Hardware Review:

Saitek Audio A-250 Wireless Speaker System

Stream Music Wirelessly From Your PC To Anyplace In Your House!

By Bruce Pechman, The Muscleman of Technology®   May, 2006
www.mrbicep.com

Small, Black, and Hot!
Saitek's new audio division really knows how to deliver beautifully engineered consumer tech products without sacrificing product quality. Saitek has an innovative flair (and an inspired design team) that knows what consumers want and keeps the price point affordable. The Saitek A-250 Wireless 2.1 Speaker System stays constant to this culture and philosophy. If you think I'm exaggerating, just Google the Saitek X52 Controller. Everything about the Saitek A-250 exudes class, including the packaging. Open the meticulously thought out box and you'll unwrap the "Egg-Crate" to discover an attractive, high enamel, black finished curvaceous museum piece. Saitek even includes a polishing cloth in the package. The left and right speakers are trimmed in red and gold respectively, and your first thought will be "Where shall I place my thing of beauty?" For me, I wanted to hoist it up on my shoulders like a Boom Box and ask folks "Which way's the beach?" On second thought, you should place it on a nice piece of furniture or anywhere you'll want to listen your tunes.

Let There Be Music
After you get situated and stop staring at the A-250 and mumbling how small and light it is (everything feels light to me) you should open the included CD shaped package which contains your 70 page owner's manual, Performance Tips, and Warranty Docs (2- year

warranty). Don't freak on me—only 14 of the 70 pages are in English…Actareeba! Next, you'll want to unpack the USB Wireless Transmitter. Plug it into a free USB port and press the blue button once to activate. Your computer will recognize the transmitter and the blue button should be flashing blue. It will turn solid blue when you turn on the A-250. At this point I kind of blew off the directions and just launched Windows Media Player and queued up Kelly Clarkson's Since U Been Gone. I walked downstairs to power-on the A-250 and like—whoaaa it really works!

Sweet Sounds
The A-250 is a simple yet elegant design that just works great. I looked up the average price on line and at between $115 to $130 you'll be hard pressed not to love the quality, sound and convenience the Saitek A-250 provides. I appreciate the extra features normally not found on a wireless portable speaker system in this class including:

- Informational LCD Display
- A/C Adapter included / or Battery (4 "AA's" not included – should last 20 hours)
- Active Crossover Technology boosts clarity
- Neodymium Tweeters
- 2.4 GHz – Wireless Range just under 100 feet (30m)
- Standard 3.5mm audio cable included for direct MP3 (or other audio source)

There are a couple of things to keep in mind to get the most from your A-250. Obviously, if you walk right in front of the A-250 (and spread your lats) you will break up the connection; and it does help to keep the USB Wireless Transmitter up as high as possible to improve reception and signal clarity (a USB extension cable is included—I told you it's a classy package). One more thing per page 13 of the manual: if you want to use your MP3 player (or other audio source) for direct connection, you must hold down the Pause button for 3 seconds to switch between wireless mode and direct line input (LCD will read "Line").

I know sound is subjective, but I have tested many portable speaker systems and can tell you for this price point the A-250 package is definitely tops in its category! For more information about the super cool & hip Saitek A-250 Wireless Speaker System (MSRP $129), be sure visit the Saitek Audio site at: www.saitekaudio.com.