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The **Audioengine B2** Bluetooth speaker has a restrained and refined sound.

The cabinet, a hand-finished medium-density fiberboard available in ash, walnut or zebra-wood, pushes it further into premium Bluetooth-speaker territory, as does its heft (10 pounds). This is a substantial speaker even though it's only 4 inches tall and

5.3 inches deep.

The B2's back panel reveals only a master volume control — fine-tuning via Bluetooth-connected smartphone — a pairing button, an input for a direct-wired audio connection (3.5 mm cable included), a power button

and a Bluetooth antenna.

The B2's sound, restrained and refined, ranks among the best under-\$400 Bluetooth speakers. Because of the closeness of the two speakers built into a single cabinet, however, it struggles to create an identifiable stereo image. It also emphasizes the midrange frequencies, a wise choice with such a small speaker, while sacrificing bass output and some high-end glow. This speaker is a Bluetooth dynamo.

Verdict: I'd rather look at the Clio, listen to the B2.

