

Are YOU an Audioholic?

Did you know that 1 in 3 people suffer from some form of Audio Addiction? 1 in 3! Of those people, 21% suffer from the most severe form, Audioholicism. Did you know that 82.5% of statistics are made up on the spot by writers trying to be overly clever? Well, Audioholics.com in conjunction with The Home Theater Alliance, AV Rant, and the OPRA Opine Ominbus.Org have combined their considerable resources to bring you the definitive measurement tool for assessing your level of Audioholicism. Be wary, you might not like what you find out about yourself!

The Official Audioholicism Severity Test

Directions: Keep a close eye on the directions on the left. When it tells you to pick one, you can only get points for ONE of the selections. Bonus and "Pick all that are appropriate" directions mean just that. Be honest, this test is only valid when the taker is completely and totally honest.

Directions	Category	Points	Total
	Service (what type of TV do you watch in your MAIN ROOM)		
Pick 1	Over the air stations	0	
	Cable TV	1	
	Satellite TV	2	
	Digital Cable	2	
	HDTV via Satellite/Cable	5	
	FIOS	7	
Bonus	HDTV via Antenna	+3	
Section Total			
	Displays (all must be in the MAIN ROOM)		
Pick 1	Own a standard definition TV (480i)	0	
	ED TV (480p resolution)	5	
	HDTV (720p resolution)	10	
	HDTV (1080p resolution)	20	
Pick 1	<30"	+0	
	>=30"	+2	
	>=50"	+3	
	>=70"	+5	
	>=110"	+10	
Pick 1	CRT	+0	
	RPTV	+1	
	LCD	+2	
	Plasma	+2	
	Front Projector	+5	
Pick 1	Project on a wall (no treatment other than flat white paint)	-5	
	Project on a specially treated wall	-2	
	Project on a dedicated screen (homemade)	+0	
	Project on a dedicated screen (professional)	+2	
Bonus	Add ½ point total (rounded down) for each additional display you have in the same room in addition to your LARGEST display (must be in regular use)		
Section Total			

Directions	Category	Points	Total
	Speakers (only in the MAIN ROOM)		
Pick 1	TV speakers only	0	
	Boombox hooked up to the TV via analog	1	
	Old "Sears catalog" type stereo hooked up via analog	2	
	HTiB	3	
	Bookshelf speakers only	4	
	Bookshelf speaker and a sub (NOT a "bass module")	5	
	Floorstanding speakers only	7	
	"Frankenstein" (mismatched) surround sound system	10	
	Matching surround setup	15	
Pick 1	No surround sound	0	
	5.1 setup	+0	
	7.1 setup	+2	
Bonus	Front three speakers matching (only if "Frankenstein")	+2	
	7.1 setup in a room only big enough for 5.1	-3	
Pick all appropriate	2 or more subs	+10	
	If any of your subs require a hand truck to move	-2	
	Bi-wiring your speakers	-5	
	Anything in use that rhymes with <i>Blows</i> that you don't feel utter shame about using	-10 per speaker	
	Own an SPL meter	+2	
	Know how to use it	+3	
	Use it on a regular bases (we don't need to stinkin' autocalibration)	+5	
	A good set of cans	+10	
	An amp to go with your cans	+5	
	If you are wondering how an amp works with boobies	-5	
Section Total			
	Receivers/Amplification (in use in Main Room)		
Pick 1	No receiver	0	
	Stereo	5	
	Dolby Prologic only	7	
	Dolby Digital/DTS/THX	10	
Pick 1	No external amplification	0	
	Dedicated 2 channel amp for mains with receiver	+5	
	Separates (includes using receiver as a pre amp)	+10	
Pick all appropriate	HDMI switching	+5	
	Video Upconversion on receiver	+2	
	Video Upconversion on receiver that actually works	+5	
	External scaler	+10	
Bonus	Add +1 for every amp channel IN USE above 7 (powered sub amp doesn't count) – includes amps powering different zones but amps must be housed in main theater room		
Section Total			

Directions	Category	Points	Total
	Transports (all must be in regular use in Main Room to count)		
Pick all appropriate	Own a DVD player	0	
	Own a CD player	0	
	Own a reel to reel player	+1	
	Own a record player	+1	
	Own a tape player	+1	
	Own a laser disc player	+1	
	Own a universal disc player	+1	
	Own a upconverting DVD player	+3	
	Own one high def player (Blu-ray or HD DVD)	+5	
	Own both players (Blu-ray and HD DVD) or a combo player	+7	
	Stream music via iPod/MP3	+2	
	Dedicated music server	+5	
	Stream music from a computer in another room	+3	
	Dedicated HTPC in room	+0	
	Dedicated HTPC that works (kinda – it IS a HTPC after all)	+1	
	Dedicated HTPC that has worked for more than a month without a major problem	-20 you liar	
	Streamed internet radio	-1	
	One of your high def players is a PS3	-2	
You paid more than \$300 for your record player	-5		
If any of the music you regularly listen to is stored in anything less than lossless format	-10		
If you think there is no difference between lossless and MP3 128	-20		
Section Total			
	Cables (only in Main Room)		
Pick all appropriate	Came with the components/speakers	-2	
	Purchased separately	+10	
	Paid more than 60 cents a foot for speaker cable	-5	
	Paid more than \$25 a foot for interconnects	-5	
	Cables run in wall/in attic	+5	
	Have batteries in them	-5	
	If you prefer cables that rhyme with <i>onster...</i>	-10	
Section Total			
	Acoustics (Main Room only)		
Pick all appropriate	Sofa/couch/carpet	0	
	Thin decorative rug on a hardwood floor	0	
	Thick pad under rug or carpet SPECIFICALLY for sound absorption	+2	
	Blackout curtains on the window(s)	+2	
	Acoustical treatments on the walls/corners	+5	
	External subwoofer management system	+5	
	Overly dampening your room so it sounds like an anechoic chamber	-10	
Section Total			

Directions	Category	Points	Total
Additional Symptoms			
Additional Zones			
Pick all appropriate	Each additional 2.0 system in your house	+5	
	Each additional 2.1 system in your house	+10	
	Each additional 5.1 or greater system in your house	+20	
	If any of your "additional systems" came with your computer or is a HTiB (I don't care if it has sentimental value)	Lose all points for this section	
Furniture and More			
Pick all appropriate	Dedicated piece of Home Theater furniture (racks, stands, etc.)	+10 per	
	Theater Seating	+20	
	Vibration units on seats (what, you don't have a REAL sub?)	-5	
	Automatic recline and/or massage on those seats	+10	
	Retractable projection screen	+10	
	Light control in your room	+10	
	Physical modifications to the room for better sound (taking down/adding walls that sort of thing – finishing a basement counts)	+20	
	Building a "theme" theater" (should be more points but it is just so nerdy)	+0.5	
Tweaks			
Pick all appropriate	Have had your system ISF calibrated	+20	
	Own and use a video/audio calibration device(s) beyond an SPL	+50	
	Any tweak with the word "magic" in it	-10	
	Any tweak that looks like a rock	-10	
	Any tweak that looks like a cheap alarm clock	-10	
	Any tweak that replaces something that works perfectly fine with something that is made of wood or granite	-10	
	Any tweak using the terms "quantum dots" or "vibrations" or "isolation" or "jitter" or "dithers" or "burn in" or "hospital/military/audiophile grade".	-10 per occurrence	
	Any tweak that makes you hear stuff that wasn't there before other than speaker upgrades	-10	
	Any tweak that rises cables off the ground, aligns dielectrics, or is overly concerned with static electricity.	-10	
	Any tweak that uses air bladders or pads to stabilize spinning things that AREN'T vinyl.	-10	
	Any tweak at references an oven or a refrigerator	-10	
	If you made all your purchases for your current system at the same time and it was all one big upgrade from an entry level system	-100	
Section Total			
Service Total			
Displays Total			
Speakers Total			
Receivers/Amplification Total			
Transports Total			
Cables Total			
Acoustics Total			
Subtotal--			
Additional Symptoms Total			
Grand Total--			

Scoring the Main Section

After completing the entire test, take your section totals and put them in the appropriate places at the bottom of the form. Calculate the Subtotal (total of everything EXCEPT Additional Symptoms) and Grand Total (total of everything). Here is the breakdown of your level of audio addiction based on your SUBTOTAL alone:

Subtotal	Audio Addiction Level
0 – 10 points	Why are you taking this test? You a hypochondriac? How did you find this test anyhow? Who are you? Get out of here!
11 – 30 points	You have a nice piece of equipment or two, nothing to worry about. You may have visited an audio website for setup tips but that's about it.
31 – 60 points	There are signs that an audio addiction is creeping into your life. Larger speakers, talks of upgrades, spending copious amounts of time on AV websites digesting information and making comments.
61 – 90 points	Early stage Audioholicism – immediate intervention needed. Spending is increasing and talk is constantly focused on gear, technology, or the “new” sound you heard in your favorite CD with your new upgrade. You're well known on a numerous AV websites and forums and have started hosting GTGs.
91 – 110 points	Full Blown Audioholicism – It may be too late. You've spent more on audio in the last year than anything else (including rent). Consider curbing your habits by exiting your home theater occasionally to meet/make friends, have fun, and see the phenomenon they call “sunlight”. And no, inviting random strangers from the Internet over for listening sessions doesn't count.
111-150 points	Hey, Typhoid Mary, why don't you settle down on the audio stuff for a bit? If you're not working in the industry than you've got a real problem. At this point you are actually contagious with Audioholicism. Should be quarantined for at least 3 months with nothing but an MP3 player and a clock radio.
151 +	At this point, you've probably exploded, releasing the Audioholicism spores into the Internet to infect others. There is nothing left to do but roll credits as the smoke from your burning body fills the night air.

But wait! There's more...

Scoring Additional Symptoms

“Yeah, but,” you reply. We know the “Additional Symptoms” are not included in the above table. Well, take your Grand Total (including the additional symptoms modifications) and reapply to the above table and count the level change. For example, if you had 70 points before and now have 90, then you’ve gone UP one level (you have one higher level of Audioholicism). If you are now above 151, then each 50 point increment (151-200, 201-250, etc) is considered a new level. Apply that to the table below:

Level Change	Effect
-2 or more levels	You’ve been duped by slick marketing and pseudo-science mumbo jumbo. You need to spend less time trolling forums and more time reading tech articles from people that actually have degrees and stuff.
-1 levels	Poor, poor Audioholic! You’ve taken the easy path to the dark side. Sure, it is fun to think you hear things that others don’t, but rest assured, it is all in your head. Turn back now before it is too late. We can sense the good in you!
No level change	You are either completely unaware of this side of the AV world or you’ve made some good and bad choices. Either way, before you do anything else, do some research!
+1 level	You have learned well, young Padawan, but not yet complete is your training. You’ve made more good choices than bad and for sure you’re headed down the right path. Your purchases, though somewhat excessive, are not money wasted. Continue your training you must. Much to learn have you.
+2 or more levels	While you’ve spent more on seating than most spend on their entire system, you’ve got some of the best equipment and accessories out there. You are envied by some, pitied by most. You are sage and kind. Take others under your wing lest they be lured into believing that audio nirvana can be found in the form of a clock radio or a rock.