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# Test Audio Pro BT5: the benchmark Bluetooth speaker for less than 170 euros



Nerces



Gaming Expert

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EDITOR'S NOTE



**Small thumb of the Audio Pro range, the BT5 is also an opportunity for the Scandinavian brand to reinvent itself. There are many technical and aesthetic changes, while official pricing is unusually "low" for a new brand product.**

Based in Helsingborg in its native Sweden, Audio Pro is clearly not the most famous speaker manufacturer. However, the brand has more than 40 years of experience in the field, an excellent reputation in its territory of origin and a presence in more than 45 countries. Since the A4.14 released in 1978, it has come a long way and is today at the forefront when it comes to a **Bluetooth speaker** like the small BT5 that occupies us today.

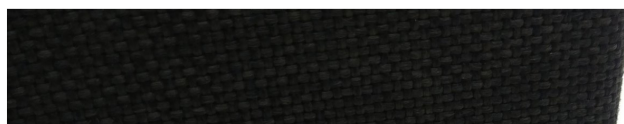
## Audio Pro BT5 Datasheet

At first glance at the BT5 and we will obviously have the opportunity to come back to it, we must notice the change in style made by Audio Pro. Until now, the brand has not hesitated to offer a "raw" aesthetic with a parallelepiped shape and grids for the different speakers, clearly visible. The BT5 is an opportunity to get closer to brands like Klipsch and its The One: wooden parts and fabric covering.

### Audio Pro BT5 is :

- > **Amplification** : Class D, 10W + 25W
- > **Speakers** : ¾ " tweeter + 4 " woofer
- > **Frequency response** : 50 Hz - 20 kHz
- > **Crossover** : 3,800 Hz
- > **Connectivity** : Bluetooth v4.0, 3.5mm stereo auxiliary input
- > **Dimensions** : 250 x 150 x 134 mm
- > **Weight** : grams
- > **Price and availability** : available, at € 169.99

The technical sheet of the BT5 is an opportunity to realize another major change for Audio Pro. Whether it is the imposing Addon T5 or the more modest Addon T3, but also many earlier models, Audio Pro was most often based on an architecture comprising a woofer and two tweeters. The woofer remains in place, but Audio Pro abandons one of the two tweeter ... at the risk of losing its reputation for remarkably balanced sound ... to follow closely.



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A discreet logo on the front © Nerces for Clubic

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## Wood, fabric and a little retro feel

We said it in the introduction, with the BT5, Audio Pro is close to the retro trend design adopted by other big names in audio ... starting with Klipsch with The One II that we tested a few weeks ago . Audio Pro has therefore imagined a perfectly regular "brick" of 25 by 15 centimeters. First point that pleases, the base and the upper part of this parallelepiped are made of wood. The material is obviously more noble than vulgar plastic ... and aesthetically it's much more flattering. Audio Pro also offers three finishes to satisfy everyone: *driftwood* , walnut and black.



Three colors for three atmospheres © Nerces for Clubic

The entire structure of the speaker is made of wood, but Audio Pro has chosen to cover most of it with gray striped fabric on all finishes. This coating contributes to the vintage look of the BT5 and gives it an undeniable cachet. The fabric can also hide the speakers, but this is a matter of taste: some prefer the old Audio Pro style, when the speakers were clearly visible. Audio Pro has also chosen to reduce the airfoil compared to its previous models by integrating only one 6" tweeter to accompany a woofer slightly more imposing than on the Addon T3 for example: 4" against 3, 5" on the previous speaker.



The rear is very sober © Nerces for Clubic

A rear face which we retain the destitution. Outside the vent on the right, there is only a two-pin power socket (the BT5 has no battery), an auxiliary input and a standby / auto on button for standby. The BT5 is based on a class D amplifier delivering 25W + 10W. A power that is managed via controls on the top of the enclosure. There we find the power on / standby button and another for pairing. Then, two buttons switch between the Bluetooth and auxiliary sources. Finally, the last two buttons act on the volume. We regret that Audio Pro does not allow us to go a little further by authorizing, for example, the change of track.



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Zoom on the (rare) connectors and the rear vent © Nerces for Clubic

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## Bluetooth pairing and ... nothing else

Bluetooth speaker, the BT5 is obviously to be connected through this protocol so appreciated by smartphone holders. Alas and while it is however fashionable among the vast majority of manufacturers - even on much less expensive models - Audio Pro does not have any application to manage its speaker. The pairing is therefore done from the mobile - or the tablet - without it being then possible to take advantage of any "expert" mode with settings in all directions: you will have to do with what your mobile offers and / or your favorite audio player. Undoubtedly disappointing, even if neophytes will no doubt be delighted to have a very simple product without the risk of planting anything.



Orders a little too stripped down © Nerces for Clubic

Indeed, the pairing in itself is done entirely automatically and poses no problem. That said, another disappointment, the BT5 only responds to Bluetooth 4.0 standards while version 5.0 has been available for a while, multipoint is not on the menu any more than Bluetooth Hi-Res codes like APTX. Another regret, the orders are not always very practical. For example, we have no LEDs or physical means to know the volume level of the BT5. Knowing that its volume is dissociated from that of Bluetooth via the smartphone, we do not know in advance if we will be massacred the ears or if things will remain inaudible. Pity. However, we appreciate that the switch between Bluetooth and the 3.5 mm jack auxiliary input is a breeze.





## Beautiful audio layouts

Its architecture very close to other Audio Pro speakers suggests an interesting audio behavior for this B5. First, let us emphasize the good reserve of power which we have without distorting the sound. We also benefit from an extended frequency response, in accordance with the promise established on the technical sheet of the speaker with bass that actually starts around 50 Hz. In general, the sound is pleasant without being too colorful. We appreciate its precision and respect for "natural" sounds. Given the relatively large volume of the BT5 and its architecture, we are not surprised to have low frequencies more particularly in the spotlight.



Integration into Scandinavian fashion © Audio Pro

Deep and punchy, it benefits from a beautiful dynamic and we thank the 4 inch woofer as much as the large vent present on the rear face. Please note, however, that the sound of the BT5 is particularly "directional". First, you will avoid placing the speaker glued to a wall so that it can "breathe". You will also avoid placing it at ground level of course and opt instead for a relatively tall piece of furniture: we have a preference for a height of at least 1.20m, but of course, everything is as always a matter of taste. The absence of the most basic equalization on the speaker itself is all the more annoying that no application is there to fill this gap.

Most audio players are fortunately there to adjust the sound to your liking. On other models of the brand, the treble tends to be a little too present: the disappearance of a tweeter may have something to do with it, but this is not the case on the BT5. Midrange and treble seemed to be well balanced. There may be some limitations on some high-end instruments such as the cymbals which tend to be a bit metallic while the vocals may slightly hiss. Make no mistake, here we are looking for the little beast to justify the price difference that may exist between this BT5 at more or less 160 - 170 euros and the Audio Pro Addon C5 for example which is negotiated 30 euros more. In general, the BT5 made a very good impression on us.



Accessories are rare: a power cable and that's it ... not even a 3.5 mm jack cable © Audio Pro

## Audio Pro BT5: Clubic's user review

We just wrote it black on white, the BT5 is a very convincing model that made a very good impression on us. Audio Pro fully lives up to its reputation, even if the most music-loving among us will find fault with it.



They will regret the disappearance of a tweeter, but will probably complain especially about the particularly directive side of the sound: the placement of the speaker is more important than ever on a product of the brand. Still, for a less elitist listening, the BT5 is a very good model, capable of great neutrality. The design aspect is obviously not to be outdone: it is undoubtedly the most beautiful of the Bluetooth speakers available in this price range. Too bad that Audio Pro has abandoned the accessories to this point: no application, few commands.

## Audio Pro BT5

### Most

- + Convincing audio rendering
- + Very good bass behavior
- + Retro finish with the most beautiful effect
- + 3.5mm jack auxiliary input
- + Good power reserve

### The lessers

- Its very "directive"
- Some slightly metallic treble
- Voices that hiss slightly
- Absence of Bluetooth Hi-Res codecs
- No volume indicator

audio ★★★★★  
Ergonomics ★★★★★  
finishes ★★★★★

4.5/5

Buy Audio Pro BT5

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