



Portable Bluetooth Speaker Buying Guide Quick Reference Handout

Portable Bluetooth speakers let you listen to your favourite tunes and playlists from anywhere, both in the home and outside. There are types that offer big sound at home and others that are small, rugged, and waterproof to take with you hiking or biking.

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What is a portable Bluetooth speaker?

Portable Bluetooth speakers are wireless speakers that use Bluetooth to connect to your smartphones or other device. They are portable, easy to use, and are a great option if you'd like to listen to music on-the-go.

1. Portable Bluetooth speakers are available in all sizes and styles

Portable Bluetooth speakers are available in sizes ranging from very small to extra large, giving you the option to choose a tiny speaker for travelling or a large speaker to put in your backyard. They have built-in rechargeable batteries so you can charge your speaker before you leave home and some types have microphones so they double as a speaker for hands-free phone calls.

2. Connects to a wide range of devices

Most portable Bluetooth speakers connect to a wide range of devices. You'll be able to connect anything that has Bluetooth including smartphones and tablets as well as portable audio players like iPods, laptops, or gaming consoles with Bluetooth. Some types will also have Wi-Fi.

Portable Bluetooth speakers vs wireless speakers

The terms "wireless speaker" and "portable Bluetooth speaker" are often used interchangeably, but there are some differences between the two. Both types of speakers can stream audio over the air, but portable Bluetooth speakers are a specific type of wireless speaker that has its own set of features.

- Wireless speakers stream audio using Wi-Fi or platforms such as AirPlay. Portable Bluetooth speakers use Bluetooth technology.
- Portable Bluetooth speakers are designed to be lightweight and often have rechargeable batteries for complete portability.
- Wireless speakers may also be portable but they usually require access to a power outlet and a Wi-Fi signal to function.

Types of portable Bluetooth speaker

1. Mini portable Bluetooth speakers - A mini portable Bluetooth speaker is small, lightweight, and some include a carabiner you can clip to your hiking backpack or have optional mounts you can add to a bicycle.



2. Waterproof and outdoor Bluetooth speakers - Waterproof speakers are designed to withstand varying levels of exposure to water and moisture. They have a rugged design in case of drops or bumps and they have covered ports so water can't enter the speaker.

3. Average IPX rating on waterproof or outdoor Bluetooth speakers - You can tell how waterproof or splash-proof your portable Bluetooth speaker will be by its IPX rating. The higher the IPX rating, the more resistant to water and dust the speaker will be. Most waterproof Bluetooth speakers have an IPX rating of at least 4 or higher.

4. Multi-room portable Bluetooth speakers - Multi-room portable Bluetooth speakers are indoor or outdoor Bluetooth speakers that connect to create sound for a larger space.

5. Smart Bluetooth speakers - Smart Bluetooth speakers capability are equipped with voice assistants including Siri, Alexa or Google Assistant. You can use voice commands to control music playback.

6. Party Bluetooth speakers - Party Bluetooth speakers are designed to produce loud, high-quality sound. They are some of the largest types of portable Bluetooth speakers and are ideal for parties, gatherings, or big events. Some types of party Bluetooth speakers have built-in lights or special effects to get the party started.

Features on portable Bluetooth speakers

1. Bluetooth connectivity - Bluetooth allows you to easily pair with your smartphone, tablet, or other audio device with Bluetooth capabilities. Some portable Bluetooth speakers have multi-connection options.

2. Battery operated - Most portable Bluetooth speakers have an average battery life of 6 to 10 hours on a single charge. You can also find types with a battery that lasts up to 20 hours or more.

3. Onboard controls - Some types of portable Bluetooth speakers work with an app to control volume and playlists, but you'll find most types have controls on the handle or body of the speaker itself.

4. Lights and party functions - If you choose a party Bluetooth speaker your speaker may have lights and other party functions that can help create a party atmosphere.

5. Waterproof or splash resistant - If you'd like to use your portable speaker at the lake or near the pool you can choose a waterproof portable speaker.

6. Durable cases stand up to drops - Some types of portable Bluetooth speakers have durable, rugged cases. If you accidentally drop your speaker the internal components won't be damaged.

7. Sound quality - Portable Bluetooth speakers are capable of producing amazing sound. You can find types that offer high-fidelity audio with deep bass.

8. Speakerphone capable - You'll find some types of portable Bluetooth speakers offer built-in speakerphone capabilities so you can use the speaker to take hands-free calls.

9. Microphone included - Some portable Bluetooth speakers include a microphone so you can sing along to songs or host a karaoke night with friends.

10. Wheels or carry handle - If you need to transport your portable Bluetooth speaker you may want to look for a model with built-in wheels or a handle.