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Best Bluetooth speakers Buying Guide: Welcome to What Hi-Fi?'s round-up of the best Bluetooth speakers you can buy in 2022. Finding the best Bluetooth speaker for your particular needs can be a tricky business – that is, if you don't come to us first. Every online manufacturer from Apple to Ultimate Ears is vying for a bite of the Bluetooth cherry and by association, your investment, but which model is most worthy of your precious coin? Fret not, we've rounded up our pick of the best Bluetooth speakers across all shapes, sizes and prices to make sure you find a product you'll love. The key thing is to avoid opting for the first Bluetooth speaker that catches your eye. Yes, it might be a looker, but since the two of you will likely be together for quite some time, reading our independent review of the product – and of competing products in the price category – is time well spent. We've supplied these, because you might discover a few features you didn't know you could get for the money. A few points to consider: will your Bluetooth speaker be used purely at home? In that case you'll want something mains-powered. Do you want to be able to build a multi-room system around it? A smart Bluetooth speaker with a voice assistant baked in might be something to consider. Want to be able to throw it in a bag and know that it'll function without issue (and without dying on you after only a few hours) later on? A rugged, portable speaker with a built-in rechargeable battery could be your best shot at long-term compatibility and musical happiness. Whether you're on a tight budget or you have money to burn (congratulations on that), there's a model within this Buying Guide for you... (Image credit: JBL)The sixth-generation of JBL's Award-winning Flip Bluetooth speaker does not disappoint.It sounds fantastic. Bass is rich and deep, and the tiny JBL has no problem filling a room with bright, clear and detailed sound. Whether you want to play something lively and full of energy, something soft and textured, or anything in-between, the JBL Flip 6 has no problem handling any music you throw its way.The Flip 6 doesn't have a mic or a charging port for your phone but it does support Bluetooth 5.1 and it boasts an IP67 dust- and waterproof rating. Ultimately, it's largely the same Flip fans known and love but with some minor upgrades added. If you need a fantastic Bluetooth speaker and don't want to break the bank, the JBL Flip 6 is a fantastic five-star choice.Read the full review: JBL Flip 6(Image credit: JBL)The JBL Xtreme 3 is a versatile, talented wireless speaker that's as happy chilling at home as it is being the life and soul of a party. Yes, it's rugged, it's IP67 dust- and waterproof certified and you'd be forgiven for thinking at first glance that it might be more preoccupied with the amount of bass it's producing rather than musical quality. But let us reassure you: the JBL Xtreme 3 proves to be a careful and considerate performer from the lowest of lows to the highest highs.Bassheads should be more than satisfied with the healthy low-end clout on offer, but there's quality as well as quantity. The JBL Xtreme 3 gained five stars across the board during our rigorous in-house testing, never appearing out of its depth no matter how complicated the musical arrangement. Read the full review: JBL Xtreme 3(Image credit: Dali)Although portable enough to be your travel speaker (and boasting a stylish retractable travel handle plus a 30-hour battery) the Katch G2's dedicated mains charging port and adapter with bundled UK, EU and US adapter plugs makes it an easy fit for your lounge too – and once there, it'll sound as detailed, clear and expansive as this money can buy. It's at the pricey end of the market, yes, but it's a stone cold stunner, delivering excellent clarity, impressive bass weight and good looks in spades – so much so that we recently handed it a What Hi-Fi? 2021 Award. This is a speaker that not only fills a room despite being the width of a paperback, it oozes class sonically. Read the full review: Dali Katch G2 (Image credit: JBL)If all you want is a portable Bluetooth speaker that sounds as good as you can currently buy for around £100 (\$100, AU\$119), you'll be hard-pressed to better the fantastic Flip 5. JBL's newest offering sounds great for the price and is rugged enough to cope with a day at the pool.The Flip 5 is waterproof to an IPX7 rating, boasts a 12 hour battery life and has a USB-C charging port, meaning it goes from flat to fully juiced in just 2.5 hours. It's a pleasure to use and scores highly for portability, with a wrist strap that slips comfortably over our hand. There's also a PartyBoost button that helps you pair two PartyBoost-enabled speakers to create a stereo pair, or link over 100 PartyBoost-compatible speakers in mono. Sound is impressively weighty and agile, with a good punch of bass and a real sense of openness and texture. Assuming you don't mind the lack of an aux-in port or inbuilt microphone (as seen in the Flip 4), you'll almost certainly be wowed by this speaker's sonic chops. A superb performer.Read the full review: JBL Flip 5(Image credit: Tribit)It's hard to imagine a home decor, backpack or personal taste that the Tribit Audio Stormbox Micro couldn't merge in with happily. It's the size of a stack of drinks coasters, it's IP67 rated, there's a useful rubberised strap across the back of it and you can pair two of them in stereo mode. You'll be pleasantly surprised by the bass clout the Tribit is able to deliver. Although a speaker of such dimensions is obviously limited in terms of bass weight, it does remarkably well: close your eyes while listening and you'll picture a bigger product. If your budget maxes out at £50 (\$60), the Tribit is a splendid option. Similarly, if you only have a small zip compartment in the top of your backpack for a sonic travel companion, this speaker is worthy of that space. Take note, Ultimate Ears: a little-known brand called Tribit Audio has produced a budget belter of a Bluetooth speaker.Read the full review: Tribit Audio Stormbox Micro(Image credit: JBL)The JBL Charge 5 is even more durable and better sounding than the four Charges before it. Its predecessor carried an IPX7 rating, meaning it could handle being submerged in water to a depth of 1.5m, but the IP67-rated Charge 5 builds on that durability by also being fully dustproof. Want a speaker roughly the dimensions of a bottle of wine that'll charge your phone and sound great? You've found it. Thanks in part to a new 10W tweeter and racetrack-shaped driver, the Charge 5 is currently as good a sound as you can get in a portable Bluetooth speaker design for under £200 (\$200, AU\$300). It boasts marginal improvements, both sonically and aesthetically, over its predecessor, the five-star Charge 4 (below). One day JBL may produce a Charge that can be outdone by a new and plucky rival, but rest assured, that has not happened with the rather splendid (and What Hi-Fi? 2021 Award-winning) Charge 5.Read the full review: JBL Charge 5(Image credit: Bang & Olufsen)BjØrn & Olufsen isn't notable for following the herd in the Danish electronics specialist's catalogue you'll find wheel-shaped wireless speaker, a TV that opens up like a butterfly, and an £200-watt monolithic speaker comprising 18 drivers. Its output could reasonably be described as "premium" and "innovative" – and the B&O Beosound A1 (2nd Gen) wireless speaker is no exception.It boasts similar dimensions to a large floury bag, but that's where any comparisons with other speakers end. The new A1 supports Qualcomm's latest aptX Adaptive Bluetooth 5.1 codec, and of course, Alexa is built-in. It works a treat, too, delivering a pleasingly comfortable yet authoritative performance that you'd be happy listening to all day. Throw in its classy, well made design, easy to use operation and the bonus of Alexa, and you're looking at a Bluetooth speaker sequel that has very much lived up to the wait.Read the full review: Bang & Olufsen Beosound A1 (2nd Gen) (Image credit: JBL)The diminutive soap on a rope-styled Go 3 features Bluetooth 5.1 instead of 4.1 plus a maximum power output of 4.2W, up from 3W in the Go 2 (listed below). The one specification that hasn't changed, though, is the Go 3's stamina. It takes 2.5 hours to charge fully, and you can still only get five hours of playtime from it from a single charge. If you can live with this, there's much to celebrate in the sound department for this money. The extra power and overhauled design have resulted in some solid sonic enhancements, and aesthetically it's perhaps even cuter than the original. We gave it five stars for sound. Will five hours get you through a day at the beach or a lazy picnic in the park though? Probably best to take a wireless charger. Read the full review: JBL Go 3(Image credit: JBL)The fact that we really like the JBL Charge 4 should come as no surprise to those who read our Charge 3 review – or the newer Charge 5 (above). Not only is this one of best-sounding Bluetooth speakers around at this end of the market, it serves up a whopping 20 hours of playback from a single charge and you'll probably find them reduced, thanks to the arrival of a younger sibling. Intriguing JBL fine-tuned the sound in this iteration to please even pickier ears. Obviously there's a limit to the bass floor in a speaker of this size, but the low-end is tasteful – and there's plenty of punch. You get a nice array of features for the money, too. The Charge 4 can handle being submerged in water to a depth of 1.5m. And unlike the Flip 5 (also above), you can also use the Charge 4 to juice up your phone – or any other device that will charge over USB from a 5V supply. The Flip 5 is cheaper and lighter, but the Charge 4's rugged design, excellent battery life and 'battery sharing' made it a near-perfect speaker for camping, beach trips and home use.Read the full review: JBL Charge 4Ultimate Ears has really made a splash in the Bluetooth speaker market with a number of colorful, fun-sounding and portable models. One of its most biggest hits? The impressive Wonderboom 2.It's waterproof, sandproof, dustproof and is also designed to float, so it should withstand the most lively of pool parties. Battery life is 13 hours and a full charge takes just under three.Sonically, the Wonderboom 2 is an exciting listen. Bass is impressive bass given its small dimensions and there's plenty of detail and a fine sense of attack. You also get a 'boost' button on the underside of the unit. When pressed, it restricts the bass frequencies, allowing the UE to play louder through the midrange, which in turn makes the sound easier to hear when the unit is used outdoors.There's no built-in mic or app, but despite its relative age (it launched in 2019) the Wonderboom 2 is still one of the best sounding Bluetooth speakers you can buy for the money.Read the full review: Ultimate Ears Wonderboom 2The Audio Pro Addon C3 isn't just the best Bluetooth speaker at this price, it's a stylish, wi-fi connected, multi-room capable centrepiece – and a What Hi-Fi? 2021 Award winner. Sound is focused yet open and airy, meaning you can fill a decent sized room with immersive, weighty sound. It has an fantastic sense of refinement for such a small speaker, not to mention a rear-firing bass reflex port that delivers plenty of low-end grunt.This model won't charge your smartphone but it does feature an ethernet port, giving you the option to hardwire it to your home network. The battery serves up around 15 hours playback (less if you crank the volume up to the max).The C3 supports streaming services such as Spotify, Tidal, Qobuz and Apple Music, and while there's no built-in voice assistant, you can control the speaker via the Alexa app.If you're after something more rugged and portable, we'd suggest rivals such as the Ultimate Ears Megaboom or JBL Xtreme. But as a sensational-sounding multi-room proposition, this speaker gives Sonos a serious run for its money.Read the full review: Audio Pro Addon C3(Image credit: Audio Pro)The 2021 update (sensibly titled MkII) to the three-time Award-winning Audio Pro C10 adds AirPlay 2 and Google Cast to complete a multi-room home run – and earn itself a What Hi-Fi? 2021 award. When we tested its older sibling, we pitted it against models almost double its price and found it bettered them. We're happy to report that it's still the case today – if £500 (\$500) is your maximum budget, you'll be hard-pressed to find a speaker that comes close to the Audio Pro C10 MkII. We miss the leather handle and fun, slightly rock'n'roll aesthetic and sonic presentation of the original, but we can't argue with three options for multi-room streaming (AirPlay 2, Google Chromecast and Audio Pro's own slick and functional app) or the levelled-up grippy bass and improved hi-fidelity performance. Read the full review: Audio Pro Addon C10 MkII If you're after a premium portable speaker, there's every chance that the Dali Katch will blow your cashmere socks off. Dali, better known for its traditional hi-fi speakers, has managed to extract a sound that is quite simply incredible for something of the Katch's stature.Two tweeters and a pair of aluminium woofers, driven by a Class-D amplifier, make for a total power output of 50W – not to mention an impressive amount of detail and a nice dose of velvety low-end. The speaker boasts buttons for power, volume and pairing, which is made easier with the option of NFC. There are also two EQ presets: one for freestanding play and one for positioning on a shelf. And let's not forget the excellent battery life: just two hours of charge will get you around 24 hours of music playback via Bluetooth.The Katch isn't cheap, but you do get what you pay for – a weighty, dynamic sound that defies this speaker's dimensions. Oh, and since it has just been superseded by the Katch G2 (above), you may find a few deals each Black Friday... Read the full review: Dali KatchIt might be one of the less portable speakers in this list, but the T3 can still be carted around thanks to the carry handle. It's robust rather than heavy, and boasts a battery life of up to 30 hours. Like bass? You're in luck – the solid chassis and rear-firing bass port will have you tapping your toe in no time.There's no wi-fi (if you want wi-fi, opt for the Addon C3), but the Bluetooth-enabled T3 features a similarly classy design with textured surfaces and a leather embossed handle. Audio Pro tends to ignore gimmicks in favour of high-quality sound but this speaker does have the facility to charge up your smartphone or tablets via a USB port. You also get an auxiliary input for your TV/MP3 player/record player.Sound is superb, with plenty of depth and detail throughout the frequencies. If you want something for home and in the garden, this could work nicely – maybe not the one for your carry-on luggage, though.Read the full review: Audio Pro Addon T3The JBL Xtreme 2's boombox design has fun and excitement written all over it. The rugged, IPX7 waterproof exterior, 15 hour battery life and ability to charge your phone from its USB port mean it's a great option for the beach – especially since it has recently been superseded by the Xtreme 3, meaning there are deals to be had on this slightly older model. Wireless features have been stripped-back, though. There's no wi-fi, so you can't stream from Spotify. And it won't let you talk to Alexa or Google Assistant, just set a button to activate them in the manner of an earphone's in-line remote.JBL Connect+ is the most unusual feature on this otherwise standard Bluetooth speaker. It lets you link up to 100 JBL Connect+ enabled speakers, to make the equivalent of a nightclub PA in your home, but it's important to note that this is not compatible with JBL's newest PartyBoost tech. There's plenty of boom to the sound, but we're not talking ridiculous levels. That deep powerful bass is also nicely controlled too. Mids are of a high quality and highs show more clarity than you traditionally get from such a product. For the money, the JBL Xtreme 2 is brilliantly balanced Bluetooth speaker.Read the full review: JBL Xtreme 2Ultimate Ears has a knack for making Bluetooth speakers that combine the right combination of sound, design and rugged features, and it does so again with the Blast. Its cylindrical 360-degree design means it throws sound evenly around the room, while the tough IP67 waterproof exterior means it can survive in 1m of water for 30 minutes.It's crammed with connectivity, too. You get Bluetooth, wi-fi and Alexa smart assistant voice controls, meaning you can turn up the volume or play songs through Amazon Music Unlimited without lifting a finger. Far-field voice recognition is excellent, and there's a nifty LED strip that glows and blinks when you interact with Alexa. The lack of 3.5mm audio input might bother some, but we found the Blast to be a real crowd-pleaser. The 360-degree sound and bass output is far better than one might expect for this kind of money; throw in Alexa smarts and you have a fun, energetic speaker that offers plenty of bang for your buck.Read the full review: UE BlastThe powerful UE Megablast takes the performance of a portable Bluetooth speaker at this price to a new level. If you're looking for thumping bass, well, let's just say you've come to the right place.Design-wise, the Megablast is waterproof (IP67 rated), so it will survive being dunked in the pool or exposed to a sudden downpour. Battery life is 16 hours, which is pretty respectable given that it has Alexa voice smarts built-in.Say the wake word 'Alexa' and a white LED strip on top of the Megablast glows in recognition. Features include voice-controlled music playback over wi-fi, through Amazon Music Unlimited and TuneIn radio, plus support for the likes of Spotify, Deezer and Amazon Music. There's no 3.5mm audio jack, though.A combination of pounding bass and enthusiastic sense of rhythm make for a hugely enjoyable performance. It might not be the most pocketable speaker around, but few rivals can match the Megablast for bass quality. An absolute treat. Read the full review: UE Megablast(Image credit: Sonos)Want a Sonos speaker you can drop in a backpack? Meet the Sonos Roam, the multi-room titan's first truly portable battery-powered speaker (the 2019 Sonos Move is technically portable but weighs a hefty 3kg to the Roam's 430g).The Roam works perfectly well as a stand-alone Bluetooth speaker but it's also designed to be immersed in the company's burgeoning multi-room ecosystem. Features includes support for AirPlay 2, voice controls and Sonos' Trueplay tech, which uses the built-in mic to tune bass and treble to suit your surroundings.Headed to the beach or the pool? You'll be pleased to note the IP67 rating, which gives it complete water and dust resistance. The built-in battery offers a pretty decent 10 hours playback and support for Qi wireless charging.Sound is confident, bold and better than you might expect from an outdoor/party speaker at this price. Other Bluetooth speakers offer a more expressive and detailed sound but if you're invested in the world of Sonos, the Roam is a smart buy.Read the full review: Sonos Roam(Image credit: Amazon)The Echo Show 5 is an unusual Amazon product. Yes, it's intended to get us all invested in its virtual assistant, Alexa, but where much of the Alexa-enabled kit out there is audio based, concentrated on the Bluetooth speaker market in particular, the Echo Show 5 embraces both sound and video in its abilities to communicate. So, as well as playing music or reading out information, you can access video content on the 5.5in LCD touchscreen. There's also a camera for video calls. The Echo Show 5 is a diminutive device, and as such cannot possibly offer the scale of sound that some specialist wireless speakers can. But then it offers so much more ability and functionality than a run-of-the-mill Bluetooth speaker. For what it is, we find the sound perfectly acceptable. It runs fairly warm, sonically, which helps voices on radio and the like, and makes for a comfortable listening experience. There are better speakers out there but this is much more than that. It opens up the world of the digital assistant to a whole new audience for both audio and video; and if that's what you're after, this is about as good as you'll get. Read the full review: Amazon Echo Show 5Best waterproof speakersBest computer speakersBest wireless speakers