



## Project K – Plain English, Great result!

**Summary:** AV system for key rooms, 2 home cinemas, simple control and full home networking for TV, satellite, telephone and data.

**Location:** Cambridgeshire

**Budget:** £20,000

A friend of a friend recommended thinkingbricks to consult with Mr and Mrs K., who were building a new home on the site of their existing property.

The first step to specifying the systems was to briefly explain each set of systems (TV/SAT distribution, data and phone networking, home cinema, audio/video distribution) to establish what they wanted to achieve.

By speaking in plain English, thinkingbricks really helped to clarify what the needs were and clarify their priority in the project.

With a young family, entertainment was the factor the whole family agreed was number one. By thinking forward to when the young family reached their teens, two main areas of entertainment were agreed, thus two home cinemas were planned.

Working from home for both parents also meant that a structured network for telephone and broadband was a close second.

Total accountability for the project from square one was the main need from the client for their contractors. So, thinkingbricks took on the entire project from design through first fix and to final commissioning.

After completing and agreeing the system design, and with a helpful electrician as support, the thinkingbricks team ran all the first fix cabling in for the system – working methodically to ensure that every cable on the design was in the right place and ticked off the design.

Flexibility is always a requirement when a house is being built.

Some changes to the top area of the house meant the design for the cinema in the loft had to be revised, as first fix cabling was being put in place! The completion of the pool area was delayed and first fix for that area had to wait until the ceiling for the in-ceiling speakers was in place!

With all the cabling in place, the call for second fix was close behind. The hub area was set on the top floor in a convenient cupboard area and the main AV sources were sited in the ground floor cinema lounge.



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The family wanted the system to be a feature, and so the speakers were kept in their white finish, even with bold colours in the bedrooms and ground floor cinema. The screens and AV equipment were placed in recesses, following the modern interior design the family wanted.

The ground floor office space was provided with 4 separate work station points for the future team working in this area, all with telephone and broadband access at each station. This structured cabling also allowed printers and files on the main server for the business to be shared in future. Working from home on a grand scale!

In the loft area, the cinema was based around a ceiling mounted projector, with as large a screen as possible. All the cabling was routed behind the walls for a discrete finish, and connectivity for DV, satellite and a games console for the younger family members! A high performance speaker system provided the rumble and effects for the family movie in this space.

Downstairs, a high definition Sky box, high definition upscaling DVD player and media centre linked to a large screen plasma TV meant the two cinemas could run at the same time, catering for everyone in the family.

The AV sources are all available across the designated rooms across the house. Even guests can watch Freeview or the centralised Sky box over the TV system on their own TV screens.

Support for home technology systems is always key, and solving an early problem with the media centre was a key priority for thinkingbricks.

Working with the client and the supplier of the media centre, we worked to understand and test the fault, established why it occurred and most importantly, how it could be solved.

By re-building the media centre and working with the clients to test the solutions, the system now reliably has access to the family's music library from all the equipped rooms, and is continuing to store more and more music and photo albums, day by day.

Simplicity is the key to a happy customer, and the use of the Pronto remote control to control the system and specific zones, such as the cinema has made the system "work" for all the family.

Plain English explanation, thorough design and installation and professional customer support – a powerful combination and a great result!

**Final cost of installation: £21000 including labour and VAT.**



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Upstairs...the central hub for the AV, TV, phone and broadband network



Next door...the home cinema / games room – widescreen and surround sound





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Downstairs in the snug – the central point for all the AV sources and simple control



The heart of the home – recessed plasma TV, discrete in-ceiling speakers and access and control of the media centre audio server, Sky and DVD