Article Side
LCD projectors, AV Receivers and their features by David Raju

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The essential element of the movie theater experience in your home theatre is sound. The way this is implemented in a home theater system is with either an AV receiver. An AV Receiver usually combines the functions of three components. They are, radio tuner for AM/FM, A Preamplifier and a built-in Multi-channel amplifier. AV receiver has the main features like

1. Amplification

Stereo receivers have two channels of amplification, while AV receivers may have more than two. The standard for AV receiver is five channels of amplification. These are usually referred to as 5.1 receivers. This provides for a left, right, center, left surround and right surround speaker to be powered by the receiver. 7.1 receivers are becoming more common and provide for two additional surround channels, left rear surround and right rear surround. The ".1" refers to the LFE channel the signal of which is usually sent to an amplified subwoofer unit.

2. Decoders

AV receivers usually provide one or more decoders for sources with more than two channels of audio information. This is most common with movie soundtracks, which use one of a variety of different types of encoding formats. The different formats are Dolby Pro Logic, Dolby Digital. As the numbers of playback channels were increased on receivers, other decoders have been added to some receivers.

3. DSP effects

Most receivers offer specialized Digital Signal Processors (DSP) made for handling various presets and audio effects. Some may offer simple equalizers and balance adjustments to complex DSP audio field simulations such as "Hall", "Arena", "Opera", etc. that simulate or attempt to replicate as if the audio were being played in the places through use of surround sound and echo effects.

4. AV inputs/outputs

There are a variety of possible connections on an AV receiver. Standard connectors include

â€¢ Analog audio connections usually use RCA plugs in stereo pairs. Inputs and outputs are both common. Outputs are provided mainly for cassette tape decks

â€¢ Digital connections allow for the transmission of PCM, Dolby Digital or DTS audio. Common devices include CD players, DVD players, or satellite receivers

â€¢ Composite video connections use a single RCA plug on each end. Composite video is standard on all AV receivers allowing for the switching of video devices such as VHS players, cable boxes, and game consoles.

â€¢ S-Video connections offer better quality than composite video. It uses a DIN jack.

â€¢ SCART connections generally offer the best quality video at standard-definition; due to the use of pure RGB signaling. SCART provides video and audio in one connection.

â€¢ Component video has become the best connection for analog video as higher definitions such as 720p have become common. The Ypbpr signaling provides a good compromise between resolution and color definition.

â€¢ HDMI is becoming common on AV receivers. It provides for the transmission of both audio and video. HDMI is relatively new technology and there are reported issues with devices not properly working with each other, especially cable/satellite boxes connected to a display through an AV receiver.

5. Video conversion and up scaling on LCD Projector

Some AV Receivers can convert from one video format to another. This is commonly called up conversion or transcoding. A smaller number of receivers provide for de-interlacing of video signals.

6. Radio on AVRs

AV receivers though primarily used for amplification may or may not have an inbuilt AM/FM radio tuner among other features such as LAN connectivity for various Internet applications and some with multi-room audio solutions.

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