

We have had several critical customers who have bought four channel and discarded it. Some of these customers have put all four speakers up front, gone to the "Wall of Sound," and some plan to use four corner speakers with two channel material. If you want to experiment with speaker arrangement, we suggest our "Wide Wall of Sound", B & O Ambio, Audio Pulse or any other arrangement of speakers using conventional records.

The most exciting advance in recent years is the electronic time delay and reverberation system that closely approximates the ideal concert hall. The best unit of this type we have found so far is the Audio Pulse which is on display at both our stores. This takes regular mono or stereo records and processes the signal for the rear speakers in such a manner as to give you a big full sound without the obtrusiveness associated with most 4-channel and most other systems. This is because of intensely complicated electronic transistors and sells for only \$629.

### Recordings Available for Four Channel

After five years there are relatively few recordings available and many of these are remixes of old recordings. Many stereo recordings are mixed down from up to 16 mono tracks. This often results in 2 channel mono, not true stereo. The mix to four channel mono is even more un-natural and disturbing. Audio Times (Sept. 15, 1974) reported that EVEREST and OLYMPIC records had released the largest single batch of four channel discs ever (at that time) and that of the 35 discs bearing the QS or SQ logo ". . . all but 11 are drawn from monaural master tapes, some of them as old as 1941."

### Types of Four Channel

Presently there are many systems for four channel, each requiring different equipment. The pros and cons of various systems are so great I see no immediate solution to the confusion in this area. Of primary interest and concern to most music lovers is the development of CD-4 systems which claim to provide a "discrete" four channel sound from discs. Besides the problems mentioned above, the CD-4 electronics have so far left something to be desired. Again quoting from a recent issue of "STEREOPHILE":

"The CD-4 demodulators are not, in any sense of the word, acceptable for use in most home music systems. (We used the JVC 4DD-5 and the Pioneer. The first two Pioneer samples we received were defective.) Both demodulators are distortion-generating devices. Both are incredibly bright (and bass-shy); both are noisy."