The net result is an expanded listening area unhindered by the directionality of the speakers....Incidentally, who says the speakers have to be in the corners of the listening room—the way most four-channel is commercially demonstrated? A growing legion of listeners are finding another arrangement equally suitable: four speakers across the front of the listening area, with the outer two closer to the listener and slightly angled in. Where concert hall ambience instead of "surround sound" is desired, the array has a most realistic effect.

A re-emphasis on stereo

Many companies are now re-emphasizing stereo in their quadraphonic units. Built-in versatility includes the ability of the receiver's amplifier section to function as two independent stereo amps (for listening to different programs in separate rooms) or to be bridged into two higher-powered amps.

For frustrated philologists

Audio experts, many of whom pride themselves on precision of language, are having a field day with quadraphonics. They are disturbed over the synonymous use of "synthesized" and "derived" when referring to simulated four-channel sound evolving from a two-channel source. Derive, they say, means "to form or develop out of something else" (Webster's definition), as in deriving four-channel sound from two channels. But synthesize means "to combine or put together" (again Webster's)—or the exact opposite, as in synthesizing two channels from four or one from two....Equally heavy debate centers on the use of discrete when referring to quadraphonic disc recordings. Purists see discrete as four separate channels: discrete, when referring to Quadradisc describes four signals, from the two sides of the record groove, multiplexed (as opposed to matrixed) into a pair of signals and later demodulated back into four signals. Basic physics laws make it impossible to totally recover the four signals, and many who've compared "discrete" with the better matrixed discs find the difference insignificant. Why? One engineer notes that the right-front and left-front signals on the discrete disc must be dematrixed after demodulation to separate them. One matrix system (SQ), however, keeps these two signals separate throughout its encode-decode process....Is a "regular" matrix better than other matrix systems? The confusion lies in the use of the term "regular" by many manufacturers to describe the Sansui QS matrix system. "Regular matrix," or RM, implies other systems such as CBS-SQ may be "irregular." In truth there is no right or wrong matrix system....Dissent also continues over the term for four-channel. Is it quadraphonic (the term used in all HIGH FIDELITY publications)—a combination of "quadra" (which Webster doesn't recognize; "quadri-" is the recognized Latin root) and the Greek "phone"? Why not quadriphonic, or the all-Latin quadrasonic, or the all-Greek tetraphonic? How about quad for short? (Sorry, that's a brand name of Acoustical Manufacturing in England, and present Quad products are all conventional stereo components.) Now that it's here, what do we call it?