

Re: Apex dvd player

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>*You show all the signs of one who's completely enamored to all things
>high tech. If it's not the latest and greatest you don't want it.
>You'll always be caught in that vicious circle of keeping up with the
>jones.
>Which is exactly where the retailer want you.*

I guess that DOESN'T explain why I keep a stockpile of VHS and Beta VCRs and still use a Sony DVP-S360 DVD player, which is a 1999-2000 year player and was the low end model for Sony at that time. Still works perfectly, too. No need for a new DVD player. Although, I have three spare DVD players. Two Toshiba SD-1700 players, both with the bad caps replaced and one with minor power supply repair, works perfectly and has their remotes. One Panasonic DVD-A110 with remote. Someone gave it to me when it stopped reading discs. I called Panasonic and they honored a warranty service on it, even though it was years out of warranty, so I ended up with a free working DVD player at Panasonic's expense.

As for getting better things, I'm quite resourceful, and having luck never hurts.

I got my Sony STR-DA4ES receiver for \$300 complete with manual and remote, and that Elevated Standard model retailed for over \$1000 in 2002 and still enjoys a high price on retail and used markets. I enjoy 7.1 surround sound and superb stereo sound because of this 44 pound beast! Excellent shape.

My stereo mains are a set of Optimus Mach Threes. Yeah, they're RadioShack speakers, with one minor detail: they were speakers that RS managed to get right. The sound is neutral and accurate, but very smooth. Love listening to stuff from classical and new age to pop and hard rock, and these speakers plays all with aplomb and very efficiently so there's no reason to replace them with a set of Infinity or NHT speakers.

Surround and center speakers are KLH, and they're not bad for cheapies. I place a greater priority on stereo reproduction than surround sound, so I am more than content with KLH speakers for the surrounds, but would like a better center channel speaker.

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My turntable, a 1983 model Technics SL-7, was purchased for \$10. I replaced the belt for the pickup kicker mechanism and cleaned it up inside and out, and it looks like it came fresh from the factory with nary a scratch or blemish in sight. The Ortofon cartridge and stylus were still good. Excellent shape.

My tape deck, a 3 head JVC TD-V711 SuperDigifine, I bought for \$15 bucks from a seller who was convinced it was worthless just because it was a tape deck. Excellent shape.

My 1994 model Onkyo DX-C106 CD changer I essentially bought for \$25. I applied a slight modification by changing the JRC 4560 opamps with Burr-Brown AD2604 opamps in the analogue section for improved sound quality. Excellent shape.

My primary monitor, a 1999 model Sony KV-27S66, was built from two defective sets of the same model. Calibrated to THX OptiMODE and is capable of working with 16x9 anamorphically enhanced DVDs. Not bad for \$60 (\$30 for the two TVs and \$30 for the remote. Sony graciously shipped me a copy of the user manual for free, as they assumed I paid a lot to get the set repaired). Excellent shape.

My primary VHS VCR, a 1990 model Sony SVO-160, was given to me. Power supply was rebuilt with new capacitors and the capstan bearing problem was fixed. I spent \$25 on getting the remote and manual. Excellent shape. Has the best picture and hi-fi sound of any VHS deck I've used with only one possible exception: the Panasonic AG-1980 S-VHS Editor.

My primary SuperBeta VCR, 1985 model Sony SL-HF400, was purchased for \$225. Unit is mint with remote and was barely used. If you don't have a large number of Beta tapes, then you wouldn't understand why I thought this wasn't a bad deal.

My primary LaserDisc player, a 1997 model Pioneer DVL-700 with remote, was purchased for \$75 from a pawn shop. Resurfaced the spindle hub friction material to restore lost grip on the LaserDisc, which fixed the slippage problem that is fairly common on that chassis, which was also used on players like the Pioneer ELITE CLD-99 and Pioneer CLD-D704. Excellent shape and one of the finest LD players I've used.

My PlayStation 2 was bought new. Had to get the TOSLink cable and the S-Video cable to integrate it into my rig the way I wanted it to.

My Microsoft X-Box was bought used for \$120 including two games and two controllers. Had to replace the optical pickup (Samsung DVD drive with Seagate HD, IDE cable replaced with UDMA cable) and bought an A/V pack to connect it to my rig using S-Video and TOSLink.

My Nintendo GameCube was obtained by trading a VCR with a friend. The GameCube had a faulty optical pickup, but Nintendo honored the warranty, even though it was over by two months. So, I ended up with a refurbished GameCube for the price of a VCR.

My CED player, an RCA SJT-200, was bought from a flea market for \$10. Cleaned and rebuilt with a new belt and fresh lube brought it back to life. Stylus has plenty of life left to play those needlevision discs, to which I have a collection.

There is a lot more. Anyways, my system as a whole is probably worth in excess of \$3000 and is capable of playing VHS, Beta, LaserDisc, CED, DVD, LP, CD, and CompactCassette. But, I spent a fraction of that by simply being at the right place at the right time and I'm quite content with my equipment. Some of my equipment are simply superior to what's sold new today unless you go much higher end than what Best Buy sells, and I got almost everything with pennies on the dollar.

I love high tech, but I don't nosedive into something like that unless I absolutely need to. Since my current TV/monitor is still working perfectly, I don't watch broadcasts on it but use it strictly as a monitor, and can enjoy anamorphic DVDs on it complete with the 30% virtual resolution increase, albeit with no progressive scan but having a detailed and sharp image nonetheless, I have no need for a new HDTV at this time.

So much for your theory about me. If anything, I compete for getting the biggest bang for the buck instead of just getting the best. I usually end up getting some high end stuff AND saving money. You can't beat that combination.

And, I'm willing to bet that the other techies here have also had great success, perhaps greater, at building their systems by getting the right stuff for great prices and using their capabilities to get broken high end stuff for a low price or for free and to repair them for resale or use. – Reinhart