

Jonesboro, Arkansas

Photo courtesy of Dero Sanford, ThinkDero, Inc., for Sound Concepts



Jonesboro Man builds ultimate man cave for business and pleasure

Challenges

Ryan Heringer, owner of Jonesboro, AR-based Sound Concepts, Inc., already had a state-of-the-art audio video system in his house, but he says he was unable to enjoy it properly. "I work until 9:30 every night, and by that time my little ones are asleep." He could watch TV in the main house but he couldn't turn the sound up, and or have friends over once his family went to bed.

Heringer decided to create his very own man cave – a place where he could enjoy his Crestron home automation system,

entertain guests, and just hang out after work, without disturbing his family.

Solution

Heringer's 4,000-square foot man cave features a game room with a pool table, ping pong, full bar, card table, shuffleboard, darts, four flat-screen televisions, killer sound system, 21-seat theater, full kitchen, two baths, an office and a guest bedroom, each with its own TV, motorized shades and Crestron control.

Now he says his friends and neighbors know that his door is always open, there's always a beer or a margarita handy and there's not one, but every ball game on TV. "I have the Crestron DVPHD video processor, which lets me watch up to



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eight games on my TVs.” Because he ran the DVPHD into his 16X16 switcher, he can watch multiple games on any or every TV in the main house, as well as in the man cave. Needless to say, a setup like this is outstanding for keeping track of his fantasy football picks. “For sports, it’s the ideal place to be.”

The man cave includes a Crestron lighting system, pre-programmed to set just the right mood for cards, pool, a ball game or Heringer’s hobby, tweaking his electronic systems. “We have an onyx bar with color changing LED lights underneath it. With the Crestron system, I can make those colors move, flash and fade in time to the music playing on the sound system.”

As you approach the theater door, there’s a ticket booth with a popcorn machine and candy cabinet and, on either side, vertically-mounted 4" LED displays. These displays have their own digital media player sending them movie clips, plus posters compiled with the help of digital signage software. Inside the theater is a superb 3D projector with a Stewart

CineCurve® Electrimask screen that changes aspect ratios to match the movie or TV broadcast. Sound Concept technicians installed a fiber-optic link, part of a Crestron DigitalMedia™ network, to share movies, music and television sources between the main house and the man cave.

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Heringer asked his interior designer, M.G. Meyering, to create a look reminiscent of the Starship Enterprise for the theater. Meyering used Kinetics geometric acoustic panels to

accomplish this effect. The theater has 13 luxurious Fortress reclining leather seats on a tiered floor, plus an additional seven barstools arranged along a counter at the back. The sound system, with preamps, amplifiers, loudspeakers, and subwoofers, can make the whole building shake.

Outside the man cave is a patio facing a golf course, complete with a 46" TV and five motorized mosquito screens integrated into the Crestron system. An office and guest room decorated with hunting and fishing trophies complete the man cave, and each has a large flat-panel television.

Crucial to any man cave is the ability to easily control which ball games are going to which TVs, which movie or sporting event is playing in the theater, and what sound comes through on the Klipsch® ceiling speakers installed in every area of the structure. It's important, too, to have the temperature, lights, security system and even the roll-down mosquito screens out on the covered patio always at your fingertips. Not leaving anything to chance, Heringer installed wall mounted and handheld Crestron touch screens in every room. Heringer can also control the system using his iPad® or iPhone®.

Results

Heringer admits that, as much as he enjoys his man cave, he does mix some business in with his pleasure. "If you're going to sell these kinds of systems, you have to show them." Heringer says most of his neighbors are his customers. If they drop by, they'll see what iPhone control or an eight-window video processor can do. "They'll tell me, 'that's the coolest thing I've ever seen.'" If they see it and use it, pretty soon they'll want to have it.

He also uses the man cave to entertain manufacturer's reps and other business contacts. "This gives them a chance to see the kind of work we do."

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