



## Multi-room Audio Buying Guide Quick Reference Handout

Multi-room audio means you can listen to the same music or podcasts all over the house or stream different sounds to different spots, all from one smartphone or connected device. There are a few decisions you'll need to make when it comes to your multi-room audio setup.

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### How does a wireless multi-room audio system work?

A wireless multi-room audio system is made up of several independent speakers. These speakers connect to your home Wi-Fi network to stream content and each speaker connects wirelessly to one another to create multi-room sound.

You need two or more speakers to create a multi-room system. To control your speakers you'll use the speaker's compatible app. Most multi-room speakers are designed to only work with other speakers from the same brand, so to create a connected system you'll need to purchase several compatible speakers.

### How do I set up a typical multi-room audio system?

Setting up a wireless multi-room audio system is extremely easy.

1. If you're just starting out and you have a small room, you may want to opt for inexpensive speakers to get an idea of what you're looking for in a multi-room audio system.
2. If you want to fill a larger space and you have a good idea of what type of speakers you're interested in, you'll want to choose speakers with a bit more power.
3. If you're interested in adding bass to your multi-room system, you'll want to choose a subwoofer too.

### Is your home's Wi-Fi powerful enough for multi-room audio?

If your house is big and the speakers are quite far apart, you'll need to consider if your wireless network is strong enough to stream content to every room. You can choose a Wi-Fi booster to amplify your signal to every room or add a mesh router so your entire home has access to high-speed Wi-Fi.

### Which brand of multi-room audio system is best?

Most brands that produce speakers compatible with wireless multi-room audio share a lot of common traits. Brands like Sonos, Harman Kardon, Klipsch, and Bose are some of the bigger and more popular choices, but you can also create multi-room sound with smart speakers from



brands like Google Nest, Amazon, and Apple.

## Why choose a wireless multi-room audio system?

There are quite a few reasons why you'd choose to set up a multi-room audio system.

- 1. Flexibility:** Multi-room audio systems give you flexibility in moving your speakers around. You can start with a speaker in the living room and move it to the bathroom if you'd like.
- 2. Portability:** Because the speakers are wirelessly connected within your home, they are very portable. If you suddenly need music in a spare bedroom or out on the deck, just move your speaker out there.
- 3. Music Zones:** These wireless multi-room audio systems can play the same music throughout your home or you can play different music in each room. You can set up different zones where three rooms play the same music while the other rooms are all independent.
- 4. Availability of Content:** Play your own music library from your computer, smartphone, tablet or other sources, stream hundreds of different online radio stations, or play music from streaming music services like Spotify or Amazon or Google Music.
- 5. Mobile Device Control:** To control your speaker you just need your smartphone or tablet and the compatible app.
- 6. Simplicity:** Multi-room audio systems are designed to be easily do-it-yourself. No professional installation is required.
- 7. Speaker Variety:** Multi-room audio systems have different-sized speakers and different configurations depending on the room.
- 8. Home Theatre Integration:** Many of the components in today's wireless multi-room audio configurations have speakers and sound bars that can connect to your TV or home theatre.
- 9. Scale-ability:** Multi-room wireless systems are fully expandable. You can easily add more rooms at any time, and integrating the new speakers is as easy as clicking an app.

## What is important to consider when buying a multi-room audio system?

When considering how to choose the best wireless system for you, there are a few factors you'll want to consider.

### 1. Do your speakers need access to your voice assistant?

These days, almost every multi-room audio setup has a digital assistant built-in or it can easily integrate with existing smart speakers like Amazon Echo or Google Nest.

### 2. Can you use smart speakers to create multi-room audio?

The latest smart speakers from Google Nest, Alexa, and Apple are more than just voice assistants - they link together to provide premium sound in every room you place them in. You can use your voice assistant in every room, create a broadcast and send it out to every speaker, or control your smart home devices from your speakers.

### 3. How many rooms will you need to purchase speakers for?



Most brands have systems that can easily cover a large number of rooms, but it's a good idea to know how many rooms you'll want to place speakers in before you choose one brand or another.

#### **4. How big are the rooms you're placing your portable speaker in?**

Depending on the size and shape of the room, you'll want to make sure the multi-room speaker you choose is big enough to fill the room with sound.

#### **5. How portable do your speakers need to be?**

You may want speakers that can double as portable units you can take camping, picnic, or out on the deck. In that case, you may want to choose a few battery-powered speakers.

#### **6. Do you need to hide your multi-room speakers?**

You can choose in-wall or in-ceiling speakers, also known as architectural speakers, to save space. Often these speakers should be professionally installed, so you'll want to take that into consideration before purchasing.

#### **7. Do you want to create a multi-room audio system in your yard?**

These days, it's possible to get great quality, big-brand outdoor speakers. Some brands have designed speakers that are waterproof, weatherproof, and link together to stream great audio.