



LUXE LIFE \ HOME THEATRE



## Shaken and stirred by cinema tech

By **STEPHEN CORBY**

**P**icture those allegedly 4D rides you've been on in amusement parks, where the seats throw you around like a mechanical bull. Now forget them entirely, because they are nothing like the incredible, immersive D-Box motion chairs you can have installed in your home cinema, according to local expert installer David Moseley.

"As soon as you talk about 'motion', people go to theme parks in their mind, but that's the complete opposite of a D-Box chair, which uses a small amount of movement, with a maximum of 35 millimetres from top to bottom," says Moseley, the director of Wavetrain Cinemas.


If you haven't heard of "motion-coded" seats, that's because Australian cinema chains are yet to invest.

Overseas, and in the most high-end home-theatre rooms in this country, they are common. And they are amazing, adding surround feeling to your surround sound – bobbing slightly in a pirate movie, or pitching you left and right during a *Star Wars* dogfight.

Moseley says coding each new Hollywood blockbuster with information for vibration and motion is "an art form, just like sound editing".

"[When] a frisbee goes whizzing past your ear [in a movie], the seat vibrates, just on that side, so you not only hear it but feel it moving. Yes, there is motion, but a large part of what you're feeling ... are the tactile feelings you'd get if you were in the movie."

Moseley works in high-end home-cinema installation and says 80 per cent of his customers choose D-Box chairs, which cost about \$6500 each just for the actuators, plus a motion controller that will operate as many seats as you choose, for \$5000. Any chair you install the actuators in needs to be specially built to cope with the movement as well.

One day you might even see D-Box chairs in your local cinema, but don't bet on it being soon, says Moseley. "They just don't have the money to compete; the typical cost of the home cinemas I'm designing is two to three times the budget of a commercial cinema." 

D-Box seats such as the Jaymar Jolie, above, add motion to the movie-viewing experience.

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Getting your home kitted out with all the latest tech can be a laborious process, which is why it's easier to buy one that already has the perfect set-up, like this golf-course adjacent beauty. The home cinema is soundproofed with a surround-stereo system and stadium-style seating, and there's also a 25-metre lap pool and spa.



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