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How to set up my ilive sound bar

For adults who loathe the club or traditional bar scene, coffee bars are an excellent nightlife alternative. Coffee bars are often open late and typically filled with musicians and other entertainers. They're also an excellent and safe venue for business meetings and dates. When setting up your coffee bar, the atmosphere is as equally important as the coffee and espresso served. Become a skilled barista if you are not already. Undergo training via a training course or employment at a coffee shop to learn the ins and outs of creating consistent flavor time and again. Making espresso is a complicated process that requires the right amount of grinding and pressure before you can create the perfect shot. Learn to make the perfect foam, which ingredients work best, brewing temperatures and different coffee roasts. Train your employees on the quality and flavor that you want your coffees and espresso to offer. A great and consistent coffee will keep your customers coming back. Botch a drink even one time, and your customer may walk for good. Design a menu for your coffee bar. Visit local caterers and bakeries in your area to purchase pastries, sandwiches, sushi, soup and breakfast sandwiches. Contact bottled juice and water suppliers to purchase bulk beverages. Purchase a menu board, pastry display cases, grinders, tampers, stainless steel frothing pitchers, frothing thermometers, filters, brewers and the espresso machine. The Mazzer Mini is a highly rated espresso grinder and costs just under \$600 (see Resources). When looking for commercial espresso machines consider the Pasquini Livia 90 espresso machine or the Vibiemme Domolar Super (see Resources). Both are about \$1800. Design your store. Purchase bar stools, a microphone for your musicians, saucers, mugs, artwork, lighting, and paint. Hire local artists to help design your store. You could also allow local artists to sell their work at your coffee bar. Buy bookcases and fill them with used books, playing cards and board games. Place an ad in the entertainment section of your paper that your coffee bar is looking to host musicians, artists and performers. Tips Advertise your coffee bar by registering with the Chamber of Commerce. Get involved in the community by attending or sponsoring charity events, post kid's artwork on your walls, have a bulletin board that customers and other businesses can utilize. One of the main draws in a sports bar is setting up televisions for customers to watch the big game. People are more apt to come out, have a drink and party with their friends if they know there's a giant flat screen TV with all the action on it. Indeed, when establishing a sports bar, televisions are likely the most important decorative item you need. Setting them up isn't all that different from setting them up in a home. You simply need to have a good idea of your bar's requirements. Examine the space in your bar: each of the tables, chairs, booths and standing spots. You want TVs to be accessible to as many different spots as possible within your budget. Determine exactly how many TVs you can afford on your stated budget, factoring in the number of TVs that you can comfortably fit into your space. The good news is that LCD TVs are getting cheaper by the day, making it fairly easy to pick up a large number of them. Don't forget to allot money for sturdy mounting brackets, satellite or cable installation and monthly satellite or cable bills. Identify the central location in your sports bar—usually the bar itself—and set that aside for the main TV. It should be as large as will fit—40 inches or larger if possible. In some cases, you may wish to have auxiliary TVs placed alongside it, particularly if you intend on showing multiple sporting events at once. Establish spots in your bar for smaller TVs where customers tucked away in booths can still watch the game. Corners are usually good locations, and you should always place your TV's high up on the wall where they can be seen without standing customers. Note locations in the bar walls or roof where you can run cables up to the satellite dish. Make sure they can be easily inserted, that they look discreet, and that you don't need to run them across the floor or anywhere where your customers might trip over them. Call a satellite or cable company to set up a programming package. Ask about sports packages such as NFL Sunday Ticket and MLB Extra Innings: the more programming options you have, the better. DirecTV has a package specifically for bar owners, and other satellite companies may offer similar deals. Mount each TV in your selected locale using a high-end mounting frame. If possible, secure them to the studs in the wall rather than drywall or similar material; it makes them sturdy. Call the satellite or cable company and have them install your programming package. Check each TV to see that it's working before the satellite installer leaves. Monitor the sporting schedule in your local area (as well as national sporting events) and set your TVs to cover as many of them as possible. Tips If possible, purchase high-definition televisions and order satellite or cable packages that ge HD. You want your TVs looking as good as possible to draw your customers in on game day. By David Lipscomb i Polka Dot Images/Polka Dot/Getty Images A conventional home theater featuring five, six or seven speakers plus a subwoofer adds impact and dimension to movies, games and television programming. However, all those speakers take up space and remain visible even if they're small or recessed. Arguably the most critical of these speakers is the center channel, providing nearly all of the onscreen dialogue and special effects steered to this speaker. Sound bars are combination speakers featuring the center channel, left and right speakers and other drivers used to simulate virtual surround speaker positions. Although a sound bar and a conventional center channel are placed similarly, they are quite different. In a conventional media room or home theater, two speakers are deployed to the left and right of the screen. Immediately above or below the screen is the center channel. Positioned to the left and right of the primary seating are surround speakers, along with a single or pair of speakers immediately behind, providing surround back duties. This arrangement creates a sonic bubble around the listeners, immersing them in the audio environment. Adding to the impact is one or more subwoofers, providing tactile reinforcement to explosions and drama to soundtracks. In this context, the center channel anchors onscreen material to the screen, so no matter where listeners are seated in virtually any size environment, sound is positioned where it should be. Sound bars, like center channels, are meant to be positioned directly over or under the TV. They use a multitude of smaller drivers inside one cabinet, providing the dialogue and onscreen effects. All sound bars also position or angle a set or pair of speakers to the sides, leveraging the side walls in a smaller room to bounce simulated surround content around the room. The effect can be very convincing, but not very effective in larger rooms where the side walls are positioned more than 10 to 15 feet apart. Home theaters come in nearly any shape and size, with speaker sizes a quantity chosen to match. For this reason, there is no real limitation to when and where conventional surround sound can be used. However, aesthetic requirements along with the intended level of investment in the audio system may preclude numerous speakers, especially in smaller spaces or where the appearance of technology needs to be limited. Sound bars, like any home theater product, come in a variety of price ranges. You can pay more for a single sound bar than for many low- to mid-fi home-theater-in-a-box packages, and you might end up with better results. Moving beyond rudimentary surround packages and into larger costlier speakers, however, most sound bars are considerably less expensive once all of the speakers, cabling and installation costs are considered. For spaces where media consumption and overall sound quality is a secondary concern, a sound bar adds plenty of dimension to casual viewing without investing the space or cost for up to eight speakers. Additionally, mounting a sound bar under a flat panel is something most reasonably handy homeowners can manage using basic tools, contrasted with fishing wires through walls and ceilings as in a conventional setup. Some sound bars are self-powered affairs, offering on-board decoding for Dolby Digital and DTS and providing the need for a separate home-theater receiver. Many sound bars also offer outputs for a separate subwoofer, augmenting the smaller compact speaker. In all cases, sources are still required including a Blu-ray player, cable or satellite decoder and possibly a media streamer or game console. For passive sound bars, a receiver is still required along with various sources, but in most cases speaker wiring is included or relatively short runs are required, depending on the location of the speaker relative to the sound bar. HDMI and subwoofer cables are needed in either case to connect sources and a standalone subwoofer to either the receiver or AV receiver, depending on the sound bar's configuration. In a conventional home theater, mounting the center channel directly under or above the screen is desirable. Since movie mixers deliberately place onscreen content in the center, placing it to the left or right of the display not only looks odd but sounds strange as well. Additionally, center-channel speakers should ideally be placed at the same height as the main speakers, which are ideally at ear level when you're seated. Center-channel speakers are aimed directly at the listener, although in most cases it is sonically acceptable to orient the speaker horizontally or vertically as installation requirements demand. Placing rubber feet under the speaker also helps increase intelligibility by preventing the speaker cabinet from interacting with the TV or shelf it sits upon. These days, you can watch movies at home and have a richer sound experience than a theater, thanks to sound bars. Whether you're listening to music, watching movies and TV shows, or gaming, a sound bar can make your entertainment better. With all the sound bars on the market, how do you find the best one for your needs? Here's a list of the best sound bars you can get, as reviewed by consumers like you. Not all sound bars are alike, and the Samsung 2.1 Soundbar HW-R450 proves that point. It's an ideal size and, with its wireless subwoofer, it provides true sound for games, television shows, movies, and music. This sound bar analyzes what you're watching or listening to in order to optimize the sound. Five-star reviewers rave about the easy setup and incredible sound quality. If you want a good sound bar at an even better price, give the Dell AC511 USB Wired Soundbar a look. This wired sound bar is compact and easy to use, and it gives you unbelievable sound at a price of less than \$25. Reviewers express their amazement at the sound quality for the size and price that this sound bar offers. If you love high-quality sound and are willing to pay more for a sound bar, you'll love the Sonos Beam - Smart TV Sound Bar with Amazon Alexa Built-in. Audio engineers have specially tuned this sound bar for optimum sound, and you'll never know how you listened to audio on your television speakers. Two-thirds of reviewers give this one five stars for remarkable sound quality and control. When you're watching TV or gaming, powerful sound makes it better. The Wohome TV Soundbar with Built-in Subwoofer is a wireless option that gives you crisp bass and clear sound wherever you place it. It works well with your TV, gaming console, laptop, or any other device. More than 75 percent of reviewers praise the stunning sound quality, especially for streaming music. When you want great sound that sets up anywhere, the BYL Soundbar Wired and Wireless Bluetooth 5.0 Speaker is a terrific choice. This sound bar not only gives you terrific sound with great bass but also sets up either wired or wirelessly. It's a snap to set up as well. Reviewers love the versatility and ease of use, along with the full sound it delivers. Sound bars aren't just for televisions. You can get one that works with your computer too. The TaoTronics Bluetooth 5.0 Computer Speaker, Wired/Wireless Computer Sound Bar is a sound bar that connects to your computer with or without wires. Immerse yourself in full sound that's true to the media you're watching. About 1,200 reviewers rave about the easy setup and rich sound quality. If a roomful of sound matters to you, you'll love the BYL Sound Bar. This sound bar connects wirelessly to your television or computer, and it gives you big theatrical sound from its six drivers. It's big enough to fill your room with an unforgettable audio experience. More than 70 percent of buyers give this one five-star reviews for how crisp and clear the sound is. For a sound bar with a low profile that doesn't take up too much space, check out the Yamaha YAS-108 Sound Bar with Built-in Subwoofers & Bluetooth. It's a robust wireless sound bar with booming bass that doesn't take up too much space on a wall mount or entertainment center. Consumers love the clear sound with better bass than more expensive sound bars. If you're looking for a quality sound bar at a premium price, look no further than the Bose Soundbar 700 with Alexa voice control built-in. It's a high investment at around \$800, but it has everything a serious entertainment fan would want in a sound bar, including Bluetooth compatibility and voice control. Reviewers rave about the sound quality, especially when it comes to movies. The idea behind a conventional surround sound setup is simple: the speakers surround you, and thus, so does the sound. But a new generation of sound bars, the all-in-one devices that sit below your TV and house multiple drivers in a horizontal layout, also claim to have surround sound capabilities. How can that be possible if the only speaker is directly in front of you? The simplest answer: most of them don't. The "surround" feature of a lot of sound bars, especially cheaper models, is just a more exaggerated stereo effect from two or more speaker drivers. But some of the more expensive models, especially the newest ones with Dolby Atmos capability, can simulate a surround sound setup with surprising effectiveness. This isn't "real" surround sound either—ye cannae change the laws of physics—but it creates a convincing illusion by bouncing sound waves off the walls of the room. Cheaper Sound Bars Are Better Than TV Speakers, But Can't Do True Surround A typical speaker bar or speaker base, up to about \$200, is simply a better set of stereo speakers than the one that's in your television. Though these inexpensive sets can't even "fake" surround sound, they're nothing to sneeze at: most will have at least 100 watts or so of power and much clearer, richer sound than the small, back- or down-firing speakers embedded in today's thin LCD televisions. Some of these sets also include a subwoofer for 2.1 stereo, but even so, the individual drivers are still restricted to, at most, two clusters of sound for standard stereo playback. A low-end 2.1 speaker bar. Good for improving your TV's underpowered speakers, not much else. RELATED: What's the Difference Between Virtual and "True" Surround Sound Gaming Headsets? Now, some of these bars can include a "surround" mode or profile in the software. And that profile might create some extra "space" between the left and right channels of sound, thanks to subtle manipulations of frequency and timing—simulated surround sound headsets do something similar. But you're still fundamentally listening to only two sound channels, both of them more or less in front of you. For example, this LG 2.1 sound bar (\$150) has a subwoofer and six woofer/tweeter drivers, but still only supports two channels of sound. But what about mid-range sound bars with five different speaker drivers, or even seven? In those cases, each driver is able to play an individual channel from a 5.1 or 7.1 soundtrack, and your ears should be able to pick out all of the sound from each. For example, this Samsung model (\$399) has five distinct speakers in the bar, corresponding to the center channel, front left, front right, surround left, and surround right. So you will hear the front, side, and rear channels as individual and distinct sources of sound...but it's still all coming from in front of you. It's better than nothing, but still quite a bit removed from a true surround sound setup with speakers correctly placed all around the listener. And frankly, it's hard to even call it "surround"...it's just multi-channel audio. Faux Surround Bars Use the Room to Simulate Multi-Directional Sound However, if you're willing to go a bit higher in price, things get interesting. With the advent of advanced surround sound software tools like Dolby Atmos and some clever engineering, the most complex sound bars can create a convincing surround sound simulation in a single contained device (usually with an added subwoofer for the deepest of bass tones). This is achieved by angling the drivers in specific directions to "bounce" the sound waves off of the walls of the room and back towards the listener from different directions. An all-in-one 7.1 sound bar that uses Dolby Atmos to simulate surround sound. Check out the video below for a visual example of this surround sound effect, achieving a simulated 5.1-channel setup. This LG sound bar does so with drivers pointing directly out at the listener (center channel), drivers on either side pointing to the left and right and angled slightly forward (left surround and right surround), and drivers on either side pointing up and slightly forward (rear left and rear right) to bounce the sound off the ceiling. This is some extremely cool technology, and not just because of the novelty of sticking all that audio power into a single bar. Trying to achieve the same sound-bouncing effect with a regular set of 5.1-channel speakers wouldn't work. It's Dolby's Atmos audio processing, which makes subtle adjustments to volume, timing, and frequency on the fly, that allows the sound to fool your brain into thinking it's coming from multiple directions at once. Of course, depending on the layout and geometry of your living room to provide sources of reflected sound is less than ideal. The best effect will be experienced by those with a television and seating arrangement perfectly centered in the room, with walls symmetrical walls on either side, ceilings that aren't especially high or vaulted, and generally have a rear wall about the same distance from the listener as the TV. That's a lot of variables to work with—for example, if you have an open kitchen to the left of your living room, the surround channels bounced to the left will be softer and less distinct than the right. However, this impressive technology is predictably expensive. The LG SJ9 model in the video goes for about \$900, and a similar model from Sony is almost \$1300. Yamaha offers a similar design for only \$300, but it uses the less widely-available DTS x Virtual 3D standard, and may not work with all media types. The Only True Surround Sound Comes with Separate Speakers A 5.1 speaker set with a front speaker bar. True surround sound, but not all-in-one. There is one other type of surround sound bar in between those two price ranges: a four-piece, true surround setup. Some sound bars come with a subwoofer and two smaller rear channel speakers that can deliver actual surround sound, typically in a 5.1 arrangement (with the center, left, and right channels all coming from the main bar in front). This \$230 Sony model is a good example. This is true surround sound, but it's not anything particularly noteworthy: it's basically just consolidating three speakers into a single piece for a better aesthetic effect. It doesn't really fit into the same category as the above options, and isn't what most people are looking for when they think "sound bar". Should You Get a Surround Sound Bar? So are these worth getting? It depends. The plain fact of the matter is that multi-speaker surround setups are now much cheaper than the super-premium sound bars that can create a surround sound effect. For example, an LG-branded true 5.1 set with distinct channel speakers and the same 500 watt power rating as the sound bar above is only \$250, less than a third of the sound bar's retail price (and including a Blu-ray player!). Surround setups are complicated, though, and aren't always as aesthetically pleasing. So if there's no practical way for you to run wiring for surround sound speakers all the way around a room, or if your home's decor is so important that you just can't stand to see those extra speakers, then a surround sound bar might be the best option. Assuming you can afford it, of course—this is a literal case of form (and price tag) over function. Image source: LG, Amazon, Sony

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