

Speaker Configurations in The Theatre

Mono

- Single signal sourced to a particular speaker or speakers

Stereo

- Normal configuration for home systems
- Stereo image relies on two microphones

LCR

- Left
- Center
- Right
- Provides better imaging across the proscenium

Surround

- Newer systems designed to provide more immersion
- 5.1
 - LCR RearL RearR Sub

Mains (Proscenium)

- Pair of speaker stacks on either side of the stage

Cluster

- Group of speakers in center of proscenium
- Used to source vocals
- More sophisticated systems may have more than one cluster

Ring

- Distributed system to deliver the same information to multiple zones

Subs

- Provide Low Frequency Only information
- Type 1: add to full range speakers for Low End
- Type 2: used to provide special f/x.

Surround

- Multiple speakers around the periphery of the audience

Specials

- Used to source specific sound to a particular location
- Often small and able to be hidden
- May be concealed into fake radios, props, scenery, etc.

Warmers

- Used to fill in locations which need additional high frequency information
- Front Warmers
- Underbalcony Warmers

Satellites

- To provide better and more even coverage to distant parts of the audience space

Monitors

- Monitors are used to provide audio to the performers or crew
- Generally have a different mix than the Mains

Generally try to limit amount of monitors on stage

- Decreases Gain Before Feedback
- Reduces isolation of microphones on stage
- Monitor sound can slop out into the audience and muddy front of house mix

Wedges

- Slanted Speakers placed directly in front of performers

Side Fill Monitors

- Placed off stage left and right and aimed onto stage

Rear Fill Monitors

- Placed behind the performers

In Ear Monitors

- Small speakers with wireless connection
- Placed in ear (As in a hearing aid)
- Significantly decreases stage volume and therefore improves front of house mix