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Goodbye Wires, Hello Bluetooth!

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These wireless speakers may be small, but they still pack a powerful punch when it comes to listening to your music.

1) VEHO 360, \$79, from [Tangs Orchard](#)

Bluetooth range: 15 metres.

What I liked: It was the smallest and most lightweight of the lot; I could take it everywhere. It had

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the longest bluetooth range – music only became slightly distorted about 12 metres away from the source; and cut off at 15 metres. Charging was done via USB; one charge gave me four hours of playtime.

What could be better: Pairing up was a little tricky initially – I had to delete the previous pairing on my phone and search for the Veho speaker. There were no volume controls on the speakers; I had to adjust it from my phone. At a very high volume, the music also got a little crackly, and the song paused every time I received an SMS.

Verdict: Short playtime, but scores on portability and range though sound quality was average.

Rating: 7

2) Sony Ericsson MBS-200, \$78, from selected [Sony Ericsson](#) concept stores


Bluetooth range: Six metres. This was the only one that did not come with a cable to connect to devices that weren't Bluetooth-ready.

What I liked: Good sound quality; given its compact size – playback was still rich and full, and I could hear the music and lyrics distinctly. When the volume was high, the music remained undistorted and clear. At a low volume, I could still make out the lyrics. It came with an electrical charger; one charge gave me about six hours of playtime.

What could be better: Setting up was a little tricky, as the manual wasn't very clear. The on/off button and volume controls were hard to reach as they were placed under the speakers. I had to rely on my mobile phone to let me know that the speakers had paired. The Bluetooth connection also started to get shaky when the speakers were placed five to six metres away from the music source.

Verdict: Basic speakers with a reasonable sound quality, though the range could be better.

Rating: 7



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EDITOR'S PICK

3) Jawbone Jambox, \$328, from [Courts](#) and authorised retailers

Bluetooth range: 10 metres.

What I liked: The design was sleek and pairing the speakers to my mobile phone was easy – all I had to do was to push a slider on the side of the set; a voice announced that the device had been paired. Sound quality was brilliant – I could make out distinct beats in the background music, which was rich and full. Even at a low volume, the music and lyrics were clear. A plus point was that I could transfer files onto my phone via Bluetooth without disrupting the music. I also liked the built-in microphone, which let me answer calls with it. Charging was done via the USB cable included; a full charge gave me 10 hours of playtime.

What could be better: It was perfect – there was nothing I did not like about it.

Verdict: The priciest, but you get superior sound and multiple functions.

Rating: 9

GREAT FIND

4) Creative D100, \$89.90, from [Creative stores](#) and authorised dealers

Bluetooth range: 10 metres.

What I liked: Setting up was a breeze – I just pressed the Bluetooth button located on the front of the speakers to pair. In an enclosed room, the rich, full sound resembled a surround sound experience in a cinema. It got really loud at maximum volume, making it an excellent choice for parties, barbecues and picnics. With four AA-sized batteries, it had a playback of up to 25 hours, much longer than all the other speakers.

What could be better: I couldn't hear anything at low volumes. Turning it up a notch improved the quality a little – I could make out lyrics, but the music was still unclear.

Verdict: A little bulky, but you get good sound quality and a long playback time for its price.

Rating: 8.5

Tips For Using Your Speakers

- 1) At a party – gather your friends to sync their Bluetooth-enabled devices to the speakers so everyone can share their music.
- 2) Enhance the audio of movies or games from your tablet or computer.

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