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Easy Whole House Audio Systems

Wouldn't it be nice to have your favorite FM or Satellite radio station, CDs, or other audio playing all over the house? That's whole house audio, and it doesn't need to be overly complicated. Each room can have a pair of speakers in the wall or ceiling with its own volume control.

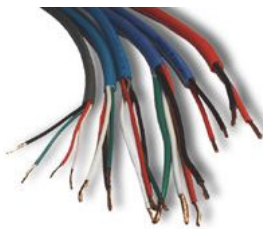
You can often use your existing stereo. If you're building or remodeling, it's easy to install wiring; otherwise, you'll have to "fish" wires in walls and ceilings, but that's not too difficult if you have unfinished (cellar or attic) space adjacent to where you want to install speakers.

Probably the best way of setting up whole house audio is to place a pair of speakers and a volume control in each area or zone where you want sound.

The volume control will adjust the volume in its own zone, and also allows you to turn the sound completely off. If you have no more than 8 zones, the Optimatch volume controls will take care of impedance matching so that you won't overload your amplifier. You can use most any stereo amplifier or receiver up to 100 watts per channel using this method.

Most volume controls mount in a single gang wall box which should be placed in an accessible location near the speakers. For outdoor speakers, weatherproof volume controls are available, or standard controls can be mounted indoors next to a door leading outdoors.

Volume controls are available in various colors to match your décor. Slide type controls are also available.



longer runs.

For wiring, you can use four conductor speaker wire to run from the amp to each volume control, and a run of two conductor speaker wire from the volume control to each speaker in that zone. If your runs are no longer than 50 feet, 16 gauge wire will be fine. Four conductor wire in this size is called 16/4; two conductor is 16/2. Use heavier wire (lower gauge number) for

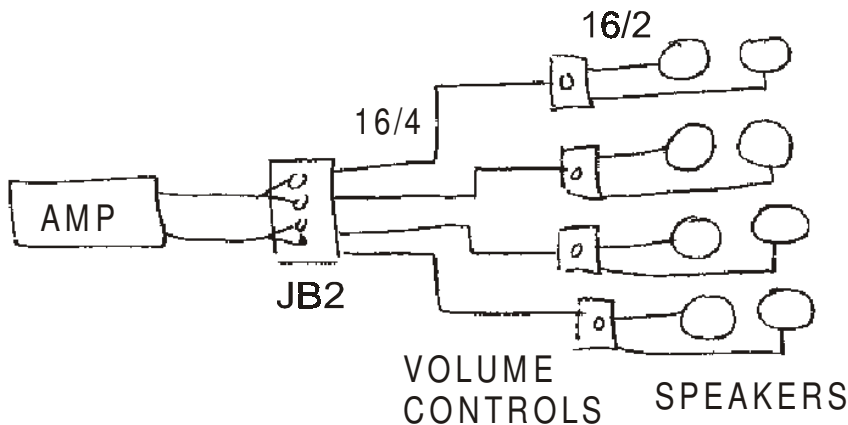
You'll need some sort of hub to tie all the wires from the zones together. The JB-2 does this in a single gang wall box, and can handle up to six zones. The amp is connected to the binding posts on the JB2 with four conductor wire.





Wall and ceiling speakers are available in various sizes; the larger ones usually can handle more power and have deeper bass. They are mounted by cutting a hole in the drywall or paneling using the template that comes with the speaker, connecting the speaker to the wires and inserting it in the hole, then tightening screws on the speaker to clamp it into place.

Outdoor speakers are surface mounted to a wall or ceiling with an included bracket.



This sketch shows a simplified hookup for four pairs of speakers, each with its own volume control. They're all connected to a standard stereo amp using the JB2.

Here's a short list of things to look at for a simple whole house audio system.

- Volume controls: VC200-OPT, available in six colors on standard or Decora plates
SLVC200-OPT, slide version of VC200
- Hub: JB-2, up to six zones
- Wire: 16/4, from JB-2 to each VC200-OPT
16/2, from each VC-200-OPT to two speakers
- Speakers: AT-502, AT-802, wall mount
AT-5, AT-6.5, ceiling mount
CS-5.25, CS-6.5, ceiling mount
OA-602, outdoor

If you want more than 8 zones or have an amplifier with more than 100 watts per channel, we have other solutions for whole house audio. We also have ways of controlling zones from a central location, running a single, mono speaker in small areas where stereo doesn't make sense, or controlling your amplifier and CD player from any (or all) of the zones. Contact us for more information.