chancellor's budget deficit, as you'll be forking out a scary £2390 just in tax as part of the £16,050 total tag here. It could really give you a warm inner glow to be so socially responsible. Well, perhaps not...

OK, enough propping up the NHS – let's have some fun. This is truly a monster system, perfect for a room that's large enough for a big screen, and with a sound to match. But with such a massive system, you'll need some pretty hefty speaker stands – ATC suggests Atacamas, at about £65 a pair. With that in place, you will find that the performance of the

set-up is beyond reproach. On the front end of this system is Denon's battleship DVD/DVD-Audio/Super Audio CD player, the DVD-A11, which weighs as much as any AV receiver, never mind a DVD player. But all that load isn't just for show: this kind of build ensures the disc transport literally has a solid foundation on which to operate, giving

cinema market for more than three decades. Projectors run in the blood at the company's HQ in Union City, California, as we discovered at our last meeting a few years back with founder Sam Runco. In a perfect advertisement for his own products, on his desk was just a wireless mouse and keyboard, while a massive version of the computer desktop was

The CL-510 is pretty low-end by Runco standards – the top model is £24,000 – but it combines solid build with excellent quality

all the digital stuff that is downstream of the disc-reading bit an easier time. And Denon hasn't skimped on the video and audio circuitry. Apart from extremely good analogue audio outputs, the DVD-A11 offers up its signals on a Firewire/IEEE1394 feed as well as the standard optical and electrical digital connections, while the pictures are available in every digital format up to and including DVI-D digital. There's no HDMI feed, admittedly, but the DVI-D connection, with its HDCP security, can be used to feed displays with either DVI or HDMI inputs – all you need is a suitable cable to link from the player.

Add the scaler built into the player, which can display images with up to 1080 lines of information – roughly twice the standard TV resolution – and you have a machine created to make your movies look as good as they sound, even when you choose to use a very large screen. No allowances are needed along the lines of 'never mind the quality, feel the width', because here we've moved on from plasmas to one of the best projectors you can buy on the sensible side of five figures.

The Reflection CL-510 is from Runco, a company firmly entrenched in the home

thrown onto a screen across the room.

The Reflection CL-510 is entry-level by Runco standards – the range-topping DTV-1200 will set you back something in the region of £24,500 – but it's a superb piece of kit, combining solidity of build with excellent picture quality. It uses the acclaimed TI Matterhorn ED2 chipset, giving a 1024x576 pixel resolution, and the company's GEN 3 technology for more efficient projection, which contributes to the claimed contrast ratio of 1700:1.

The projector accepts DVI as well as conventional component progressive inputs and, while it takes a little longer to set up, the effect is worth it in terms of picture quality. There's excellent contrast, and colours are vivid and controlled even with difficult swathes of subtly-graded tones, making for a really exciting, yet detailed, image.

Oh, and you'll need a screen to make the most of the projector – here we've gone for a simple, cost-effective solution from the Draper range, in the form of a 106in diagonal manual pull-down Luma screen. Yes, it would be possible to go the whole hog and have an electric model complete with remote control or triggering from

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THE EQUIPMENT

DENON DVD-A11	1600.00
YAMAHA DSP-Z9	3300.00
ATC CONCEPT 3	4877.00
RUNCO REFLECTION CL-510	5995.00
DRAPER LUMA 106IN MANUAL SCREEN	278.00
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SUBTOTAL	16,050.00
VAT @ 17.5%	2390.42
TOTAL	16,050.00

PLEASE KEEP FOR YOUR RECORDS



Drop the screen, fire up the Runco projector and spin Denon's flagship DVD player for the full-blown cinema experience in your own home

the projector, but the manual one does the job just as well in optical terms, and at a significant saving.

Right, that's the picture side of the equation sorted – now for the sound. We chose the Yamaha DSP-Z9 (for more information go to this month's big *Home Cinema Test*, from page 82) for a number of reasons: it's a breeze to set-up thanks to its YPAO automatic calibration system, it has more than enough power on tap to

unashamedly built for performance, not style. They use massive driver magnets for optimum control and bombproof reliability, while the heavy cabinets are equally tough. And the sub? It has a 650W amp, a 30cm drive unit, and tips the scales at a back-breaking 52kg. Definitely one where you take the 'would sir like it installed?' option.

But get this little lot in motion and you won't regret the money or the effort for

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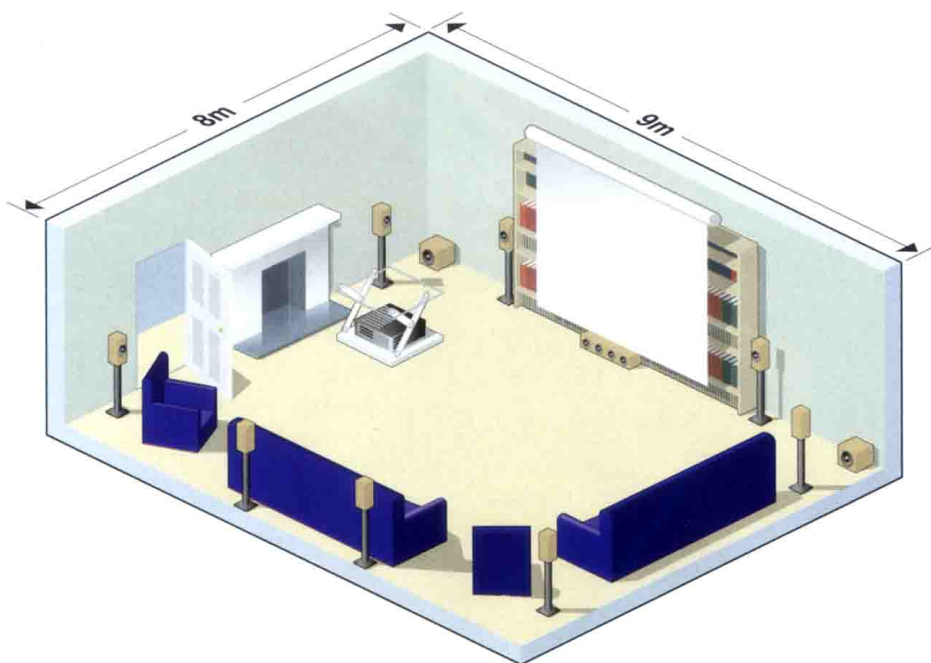
drive our speakers of choice, and, above all, it sounds just fabulous, with a subtlety and smoothness that's beyond reproach.

With a host of on-board processing, the AZ9 is more than able to make the most of any surround soundtrack, driving up to nine speakers and two subs for enhanced ambience and atmosphere. We've gone for a relatively simple 5.1 set-up (see diagram), but if that initial price-tag didn't make you flinch, please feel free to add four more speakers and another sub – total cost £21,000. The speakers in question are ATC's massive SCM12s, developed from the company's professional monitors and

one single moment. Even in 5.1-channel the Denon, Yamaha and ATCs combine to give a spine-tingling sense of involvement and atmosphere, while there's never any doubt that the amp and speakers can deliver sound on a par with the huge, crisp pictures from the Runco. The whole thing is as cinematic as you could ever want in a domestic situation, at least without going the whole 'tip-up seats and power-operated curtains' route.

Here we have massive engineering, stacks of processing power and no question where the money has been spent. This is home cinema on a grand scale.

We tested this system in standard 5.1 mode, but you can add an extra four speakers and a subwoofer to create a full 9.2-system



The £16,000 system

NO-COMPROMISE CINEMA TO FILL EVEN THE LARGEST ROOM



PROJECTOR

Runco Reflection CL-510

£5995

Type DLP, single DMD chip
Resolution 1024x576 (16:9)
Light output 900 ANSI Lumens
Contrast ratio 1700:1
Inputs Composite, S-Video, component, DVI (with HDCP)
Weight 10kg

DVD PLAYER

Denon DVD-A11

£1600

Discs played DVD-Video, DVD-Audio, SACD
Digital outputs Coaxial, optical, Firewire
Video connections RGB Scart, S-Video, composite video, Component (PAL and NTSC progressive), DVI-D

AMPLIFIER

Yamaha DSP-Z9

£3300

Power output 7x170W + 2x50W
Processing modes THX Surround EX, Dolby Pro-Logic, Dolby Pro-Logic II, Dolby Pro-Logic IIx, DTS Neo:6
Decoding modes Dolby Digital 5.1, Dolby Digital EX, DTS-ES Matrix 6.1, DTS-ES Discrete 6.1, DTS 96/24
Digital connections 7 optical, 4 coaxial, 2 Firewire
Analogue connections 14 (including phono)
Tuner None

SPEAKERS

ATC Concept 3

£4877

Size (hwxwd) 39x22x25.5cm (SCM12), 23x60x30cm (C3 centre), 58x50x50 (C4 subwoofer)
Power handling 300W (SCM12), 300W (C3 centre)
Sensitivity 85dB/2.83V/1m (all)
Subwoofer power amp 650W