

Neat-O!



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- Always use professional racks, says Ron Roslasky of New Jersey-based Home Systems.
- Plan a budget for additional wire harnessing and fastening materials.
- Plan the system so that you have both expansion room and ventilation room.



How does one go from a bleak and barren basement to a stylish entertainment space? Planning. How can an installer ensure the renovation project includes a neat and orderly equipment rack? Organization and clarity.

The customers of this install wanted their unfinished basement to be both an open space in which to hold parties and also a private home theater with the ability to be closed off from the otherwise accessible area.

So, in tackling the project with woodworkers, Ron Roslasky and Home Systems, a New Jersey-based integrator, decided the best way to meet the needs of his client would be to build a theater with Crestron-controlled shading to provide retractable privacy. In all, the basement was drawn up to include the home theater and two sub-rooms running off of it — a billiard and pub area and a gym.

Because the finishing of the basement space was the biggest challenge, communicating clearly with the woodworker

was key. “I’ve been doing this for 24 years,” Roslasky explains. “One thing I’ve learned is that I won’t compromise on the system. The key for us is that we need rear access.”

Home Systems only uses Middle Atlantic Products. Furthermore, it only uses AXS or Slim series racks, depending on whether the rack will be designed for a cabinet or free standing. Using only these racks allows Home Systems “to plan for the height and width,” Roslasky says. “We always know the depth — 24 inches — and that the width is 19¼ inches. So, the woodworker will always know the dimensions.” He adds, “Whether it rolls out or pulls out or we walk around it, we want rear access to the equipment.” Sticking your arm into a cabinet and feeling your way around equipment, he says, is unacceptable and unprofessional.

—Geoffrey Oldmixon



Congratulations to Ron Roslasky for a Neat-O! installation. He will receive a Rhino 3000 labeling system. To submit your Neat-O! installation, go to www.cepro.com/neato. We’re looking for the tidiest racks, vans, warehouses, documentation and other displays of neatness.