

Hardware · Reviews

Audioengine B2 Speaker Review: A Love Child For Audiophiles

by [Stefan Etienne](#) November 23, 2014 at 5:37 pm

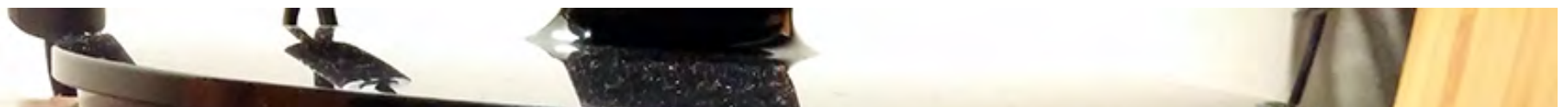




So, Audioengine USA. You've produced (and I've reviewed) **the A2+**, **the A5**, and **the B1 Bluetooth** accessory. For those of you unfamiliar, the B1 adds wireless functionality to the company's two powered speakers. However, entering the holiday season, and Audioengine has opened up with a new product: the B2. It's a melange of the A2+ speakers, with a B1 Bluetooth unit, built into a horizontal, soundbar-esque package.

Price as Reviewed: \$299 at Audioengine USA

Aesthetics





This particular B2 unit sent for review has a hand-built walnut build, which in terms of desktop speakers, is very unique. It's smooth

to the touch, but has a noticeable matte finish; hard to describe without experiencing it in-person.

Dimensions are 4.25”(H) x 12.25”(W) x 5.50”(D) and it comes with a microfiber speaker bag to carry it around it (although, it still need a traditional outlet, so it’s not that portable).

Otherwise, everything is obviously Audioengine. The shape of the Kevlar bass drivers and the tweeters. The power switch, angles, and the distinct compatibility that almost any AE product has on a desk.

Using It





For those of you expecting a watered-down product — that is not the case here. That’s why listing wireless specs are quite important: “high-fidelity” Bluetooth 4.0 with aptX technology with approximately 100 feet (30M) of available range. And it’s alright; if you’re not feeling the wireless revolution quite yet (and you should, because the B2 sounds nothing like a typical Bluetooth speaker), then the included 3.5mm audio jack allows for some versatility, which is great. But since almost every Android phone, iOS device, or laptop has Bluetooth now — well, I can’t argue why you wouldn’t want to try out technology you’ve paid hundreds for.

There’s a reason why Audioengine is so confident when promoting their products — they just work well. Coming from the Audioengine A5, the sound differences were very noticeable — I enjoyed the sound on the A5 relatively more. But we’re talking about a major downgrade in capability and physical here, so there is some justification.

What I’m saying is that regardless, the B2 sounds phenomenal — with clarity and an acceptable range, as well as bass (not bass-heavy thankfully, however if you must, you could use an equalizer for that; I would not).

It takes very little volume input to have an excellent tune to listen to, and moreover, there is never a time where I wished the B2 was bigger so that I could experience the sound with a larger scale; you just turn up the dial by a centimeter or so to get the desired effect.

Conclusion

Price: 8/10

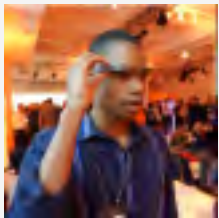
Look, you can get the Audioengine B2, but you could barely kvetch. How exactly? I'm still more found of the vertical speaker cabinet design — horizontal speakers just don't cut it for me, quite yet. Although, you could argue the B2 isn't really a soundbar at all — and for that, it's an excellent Bluetooth desktop speaker that saves space on a desk in an office, or in a room's night stand. Thus, totally worth it.

Pros:

- High build quality
- Great audio range and bass
- Bluetooth aptX and wired functionality
- It's relatively portable

Cons:

- Horizontal design isn't my favorite AE speaker style



— **Stefan Etienne**

Founded tech site LaptopMemo. 18-years-old, loves tea, tennis, reading, tech, gaming, + more.

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