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## HDTV and Home Theater Podcast - Podcast #692: Audioengine B1 Bluetooth Receiver

by The HT Guys on June 18, 2015

Categories: [General Interest](#)



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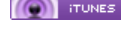
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### Today's Show:

#### Audioengine B1 Bluetooth Receiver

Both iOS and Android device users have easy ways to wirelessly transmit audio. For Apple users, Airplay sends music to the AppleTV and various Airplay speakers. Android users have [Chromecast](#) which has similar functionality. But what if you want to OS agnostic solution? Fortunately for you there is the Audioengine B1 Bluetooth Receiver ([Buy Now \\$189](#)).

The B1 streams high-quality audio from your Bluetooth enabled smartphone, computer, or tablet to any music system or powered speakers. Audioengine used the aptX codec which enables your mobile device to transmit 24 bit audio to the B1. The aptX® audio codec algorithm originated in the late 1980s at Queen's University Belfast. The research was focused on bit rate reduction and achieved significant bit rate efficiencies while preserving audio quality.

#### Features:

- Fast Setup
- Plug-n-play, no software to install
- Superior sound and extended range
- Streams audio from any media player ([iTunes](#), [Amarra](#), [Youtube](#), etc.)
- Connects to any music system with an audio input

#### Setup:

The physical part of the setup is pretty straight forward. Connect power via USB and connect the audio, either RCA or Optical. Then pair your source device through its Bluetooth settings. That's it! The entire process is less than 5 minutes. Then on your device you select the B1 in your bluetooth settings and anything you listen to will be routed to the device. That means all apps work with the B1. If you have a player that makes use of 24bit audio you are good to go! If your app is only 16 bits, the B1 will pad out the bits to 24 which will get you a better signal to noise ratio.

#### Audio:

We tested the B1 with four songs played on an iPhone, Macbook, and Samsung S5. We tried to find music that had a lot dynamic range, (Diana Krall – Fly Me to the Moon, Eagles – Hotel California) as well as some Rock from our youth (Van Halen – Ain't Talkin' 'bout Love) and finally some current stuff (Imagine Dragons – Its Time).

The sound was quite good. Highs on the first two songs were crisp and airy. You could swear the piano was in the room with you. The mid-range was smoother than a fresh jar of skippy. Bass was tight and felt full. In all you could close your eyes image the soundstage in front of you. The music was easy to listen to and didn't sound cluttered or muddy.

#### Summary:

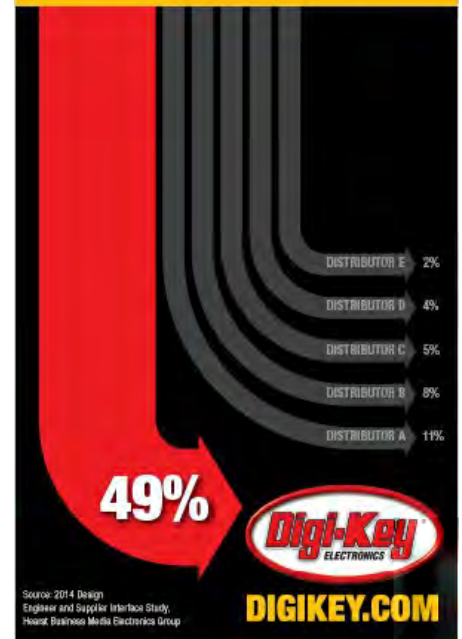
Now we're not saying that the B1 made the music better or clearer but we are saying that it didn't add any artifacts that would distract from listening to it. If you are looking for a cross platform cross device product that allows you to share your music in crystal clear quality, the Audioengine B1 is made for you.

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## Best of Class for Broadest Overall Product Selection



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