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Audioengine A2+ Powered Speakers: Better Than Ever

We're rushing to listen, watch, and test as much gear as possible before the holidays, which has us burning in two or three speaker systems at a time, and stringing cables and cords across rooms as we compare different sources and styles with old products and new. One of the



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always-in-use test systems- a pair of speakers that we continue to love and use regularly- are the [audioengine A2s, reviewed about a year ago](#).

Now the company has released an updated version, [the slightly refined A2+](#). The changes aren't major- we wouldn't suggest that owners of the previous models rush out and purchase the newer sibling- but are nonetheless a definite step in the right direction. The best parts of the A2s are the excellent performance/size/price ratio- they are quite heavy, packed with enough power to impress jaded ears, and we liked their \$200 pricetag. The newer ones up the hit on your wallet by \$50, but add several pretty awesome features that are definitely worth it- if you need them.

For starters, some audiophiles requested a subwoofer output option via RCA, a way to connect an external sub to these little guys. For us, using them as bookshelf or computer speakers, this was a nice extra- but not a need-to-have. After all, one of the best parts of the A2s, either model, is their impressive bass output. We rarely felt the need to have added lower frequencies, though in a living room or home theater setup, it could prove pretty useful.

The next major addition was the inclusion of a USB input, allowing you a direct connection to your PC- something we specifically requested in our previous review and were excited to use. It's plug and play- no drivers- and we definitely noticed improved audio quality primarily on higher bit-rate lossless files. If you already have a good DAC, then you can certainly stick with it instead, but a built-in DAC should help keep sound free of noise and . Regardless, it's a great addition. Cables are all included, and the wires are decent stuff too. RCA and 3.5 mini-jack connectivity mean that just about any device can hook up to these guys easily. As before, the volume control can be a bit hard to reach, and there is no remote included. With the A2+, you don't need an amp or receiver, and they look great without taking up too much space.

[Available now online and in stores](#), we still highly recommend these, especially for those who don't already own a DAC. Your music will fill the room, with much deeper lows than you might imagine possible from a



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