



Wireless speaker Buying Guide Quick Reference Handout

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What is a wireless speaker?

A wireless speaker plays audio content without needing a physical cable to connect it to its audio source. It receives its streaming signal via Wi-Fi or other platforms and can be powered by rechargeable batteries or by plugging it into a wall outlet.

Wireless speakers vs portable Bluetooth speakers

1. A wireless speaker uses Wi-Fi or platform like AirPlay to stream audio. A portable Bluetooth speaker streams audio via Bluetooth technology.
2. Most types of portable Bluetooth speakers have rechargeable batteries to take them with you on the go. Wireless speakers can also be portable, but most need a power outlet and Wi-Fi signal to work.

Questions to consider when purchasing wireless speakers

Before choosing a wireless speaker or a set of wireless speakers, there are a few questions you should ask yourself.

1. Why do I need wireless speakers?

If you primarily listen to music at home or watch movies at home and you know your speaker will remain in the same spot, you may want high-quality wireless speakers to pair with your receiver. If you're looking for a wireless speaker to place in your kitchen or bedroom for use as a voice assistant or to play music, you may want to purchase a wireless smart speaker.

2. What size of wireless speaker do you need?

From small and portable wireless speakers to massive and high-powered types, there are quite a few kinds to choose from.

Bluetooth or Wi-Fi – which is better in a wireless speaker?

Determining whether you'd like a wireless speaker that connects via Bluetooth or Wi-Fi is mostly a matter of personal opinion.

1. **Bluetooth wireless speakers** - It's easy to connect via Bluetooth. You'll turn on your wireless speaker, look for it in your Bluetooth menu, and tap on your phone to connect to it.
2. **Wi-Fi portable speakers** - Wi-Fi streaming requires your home network to work, but it offers steadier



streaming quality and high-fidelity playback when compared to Bluetooth.

Features on wireless speakers

To make your choice of wireless speaker a bit easier, here's a look at a few of the features you can find on wireless speakers.

1. Battery operated or plugged into a power - Powered wireless speakers use a power plug but are still considered wireless because you don't need to connect them to your phone or receiver via wire. Wireless speakers with a battery are rechargeable and the average battery life for these speakers is about 8 to 10 hours.

2. Multi-source playback - Some wireless speakers allow for multiple connections at one time. That means you won't have to disconnect your phone so someone else can pair it with the speaker.

3. Multiroom Speaker Technology – You can place your speakers in different rooms in your home, sync them, and control them together from a single source like your smartphone or receiver.

3. Weather resistance on wireless speakers - Weather-resistant wireless speakers stand up to rain, wind, dust, and sun. These speakers usually have a protective outer shell and you can tell how weather resistant they are by their IPX rating.

4. NFC wireless speakers - NFC wireless speaker uses near field communication (NFC) technology to connect to your device.

5. Airplay - Apple Airplay is a technology that lets you connect your iPhone or iPad to the speaker via a Wi-Fi connection.

6. DLNA - DLNA on wireless speakers stands for Digital Living Network Alliance. It's a type of technology that lets you stream over your home's Wi-Fi network.

8. Smart home integration - Some wireless speakers have a voice assistant built-in, and you can use them as a type of command center for your smart home.

9. Microphone - You can connect your smartphone to your speaker and it will ring when a call is coming in and you'll hear and speak via the speaker.

10. Wireless speakers with lights - Party speakers stream music without wires, and they also have lights or a microphone to create a party atmosphere.