

HOME TECH

FREE
68-PAGE GUIDE

OUR ROOM-BY-ROOM GUIDE



GRANDHANDBOOK no.3

PROBLEM SOLVED

CERTAIN HI-TECH QUERIES APPEAR IN OUR POSTBAG TIME AND TIME AGAIN, SO HERE ARE ANSWERS TO FOUR OF THE MOST COMMON QUESTIONS ABOUT HOME TECHNOLOGY Words by Caramel Quin

Minimal meets hi-tech

Nicholas asks: I want the latest technology but my partner, Erica, doesn't like to see it around the house. In fact, she even finds hang-on-the-wall plasma TVs too intrusive for our minimal home, and she hates big hi-fi speakers. What can I do?

You shouldn't despair as there are several ways of hiding a television. First, you should consider an LCD or plasma TV that looks like a mirror when it's not in use. Philips (philips.co.uk) makes beautiful models (see page 39 for further info), and a company called MirrorMedia has some stylish mirror TVs that also have built-in PCs.

Second, you could use a home cinema projector to throw a television picture on a wall opposite – perfect for minimal living. Specialist installers can even hide the projector in a cupboard so you would just see is the lens. Or you could just buy a discreet screen.

Another option is to look at modern furniture designers. A number of them are incorporating plasma TVs in their work, so there's bound to be something to suit Erica's minimal taste.

As for speakers, you should either buy speakers disguised as art (see page 33), or get a specialist to fit built-in wall or ceiling speakers that are virtually invisible. For the hi-fi itself, you could ask a specialist to build you a multi-room entertainment system that's hidden away, or get a good-quality, one-box hi-fi that will take up minimal space on a bookshelf. ▶



1



2



3

1 CR601 one-box hi-fi with CD and DAB digital radio, £350, by Marantz (01753 680 868; marantz.com)

2 Eleven Five wall storage unit with built-in plasma TV, £6,970, by MDF Italia at Viaduct (020 7278 8456; viaduct.co.uk)

3 MM32T mirror TV with built-in PC, £4,570, by MirrorMedia (0870 386 6333; mirrormedia.com)