



The Bargain Basement...Cinema!

Summary: Basement home cinema installation
Location: West Sussex
Budget: £4000

Mr and Mrs F contacted thinkingbricks about the specifications and design for a home cinema in his newly renovated country home. He wanted to create a room with his family in mind, but also to watch movies – one of his passions. But he had a small budget left after the other renovations, and wondered “what could be done”.

We visited site, to assess the room planned for use – a downstairs basement room. We provided a summary of the concept of home cinema, what the component parts were and how the system would be configured. On reviewing the room and looking at how the cinema would ultimately be installed, we highlighted a brick built alcove at the rear of the room for housing the equipment.

We consulted with the electrician on-site, and agreed the appropriate power supply to be run to provide power for the equipment.

We also contacted the satellite installation company, and specified the necessary outlets for the alcove and cabling requirements, as our client had said they wanted to use Freeview primarily, but might update to Sky+ in the future.

We suggested cabinetry would tidy the equipment rack and keep it safe from prying fingers (there are 3 children under five years old in the house).

Following the brief and site survey, we provided a simplistic design and product breakdown for Mr and Mrs F to review, to allow them to “mix and match” the options in order of preference. With this, we provided the dimensions for the carpenter to make the cabinet for installation in the alcove, including ventilation for the equipment.

Running the speaker cabling was an early obstacle identified from the site survey, with the floors and ceilings “fully finished” and a large joist in place across the mid point of the room. Further investigations through the builder revealed that the walls were hung on steel frames and that there was access over the main decorative joist for the front speaker positions.

Mr and Mrs F. had plans for coving to be added in this room, which would completely mask the cabling.



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Mr F wanted as large an image as possible, and to employ both VHS video and DVD as sources. We discussed large screen plasma and projector technology as options on site.

We specified a DLP projector to provide the image (a ScreenPlay 4805).

We discussed the necessity for a screen to project onto, to ensure the investment in the projector resulted in a quality end result, but this was deferred until the customer had seen the finished installation in his preferred viewing conditions.

A capable entry level amplifier and a 5.1 channel speaker set-up would provide the surround sound and movie effects that our clients wanted.

To provide a number of channels until Sky+ was decided upon, we specified a Freeview box with Top Up facility (this gave the children's TV channels required as well as Discovery Home & Leisure!)

On the day of installation, we installed the speaker cabling and ensured that the cable runs had as low a profile as possible, so they would not impact on fixing the coving in future.

The speaker brackets were attached, and placed in line with the client's specifications (especially the centre channel). We configured the projector to give the maximum image quality (via component video) and size (maximum 12 foot diagonal) from it's position in the alcove.

With family present, we demonstrated the whole system with The Incredibles (for the children) and Lord of the Rings (for the parents). Mr and Mrs F and family were really pleased and "surprised at what we had achieved" – both with the image and the sound, which was exactly what they wanted.

We provided a simple universal remote control, which we configured with the existing equipment, as well as providing a guide to how additional equipment could be added simply, from the Internet. We reduced the remote controls necessary for the system from 4 to 1!

Now the basement is something to show off to friends, a great room for a family movie and simple to use.

Final cost of installation:

£ 3995 including VAT and labour



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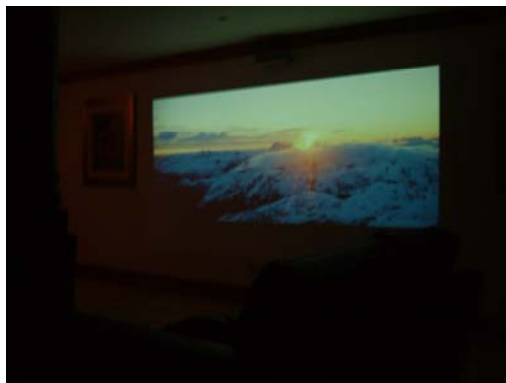
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The cinema equipment is concealed behind custom cabinetry



A single remote control - a system that is easy to use and adaptable in future.



A 100 inch image, digital surround sound effects flying around the room, the bass rumbling...exactly what the client wanted!