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Audioengine B1 Bluetooth Music Receiver - User Report Review

On September 12, 2014, in Adapter, Audio, Bluetooth, Features, iPad, iPhone, iPod Touch, iTunes, Macintosh, Music, Review, Speakers, by John Nemerovski

B1 Bluetooth Music Receiver
Audioengine
\$189



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Bluetooth audio has arrived for serious music listeners. Connect Audioengine's new **B1 Bluetooth Music Receiver** to your home stereo unit or other system and enjoy the best wireless music signal available. Use your iPhone, iPad, iPod touch, or Macintosh to stream audio to B1. Your music never sounded this good before B1.

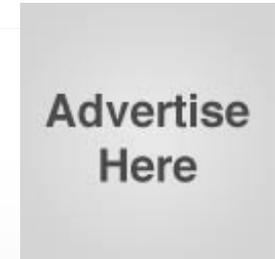
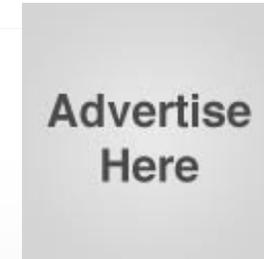




Setup and initial Bluetooth (or BT) connection, or pairing, is quick and effortless. B1 remembers up to six different source audio devices, and reconnects promptly to prior BT equipment. A written instruction guide is included.

The physical B1 is attractive, stylish, and robust, plus straightforward to use. Audioengine products feature a minimalist approach to buttons and knobs, and B1 is the most minimalist of all.

The company is so confident you will find B1 to have value greater than its \$189 price that they encourage a no-hassle 30 day audition with refund available on units purchased from their online store. Study the tech specs, FAQs, and prior reviews that confirm our high opinion of this remarkable BT accessory that immediately became an integral component in my home stereo



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TechFan #185 - RansomNote



TechFan #185 - RansomN

This week's show came together in an u
his spleen about holding data to ransom

environment.

Executive summary: Like music? Got \$189? Get B1.

This outstanding audio device receives a rare **perfect MyMac Review Rating of 10 out of 10**. Bravo, Audioengine.



About the author

John Nemerovski

John "Nemo" Nemerovski is MyMac's Reviews Editor. He is a personal and group computer tutor in Tucson, Arizona, USA, with an emphasis on basic computing, digital photography, and Photoshop. Nemo is an accomplished music instructor on keyboard and guitar, and an expert artisan bread baker. If you are interested in writing reviews or requesting a product review on MyMac, contact him: nemo [a t] mymac [d o t] c o m.

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Tagged with: **30 day refund** • **Audioengine** • **home stereo system** • **minimalist design** • **wireless music**

3 Responses to *Audioengine B1 Bluetooth Music Receiver – User Report Review*



JoeF says:

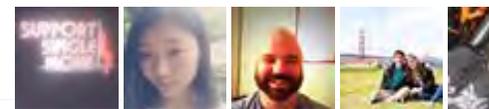
September 12, 2014 at 4:01 pm

Hi John,

Thanks for the review. It's hard to find someone who's tested the B1 since it's such a new product.

Since you used it with an iPhone/iPad. Since Apple does not support AptX, I was wondering if

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you can confirm if it streams AAC (instead of SBC) via A2DP to the B1. If so, do you know if the iPhone sends AAC encoded music, or does it decode and re-encode it to AAC before transmitting. The Apple docs aren't very clear on this.

Also, what is the max range you get before it breaks up.

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John Nemerovski says:

September 12, 2014 at 5:49 pm

Thanks, Joe. B1 streams whatever source it receives natively, meaning whatever your iOS equipment is playing will be what B1 receives and transmits beautifully.

Bluetooth range is clear up to 30' or 10 meters, and then less consistent up to 45' or 15 meters, depending upon line of sight versus walls and other physical obstacles.

"Hey, John. This music sounds really good," said Mrs. Nemo two minutes ago. "Are you doing something different?" Yes, I am!

Nemo

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John Nemerovski says:

September 12, 2014 at 6:35 pm

Update from company regarding bitrate:

"The highest 'native' bitrate that can be transmitted through BT (using the aptX codec) is 16-bit lossless. Anything else, like 24-bit music from HDtracks.com, is downsampled to 16-bit.

Apple supports aptX in MacOS but not (yet) in iOS, so music files played over an iPhone will be something less than 16-bits, which is then upsampled to 24-bits on the output of the B1 receiver. Some audio purists are against this, but if done right it sounds really fantastic, which is why B1 sounds so nice – even when streaming music from an iPhone."

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