Wish'd I'd Done

- Tested bass shakers mounted within my riser.
- I would have paid a professional to paint my room. I hate painting.
- I would have put a wood floor in my basement home theater. I just laid carpet on top of the concrete slab. Works OK but I don't "feel" the bass enough.
- Plan where you want outlets
- Electricity, electricity, electricity - difficult to get done properly.
- I would have held off longer on the projector to get the next step up.
- Run 2" or larger conduit or, even if a bit expensive, run DVI and component cables before drywalling the room;
- Reinforce the ceiling where I think I might mount a FP so I don't have to jury-rig it later or, get the FP first so I know for sure where it will go;
- Cut a slot into the ceiling for a hidden pull-down screen so I don't have to either hang it from the ceiling or cut the slot later; I would also run an electrical outlet into the slot so I could upgrade to an electric screen (and run conduit from the component area to the screen for a future trigger cable);
- Run audio wires for a back center speaker in case I ever wanted one; and
- Dri Core or some sort of subfloor on the slab.
- Run two sets of speaker wires through the walls for each of my front speakers, center speaker, surround speakers, and rear surround speakers. By running two sets of wires to each speaker, I can place one or more subs in the same positions and not lose any of the other speakers, or I could bi-wire the speakers if I ever felt that made a difference;
- Get a projector that can tolerate some ambient light. I don't like the idea of having to shut the room up like a tomb in order to view a film;
- Get a 4x3 screen and projector rather than a 16x9. I DON'T lose much size at all when viewing widescreen material, and get a LOT more size when viewing 4x3 material such as old movies, etc., compared to someone with a 16x9 projector and screen;
- Installed a dedicated electrical circuit to my components
- Installed dimmers for all lights
- Installed solid core doors and insulated the room to block sound escaping to the rest of the house.
- Installed a dedicated air/heating unit with it's own thermostat
- Stage is filled with sand & not attached to the walls.
- I would have run a outlet on the ceiling and another inwall vacume pipe up to the ceiling as well for Front projection.
- Also soome cat5. My Onkyo TX NR900 has a either net hoookup. I had to do the cat5 under wall molding routine
- I wish I had thought to run a piece of conduit from my equipment rack to the floor under my sofa for bass shaker wires
- I would have allowed for better heat dissipation in my component cabinet.
- Should've added a couple of inches extra in height to my seating platform, 8.5" now, around 10" would have been better.
- Hired someone to put up drywall and mudding.
- Insulated with sound proof insulation
- Ran in-wall speaker wires
- Re-wired electrical for new light fixtures
- Install subfloor
- build risers for seating
- build a stage for TV, front speakers & stereo cabinet.
- Added some additional audio cabling (not that there isn't a ton in there now) up front since I am possibly changing from an unpowered sub to a sub with a built in amp in the front of the room. With that I wish that I had run some cabling for the possibilty to a sub inthe back of the room.
- Need more space for DVD storage. Hey I thought I had enough but the collection is over 400 DVDs and there just isn't anymore room .
- Ran TONS of cabling in the walls (including extra) even though I need more now -- ALWAYS RUN MORE THAN YOU THINK YOU NEED!!
- Built a closet to house all the equipment!
- Did 2 layers of drywall (that is some work!)
- Soundproofing
- I would run a 2inch pipe to the couch for my control panel.
- Installed a full size fridge istead of 1/2 size one.
- Finished everything off before installing the projector. This slowed us down to a crawl finishing things.

- I would have added more vents and returns for heat / AC in my 11' x 17' room. One 8" circular vent and a 12" x 12" return are not enough. Tom - you can get an in line fan booster at home depot that will increase the cfm's from your duct (runs all the time). also try to resrict some of the other ducts in other rooms via the vent cover plate louvers while opening the HT rooms wide open , this will also help .
- I also wish I had run my projector cable and power outlet and so that they could have both run under the drywall and down through the center of the ceiling mount.
- I wish I wouldn't have put in so many recessed lights. I leave about half of them unscrewed otherwise it looks like a friggin cafeteria in there!
- run cables through PVC pipe... didn't even think of that. now have to figure out how to rewire when the time comes.
- use better wire or biwire.
- although I ran cable for 4 speakers in the rear area I wish I had run at least 2 more.
- spent more time on the screen lighting. perhaps a couple of recessed lights on either end of the screen pointing down and on wireless.
- I think I should have looked closer at in-wall speakers versus free standing. The subs would have stayed out though.
- Framed in a space in a wall and built a simple in-wall entertainment center (27 inches wide, floor to celing) to hide the components. Paid a cabinet shop to build a face frame for it, looks sharp, required minimal finish carpentry skills.
- Kept the components in the wall cabinet and buried all cables going to the RPTV and speakers in the wall.
- Brought home my components first and hooked everything up before I put the last piece of sheet rock up behind the TV and buried the wires for good.
- Installed an antenna in the attic.
- Installed a little sound proofing. I have 24 inch deep floor trusses in the ceiling in my basement. To keep the theater experience from bothering people upstairs, I put bats of 16" deep fiberglass insulation in between the trusses throughout the basement. Doing research on this and other forums, it sounds like there are other more complicated ways to insulate, but considering the budget I worked under, the 16" fiberglass really does a good job keeping the sound from escaping upstairs.
- I would have run more cabling for butt kickers and game controllers, etc, into my rear seating riser.
- If I ever build a new house, I'm going to run a conduit from the media room up to the attic for antenna wiring, satellite, etc.
- I would have built a room within a room so to speak. This would reduce sound transmission and help with acoustics.
- Anyway... for recessed lighting, I've been told that you figure each light will project a circle of light with a diameter equal to the height of your ceiling
- But, now, I'm wishing I would've just placed them over points of interest in my room. ie: bar, coffee table, entranceway. Luckily I have the drop ceiling, so it's not a big job to change 'em around.
- Designed in some sort of hush box for my projector. It's mounted on the ceiling and while not too loud, I sometimes find the fan noise distracting.
- Run DVI cable to the projector.
- Run an additional interconnect and set of speaker wires through the wall to the back of the room. Someday I'd like to add a third sub and possibly mount bass shakers under the couches.
- Dont forget to run Cat 5 cable or conduit to run it in the future
- Why didn't I put the lobby ceiling light on a separate switch
- Spent a little more time planning..... It has turned into an ongoing project..... "Oh I need to add....." or "I have to change that to make this work"
- My color choice!!!
- Wait to install PJ/Screen
- Put in LARGE diameter conduit to PJ
- Pay someone to tape/mud
- Put up the four walls Then put in stage. My stage is now part of the walls as it stretched from wall to wall prior to actually building the walls. For me, it's really no big deal, but if someone got tired of the stage and wanted it out, out comes part of the walls as well.
- Run power to projector and outlets at the front stage from the dedicated 20amp line coming into the equipment closet.
- Tested the wire runs within the walls before putting up sheet rock.
- sand those outside sections again too.
- Set a budget and stuck to it.
- I also wish I had installed better cables/wires.
- Should have made the holes for the cables larger as well

- All the speakers terminate into outlets in the niche
- I also have 3 RG6 coax, 1 Cat5e phone, and 1 Cat5e data going in there.
- I also have a couple speakers in my patio ceiling that terminate in the niche, for outdoor parties.
- More media storage
- A dedicated zone for heating and cooling
- A rear speaker wire
- Cat-5e cable from my router
- Know what seats you want before beginning construction and then building to fit. I had very limited choices at the end. It is amazing how many configurations are 2"'s wider than my 10' 6" space.
- do as much as you can yourself. I found with a little patience and thought you can pretty much do everything yourself. Better sense of accomplishment and more $$'s left over for better equipment.
- Even if you don't have 7-1 - run the wires. It doesn't cost much and it is much easier and cleaner than running at a later date.
- run a separate cicuit for the projection whether RPTV/ projector.
- use 12g..harder but allows 20a in the future if required
- Deicated 20amp for the components
- I have my lights running on a circuit from another room.
- Dark is obviously better but it doesn't have to be dark. I have a white ceiling and burgundy walls. No complaints. No shadows or glare (in the basement with a little casement window which helps).
- I'd agree with a subfloor for bass. Even putting down Dricor over the basement floor with a carpet and pad made a huge improvement to base response. I only have a 10" powered sub for a 11 * 17 room. No problems.
- I'm going to repaint an olive green color a theater type red color someday.
- Also, I wish I had made my own photos of movies/celebrities so they could be plak mounted instead of purchasing posters.
- Media Storage
- We wish we had taken a little more of the unfinished part of the basement so the concession area could have been larger.
- Electrical. Can't skimp on a good electrical setup. If I had it to do over again I would do a dedicated 20 amp balanced circuit with isolated ground for my amps. A 2nd 15 amp dedicated balanced circuit with isolated ground for the rest of my components and then a 3rd circuit that would be for the lighting.
- Go with automation from the start.
- Run all wiring in walls.
- Go with room treatments to control reflections.
- Go with a double stud wall and solid core doors to keep noises out of room and theater sound in the room.
- drawn diagrams for everything. Can't stress this enough.
- paid for extra RG6 and CAT5e runs to HT and master bedroom, the two major focal points.
- Plan wiring for butt shakers under sofa (still might not be too late);
- Run even more RG6 and CAT5e
- Done a better design of the lighting for the HT. I have recessed lighting that comes standard in the room, and I optioned for 4 sconces. I should be fine with this setup, but since I had time, and the builder's electrician willing to work with me, I should have researched different lighting options more.
- I would have obtained a DVI based DVD player BEFORE I closed up the pre-wire drywall.
- I would have moved the light dimmer out of the hall and into the actual room so that the universal Harmony remote could actually send a signal to it.
- Put the Projector on a different circuit
- Run a power line from the FP mount area to the equipment rack area so I could power my FP through the same surge protector/line conditioner I use for all my other audio and video equipment.
- Run a power line and speaker wiring under my floor, so it comes out through the floor under my seating area in case I ever want to add Buttkickers.
- what you REALLY need is PS Audio's Ultimate Outlet http://www.psaudio.com/products/ultimate_outlet.asp
- I ran all my speaker wire in a 1/2 inch plastic flexible waterline called SIL-O-FLEX, that I found at LOWE'S in the plumbing dept, its about 8 dollars for 100 feet
- The only thing I regret not doing and wishing that I had was run conduit through my riser to make it easier to fish cables.
- Didn’t pre-wire for 7 channels.
- Didn’t think I'd want multi-zone.
- Should have wired in a few extra input feeds....
- Output video & audio straight to the TV from the DVD
- I'm a transducer believer and glad I installed the shakers ON THE FURNITURE and now they have "isolaters" that are rubber feet to isolate thefurniture from the floor HANG ON! Big Fun

- Followed the POLK guide to wiring up my subs (l5's in isobaric chambers built into the floor joists)
- I would put a return air vent in my HT
- More electric circuits to the room
- Put an outlet in the corner where the sub is going. I have one 3' away, but you can see the cord.
- Added a switch to the ceiling outlet for the projector.
- After I painted the textured ceiling, I saw little white holes the next day. I should have painted it with regular paint first, then the colored textured paint afterwards.
- When I got another gallon of paint to repaint the ceiling, I wish I double-checked it first. He gave me the satin finish instead of flat that I asked for. Didn't notice it until the next day after drying.
- Used some recessed lighting. All my lights are wall mounted. I like the way they look, but they add light on the screen. With recessed lighting, I could have some ambient light without shining on the screen.
- Gotten someone else to finish the sheet rock. I hate doing it. Spent 2 weeks at it. The finish is not as smooth as I would like it.

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Webpages

http://www.jayandmary.com

http://www.psaudio.com/products/ultimate_outlet.asp - outlet

http://community.webshots.com/album/133207496cJmhRk

http://www.dricore.com/en/eindex.htm

http://polkaudio.com/home/faqad/advice.php?article=bassmanage

http://www.photo.net/photodb/folder?folder_id=378645

Stage complete! Completely decoupled from the walls and floor with 1/2" of space. Roofing felt, 2"X4" on the side, "50 years" caulking everywhere, polythene (against moist), 18X50 pounds of sand = 900 pounds in the cavities, roofing felt again, 3/4" plywood, 1/2" plywood screwed and glued, 3/4" screwed and glued. So it's plywood 3/4" 1/2" 3/4". And again over 1000 screws every 4 ".

Riser complete. 10.5" high. Roofing felt, 2"X8" on the side, "50 years" caulking everywhere, R-30 attic insulation tightly packed, roofing felt again, 3/4" plywood then 1/2" screwed and glued then 3/4" screwed and glued. Over 2000 screws in there...every 4". Even the 2 steps are filled wiyh pink fiberglass and covered with a "sandwich" of 3/4" 1/2" 3/4" plywood screwed and glued!

Riser. Roofing felt. 2"X8". 20 tubes of caulking "50 years". Owans-Corning R-35 pink attic insulation fiberglass in 9"7/8 thick sheets thightly stuff in there. Plywood 3/4". Screwed and glued. Then 1/2" plywood screwed and glued, then another 3/4" screwed and glued. We see the 1st 3/4" here with the insulation inside. We can spot 2 PVC conduits in the middle and 1 electrical box. And my cat Camélia that just got a trim-cut posing for posterity!

http://web.telia.com/~u46216498/

Cinemax door

We coverd the door inside the theater with the same fabric that we used on the walls.
It was a lot of work, I had to drill 160 holes for the buttons.