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Yamaha YSP-3050: Single-speaker surround with improved HDMI support

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The Yamaha YSP-3050 boasts a small--but important--upgrade to the YSP-3000 (Credit: Yamaha)

When CNET reviewed the [Yamaha YSP-3000 Digital Sound Projector](#), we singled out its "limited video capabilities" as one of the main shortfalls of the virtual surround speaker system.

Yamaha must have listened, because the company has just unveiled an upgraded version that addresses that very issue. The YSP-3050 adds to the mix the conversion of analog to digital video, but it's essentially otherwise identical to its predecessor. That's not a bad thing, either: **we've found that the Yamaha YSP line remains the best choice for delivering convincing virtual surround-effects from a single speaker, and its all-in-one design precludes the need to purchase a separate AV receiver.**

According to the [specs page](#) on Yamaha's site, the YSP-3050 has a component and composite video input, in addition to its two HDMI ins.

The inclusion of analog-to-digital conversion means that users will be able to plug in non-HDMI devices (I'm looking at you, Nintendo Wii) and view them via the Yamaha's HDMI output--**meaning that only a single cable will be needed to connect the Yamaha to your big-screen TV.** (The YSP-3000, which lacked that feature, needed separate composite or component hookups between itself and the TV to view sources using those respective inputs.) We're hoping the 3050 also displays the on-screen setup menus over HDMI, which was the other big annoyance of the YSP-3000.

The YSP-3050 carries a suggested list price of \$1,300, but at least one online retailer is already selling it for \$100 less. Still, it's worth noting that the step-up [YSP-4000](#)--which includes twice as many "beam" drivers in its larger frame--can be found for about the same price.

Yamaha.com: [Yamaha YSP-3050 Digital Sound Projector](#).

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SOUNDBAR

Yamaha YSP-3050 Soundbar: Same as the YSP-3000 Plus HDMI Upscaling



The YSP line is my favorite soundbar because of the sonar-inspired tech it borrows from cold war subs. The YSP-3050 is a new 23-driver model, second best compared to the 42 driver YSP-4000. The upgrade from the 3000 now has a front mounted minijack in, and HDMI upscaling. Like the higher end models, these will provide glorious surround, but unless you wall mount, the speaker blocks a few inches of your TV. [[Yamaha](#)]



YAMAHA INTRODUCES THE YSP-3050 DIGITAL
SOUND PROJECTOR,

ITS LATEST SINGLE COMPONENT SURROUND
SOUND SOLUTION

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—New model to its market-leading line offers HDMI, video upconversion, iPod and XM Satellite Radio compatibility, FM tuner and advanced listening settings —

BUENA PARK, Calif.—Yamaha, the innovator in home theater and digital audio and video reproduction, today unveiled the YSP-3050, the latest in its award-winning line of Digital Sound Projectors which focus audio signals into precisely controlled and directed "beams" that provide true multi-channel surround sound from a single component. The YPS-3050 fits neatly underneath a flat-panel television and gives consumers a space-efficient option to installing multiple speakers throughout a room for immersive audio for watching movies, television and sports programming.

The new YSP-3050 features 21 beam drivers, and two woofers, 23 corresponding digital amplifiers, three Cinema DSP programs (movie, music and sports), analog to HDMI video upconversion, high definition video upscaling to 1080i/720p and a 1080p (24Hz and 60Hz) compatible HDMI interface with two inputs and one output to facilitate pure digital connections with the latest home theater components.

The YSP-3050 is XM Satellite Radio ready with XM HD surround sound powered by Neural Surround. The YSP-3050 also offers iPod compatibility via the new optional YDS-11 dock (more information on the YDS-11 below). Once docked, the iPod can be operated (song selection, play, etc.) via the YSP's remote control and on-screen display. Yamaha's proprietary Compressed Music Enhancer technology compensates for the lost detail of audio that is compressed during the "ripping" process, recapturing the essence of the original recording. An integrated FM tuner further broadens the user's entertainment choices.

The YSP-3050 creates a wide soundstage designed to fill the whole room with convincing surround sound regardless of where listeners are seated. Sound settings include 5-Beam, 3-Beam, 3-Beam + Stereo, 2- channel Stereo, My Beam, 5-Channel Stereo and My Surround modes. My Surround mode delivers surround sound to even the most difficult installation environments where walls may not be present or are covered with unsuitable materials. My Beam mode focuses the sound at a specific listening position, so the listener can hear all program audio clearly, including dialog, without disturbing others in the room.

Yamaha's proprietary IntelliBeam™ automated system calibration enables users to quickly and easily set up each system for the optimal listening experience and intuitive, multi-language on-screen displays.

The YSP-3050 offers full support for surround sound standards, including Dolby Digital, DTS, Dolby Pro Logic II and DTS Neo:6, as well as CINEMA DSP technology, to create realistic soundscapes in any room. For late night movie and music enjoyment, a Night Listening Enhancer mode allows dialog and quiet passages to be heard clearly, even at low volumes. The TV Equal Volume mode prevents sudden startling bursts of sound from TV programs and commercials. The model also features SRS TruBass technology to provide exceptionally deep and rich bass response.

The YSP-3050 is currently available for a suggested retail price of \$1,399.95.