

Wireless speakers

Outdoors or around the house, no wires means you're free to enjoy music wherever you are

GETTING UP TO SPEED

Audio Pro's Addon range has finally been equipped with wi-fi, giving the C5 wireless multi-room functionality



PRODUCT OF THE YEAR

Best wireless speaker £200-£500

Audio Pro Addon C5 £230

It may have taken longer to get connected to the internet than your Gran, but Audio Pro's Addon range of wireless speakers has finally discovered the joys of wi-fi.

And, while the manufacturer could tell you how it has managed just fine all these years without it, the Addon C5's multi-room functionality has played no small part in earning Audio Pro's second Product of the Year title in three years.

An ace up its sleeve

Perhaps the best thing about Audio Pro's multi-room line-up, which includes the larger Addon C10 and Link 1 wireless hub, is that current Addon users needn't replace their existing units to incorporate them in the household set-up. The new speakers are able to act as a parent and control Bluetooth-only gear through the dedicated app.

In effect, it's that internet and multi-room capacity that sets the Addon C5 apart from the Award-winning Addon T5. From the front it looks identical, with its familiar configuration of a 10cm woofer flanked by 18mm tweeters.

Things start to differ as we switch our attention to the top of the Addon C5, with a large circular volume control surrounded by sets of four smaller buttons: power, play/pause, input selection and Bluetooth pairing to its left, pre-sets to its right.

Here's also where you'll find the aux-in socket, while inputs on the rear are reserved for mains power, ethernet cable and RCA, alongside outputs for sub-woofer and USB device charging, plus a toggle switch for optimised playback.

View offers

whf.cm/AddonT5

"The Addon C5 cannot be tripped up, not in its organisation of discordant vocal harmonies or off-kilter rhythms"

It's rare these days to find multi-room apps difficult to navigate, but a more common problem is how buggy they can be. There are no such problems for Audio Pro, which aced its exams in all regards.

This range of speakers has always been blessed with straightforward musicality but, as part of a multi-room system, the range of tasks the Addon C5 is asked to perform is likely to be wider. Talk radio and podcasts are on the menu - perhaps even service as an upgrade to TV speakers.

Tripping point

There's a level of expression and low-end stability that distances Audio Pro musically from its rivals, delivering tracks with heft, textured detailing and metronomic precision. So it stands to reason that those talents are entirely transferable. For example, when we listen to Bob Mortimer and Andy Dawson's football podcast *Athletico Mince*, the Addon C5 is as happy expressing the irreverence in Mortimer's tone - and the desperation in Dawson's - as it is laying down the grooves from your Tidal playlist.

Essentially, this particular Audio Pro is impossible to trip up. The only thing is, you're unlikely to stop at buying just the one.