

# The Audioengine N22 Compact Amp « SurfBits, Home of the Mac Reviews

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Yesterday we looked at the [P4 Passive Speakers](#) from Audioengine, but for those of you that need an amplifier to power those premium bookshelf speakers, today we're going to look at the new [N22 Compact Amplifier](#) from Audioengine. The two products are connected at the hip for obvious reasons. [Audioengine](#) designs their products to work in harmony with each other and bring out the best with specific tuning and "voicing" between speakers and, in this case, speakers and amplifier.

Audioengine designed the N22 amp for desktop audio or maybe for rear channel speakers. The design is Spartan to begin with in a small frame. The only detail you'll find for the controls is a large volume dial. Below that, a single input for headphones. But the back of the N22 is loaded with functionality. Let's look at the features and the

specifications.

- Powerful but compact stereo audio amplifier
- Cool-running 22 watts RMS per channel
- 2 inputs for iPod, iPhone, computer, TV, etc.
- High-performance headphone output
- Variable preamp output
- USB charge/power port
- Gold-plated speaker connector
- High-quality analog volume control
- Detachable power cord
- Power-saving idle mode
- Hand-finished MDF wood cabinet
- Integrated vertical stand
- All cables included



It's compatible with:

- Audioengine P4 passive speakers
- Audioengine W1 wireless audio adapter
- Desktop computers and laptops (Mac and PC)
- iPods and iPhones
- Headphones
- Rear channel surround speakers
- Any products with mini-jack or RCA audio outputs

I started using the N22 amp with the P4 speakers on my desktop with my Mac Pro. I had a solid, dependable Altec Lansing setup for years and never had any reason to change. The small footprint of the N22 and speakers was a nice benefit and the installation was fast and easy. The sound was a nice step up, especially in the high and mid ranges. I needed to connect a subwoofer I had laying around to get the bass I wanted from the system, but the N22 had no trouble driving the subwoofer and the resulting audio was top



notch. I cannot remember listening to a desktop, computer or iPod system that sounded as full, especially with the compact size of the speakers and amp. Plugging in the iPod was a real auditory treat, and using the W2 wireless iPod adaptor allowed me to stream my iPod audio from anywhere in my home.

Next I tried the N22 in my Home theater setup with the P4 speakers as the rear set to my A5 powered Audioengine speakers. The surround sound was stunning and although I'm far from an expert, the four speakers with the N22 were perfectly matched to my HDTV and PS3 Blu-ray based entertainment system. Plus, the games I tried on the PS3 with the rear speaker system installed was an experience I won't soon forget.

For \$199, the compact and powerful N22 amplifier is a perfect fit for the Audioengine P4 speakers, and with the optional connections the N22 offers, you can get wonderful output from your iPod/iPhone and other third party speakers. I do recommend a subwoofer added into the mix for the best sound you can ask for from such a compact system. As with all the products Audioengine sells, if you purchase it from [their Web site](#), you'll have 30 days to try it out and if you're not happy, send it back for a full refund.



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