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Stream Music At Home with audioengine's B1 Bluetooth Music Receiver



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audioengine B1 Bluetooth Music Receiver

Rating: ★★★★★

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Everyone has become used to using [Bluetooth](#), but few really know anything about it other than they can use it to send music from their phone to a compatible [audio](#) speaker (usually a portable model). But with so many keeping music on their computers, Bluetooth is now





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easy part.

The easy part being to “pair” the B1 with a Bluetooth device, such as a smartphone. I used an iPhone 5 and it paired in a fashion similar to any other device: the B1 having gone into pairing mode once it was powered. Once paired, the two devices will auto connect whenever they are in range. It’s for this reason that most will find it sensible to leave the B1 on, rather than turn it on and then have the pairing occur.

All of this is just the background because the star of the show is in streaming music. Bluetooth, for all its stability, has less definition than doing streaming by WiFi. So as to squeeze out every erg of sound, the B1’s electronics are encased in an aluminum chassis — none of that plastic nonsense — with the aptX codec employed for conversion of the audio

making inroads at home too — so why not stream the music to your audio system and take advantage of a an amplifier and multiple speakers that are more powerful than one of those little battery powered speakers?

The only problem with this scenario is if your amplifier or audio system doesn’t have Bluetooth built in. Many audio systems (both the older as well as the more professional) don’t come equipped with BT. That’s where the \$189 (retail) audioengine’s B1 Bluetooth Music Receiver comes in.

Setup is simple and done quickly: place the B1so that its antenna is clear of obstructions and connect the AC power plug at the back and the connect an audio cable from it to the receiver or audio device that will amplify the audio signal received. The B1 gives you a choice between a digital optical and RCA jacks — but keep in mind that Bluetooth does stereo, not multichannel audio, so using an analogue connection won’t hurt it none. That’s the hard part, followed by the

signal. Add to that a 24-bit upsampling DAC, power filtering and a precision-tuned antenna to extend the signal range.

The end result of this is that I could stream music from my iPhone (and my Mac Pro) and listen to a very accomplished reproduction as the music played through my Yamaha amp and Polk speakers. No hiss, no interference and since I started with high-resolution audio files, not crappy MP3s, I could take advantage of the B1's ability to handle 24-bit digital audio. Being able to play your music through your audio system makes life more enjoyable. Plus, thanks to the B1 Bluetooth Music Receiver, it will sound a whole lot better.



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