

Audioengine A5+ Powered Speakers Review

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The audio sector of the technology industry is a risky business. Speakers especially can be very expensive to produce and unless the sound is perfect, consumers will not bite. Audioengine is a pretty well established audio company, and they are hoping that they have hit a homerun with their new A5+ speakers that start at \$399.

Today, we will be taking a look at the Audioengine A5+ Computer Speakers to see if they are worth their starting price of \$399.

I would like to thank Audioengine USA for sending out these speakers to review. This, however, has not changed any of my thoughts or opinions about the product.

In the box:

- 1 powered speaker (left front)
- 1 passive speaker (right front)
- 1 remote control
- 1 speaker wire
- 1 detachable AC power cord
- 1 3.5mm mini-jack audio cable
- 1 RCA to RCA cable
- 2 cloth speaker bags
- 1 cloth cable bag
- 1 setup guide
- 1 product line brochure

Build:

For starters, the speakers are available in satin black or hi-gloss white for \$399/pair and in solid bamboo for \$469/pair. I received the solid bamboo versions of the speakers, and I can honestly say that they are some of the best-built speakers I have tested. I got a shipping notification before they were delivered and I saw that the package was 31 pounds. I figured that it was a mere typo, but then I saw the FedEx deliveryman darting across my yard and then he threw the speakers into my arms. While I dropped to floor because I didn't expect the package to be that heavy, I realized

that it was not a typo. From that moment on, I knew that the speakers had to be very well built.

I opened the box and pulled out the left front (powered) speaker and I was immediately impressed. The lines are sleek and the bamboo finish on our review unit gives the speakers a polished, yet natural look to them. On the back of the primary speaker, you will find: 2 analog audio inputs, a USB port to charge your mobile device when it is connected to these speakers, a variable output, connections for secondary speaker, the power switch, the voltage selection switch, and the AC power input. You will also find a fan on the back of the primary speaker. On the front of the primary, you will find the power indicator light, the receiver for the included remote, and a knob to control the volume.

You also get a right front (passive) speaker. On the back of it, you will only find the input for the speaker cable from the powered speaker. On the bottom of both speakers, you will find a ¼" threaded insert in case you want to attach the A5+ speakers to a speaker stand. On the front of both speakers, you will find custom Kevlar woofers & silk tweeters for the higher pitched notes.

The way that Audioengine has designed these speakers makes them compatible with almost anyone. You can use them if you are running a Mac, PC, any iDevice, an Audioengine wireless audio adapter, an Audioengine DAC, Apple Airport Express, Apple AirPlay, an any other product that uses a 3.5mm mini-jack or RCA audio connection.

Sound quality:

I have been able to test out these speakers with several devices including an iPad, an Android smartphone, an iPod touch, and an iMac. The sound out of any device has been crystal clear & extremely loud. By loud, I mean LOUD. Volume is one thing that these speakers do not have a problem with. The A5+ speakers can get loud enough to hold a concert in your room or be quiet enough to listen to music discreetly late at night. I normally keep them attached to my iMac with the volume all the way up on the speakers themselves & on only 1 notch on the Mac. The sound it produces is extremely loud, crisp, and clear.

Most speakers focus on getting the sound through to you at a loud volume, but not focusing on all the complex elements of sound clip. These speakers produce sound that is dimensional and immerses you in the sound. The bass is punchy and prominent, but the tweeters help higher pitches. The way that voices come through is fantastic and it sounds like the artist is standing right next to you while you are listening.

Another thing I found is that the included cables are fantastic. Usually, cables that come with a product tend to be on the cheap side and can produce a bit of muffled sound. The cables included with the A5+s, however, are the exception. They are great cables in terms of sound build quality.

Technical specifications:

Type: 2.0 powered (active) bookshelf-style speaker system

Power Output: 150W peak power total (50W RMS / 75W peak per channel), AES

Inputs: 1/8" (3.5mm) stereo mini-jack, RCA L/R

Outputs: RCA L/R audio (full-range, adjustable), USB Type A (power/charging)

Voltages: 115/240V, 50/60Hz manually switchable

Amplifier Type: Dual Class AB monolithic

Drivers: 5" Kevlar woofers, 20mm silk dome tweeters

Signal-to-noise: >95dB (typical A-weighted)

THD:

Crosstalk:

Frequency response: 50Hz-22kHz +/-1.5dB

Input impedance: 10K ohms unbalanced

Overall:

When I review a product, I always try to find and mark off some points here and there where the company could improve upon the product. I planned on doing the same with the A5+ speakers, especially with their \$469 price tag. I searched & searched for something to take off points for, but I could only find 1 thing: the weight. The speakers are heavy, but once you take them out of the box, they should be sitting somewhere fairly stationary. Because of this, the weight really has no direct correlation with the functionality of the speakers. These speakers are fantastic, and I really can't fault Audioengine anywhere. Overall, the speakers are definitely getting a 10/10 & I would highly recommend purchasing them (the \$469 is WELL worth it).



Audio Quality: 10

Design: 10

Build Quality: 10

the author

Do I love tech? Does a fish love water? I am a complete technophile and a huge fan of most new technology...especially Apple products. I am the Editor-in-Chief of The Real Geeks. @InternetIvan | ian@realgeekstech.com

