



Cambridge Yoyo (M) €399

Enjoy wireless connectivity in all its stereo glory with this compact and versatile 2.0 speaker system

BLUETOOTH STEREO

Regardless of audio quality, pulling off true two-channel stereo sound with a pair of wireless Bluetooth speakers is no mean feat. Your smartphone and other mobile devices have to pair directly with the right-hand Yoyo speaker, which then decodes the Bluetooth audio stream and splits it into separate left and right channels, relaying the left-hand channel to the other speaker via a secondary Bluetooth connection. It also has to synchronise the left and right channels to provide seamless stereo sound. And, if you turn off the left-hand speaker, the right speaker automatically switches into standalone mode so that you can use it on its own if you want to step out into the garden or take it away with you for the weekend. It's a pity, though, that the left-hand speaker can't work on its own too.

DETAILS

- PRODUCT**
Cambridge Yoyo (M)
- ORIGIN**
UK/China
- TYPE**
Portable Bluetooth speakers
- WEIGHT**
1.5kg (each)
- DIMENSIONS**
(WxHxD)
120 x 205 x 120mm
- FEATURES**
 - 1x 30mm full-range driver
 - 1x 75mm subwoofer
 - Gesture control
- DISTRIBUTOR**
Cambridge Audio
- TELEPHONE**
0207 9402200
- WEBSITE**
cambridgeaudio.com

There is a number of Bluetooth speakers that you can buy as a single unit, but which also allow you to add a second speaker and then pair them together to provide a wireless stereo system. Cambridge takes a slightly different approach with its Yoyo (M), as unlike other speakers in the Yoyo range, these come bundled as a pair.

They're paired together for stereo output while still at the factory, so all you have to do is turn them on and connect via the standard Bluetooth menu on your smartphone or other devices, and they automatically function as left/right stereo speakers. They're neatly designed too, with each speaker standing just 205mm high, so you can easily sit them at either side of your computer on a desk or up on a nearby shelf. Both speakers have their own rechargeable battery – that claims to last for up to

24 hours – so you can easily pick them up and move them from room to room. You can also turn the designated left speaker off and just use the right speaker on its own, which is handy if you want to wander out into the garden for a while, say. Unfortunately, you can't use the left speaker in quite the same way, as it only works in conjunction with its right-handed sibling.

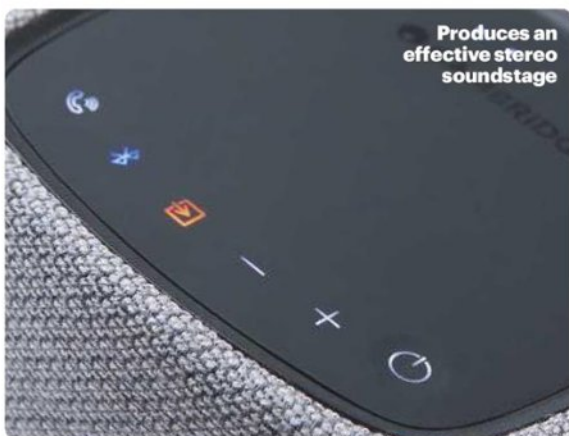
Sound quality

The €399 price tag means that each speaker costs about €199 and that's reflected in the audio quality, which is respectable enough, but not quite in the same league as some of the more costly standalone models that we listen to elsewhere in the group. Each speaker contains just a single full-range driver to handle the mid and high frequencies, along with a dedicated driver it calls a subwoofer for bass output. The ability to move the two speakers a few feet apart does help them to produce a much wider soundstage than many of their rivals, and it's nice to hear Brian May's guitar bouncing merrily between the left and right speakers – which, of course, is something that you don't get with single speaker setups. That full-range driver has its limitations, though. Cambridge doesn't reveal the frequency response of the Yoyo (M), and although the midrange sounds strong and warm, the speakers don't capture all of the details in the many layers of a capella harmonies on *Somebody To Love*. It also falls a little short when it needs to vault up to

Roger Taylor's swooping falsetto on that same Queen track.

It's not a particularly dynamic sound, either. There's enough raw volume to fill a medium-size room, but the atmospheric production of *Orinoco Flow* feels rather static, focusing primarily on the space in front of the speakers rather than using the physical separation of the two cabinets to reach out and encompass the whole room.

The subwoofer works well, though, lending a welcome firmness to the bass line on The Orb's *Prime Evil*. It doesn't overwhelm the sound either, and the Yoyo (M) does have a lighter touch at low volumes than some rivals. Acoustic tracks from Damien Rice sound suitably wistful, making the Yoyo (M) a good choice if you just need a second speaker system for your bedroom or your computer, even if it does lack some of the precision and verve of the best on test here ● ▶



Produces an effective stereo soundstage

Hi-Fi Choice

OUR VERDICT

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| SOUND QUALITY
★★★★☆ | LIKE: Versatile stereo Bluetooth; right speaker works on its own |
| VALUE FOR MONEY
★★★★☆ | DISLIKE: Sound, struggles to resolve higher frequencies |
| BUILD QUALITY
★★★★☆ | WE SAY: A flexible second speaker system, but sound quality isn't the best |
| FEATURES
★★★★☆ | |

OVERALL



Group test verdict

A portable speaker has to sound good, but size, weight and connectivity features all play their part. **Cliff Joseph** comes inside and tells it like it is

HARMAN KARDON'S GO + Play is never going to win any awards for the subtlety of its sound, and its higher frequencies in particular can be, shall we say, rather challenging at times. But it delivers roof-rattling power in a highly portable design, and at a price that's a real bargain for the summer festival season.

Cambridge deserves credit for being one of the first manufacturers to produce a stereo Bluetooth system. The compact Yoyo (M) speakers are ideal for use with a computer, or for sitting on a bookshelf, while also providing a single-speaker option for

outdoors. However, their sound isn't quite so flexible, and this affordable two-piece system doesn't manage to match the greater reach and precision of its standalone rivals.

JBL takes a similar tack with the two-piece Control X Wireless, and its higher price and more robust design delivers impressive power without any annoying distortion. It's less sure-footed at lower volumes, though, and the bass is also a little disappointing for expensive speakers that are so clearly intended for entertaining friends. In contrast, Onkyo springs a surprise, with its

extremely compact and portable X9. This slimline speaker is small enough for a suitcase, but manages to deliver a warm and detailed sound that is ideal for relaxing at home or outdoors – even if it doesn't have the party-pumping firepower of its more robust rivals.

Quadral's Breeze Two impresses with its detailed and precisely balanced sound, and also with its versatile connectivity features, which include both Bluetooth and wi-fi. Yet this big speaker seems to be a little underpowered, especially for when it comes to outdoor use.



B&O gets all the basics right with its Beolit 15. The sound quality is on a par with the Quadral Breeze Two, yet it is compact and portable and has enough power and drive to entertain outdoors. It can even top up your phone's battery when you're out and about.



Make/model	B&O Beolit 15	Cambridge Yoyo (M)	Harman Kardon Go + Play	JBL Control X Wireless	Onkyo X9	Quadral Breeze Two
Price	€499	€399	€299	€299	€289	€449
Sound	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★
Build	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★
Features	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★
Overall	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★
	A great outdoor speaker, but it's less well suited to quieter musical moments	A flexible second speaker system, but sound quality isn't among the best	A budget speaker that is most at home when it's partying loud outdoors	Flexible placement options with good sound, but limited battery life	Quality sound with good connectivity and portability both at home or away	Flexible wireless connectivity and refined sound, but modest power

Key features

Weight	2.7kg	1.5kg (each)	3.4kg	2.95kg (each)	1.47kg	4.8kg
Battery life	24 hours	24 hours	8 hours	4 hours	10 hours	20 hours
Wireless	Bluetooth	Bluetooth	Bluetooth	Bluetooth	Bluetooth	Bluetooth; wi-fi; AirPlay
Input	3.5mm jack	3.5mm jack	3.5mm jack	3.5mm jack	3.5mm jack; micro-USB	3.5mm jack
Output	USB charging	USB charging	USB charging	None	3.5mm headphone jack	USB charging

TRY WITH THESE

MUSIC STREAMING SERVICE: Tidal £20 per month HFC 414

There are numerous online music stores providing hi-res streaming. Each has its own focus and you may need to hunt around for a particular album, but our current favourite to explore has to be Tidal.



HI-RES PORTABLE PLAYER: Astell&Kern AK300 £749 HFC 413

One of our favourite hi-res digital audio players, the AK300 also provides Bluetooth streaming for portable speakers, as well as useful wi-fi connectivity.



HI-RES PORTABLE PLAYER: Pioneer XDP-100R £500 HFC 407

A recent price drop means that the XDP-100R is a more affordable option for anyone looking for a standalone audio player. It has aptX Bluetooth, streaming services and useful expandable storage.

