

**B**PL India recently launched a Home Theatre System. This is a first for any Indian manufacturer and at the moment there is only one system for public demonstration at the Shopper's Stop, Andheri.

According to Girish Rao, assistant general manager, marketing, BPL, the company has maintained a low profile for a long time, consolidating on development and setting up ultra modern manufacturing facilities at Bangalore. The idea behind the Home Theatre System is to create an impression on the consumer's

of the total cost, either at Shopper's Stop or at the BPL office.

In any home theatre system equipped with a Dolby Pro-logic surround sound facility, one needs the obvious TV — regular or projection. A laser disc player or a hi-fi VCR are needed to provide the source for the sound track and picture. Also required are the speakers. The speakers usually number five or six. The left, centre and right channels require three speakers and the rear channel usually takes two. In slightly more advanced systems a

amplifiers and fed in, into the respective speakers *vis-a-vis* left, centre, right and rear speakers. Having got these basics clear, let's examine the BPL offer *vis-a-vis* imported equipment available here (see box).

The system on demonstration

## SOUND TREATMENT



mind, that BPL is a professionally built company capable of bringing in and maintaining the latest technologies from the world over into India. Not that his company expects to make huge profits out of this venture. This, after all, is a very 'upmarket' product. The system on demonstration at Shopper's Stop costs Rs 1.62 lakh. If there are any takers, I'm told that it has to be booked in advance with a 20 per cent deposit

sixth speaker is used, in the form of a sub-woofer. Each of these speakers has to be powered by an amplifier. Above all, what is needed is the 'surround sound processor'. The function of this unit, simply put, is to receive 2-channel audio signals from the laser disc player or the hi-fi VCR. This input is processed and split into 4-channel signals. Each of these 4-channel audio signals are amplified by their respective

was placed in a cubicle of approximately 200 square feet. The audio system used was the D-1000. I was told that it was rated at 1200 watts PMPO (peak music power output). PMPO ratings, though internationally used, convey no real meaning to me. This is because distortion levels are never mentioned. However, there was enough sound output in the room to make me shout to hear myself. Overall the sound

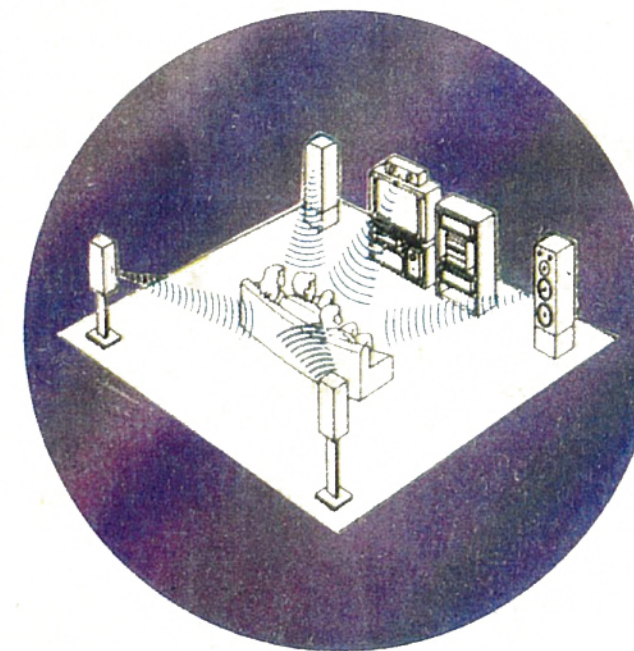
was punchy but the lowest bass frequencies were lacking. The two front speakers of the D-1000 were doing most of the work. The result was that they tended to

distort in the lower frequency ranges while handling loud passages. The centre speaker consisted of a compact format with two 4" foam surround

System component	Options	Price (Rs.)	Remarks
1. Colour TV	29" BPL TV	53,326	A TV of any size can be used in a Home Theatre System. It depends on your budget and space. Any existing TV with a NTSC capability will do.
	29" Sony TV	55,000 approx.	
	25" Sony TV	38,000	
	BPL's 300" multifeature projection TV	2.62 lakh	
	Sharp 100" regular projection TV	73,000 approx.	
2. Video source	Laser disc-cum-CD player:		A hi-fi VCR is different from a regular VCR in that it records and plays back a high quality stereo, 2-channel audio signal. The audio quality is comparable to that of a CD player.
	BPL CLD-260	39,895	
	Pioneer, Sony etc	25,000 upward	
	hi-fi VCR:		
	BPL	N.A.	
	Panasonic	30,000 approx.	
3. Surround sound processor with amplifier and remote control	BPL's — DSP — 2000	14,756	The BPL-DSP-2000 has a fixed delay time for the rear channel and no tone controls for the centre and rear channels. This is true for the Denon mentioned. However it has a variable delay time. Amps with tone controls for rear and centre channels are available but priced at Rs. 40,000 upward.
	comes with a 3-channel (1 centre 2 rear) amplifier (15 watts RMS each) Denon (cheapest model available) with a 5-channel amplifier. Front (80 watts RMS each) centre (50 watts RMS), rear (25 watts RMS each)	34,000 approx	
4. Audio hi-fi system	BPL's D-1000 with speakers and remote CWX-79 with speakers and remote.	36,000	When using a channel amplifier, it becomes unnecessary to buy a separate audio system, for home theatre use. The BPL package offers you the D-1000 or CWX-79, thus completing all audio requirements as well <i>vis-a-vis</i> double cassette, tuner equalizer etc.
		16,000	
5. Speakers	BPL's front speakers come with the audio system. The centre and rear are separate.	895	The centre speaker is magnetically shielded. This enables one to conveniently place it on top of the T.V. without it affecting the picture quality. Some imported sets are sold as surround speaker sets but without rear speakers. In a home theatre system rear speakers are a must. These are a great substitute for overly priced imported speakers.
	Centre speaker	2,200	
	Rear speaker		
	Imported surround sound set of speakers	40,000 onwards	
	Indigenously designed but professionally made designer speakers are also available.		

## Home is where the theatre is

India's first Home Theatre System is a good beginning, writes SANJIV MALVI



Overall the sound was punchy but the lowest bass frequencies were lacking. The picture quality was as good as it can be.

drivers. They held their own and provided satisfactory vocals. The rear speakers, however, needed to be juiced up. They needed to come out alive. The picture quality was as good as it can be. I was told that the TV was made entirely by Sanyo, Japan, and so was the laser disc player. Overall a good introduction for the Indian ear.