WIRELESS NETWORKING

We assembled six speaker systems and pressed play to see which ones rocked WIRED's house – and which were the party poopers

Sonos Play:3

The Play:3 is restricted to just Wi-Fi and Ethernet connections, and the number of wireless speakers is also limited by the reach and bandwidth of your router's network. The speakers have no external display and only basic controls, but the Sonos app can seamlessly stream most music services as well as iTunes. Sound quality is mightily impressive for the size. **7/10** *£260 per speaker sonos.co.uk*

Transmission Wi-Fi **No. of units** unlimited **aptX** no **NFC** no **Aux in** 3.5mm

Samsung M7

The attractive M7 requires a separate hub for multi-room use, but connecting is a cinch. Its app slickly integrates DLNA sources, TuneIn and Android or iOS-stored tunes, but streaming proved buggy. It's a little slow to react, but it does deliver powerful sound. **7/10** *£330 per speaker samsung.com*

Transmission Wi-Fi, Bluetooth **No. of units** 6 **aptX** no **NFC** yes **Aux in** USB, digital optical, 3.5mm

Pure Jongo T6

Jongo offers two multi-speaker wireless streaming methods: the newly developed Caskeid Bluetooth and Wi-Fi hybrid standard; and Pure's Jongo Wi-Fi protocol, which requires use of the *Pure Connect* iOS or Android app that hosts Pure's own streaming packages. It all works simply enough but Jongo won't play higher res FLAC, AIFF or ALAC files. **6/10** *£300 per speaker pure.com*

Transmission Wi-Fi, Bluetooth **No. of units** unlimited **aptX** no **NFC** no **Aux in** 3.5mm

The Mu-so uses tech first employed in Bentley's cars

HOW WE TESTED

We assessed each system for ease of use in setting up a multi-room scenario, including the ability to run speakers in party mode and using different rooms for multiple sources. We also tested their ability to access streaming services such as Spotify and other network-connected sources such as NAS drives. Each uses a variety of standards such as Bluetooth, Wi-Fi, RF and AirPlay.

This is the LV1 compact; we also tested a pair of LV2e speakers

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Bose SoundTouch 20

To get the Bose up and running you need to connect it to a Mac or PC and install the *SoundTouch* control app. Six presets are allowed, which can be internet radio stations, playlists or (by this winter) streaming of Deezer. Using pre-sets and the app is fine for radio, but AirPlay is quicker for using with iTunes. **6/10** *£350 per speaker bose.co.uk*

Transmission Wi-Fi, AirPlay **No. of units** 6 **aptX** no **NFC** yes **Aux in** yes

HOW TO…
GET THE MOST OUT OF WIRELESS SPEAKERS

Minimise the chance of drop-outs and interference by quitting other sevices or apps that aren't being used. Enable Auto Channel Scan on your router to minimise Wi-Fi interference. Set the volume of the source device to maximum and then adjust it at the speaker. And, importantly, don't place speakers too close to walls or other hard surfaces.

Audio Pro Living

A dongle attaches to each source here, which then transmits in CD quality to each unit. Each speaker can be reassigned to different sources so it's easy to switch from TV-soundbar to multi-room use. Throw in an AirPort Express and AirPlay is possible but adjustments are made via physical remote. Sound is nice and punchy. **8/10** *LV1 £425, LV2e £700 (pair) audiopro.com*

Transmission RF **No. of units** unlimited **aptX** no **NFC** no **Aux in** 3.5mm, TV SoundShare

BEST FOR **SHOWPIECE STREAMING**

Naim Mu-so

The Mu-so is exquisitely crafted with an aluminium skin and a transparent acrylic base. Each unit has six active speaker drivers and a massive 450W power output. An optical light-ring volume dial and touch-sensitive controls are a delight to use. Internet radio presets can be altered using Naim's own app. Wireless multi-room streaming is at CD resolution but can go up to 24-bit/192kHz using Naim's UnitiQute network streamer. The sound quality, meanwhile, is sensational. **9/10** *£895 per speaker naimaudio.com*

Transmission Wi-Fi, AirPlay, Bluetooth **No. of units** 6 **aptX** yes **NFC** yes **Aux in** no