

The Hi-Fi Manifesto v.1.0

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1. If you enjoy music, you'll enjoy it more on a good hi-fi. Sound quality matters. Music affects your mood, your day, your world, your life. It's even more rewarding and enjoyable if it sounds great.

2. Separates are better. Individual pre and power amplifiers with floorstanders if possible, otherwise integrated amplifier with bookshelf speakers, otherwise *at least* high quality active speakers.

3. Pick a source that makes you happy. Everyone has an opinion on vinyl vs. CD vs. high-res. You can achieve audio nirvana with any of these. You may love the feel of vinyl, have a large CD collection or love the ease of high-res streaming? Make your own decision.

4. Speakers matter most. Source matters, speakers matter more. If a recording sounds bad, you can change it. You can't as easily change speakers. Make your choice count.

5. Floorstanders trump bookshelf. Bookshelf speakers are affected by choice of stands (size, height, filler). Good models can get pretty close, but floorstanders rule the roost for ultimate sound quality.

6. Purity, not necessarily fewer boxes. Product simplicity and shortest signal path wins (this is why graphic equalisers are dead and most modern amps don't have tone controls). This means fewer boxes, unless those boxes reduce shared resources (pre/power amps, upgraded power supplies, phono stages, are all good).

7. Budget 10% for accessories. The rumours are true; audio cables matter, racks and stands matter. Don't sell your system short; give it the support it deserves.

8. You can always upgrade analog. DACs offer a single effective upgrade for digital sources. Analog upgrades can *always* be added. Lots of variables affect turntable sound. Changing your cartridge, mat, clamp, headshell, wall shelf and set-up can dramatically improve vinyl sound.

9. Enjoy the journey. Discovery, tweaking, upgrading and trying different kit are the spice of a healthy hi-fi life.

10. Respect thy sonic neighbour. You may not hear the benefit of a hi-fi upgrade, but we all hear things differently.

11. Don't lose touch. Spotify is not the enemy. Bluetooth is getting better. Wireless can sound as good as cables. Be open to the new. If it sounds good, it can't be bad.

12. Music comes first. Be proud of your hi-fi system, whatever you've got, just remember why you got into hi-fi to begin with – for the music.