



A Panorama Primer

Panorama is an extremely versatile speaker system. Panorama offers five inputs, 3 digital and 2 analog. It will perform brilliantly as a home theater audio system, but it can handle music equally well. It's fantastic for gaming, too, and it'll happily hook up to a wireless base station to play music directly from a PC. You can connect one of the 2 analog inputs to a zone off the multi-room system. Panorama is RS-232 controllable using a small interface box (available soon from our parts department.) Discrete IR commands are available as a ccf file on the B&W web site's support tab and our North American support site, www.bwgroupsupport.com. Just as the TV is becoming the hub of entertainment in the home, Panorama is designed as the speaker for all home entertainment needs.

Panorama might be a single unit, but it's certainly not a single speaker. It actually houses six separate speaker channels to provide 5.1 audio: two front channels, two rear, one center, and one subwoofer, all with their own individual class D-amplifier—a total of nine high quality drive units. These units are angled in such a way that they direct beams of sound outwards to reflect off the walls and back to the listening areas. Combine this with very powerful digital signal processing, and you get a remarkably lifelike surround sound experience. Dolby Digital, DTS and Dolby ProLogic II decoding are provided.

Panorama has a dedicated center channel. Leaving aside the subwoofer, most of the energy of a film soundtrack goes straight to the center channel. Of course, the center channel handles virtually all the dialogue. The human ear is very sensitive to the sound of voice and speech and it will immediately detect any coloration or distortion. That's why it's essential to get the center channel right. The center channel in Panorama is a two-way design consisting of two 3.5 inch woven midrange drive units and a one-inch aluminum dome Nautilus™ tube-loaded tweeter. This design has a large combined diaphragm area, which makes for high power handling, high sensitivity and very low distortion. As a result the intelligibility of the dialogue is superb even at very high volume levels.

Panorama produces powerful bass. The point of a soundbar is that it's compact and discreet. Relying on a separate subwoofer to produce satisfying bass can detract from the cosmetic appeal. Panorama is designed to be a true one-box speaker. The design incorporates two dedicated long-throw woofers coupled in a tuned sub-enclosure to Flowports™ that minimize any distortion created by air turbulence. The digital signal processing has a lot to do with it, too, as does the heavy, rigid enclosure. And it works extremely well as Panorama delivers bass extension all the way down to about 40Hz. The cannon shots in "Master and Commander", for instance, come through with real authority.

Panorama utilizes powerful DSP processing. As already noted, Panorama is firstly an excellent acoustic design. Digital Signal Processing was then added for a variety of reasons, from system equalization to surround steering. Distance, overall system delay (lip sync) and center offset delay are provided in the set-up menu, as are options for bass and treble control, wall or table mounting bass equalization, and room wall surface compensation with three preset rooms and one custom preset (hard, medium and soft surface compensation, selectable separately for left and right walls in the "custom" preset). A "Voice" mode is provided for late-night listening.

Panorama looks fantastic on a table top or wall mounted. It's gently curved enclosure makes all competitive products look clunky by comparison. A wall bracket is included in the box, as are two sets of feet to adjust height when table mounted.