

The Audioengine P4 Premium Passive Speakers « SurfBits, Home of the Mac Reviews

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Over the past few years, we've talked about several of the fine audio products from Audioengine. The [Audioengine W2 wireless iPod adapter](#), and the [Audioengine A5 powered speakers](#) among others. This time I am looking at the [P4 Passive Bookshelf Speakers](#). The idea was to create a matching speaker that would go with the powered Audioengines in your home as a surround speaker in your home theater or stereo system. Audioengine wanted to design a small but powerful bookshelf

speaker for people that already have surround receivers or amplifiers and are looking for the same Audioengine sound and quality in a passive loudspeaker.

Let's look at the features and specs for the Audioengine P4.

- 4" 2-way passive, front ported design
- Hand-built and custom finished cabinets
- 5-way gold-plated binding posts
- Silk dome tweeters and Kevlar woofers
- Magnetically-shielded
- Excellent performance for music and movies
- Wall mount, stand or shelf placement ready

Audioengine uses audiophile quality, ferro fluid cooled, silk dome tweeters with Neodymium magnets. Silk tweeters hold up well under high power and the edge-driven design gives very smooth response. The woofers are Kevlar woven glass aramid composite with rubber surrounds. Kevlar is obviously very strong, which means that the woofer retains its shape when being driven at high levels. The speaker materials and construction are robust enough to stand up to some serious thrashing, so speaker grills aren't needed.



The P4 speakers work with Digital hybrid amplifiers (Class-D, Class-T, etc.), stereo and surround sound receivers, integrated amps, tube amplifiers, and whole-house music systems such as the Sonos ZonePlayer 120. I tested it with Audioengine's own [N22 Desktop Audio Amplifier](#). (We'll be looking at the N22 later this week.) I tried them on my home theater system and on my desktop Mac Pro. The P4 showed it's best form when I used them alongside the Audioengine

A5 powered speakers in my living room. When I had them on my desktop, they screamed for a sub-woofer. Audioengine offers the [S8 Premium Powered Subwoofer](#), but I did not have one available for testing. In a standard to small size room, the sound was terrific to say the least. The trebles and mid-ranges were pushed to the limits and stayed true. These are impressive speakers as part of a home theater system.



I found that the speakers were easy to set-up and came with plenty of wire to cover my room. At 9 inches tall by 5.5 inches wide by 6.5 inches deep, the P4 looks like a larger A2 (the A2 is 6 inches high by 4 inches wide by 5.25 inches deep, which you can read more about at http://igadgetlife.com/pc_speakers/specifications-pc_speakers/audioengine-a2-2-speaker-system-specifications). If you order the White or Black cabinets, they'll run you \$249 a pair with free shipping. The Carbonized Solid Bamboo cabinets will cost you \$325 a pair with free shipping.

The powered A5 line are \$100 more than the P4. I have no doubt that you'll be impressed with the

build and the quality of the Audioengine speakers. If you purchase the speakers directly from the Audioengine Web site, you have 30 days to try them for yourself. If you're not satisfied, return them for the full purchase price. You can find them at www.audioengineusa.com.



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