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[Ultimate Dolby Atmos Guide \(/The-Ultimate-Dolby-Atmos-Guide\)](#)

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The Ultimate Dolby Atmos Guide

[Last Updated: March 13, 2023 - Updated Guide for connection of 4K120Hz / 8K60Hz Devices]




Dolby Atmos has been one of the most significant developments in surround sound technology over the past decade. Using object-based audio engineering techniques, movie directors and sound engineers can now add three-dimensional audio with overhead sound effects into their sound, creating a new era of surround sound that is more spacious, immersive and real.

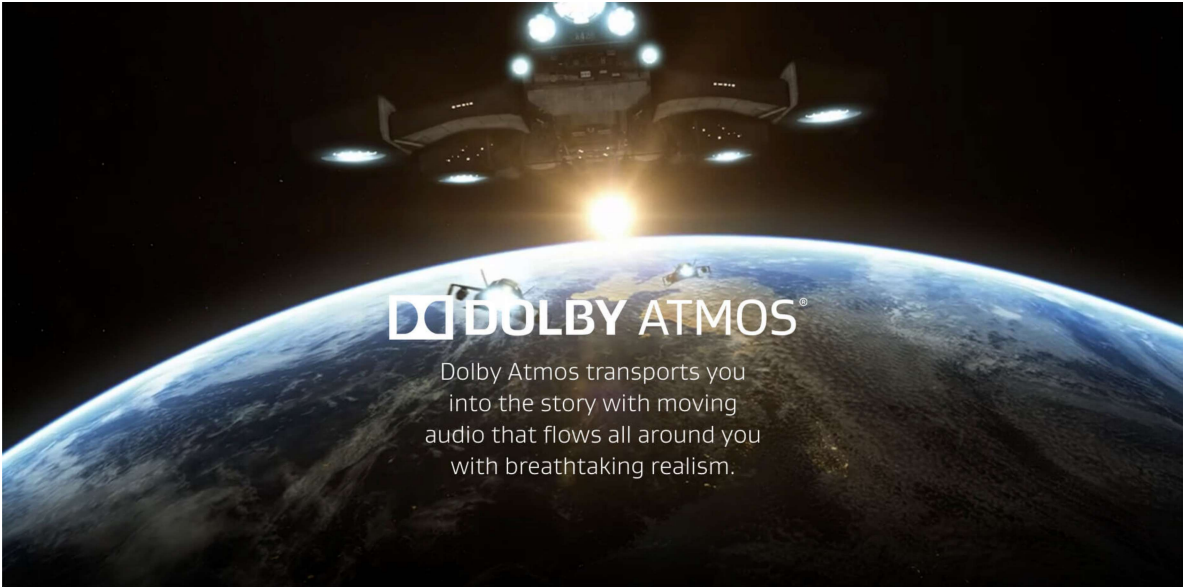
1. Dolby Atmos is an audio format; a stream of information. NOT a codec.

A typical soundtrack is essentially a stream of information consisting of (a) Data of all the sounds engineered inside it and (b) Instructions for your sound system on what each channel should be outputting.

A **Dolby Atmos soundtrack** is basically the same stream of information, but with an added layer of **object-based sound data encompassing height/overhead sound effects**. Like any other soundtrack, a Dolby Atmos soundtrack needs something to deliver it to your sound system. This 'something' is called a **CODEC**.

2. Understanding the 3 CODECS Used to Deliver Dolby Atmos

		
(https://www.nakamichi-usa.com/the-ultimate-dolby-atmos-guide#dolby-atmos-in-dolby-digital-plus)	(https://www.nakamichi-usa.com/the-ultimate-dolby-atmos-guide#dolby-atmos-in-dolby-truehd)	(https://www.nakamichi-usa.com/the-ultimate-dolby-atmos-guide#dolby-atmos-in-dolby-mat)





Dolby Atmos in Dolby Digital Plus

The Dolby Digital Plus audio codec delivers Dolby Atmos optimized for digital transmission, i.e. through major video streaming services (such as Netflix) or **select cable broadcast services**. This codec compresses the Dolby Atmos content to a sampling rate of 48kHz, resulting in a lower bitrate that is most suitable for online streaming.

1. Streaming from TV built in apps

Connect Dolby Atmos enabled TV* to Nakamichi Shockwafe soundbars via TV's ARC or eARC, using a HDMI 2.1 cable.

Connect media devices to Nakamichi Shockwafe soundbar. The soundbar will pass audio to the TV's HDMI ARC or eARC port (which also supports video input).




Note: Not all devices can output Dolby Atmos. Refer to **the availability table (<http://www.nakamichi-usa.com/the-ultimate-dolby-atmos-guide#dolby-atmos-vision-availability-in-streaming-apps>) for more information.*

Best Movies to Test Your System's Surround Sound and Bass
From the latest Dolby Atmos movies on Netflix to classic all-time favorites, test your sound system's capabilities with our recommendations, updated weekly!

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(/best-streaming-scenes-to-showcase-your-system)





Dolby Atmos in Dolby TrueHD

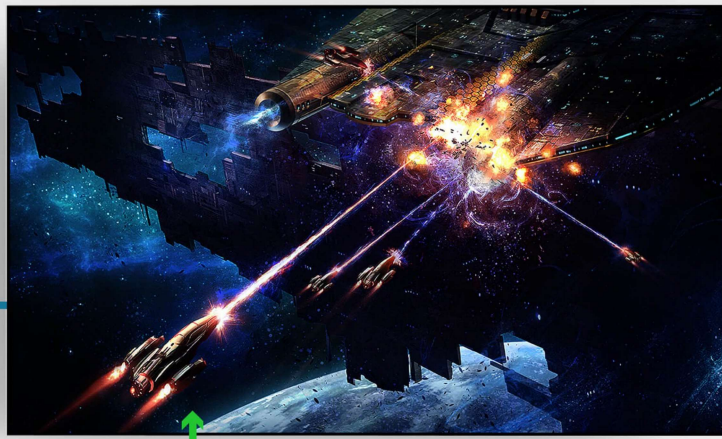
The Dolby TrueHD audio codec delivers Dolby Atmos in its highest resolution and quality (24-bit 96kHz), resulting in an authentic Dolby Atmos experience, delivered as intended by movie directors, where listeners will be able to hear object-based audio and overhead effects through positional metadata. It is most widely used on **HD and UHD Blu-ray Discs**.

List of Blu-ray Discs with Dolby Atmos: <https://forum.blu-ray.com/showthread.php?t=248132> (<https://forum.blu-ray.com/showthread.php?t=248132>)

How to play Blu-ray Discs with Dolby Atmos?

There are 2 methods to play back Blu-ray discs with the best possible audio and video experience:

1. **If you have a dedicated Blu-ray player**, Connect it directly to Dolby Atmos-enabled sound systems, such as the Nakamichi Shockwafe eARC. Blu-ray players are generally better at playing back movies from such discs; sometimes offering more post-processing options for a refined movie experience.
2. **Gaming consoles with disc support are also able to play back Blu-ray discs** , albeit with less post-processing. As a general rule of thumb,
 - For gaming consoles with 4K120Hz / 8K60Hz Support (i.e. PS5 or XBOX Series X), connect them to your TV if your TV supports eARC. Your TV can pass full quality (lossless) Dolby Atmos TrueHD signals to a soundbar that supports eARC (e.g. Shockwafe eARC).
 - If you use other gaming consoles, or your TV/soundbar does not support eARC (e.g. Shockwafe SSE), connect the gaming console directly to the HDMI ports on your sound system. Your sound system will receive the audio directly, and pass video to the TV.



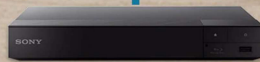
HDMI

TV's ARC / eARC

Soundbar's eARC



XBOX Series X*



Blu-ray Player*



PS5*

Note: Not all Blu-ray can output Dolby Atmos. Refer to your **Blu-ray player's website*

([https://www.bestbuy.com/site/searchpage.jsp?_dyncharset=UTF-](https://www.bestbuy.com/site/searchpage.jsp?_dyncharset=UTF-8&id=pcat17071&iht=y&keys=keys&ks=960&list=n&qp=features_facet%3DFeatures~Dolby%20Atmos&sc=Global&sr=1&type=page&usc=All%20Categories)

8&id=pcat17071&iht=y&keys=keys&ks=960&list=n&qp=features_facet%3DFeatures~Dolby%20Atmos&sc=Global&sr=1&type=page&usc=All%20Categories) for audio output specs.

Best Movies to Test Your System's Surround Sound and Bass

From the latest Dolby Atmos movies on Netflix to classic all-time favorites, test your sound system's capabilities with our recommendations, updated weekly!

CHECK IT OUT HERE!

([/best-streaming-scenes-to-showcase-your-system](#))



Dolby Atmos in



Certain content devices, such as **Xbox One X/S** and **Apple TV 4K**, come with a Dolby Atmos MAT encoder, which is designed to encode, decode and incorporate Dolby Atmos metadata into lossless pulse-code modulation (PCM) audio, allowing listeners to experience Dolby Atmos even in PCM audio.

Playing Dolby MAT Content

For streaming devices: connect them directly to Dolby Atmos-enabled sound systems like the Nakamichi Shockwave soundbar. Your soundbar will receive audio directly, and pass video to TV via TV's ARC or eARC

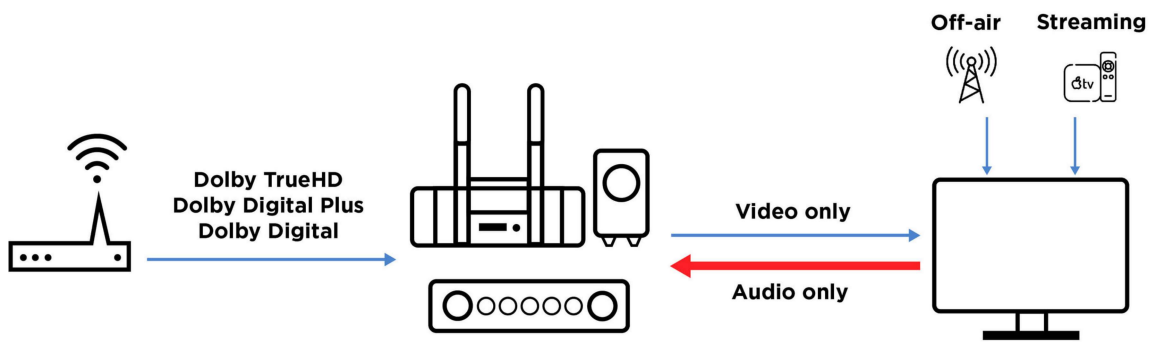
If you own a gaming console and TV that supports 4K120Hz / 8K60Hz (i.e. PS5 or XBOX Series X), connect the gaming console to your TV. The TV will receive full 4K 120Hz video signals, and pass Dolby MAT content to your soundbar in full quality.

If your TV or gaming console does not support 4K120Hz / 8K60Hz, connect the gaming console to your soundbar. Your soundbar will receive Dolby MAT signals and play them back directly, while sending HDR/Dolby vision 4K video to your TV.



The science behind these connections

Connecting devices that play movie content (i.e. Dolby Vision/HDR content up to 4K 60Hz) directly to the surround sound system allows it to be the first device in the signal chain that receives the audio signal, without the complications of audio passthrough from TV to home theater (e.g. soundbar). This allows for the most stable audio connection and authentic audio processing. The system is then able to passthrough video signals (including Dolby Vision metadata) to the TV.



However, for devices capable of delivering high bandwidth graphics (i.e. gaming consoles that support 4K120Hz / 8K60Hz video), it is recommended to connect them to the TV, especially if the TV supports eARC. This allows the TV to receive and process high bandwidth graphics directly, without an additional device in the signal chain that may complicate the transfer. The TV is capable of transmitting full quality sound to the Soundbar via the eARC standard.

Dolby Atmos & Vision Availability in Streaming Apps

IMPORTANT: Before you start watching Dolby Atmos and Dolby Vision streaming content, you **MUST** first check if your TV/devices are compatible with these technologies.

For example, even if a movie on Netflix is offered in Dolby Atmos/Dolby Vision, you will not be able to experience it if your TV/devices do not support Dolby Atmos and Dolby Vision. In such cases, the app will automatically scale down the audio and video output to the best available formats compatible with your TV/devices.

	With Dolby Atmos		With Dolby Atmos & Dolby Vision	×	Not Supported
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Dolby Atmos Availability	NETFLIX	prime video	VUDU	Disney+	HBOmax
Streaming Devices					
<u>Apple TV 4K (2017/2021), (with tvOS 15)**</u>	Dolby Atmos & Dolby Vision	Dolby Atmos & Dolby Vision	Dolby Atmos & Dolby Vision	Dolby Atmos & Dolby Vision	Dolby Atmos & Dolby Vision
Apple TV HD (All Versions)	×	×	×	×	×

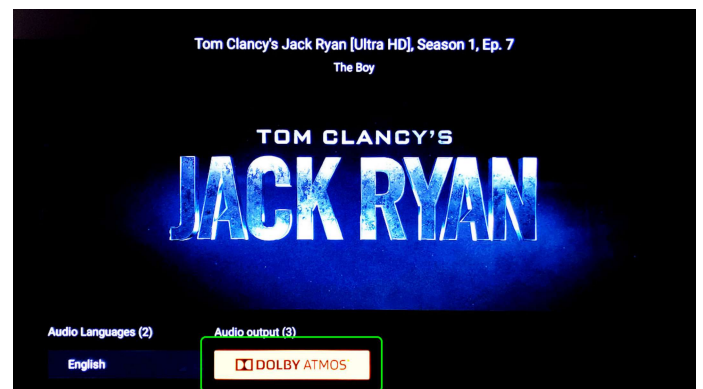
Dolby Atmos Availability	NETFLIX	prime video	VUDU	Disney+	HBOmax
Amazon Fire TV Cube (2019)	Dolby Atmos & Dolby Vision	Dolby Atmos & Dolby Vision	×	Dolby Atmos & Dolby Vision	×
Amazon Fire TV Cube (2018)	Dolby Atmos Only	Dolby Atmos Only	×	Dolby Atmos Only	×
Amazon Fire TV Stick 4K Max (2021)	Dolby Atmos & Dolby Vision	Dolby Atmos & Dolby Vision	×	Dolby Atmos & Dolby Vision	×
Amazon Fire TV Stick 4K (2018)	Dolby Vision Only	Dolby Atmos & Dolby Vision	×	Dolby Atmos Only	×
Amazon Fire TV Stick (2020/2021)	Dolby Atmos Only	Dolby Atmos Only	×	Dolby Atmos Only	×
Amazon Fire TV Stick Lite (2021)	×	×	×	×	×
Amazon Fire TV 4K (2019)	Dolby Atmos & Dolby Vision	Dolby Atmos Only	×	Dolby Atmos Only	×
Nvidia Shield TV PRO (2019)	Dolby Atmos & Dolby Vision	Dolby Atmos & Dolby Vision	Dolby Atmos & Dolby Vision	Dolby Atmos & Dolby Vision^	Dolby Atmos & Dolby Vision^
Nvidia Shield TV (2019)	Dolby Atmos & Dolby Vision	Dolby Atmos & Dolby Vision	Dolby Atmos & Dolby Vision	Dolby Atmos & Dolby Vision^	Dolby Atmos & Dolby Vision^
Nvidia Shield (2017)	×	Dolby Atmos Only	Dolby Atmos Only	Dolby Atmos Only	Dolby Atmos Only
Roku Ultra (2020, 2021)	Dolby Atmos & Dolby Vision	Dolby Atmos & Dolby Vision	Dolby Atmos & Dolby Vision	Dolby Atmos & Dolby Vision^	×
Roku Ultra 4K (2018)	×	×	×	×	×
Roku Streaming Stick+ (2020)	×	Dolby Atmos Only	Dolby Atmos Only	Dolby Atmos Only	×
Roku Express 4K+ (2021)	Dolby Atmos Only	Dolby Atmos Only	×	Dolby Atmos Only	×
Roku Premiere/Premier+ (2018)	×	Dolby Atmos Only	×	Dolby Atmos Only	Dolby Atmos Only
Chromecast With Google TV (2020)	Dolby Atmos & Dolby Vision	Dolby Atmos & Dolby Vision	×	Dolby Atmos & Dolby Vision	Dolby Vision Only
Google Chromecast Ultra (2016)	Dolby Vision Only	×	×	Dolby Vision Only	Dolby Vision Only
MiBox S 4K UHD (2018)	×	×	×	×	×

Dolby Atmos Availability	NETFLIX	prime video	VUDU	Disney+	HBOmax
Game Consoles					
Playstation 5	×	×	×	×	×
Playstation 4 PRO	×	×	×	×	×
<u>XBOX Series X**</u>	Dolby Atmos & Dolby Vision	×	Dolby Atmos & Dolby Vision	Dolby Atmos & Dolby Vision	×
<u>XBOX ONE X**</u>	Dolby Atmos & Dolby Vision	×	Dolby Atmos & Dolby Vision	Dolby Atmos & Dolby Vision	×
<u>XBOX ONE S**</u>	Dolby Atmos & Dolby Vision	×	Dolby Atmos & Dolby Vision	Dolby Atmos & Dolby Vision	×
XBOX ONE	Dolby Atmos Only	×	Dolby Atmos Only	×	×

Additional Notes: As of November 2021, Peaco (<https://www.flatpanelshd.com/news.php?subaction=showfull&id=1622020321>)ck and Hu (<https://help.hulu.com/s/article/sound-quality>)u do not support Dolby Atmos. The best audio quality from these streaming platforms is Dolby Digital 5.1 Surround Sound, for selected devices and content.

For the Apple TV+ streaming Platform, only Compatible Apple 4K TV and Nvidia Shi (<https://www.pocket-lint.com/tv/news/nvidia/157148-nvidia-shield-gains-apple-tv-app-with-4k-and-dolby-atmos-support>)ed are able to Stream Dolby Atmos and Dolby Vision. Compatible Roku Dev (<https://www.flatpanelshd.com/news.php?subaction=showfull&id=1593502560>)ices will be able to play Dolby Atmos. Other streaming devices may be able to play Apple TV+ Content, but may not playback content with Dolby Atmos or Dolby Vision formats at time of writing.

Identifying Dolby Atmos Content on Video Streaming Services



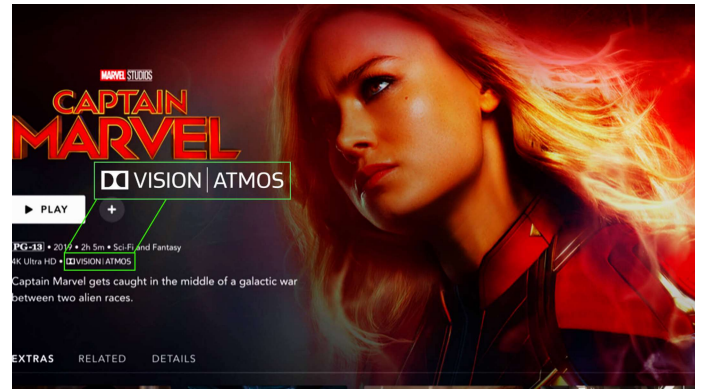
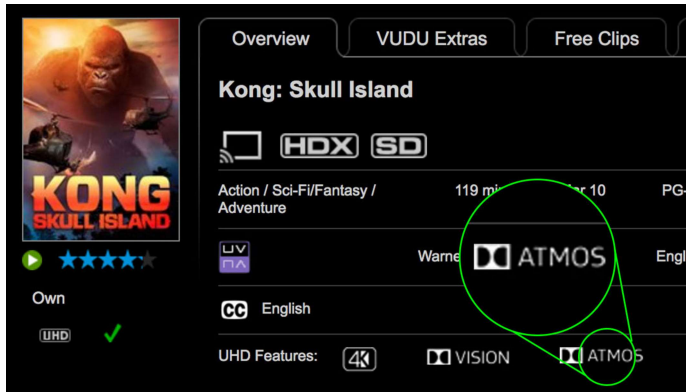
NETFLIX

(<https://www.highdefdigest.com/news/shows/highdefdigest.com/news/shows/netflix-with-dolby-vision-hdr-and-dolby-atmos/42751>)

prime video

(<https://www.highdefdigest.com/news/shows/amazon-prime-video-in-hdr10-dolby-vision-and-dolby-atmos/42831>)

On the Fire TV remote, while the content is playing and look out for audio output options.



VUDU

(<https://hd-report.com/list-of-4k-uhd-movies-on-vudu/>)

Disney+

(<https://comicbook.com/movie/plus-4k-uhd-dolby-atmos-titles/>)

Best Movies to Test Your System's Surround Sound and Bass

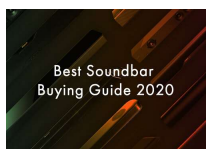
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(<https://www.truevsvirtual.com/true-vs-virtual-surround-sound>)



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BEST	(HTTPS://V	BEST
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BUYING	VS-	TO
GUIDE	VIRTUAL-	SHOWCAS
2020	SURROUND	YOUR
(HTTPS://V	SOUND)	SYSTEM
USA.COM/	Experience	(HTTPS://V
SOUNDBAI	Your Movies in	USA.COM/
BUYING-	True Cinema	STREAMIN
GUIDE-	Surround	SCENES-
COMPARIS		TO-
2020)		SHOWCAS

Picks, Tips, and
Comparison

YOUR-
SYSTEM)

Movies and
Netflix Shows
with the Best
Surround
Sound (Incl.
Dolby Atmos)

References:

The Information in this table has been compiled from multiple sources of information, Including:

Netflix: Dolby Atmos Availability [HERE](https://help.netflix.com/en/node/64066) (https://help.netflix.com/en/node/64066),

Dolby Vision Availability [HERE](https://help.netflix.com/en/node/42384) (https://help.netflix.com/en/node/42384)

Amazon Prime Video: Dolby Atmos / Dolby Vision Availability [HERE](https://www.primevideo.com/help/ref=atv_hp_nd_cnt?nodeId=GTAQMQRQKKE9FJ)

(https://www.primevideo.com/help/ref=atv_hp_nd_cnt?nodeId=GTAQMQRQKKE9FJ)

VUDU: Dolby Atmos Availability [HERE](https://www.watchvudu.com/uhd/) (https://www.watchvudu.com/uhd/), [HERE](https://www.cnet.com/how-to/how-to-stream-dolby-atmos-from-netflix-itunes-vudu-and-amazon/)

(https://www.cnet.com/how-to/how-to-stream-dolby-atmos-from-netflix-itunes-vudu-and-amazon/), [HERE](https://hd-report.com/vudu-4k-uhd-hdr-supporting-tvs-devices/) (https://hd-report.com/vudu-4k-uhd-hdr-supporting-tvs-devices/) and [HERE](https://www.theverge.com/this-is-my-next/2018/11/30/18118550/best-streaming-video-player-4k-tv-roku-apple-amazon) (https://www.theverge.com/this-is-my-next/2018/11/30/18118550/best-streaming-video-player-4k-tv-roku-apple-amazon)

Disney+: Dolby Atmos Availability [HERE](https://www.digitaltrends.com/home-theater/disney-plus-dolby-atmos-problems/) (https://www.digitaltrends.com/home-theater/disney-plus-dolby-atmos-problems/)

Peacock Streaming [HERE](https://thestreamable.com/video-streaming/peacock) (https://thestreamable.com/video-streaming/peacock)

and [HERE](https://www.cnet.com/news/peacock-unanswered-questions-amazon-roku-4k-profiles-downloads-and-more/) (https://www.cnet.com/news/peacock-unanswered-questions-amazon-roku-4k-profiles-downloads-and-more/)

Nvidia Shield: Dolby Atmos / Dolby Vision Availability [HERE](https://www.nvidia.com/en-gb/shield/compare/)

(https://www.nvidia.com/en-gb/shield/compare/)

Footnotes:

- ^ Certain streaming providers may require your Streaming Device and Television to support 4K and/or HDR in order to stream Dolby Atmos Content.
 - * Mbps is referred as Mega bits per second. This is typical measuring unit that represents audio bitrate and bandwidth.
 - **Some soundbars and receivers will display Dolby MAT when connected to devices such as the Xbox One X, Xbox One S and Apple TV 4K. This is because such devices come with a Dolby Atmos MAT encoder, which is designed to encode, decode and incorporate Dolby Atmos metadata into lossless pulse-code modulation (PCM) audio, allowing listeners to experience Dolby Atmos even in PCM audio.
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Pro 7.1 eARC DTS:X/ATMOS (/shockwafe-pro-71-earc)	Support (http://helpdesk.nakamichi-usa.com)	Photo Video (https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/1526435-
Ultra 9.2 DTS:X/ATMOS (/shockwafe-ultra-92)		REG/nakamichi_shockwafe_ultra_9_2_4_sse_9_2_4_ch_1000w_dolby_atmos.html)
Elite 7.2 (/shockwafe-elite-72) DTS:X/ATMOS (/shockwafe-ultra-92)		International (/international-shipping)
Pro 7.1 (/shockwafe-pro-71) DTS:X/ATMOS (/shockwafe-ultra-92)		

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