



**1** Marshall Kilburn II  
£270



**2** Minirig 3  
£140

# Portable speakers

Let's face it, the number of Bluetooth speaker users these days is probably way higher than for those listening on more traditional setups. So should you be testing mixes through these devices too? Probably, yes. Here's a small selection...

**3** Marshall Stanmore II  
£300







**4** **Peopeo Voodoo Boombox**  
€799

**1** The mid-sized model from Marshall's portable Bluetooth range is only £30 cheaper than the Stanmore II and nearly half the size, but the sound quality is not far off its larger sibling; punchy mids, with plenty of low-end weight and high-end clarity. Of course, that relatively high price is likely paying for a battery that boasts over 20 hours of battery life. Just like the Stanmore, both bass and treble controls adorn the top panel, along with the rear-mounted Aux input (Stanmore's also includes an RCA input). As with most Bluetooth speakers, the Kilburn II is easily paired via your device's settings, unlike the Stanmore II, which requires its own app that wasn't all that reliable. 36 watts power the woofer and tweeters for a frequency response of 52-20,000Hz.

[marshallheadphones.com](http://marshallheadphones.com)

**VERDICT 9.0**

**2** Bristol-based Minirig's third iteration of the puck-like Bluetooth speaker, promises greater battery life and loudness – and it delivers. You should be able to squeeze 100 hours of playtime at low volume. We haven't tested that, but we've only charged it once since getting it. With only one driver, albeit 70mm, there's an obvious drop-off in frequency response, which measures at 60-18,000 Hz. Not shabby, but in the overall sound-quality stakes, the Minirig doesn't quite reach the levels of both Marshall speakers. It has its own app, but our favourite feature is the link function, where you can wirelessly chain multiple units together. There's also a subwoofer, Minirig Sub 2, which would be worth your money as the combined price equals the Kilburn II's.

[minirigs.co.uk](http://minirigs.co.uk)

**VERDICT 8.9**

**3** The larger of the two Marshalls here can also come equipped with Alexa, or Google Assistant for an extra £50, which is certainly appealing. The Stanmore is not portable, but more than capable of filling large rooms. A 50W Class D amplifier powers the woofer, while two 15W Class D amplifiers take care of the tweeters with a frequency range of 50-20,000Hz. The overall quality of the stereo image is the best on test. Combined with treble and bass controls, you can tweak the tone to your heart's content, or crank them both up for that classic mid-scooped, bright and heavy hi-fi sound. One slight misgiving is that volume control seems to be exponential, so from around 80% it can get very loud, very quickly, which takes a little getting used to.

[marshallheadphones.com](http://marshallheadphones.com)

**VERDICT 8.9**

**4** French startup, Peopeo, has released its first product in the form of the Voodoo Boombox and it's a striking design. The Voodoo boasts a huge 200W RMS power, with a frequency response of 45-20,000 Hz through a 1" dome tweeter and 8" woofer. Boy is it loud. The overall sound is very strong in the mid-range and with that comes plenty of punch – perfect for dance music that needs to cut through any ambient noise. What counts against the Voodoo is the price, at a lofty 799 euros; and its 7kg weight counts against it on the portability stakes, hence the backpack-style carry feature. However, being aimed at outdoor use, the Voodoo does, as such, feature an IP44 splash-proof water resistance rating.

[peopeo.io](http://peopeo.io)

**VERDICT 8.6**

## FM VERDICT

**THE HIGH PERFORMER** Although the Stanmore II is arguably the better-sounding speaker of the two, the **Kilburn II** just pips it to the post with its all-around quality and portability

**THE BEST VALUE** The **Minirig 3** gets our vote for best value speaker on the test, not just for price, but the comprehensive app, connectivity, range of finishes and expandability