

# Buyer's Guide for Underwater Speakers

**T**wenty years ago, very few people had heard of underwater loudspeakers. Today, they are one of the hottest accessories for new pool construction. Whether used for lap swimming, relaxation, or just playing with the kids, underwater speakers provide pool enthusiasts with music that completes the swimming pool experience.

**W**ith so many pool users wanting underwater sound, it is important to know what to look for when selecting underwater speakers. A few key areas to keep in mind include:

## *Frequency Response*

Look for speakers that have good frequency response in the low, middle, and high frequency ranges. Many underwater speakers use piezo technology to reproduce sound. This is the same technology used to make high frequency tweeters for home theater speakers. Although piezo speakers do reproduce sound in the upper-mid and high frequency ranges, they cannot reproduce low frequency sounds, which can cause your favorite music to sound "tinny." In order to get the best sound in your pool, insure the speakers you select can reproduce full-bandwidth sound.

## *Speaker Placement*

There are two factors related to speaker placement that are important to consider when shopping for speakers. First, it is important to determine the amount of sound coverage you want in the pool. A good speaker will generally be able to deliver quality sound over a 400 sq.ft. area. Second, insure you buy speakers that can be mounted at varying depths. Some speakers are sold with minimum depth ratings. In order to give yourself the most flexibility in terms of installation and coverage options, buy speakers with no minimum depth requirements. This will allow you to mount the speakers in various areas of the pool, including the shallow end.

## *Appearance*

Given the amount of money spent on designing, constructing, and maintaining attractive swimming pools, it is important to consider how underwater speakers will look in your pool. If the speaker requires a special enclosure, it may not blend in well with your swimming pool fixtures and accessories. Consider buying speakers that are designed to be installed in widely-used pool light niches and mounting hardware. This will give your pool the attractive look you desire.

**W**ith these factors in mind, you will be well on your way to finding the best underwater speaker for your pool. And, once installed, you'll enjoy hour after hour of listening fun, not to mention being the envy of the neighborhood.

