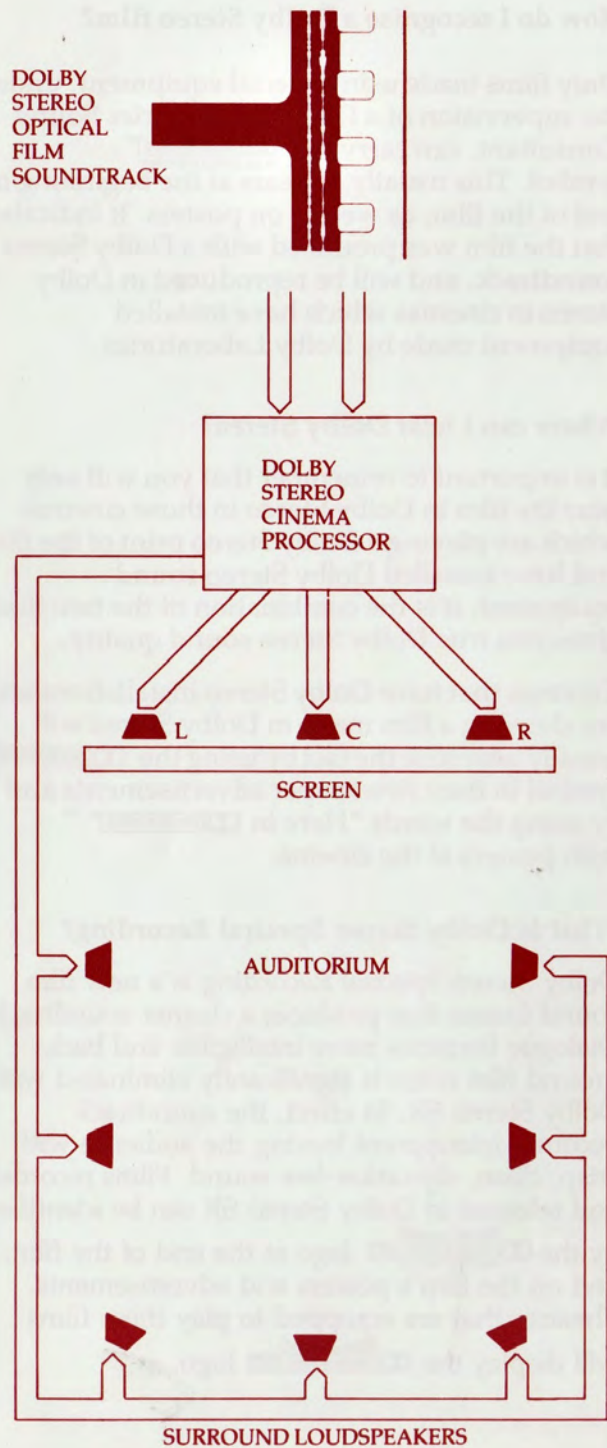


DOLBY
STEREO
OPTICAL
FILM
SOUNDTRACK



 **Dolby**[®]

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What
is
Dolby Stereo?



What
is
Dolby Stereo SR?

What is Dolby Stereo?

Quite simply, Dolby Stereo is high-quality 4-channel sound in the cinema, with three channels across the width of the screen and a fourth 'surround' channel from behind and around the audience. What Dolby Stereo makes possible is a wider range of sounds – life-like voices and subtle atmospheres as well as clear, sometimes powerful music and spectacular sound effects. It is an artistic tool that helps the Director to increase the audience's involvement and to heighten the total experience in the cinema.

You recognise the  Dolby symbol and Dolby noise reduction as signifying good reproduction from cassettes in the home; for even longer they have stood for quality in the recording studio. Now the  Dolby symbol also stands for good sound in the cinema as well.

How Dolby Stereo works

During research into film sound, Dolby Laboratories found that what was wrong with conventional cinema sound reproduction was a severe lack of high frequencies and extreme bass, coupled with a high degree of distortion and background noise from the soundtrack itself. Together these made dialogue unnatural sounding and difficult to follow, and the music and sound effects unrealistic. To make matters worse, the volume and quality of sound varied enormously from one cinema to another.

To solve these problems was the fundamental aim in the development of Dolby Stereo. It required a complete reappraisal of every link in the chain, between the film studio and the cinema loudspeakers.

Dolby Stereo is a complete process, one involving care and high standards, which starts with the making of the film soundtrack and ends with hi-fi reproduction in the cinema itself. The *quality* of the sound is as important in Dolby Stereo as the fact that it is stereo.

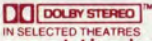
Dolby Stereo film soundtracks, reproduced through Dolby Stereo cinema equipment which incorporates the Dolby professional noise reduction system, are free from the noise and distortion which mar conventional soundtracks. They also have a much wider and smoother frequency response. The film projector, amplifiers and loudspeakers in the cinema are all carefully adjusted so that the film is always reproduced with the same volume level and sound quality in every cinema and film studio. Good film sound complements the picture.

Is there a characteristic Dolby Stereo sound?

No, the ultimate quality and type of sound are still controlled by the film's Director, in the same way as he controls what appears in the picture.



What Dolby Stereo has done for the first time is to give the cinema industry a true standard for good sound reproduction. Every film in Dolby Stereo is made under the same listening conditions, and those in a Dolby Stereo cinema are very close indeed to those in the film studio. Unlike most other films in ordinary cinemas, the Director can now expect the audience to hear the soundtrack just as it was heard when the film was being made.

How do I recognise a Dolby Stereo film?

Only films made using special equipment, under the supervision of a Dolby Laboratories Sound Consultant, can carry the  symbol. This usually appears at the beginning or end of the film, as well as on posters. It indicates that the film was produced with a Dolby Stereo soundtrack, and will be reproduced in Dolby Stereo in cinemas which have installed equipment made by Dolby Laboratories.

Where can I hear Dolby Stereo?

It is important to remember that you will only hear the film in Dolby Stereo in those cinemas which are playing a Dolby Stereo print of the film and have installed Dolby Stereo sound equipment. It is the combination of the two that gives you true Dolby Stereo sound quality.

Cinemas that have Dolby Stereo installations and are showing a film made in Dolby Stereo will usually advertise the fact by using the  symbol in their newspaper advertisements and by using the words "Here in  " with posters at the cinema.

What is Dolby Stereo Spectral Recording?

Dolby Stereo Spectral Recording is a new film sound format that produces a cleaner soundtrack. Dialogue becomes more intelligible and background film noise is significantly eliminated with Dolby Stereo SR. In effect, the soundtrack becomes transparent leaving the audience with crisp, clean, distortion-free sound. Films recorded and released in Dolby Stereo SR can be identified by the  logo at the end of the film, and on the film's posters and advertisements. Theatres that are equipped to play these films will display the  logo.