

US Patent & Trademark Office

Patent Public Search | Text View

United States Patent Application Publication

20250267414

Kind Code

A1

Publication Date

August 21, 2025

Inventor(s)

Jackson; Craig et al.

PORTABLE SPEAKER WITH INTEGRATED WIRELESS TRANSMITTER

Abstract

Various implementations include portable speakers with detachable wireless transmitters. In some particular aspects, a portable speaker includes an enclosure housing: at least one electro-acoustic transducer for providing an audio output, a processor coupled with the at least one transducer; an audio input module coupled with the processor for receiving audio input signals; and an input channel for receiving a hard-wired audio input connection at the enclosure; at least one wireless transmitter detachably housed in the enclosure and in communication with a corresponding wireless input channel for receiving audio input from a source device.

Inventors: Jackson; Craig (Waltham, MA), Daly; Thomas (Northborough, MA), Ostrer; David (Uxbridge, MA), Kulchy; Randy (Shrewsbury, MA), Lippitt; Benjamin C. (Worcester, MA), Martin; James F. (Westborough, MA), Pepin; David L. (Sutton, MA), Sarode; Jayesh Dilip (Boston, MA)

Applicant: Bose Corporation (Framingham, MA)

Family ID: 1000008589531

Appl. No.: 19/203434

Filed: May 09, 2025

Related U.S. Application Data

parent US continuation 18383555 20231025 parent-grant-document US 12328553 child US 19203434

parent US continuation 17583524 20220125 parent-grant-document US 11902751 child US 18383555

Publication Classification

Int. Cl.: H04R27/00 (20060101); **H04R1/02** (20060101)

U.S. Cl.:

CPC H04R27/00 (20130101); **H04R1/02** (20130101); H04R2420/07 (20130101);
H04R2420/09 (20130101)

Background/Summary

PRIORITY CLAIM

[0001] This application claims priority to co-pending U.S. patent application Ser. No. 18/383,555 (Portable Speaker with Integrated Wireless Transmitter), filed Oct. 25, 2023, which itself claims priority to U.S. patent application Ser. No. 17/583,524 (Portable Speaker with Integrated Wireless Transmitter), filed on Jan. 25, 2022, the entire contents of each of which are incorporated by reference.

TECHNICAL FIELD

[0002] This disclosure generally relates to portable speakers. More particularly, the disclosure relates to portable speakers such as portable public address (PA) speakers with wireless transmitters.

BACKGROUND

[0003] Portable loudspeakers, such as portable PA systems, can provide flexibility for users in various scenarios. However, conventional portable loudspeakers require hard-wired connection for certain inputs, thereby limiting functionality.

SUMMARY

[0004] All examples and features mentioned below can be combined in any technically possible way.

[0005] Various implementations include portable speakers with detachable wireless transmitters.

[0006] In some particular aspects, a portable speaker includes an enclosure housing: at least one electro-acoustic transducer for providing an audio output, a processor coupled with the at least one transducer; an audio input module coupled with the processor for receiving audio input signals; and an input channel for receiving a hard-wired audio input connection at the enclosure; at least one wireless transmitter detachably housed in the enclosure and in communication with a corresponding wireless input channel for receiving audio input from a source device.

[0007] Implementations may include one of the following features, or any combination thereof.

[0008] In some cases, each wireless input channel corresponds to an input channel for receiving a hard-wired audio input connection.

[0009] In particular aspects, the at least one wireless transmitter includes two or more wireless transmitters each corresponding with a distinct wireless input channel and enabling distinct wireless connections between a source device and a corresponding one of the wireless input channels.

[0010] In certain implementations, each wireless transmitter includes at least one command button comprising a power button. In some aspects, the command buttons include a mute button.

[0011] In particular aspects, the wireless transmitter comprises a tip-sleeve (TS) audio connector for coupling with the source device.

[0012] In some cases, the wireless transmitter comprises an XLR audio connector for coupling with the source device. In particular aspects, the source device is a microphone.

[0013] In certain implementations, the portable speaker further includes a set of docks for housing the wireless transmitter(s).

[0014] In particular cases, each of the docks comprises a USB connector and a spring-loaded coupling with at least one magnet. In some aspects, the USB connector has a minimal retention force to maintain the data connection.

[0015] In certain implementations, the USB connector enables a software update of the wireless transmitter, and/or a debug accessory mode (DAM) operation at the wireless transmitter.

[0016] In some aspects, each of the set of docks comprises a rail for aligning the wireless transmitters. In some cases, the rail includes a set of rails, such as a set of two or more rails. In particular implementations, the dock provides an audible click indicating engagement of the transmitter with the dock.

[0017] In certain aspects, each wireless transmitter comprises a body with a recess that complements the rail.

[0018] In particular cases, each wireless transmitter comprises a battery and is configured to initiate charging of the battery in response to being engaged in a corresponding one of the set of docks.

[0019] In certain aspects, each wireless transmitter comprises a compliant material at an interface with the corresponding dock.

[0020] In some implementations, each of the wireless transmitters is configured to pair the source device with a corresponding wireless input channel at the portable speaker in response to detecting a connection with the source device. In particular cases, detecting the connection with the source device also wakes the wireless transmitter if in a sleep state.

[0021] In certain aspects, the at least one wireless transmitter comprises two or more wireless transmitters with corresponding wireless input channels, and the processor is configured to receive audio input from each of the wireless input channels.

[0022] In some cases, each wireless input channel comprises a separate antenna.

[0023] In particular aspects, the separate antennae are each dedicated to the corresponding wireless input channel.

[0024] In some implementations, each antenna is positioned and directed to provide approximately uniform omnidirectional sensitivity to wireless signals from corresponding wireless transmitters along a plane.

[0025] In certain aspects, the speaker is configured to operate in multiple orientations, and each antenna maintains the approximately uniform omnidirectional sensitivity to wireless signals from the corresponding wireless transmitters along the plane regardless of orientation.

[0026] In particular implementations, the speaker further includes an orientation sensor for detecting a change in orientation of the speaker, where the processor is configured to adjust an equalization setting for the audio output based on a detected change in the orientation. In some cases, the orientation sensor includes an inertial measurement unit (IMU), or magnetometer/gyroscope/accelerometer.

[0027] In certain aspects, the processor is configured to select the audio input based on a command from an application run on a connected smart device.

[0028] In particular cases, the portable speaker is configured to wirelessly connect with a first additional portable speaker via the wireless input channels. In certain cases, the audio input channel is connected with a Bluetooth (BT) module that is configured to act as both a receiver and transmitter.

[0029] In some implementations, the portable speaker is further configured to wirelessly connect with a second additional portable speaker via the wireless input channels and a line-out connection at the second additional portable speaker.

[0030] In certain aspects, the portable speaker further includes: a battery configured to power the at least one transducer, the processor, and the audio input module; and a hard-wired power connector for charging the battery and powering the portable speaker.

[0031] In additional implementations, the portable speaker is part of a public address (PA) speaker.

[0032] Two or more features described in this disclosure, including those described in this

summary section, may be combined to form implementations not specifically described herein. [0033] The details of one or more implementations are set forth in the accompanying drawings and the description below. Other features, objects and benefits will be apparent from the description and drawings, and from the claims.

Description

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0034] FIG. 1A is a perspective view of a portable powered public address (PA) loudspeaker system oriented in a first position, in accordance with various implementations.

[0035] FIG. 1B is a perspective view of the portable powered PA loudspeaker system of FIG. 1A oriented in a second position.

[0036] FIG. 1C is a perspective view of the portable powered PA loudspeaker system of FIGS. 1A and 1B oriented in a third position.

[0037] FIGS. 2A (1) and (2) are illustrations of acoustic coverage of the PA loudspeaker system oriented in the first position shown in FIG. 1A.

[0038] FIGS. 2B (1) and (2) are illustrations of acoustic coverage of the PA loudspeaker system oriented in the second position shown in FIG. 1B.

[0039] FIGS. 2C (1) and (2) are illustrations of acoustic coverage of the PA loudspeaker system oriented in the third position shown in FIG. 1C.

[0040] FIG. 3 is a perspective view of an interior of a PA loudspeaker system, in accordance with various implementations.

[0041] FIG. 4 is another perspective view of the PA loudspeaker system of FIGS. 1A-3 oriented in the first position, including a view of a set of control elements at one or more sides of the PA loudspeaker system, in accordance with various implementations.

[0042] FIG. 5 is signal flow diagram illustrating audio paths and bus paths in a loudspeaker according to various implementations.

[0043] FIG. 6 shows an end view of a set of docks in a loudspeaker according to various implementations.

[0044] FIG. 7 shows a side view, and FIG. 8 shows an end view, respectively, of a set of wireless transmitters for a loudspeaker according to various implementations.

[0045] FIG. 9 is a perspective cut-away view of a loudspeaker illustrating antennae locations according to various implementations.

[0046] FIG. 10 is a flow diagram illustrating processes in a method according to various implementations.

[0047] FIG. 11 is close-up depiction of a display in a first orientation, according to various implementations.

[0048] FIG. 12 is a close-up depiction of the display in a second orientation, according to various implementations.

[0049] FIG. 13 is a close-up depiction of a portion of a display according to various implementations.

[0050] It is noted that the drawings of the various implementations are not necessarily to scale. The drawings are intended to depict only typical aspects of the disclosure, and therefore should not be considered as limiting the scope of the implementations. In the drawings, like numbering represents like elements between the drawings.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0051] This disclosure is based, at least in part, on the realization that an integrated wireless radio set (e.g., transmitter and receiver) can enhance the user experience in portable speaker systems, such as public address (PA) speakers. For example, a detachably housed wireless transmitter can

enable users of various source devices to be wirelessly connect with the portable speaker. In certain cases, the speaker includes both a hard-wired audio input channel and a detachable wireless transmitter for one or more input channels.

[0052] Commonly labeled components in the FIGURES are considered to be substantially equivalent components for the purposes of illustration, and redundant discussion of those components is omitted for clarity. Numerical ranges and values described according to various implementations are merely examples of such ranges and values, and are not intended to be limiting of those implementations. In some cases, the term “approximately” is used to modify values, and in these cases, can refer to that value +/- a margin of error, such as a measurement error, which may range from up to 1-5 percent.

[0053] PA loudspeaker systems in some examples are constructed with specific target customer segments in mind. For example, a primary use of a PA loudspeaker system may be for a solo musician who requires a voice or instrument amplifier, for example, a guitar or drums, to perform street performances, or for a disk jockey who plays songs for a small audience. In another example, a PA loudspeaker system may be a general purpose electro-acoustic driver for amplifying sound, e.g., voice and/or instruments, in a classroom, home karaoke event, or other event involving small groups of people. In yet other examples, a PA loudspeaker system may be required for a larger audience, such as an auditorium. While particular aspects of loudspeakers such as PA loudspeakers are described herein, additional features of such loudspeakers are also described and illustrated in U.S. Pat. No. 10,555,101 (filed Apr. 2, 2019) and U.S. Pat. No. 10,524,042 (filed Jun. 27, 2017), each of which is incorporated by reference in its entirety.

[0054] As shown in FIGS. 1A-1C, a portable powered loudspeaker (e.g., a PA speaker system) **10** may include an enclosure **22** (also referred to as a housing or cabinet) having a top portion **51**, a base **52**, and plurality of side surfaces extending between the top portion **51** and base **52**. For example, as shown in FIGS. 1A-1C, the side surfaces may include a first **53**, second **54**, third **55**, fourth **61**, fifth **62**, sixth **63**, and seventh **64** side surface, each extending along a common direction of extension between a periphery the top portion **51** and base **52** to form an interior of the enclosure **22** where a set of mounted transducers are positioned, for example, shown in FIG. 3. In other examples, the enclosure **22** may have a different number of side surfaces having various widths or other dimensions, for example, fewer than or more than seven side surfaces. The enclosure **22** is constructed to be oriented vertically, horizontally, or angularly, for example, tangential or non-perpendicular to the ground surface on which the loudspeaker **10** is positioned.

[0055] The top portion **51** may include a plurality of inclined wall portions **121**, **122**, **123**, **124**, **125**, **126**, **127** that each incline, taper, or slope from a bottom region of the top portion **51** abutting the side surfaces to a top region, to provide ruggedness and portability to the loudspeaker **10**. Each top wall portion **121-127** has a top horizontal border portion **131**, a bottom vertical border portion **132**, and a sloped or inclined portion **133** that extends between the top **131** and bottom **132** portions. Thus, the periphery of the bottom region of the top portion **51** formed by the bottom portions **132** of the top wall portions **121-127** may include a lip, and therefore be of a larger parameter than that of the top region formed by the top horizontal border portions **131**. The lip formed by the vertical bottom portions **132** of the top wall portions **121-127** of the top portion **51** of the enclosure **22** may also have a width that is greater than a width of a portion of the enclosure **22** formed by the side surfaces **53**, **54**, **55**, **61**, **62**, **63**, and **64**.

[0056] The top region of the collective wall portions **121-127** may include a horizontal top border that forms a cavity or recess in the top portion **51** in which a handle **72** may be positioned. The handle **72** can allow for easy, single-handed carrying and transport of the portable loudspeaker **10**.

[0057] The top portion **51** may have a pentagon shape formed of wall portions **121**, **123**, **124**, **125**, and **126**. However, the top portion **51** may not have a perfect pentagon shape (i.e., all five sides having a same length), since the wall portions may be of different lengths, and since other wall portions may extend between the five pentagonal sides. For example, as shown, the top portion

may include wall portion **122** between wall portion **121** and **123** and wall portion **127** between wall portions **121** and **126**, which provide a bevel or cutoff at regions that would otherwise be corners between wall portions **121** and **123** and **121** and **126**, respectively. In some examples, top wall portions **121-127**, and corners formed therebetween, may align along a common direction of extension as side surfaces **53**, **54**, **55**, **61**, **62**, **63**, and **64**, and corners therebetween. For example, a corner region C' between wall portions **121** and **122** may extend along a same axis as corner region C'' between side surfaces **53** and **61** as shown in FIG. 1A. In some examples, a base side surface, for example, side surface **142**, may be a same width as an enclosure side surface, for example, **61**. In other examples, the width of a base side surface may be different than that of a corresponding enclosure surface.

[0058] The base **52** on the opposite side of the enclosure **22** as the top portion **51** includes wall portions **141-147**, or side portions that extend from a flat bottom surface portion **66** and angled bottom surface portion **67** of the base **52**, at a predetermined angle, for example **30** degrees. Flat bottom surface portion **66** is coupled to, integral with, or otherwise aligned with side surfaces **52**, **53**, and **54**. Angled bottom surface portion **67** is coupled to, integral with, or otherwise aligned with side surfaces **63** and **64**, which each have a tapered surface to permit the taper of the bottom surface portion **67**.

[0059] The base wall portions **141-147** of the base can include a first portion that inclines, tapers, or slopes from the bottom surface **66**, **67**, and a second portion that extends vertically, e.g., along a same or parallel plane as a corresponding side wall. The collective first base wall portions form a border having a smaller parameter than that of the second base wall portions. The border formed of second base wall portions, for example, may include a lip that is wider than a peripheral outer surface of the enclosure **22** formed by the side surfaces **53**, **54**, **55**, **61**, **62**, **63**, and **64**.

[0060] Therefore, each of the top **51** and bottom base **52** may have a width, circumference, periphery, or related dimension that is greater than that of the peripheral sidewall region formed by the side surfaces **53**, **54**, **55**, **61**, **62**, **63**, and **64** so that some or all of the side surfaces are recessed relative to the top portion **51** and base **52**, preventing elements from the walls, i.e., control elements **24**, handle **72**, and so on, from protruding past the outermost surface of the top portion **51** and base **52**, therefore, permitting walls of the top portion **51** and base **52** to be positioned on a flat surface without interference of such elements.

[0061] In some examples, the enclosure **22** may be formed, molded, of a single material so that the top portion **51** and base **52** are unitary or integral with at least several of the side surfaces, for example, one piece. In some examples, all side surfaces except first side surface **53** are integral with the top portion **51** and base **52**, for example, shown in FIG. 3. In some examples, one or more panels may be positioned over the enclosure **22**, at least one panel forming or covering one of the side surfaces. For example, a front grille, screen, or panel **71** may form the first side surface **53** or may be positioned over another layer of material forming the first side surface **53**, or may simply cover an opening of the enclosure. In some examples, the front grille **71** extends from the first surface **53** to at least a portion of adjacent side surfaces **62**, **62**, **54**, and/or **55**. In other examples, instead of a frame, the panels forming the side surfaces are directly coupled to each other to form a periphery about the interior of the enclosure **22**.

[0062] In some examples, as shown in FIG. 3, electro-acoustic transducers are positioned to provide an audio output. For example, a horn-type woofer **82** and tweeters **84A-84C** (generally, **84**) may be positioned to output sound waves from the first side surface **53**, and through the front grille **71**. Also behind the front grille **71** may include two or more acoustic ports **92A**, **92B** (generally, **92**) for permitting an air and/or acoustic flow path through the interior of the enclosure **22**, for example, behind the woofer **82**. In some examples, as shown in FIG. 3, a sub-enclosure **90** may be coupled to the system frame, for receiving and holding in place the woofer **82**, tweeters **84**, and acoustic ports **92**. Multiple panels and/or sides, for example, side surfaces **53**, **61**, and **62** may be positioned over the sub-enclosure **90**.

[0063] FIG. 4 illustrates one of the side surfaces (e.g., side surface **63**) that includes one or more control elements **24**, such as interfaces, connectors, knobs, switches, etc. In certain implementations, the control elements **24** can be located on a same side of the loudspeaker **10**, e.g., side surface **63**. In other implementations, control elements **24** can be distributed across two or more surfaces of the enclosure **22**. Various additional aspects of the loudspeaker **10** are described in the following sections, features of which can be implemented separately or in any technically feasible combination.

Detachable Wireless Transmitter(s)

[0064] FIG. 5 is a system diagram illustrating signal flow paths to and from the loudspeaker **10** according to various implementations. In certain cases, the signal flow paths illustrate audio signal and/or control signal flows to/from the loudspeaker **10** and/or between components contained in the enclosure **22**. Certain control components are not illustrated, but can be similarly deployed as described in U.S. Pat. No. 10,555,101. For example, the loudspeaker **10** can include one or more orientation sensor(s) (e.g., an inertial measurement unit, a magnetometer/gyroscope/accelerometer, etc.) for detecting a change in orientation of the loudspeaker **10** and adjusting an equalization setting for the audio output based on that detected orientation change.

[0065] In various implementations, the loudspeaker **10** includes a processor **100** (e.g., a system processor that can include one or more microcontrollers)) that is coupled with an audio input module **110** for receiving audio input signals from one or more source devices. In various implementations, the audio input module **110** can include an audio processor module (not shown) for communicating with the system processor **100**. In certain implementations, the audio input module **110** can include a wireless communication module, e.g., a Bluetooth or BLE module for communicating with one or more devices over a wireless communication protocol. The processor **100** can be configured to control the amplifier inputs and outputs, including sensor(s) inputs, outputs to fans and other temperature control components, and inputs/outputs to driver (transducer) connectors, such as low-frequency, mid-frequency and high-frequency driver outputs. The processor **100** is also configured to send and receive audio and control signals, e.g., via an amplifier module connector.

[0066] In particular cases, the audio input module **110** is configured to receive audio input signals from two or more source devices, which can include distinct types of source device. The loudspeaker **10** is shown including at least one input channel (two shown, as **120A**, **120B**) for receiving a hard-wired audio input connection at the enclosure **22**. The corresponding input connectors **130A**, **130B** for channels **120A**, **120B** are illustrated in FIG. 4. Additionally, as shown in FIGS. 4 and 5, the loudspeaker **10** can further include at least one wireless transmitter **140** (example of two transmitters **140A**, **140B** shown) detachably housed in the enclosure **22** and in communication with a corresponding wireless input channel **150** (example of two input channels **150A**, **150B**, shown in FIG. 5) for receiving audio input from a source device (e.g., an instrument, a microphone, etc.). In certain implementations, each wireless input channel **150** corresponds to an input channel **120A**, **120B** for receiving a hard-wired input connection (e.g., at connectors **130A**, **130B**). That is, the loudspeaker **10** enables a user to connect a source device either wirelessly, or via a hard-wired connection, to the same input channel (e.g., Channel 1, Channel 2, etc.). In the example shown in FIGS. 4 and 5, two wireless transmitters **140A**, **140B** are shown that correspond with a distinct wireless input channel **150A**, **150B** and enable distinct wireless connections between a source device and the channels **150A**, **150B**.

[0067] FIG. 5 illustrates additional components in the loudspeaker circuitry for performing audio and/or control processes, including, e.g., an analog-to-digital converter (ADC) **152** and stereo digital-to-analog converters (DA Cs) **154A**, **154B**, **154C**. Certain data flow and signal flow paths are shown for illustrative purposes, and are not intended to limit the various implementations. In certain cases, wireless connection flow paths are contrasted with hard-wired connection flow paths by “wireless” notation (e.g., “wireless input”) and “insert” notation (e.g., “insert mode”),

respectively.

[0068] FIG. 6 is a close-up view of dock(s) **160** for housing transmitter(s) **140**, with the transmitters **140** removed. In various implementations, transmitter **140** is configured to mechanically engage and disengage from the loudspeaker **10** at the dock **160**. According to certain implementations, the dock **160** has a greater depth than a width or height, allowing it to receive the connector for each transmitter **140**. In particular cases, the transmitter **140** is detachable from, and attachable to, the loudspeaker **10** at the dock **160** without a tool or other external device. For example, the transmitter **140** can be configured to connect with the dock **160** via interlocking arm(s) or hook(s), spring-loaded mounts, force-fit connectors, etc. In these cases, the user can connect and disconnect the transmitter **140** from the loudspeaker **10** by hand.

[0069] FIG. 7 is a side view of a set of transmitters **140** removed from a dock **160**. FIG. 8 shows an end view of the transmitters **140** in FIG. 7, from the left (insertion) side. With reference to FIGS. 6-8, the transmitter **140** can be configured to slide into and out of the dock **160** on one or more rails **170** or other guide members in the dock **160**. In some cases, each dock **160** has a pair of rails **170** for aligning a corresponding transmitter **140** when docked. In certain implementations, as illustrated in FIG. 8, the transmitter **140** can include a recess **180** (two shown in this example) that complements a rail **170**. In other cases, a recess can be positioned in the dock **160** and a rail (or similar protrusion) can be positioned on the transmitter **140**. That is, any manner of complementary alignment features can be utilized to align the transmitter **140** in the dock **160**. In additional implementations, the transmitter **140** includes a compliant material **190** at an interface with the dock **160**. This compliant material **190** may differ from a stiffer material located on other portions of the transmitter **140**, and may enable a desirable, consistent fit between the body of the transmitter **140** and the dock **160**.

[0070] In some implementations, each transmitter **140** can include a command button **195** for controlling one or more functions of the transmitter **140**. For example, as shown in FIG. 7, the transmitter **140** can include a power button **200** for powering the transmitter **140** on and/or off. In some implementations, as illustrated optionally in phantom, the transmitter **140** can also include a mute button **210** for muting the output from the transmitter **140**.

[0071] In certain implementations, as shown in FIG. 7, one of the transmitters **140A** includes a tip-sleeve (TS) audio connector **220** for coupling with a source device. As depicted, the TS audio connector **220** is configured to nest or otherwise retract into the body of the transmitter **140A**, which can protect the connector **220** as well as enable docking and removal from the dock(s) **160**. FIG. 7 shows the connector in an intermediate state, with a portion of the TS audio connector **220** outside of the body of the transmitter **140**. It is understood that in certain implementations, the TS audio connector **220** can be substituted with a tip-ring-sleeve (TRS) audio connector. The TS audio connector **220** can be configured to couple with a source device such as an electric instrument (e.g., guitar, keyboard, etc.) or any output device with a corresponding TS mating connection. In additional implementations, one of the transmitters **140B** includes an XLR audio connector **230** for coupling with a source device. The XLR audio connector **230** can be configured to couple with a source device such as a microphone or other line level source(s). In various implementations, each dock **160** is configured to receive any of the transmitters **140**. That is, a first dock **160A** can be configured to receive either transmitter **140A** or transmitter **140B**, and second dock **160B** can be configured to receiver either transmitter **140A** or transmitter **140B**. Further, it is understood that input connectors **130** can be configured to make physical connections with TS, TRS and/or XLR audio connectors.

[0072] As described herein, the dock(s) **160** can provide both a physical and electrical connection with transmitter(s) **140** for storage as well as power/charging and communication. For example, looking at FIGS. 7 and 8, each dock **160** can include an electrical and/or data connector **240** for coupling with a corresponding connector **240'** on the transmitter **140** (illustrated, in one example, as internal to the body). In certain cases, the electrical and/or data connector **240** can include a USB

connector. In particular examples, connector **240** (e.g., USB or variations such as USB-C connector) enables a software update of the transmitter **140**, or a debug accessory mode (DA M) operation at the transmitter **140**.

[0073] Dock **160** can also include a spring-loaded coupling **250** and a magnet **260** (or a plurality of magnets). In certain cases, the spring-loaded coupling **250** allows a user to perform a push-to-engage and/or push-to-release function to couple and decouple, respectively, the transmitter **140** from the dock **160**. In certain cases, when docked, the outer face of the transmitter **140** is approximately flush with the outer surface of the enclosure **22**. This position can be maintained by the spring-loaded coupling and magnet **260**. In certain cases, the spring-loaded coupling **250** enables release of the transmitter **140** such that a user can grab the transmitter **140** to remove from the dock **160**. In particular cases, the connector **240** (e.g., USB connector) is maintained in an intermediate position, such that the transmitter **140** remains connected to the magnet **260** and the connector **240** even after release of the spring-loaded coupling **250**. In other terms, a force greater than the spring force of the coupling **250** is required to overcome the coupling of the transmitter **140** with the connector **240** and the magnet **260**. In this sense, the connector (e.g., USB connector) **240** has a minimal retention force to maintain the data connection with the loudspeaker **10**.

[0074] In some cases, each wireless transmitter **140** has a battery and is configured to initiate charging of the battery in response to being engaged in one of the docks **160**. For example, in response to detecting a connection at connector **240** (e.g., USB connection), the processor at the loudspeaker **10** is configured to initiate charging of the transmitter **140**.

[0075] In additional implementations, each transmitter **140** is configured to connect a source device (e.g., instrument, microphone, etc.) with a corresponding wireless input channel (e.g., Channel 1, Channel 2, etc.) in response to detecting a connection with the source device. In certain implementations, once the user connects the transmitter **140** with the source device, the transmitter **140** automatically pairs the source device with the input channel (e.g., Channel 1, Channel 2, etc.). In certain implementations, if the transmitter **140** is in a sleep or standby state prior to connection with the source device, the transmitter **140** is configured to wake in response to detecting the connection with the source device. In particular cases, the transmitter **140** in a sleep or standby state first wakes, then connects the source device with the input channel in response to detecting the connection.

[0076] As described herein, in scenarios where the loudspeaker **10** has multiple transmitters **140** for sending signals to multiple input channels (e.g., Channel 1, Channel 2), the processor at the loudspeaker **10** is configured to receive audio input from each of the wireless input channels. In particular cases, each wireless input channel has a separate wireless antenna. In some cases, the separate antenna are dedicated to the corresponding wireless input channel. FIG. **9** illustrates a perspective cut-away view of a portion of the loudspeaker **10**, illustrating an example of two separate wireless antenna **300A**, **300B** (e.g., radio frequency (RF) antennae), along with a Bluetooth (BT) antenna **310**. In certain implementations, each antenna **300A**, **300B** is positioned and directed to provide approximately uniform omnidirectional sensitivity to wireless signals from corresponding wireless transmitters **140** along a plane. That is, along a given plane, such as at a height relative to a ground or floor surface, each of the antennas **300A**, **300B** is approximately uniformly sensitive to wireless signals from a corresponding transmitter **140** in all directions. This allows a user to connect the wireless transmitter **140** for either channel to a source device (e.g., microphone, instrument, etc.) and move around the loudspeaker **10** within a plane without a noticeable difference in wireless signal quality. In certain cases, as noted herein, the loudspeaker **10** is configured to operate in multiple orientations, and each antenna **300A**, **300B** maintains the approximately uniform omnidirectional sensitivity to wireless signals from the corresponding transmitter (e.g., transmitter **140A**, transmitter **140B**) along the plane regardless of the orientation of the loudspeaker **10**.

[0077] In certain implementations, the audio input to the loudspeaker **10** can be controlled by one

or more control elements **24** (FIG. 4), such as via a command interface, GUI, dial, button, etc. In additional implementations, the audio input to the loudspeaker **10** can be controlled by a command from an application run on a connected smart device **400** (FIG. 4). That is, a user can control the selection of the audio input (e.g., from Bluetooth device, transmitter **140A**, transmitter **140B**, etc.) with a command from an application run on a connected smart device such as a smart phone, tablet, or dedicated controller.

[0078] In additional implementations, the loudspeaker **10** is configured to wirelessly connect with a first additional portable speaker over one of the wireless input channels. For example, the loudspeaker **10** can connect with an additional, similar loudspeaker via a Bluetooth connection (e.g., via BT antenna **310**), or via another wireless communication protocol (e.g., Wi-Fi). In certain of these cases, the loudspeaker **10** can provide audio output to the first additional portable speaker via the wireless connection.

[0079] In still further implementations, the loudspeaker **10** is configured to wirelessly connect with a second additional portable speaker (e.g., similar to loudspeaker **10**) via the wireless input channels and a line-out connection at the second additional portable speaker. In these cases, the loudspeaker **10** is configured to receive audio input from the second additional portable speaker via one of the wireless transmitters **140** coupled with a line-out connector **350** (FIG. 4), forming a wireless daisy chain between the loudspeakers **10**.

[0080] As noted herein, loudspeaker **10** is configured for both wired power (hard-wired) usage as well as portable (e.g., battery-powered) usage. That is, as shown in FIG. 4, the enclosure **22** can include a hard-wired power connector **360** for charging an on-board battery (housed in enclosure **22**) that can power the transducer(s), processor(s), audio input module(s), etc. The hard-wired power connector **360** can also provide power for charging the wireless transmitters **140**, which as described herein, include on-board power storage (e.g., battery/batteries). In various implementations, the battery/batteries in the loudspeaker **10** and/or transmitters **140** are rechargeable and/or replaceable.

Automatic Detecting Input Channel

[0081] In particular implementations, the loudspeaker **10** is configured to automatically detect input channels and adjust audio input signals accordingly. In particular cases, the processor **100** is configured to adjust audio signals received from the hard-wired input connection **130** and/or wireless transmitter **140** based on one or more of connection status or connection order. FIG. 10 illustrates a method performed by the processor **100** in managing input connections according to various implementations. For example, in certain cases, the processor **100** is configured to detect a hard-wired audio input connection at connector **130** (process P1), and state of a wireless connection with transmitter **140** (decision D1), and if the wireless connection precedes the hard-wired connection at connector **130** (Yes to D1), the processor **100** adjusts the audio signal from the hard-wired connector **130** (process P2). If a wireless connection does not precede the hard-wired connection (No to D1) the processor **100** outputs the audio input from the hard-wired connector **130** as primary audio (process P3).

[0082] In particular implementations, decision D1 (detecting state of wireless connection with transmitter) includes checking whether the wireless transmitter **140** is present in a corresponding dock **160** prior to determining whether an audio input from a source device is detected over the wireless connection **150**. In certain of these cases, the processor **100** can determine first whether a wireless transmitter **140** is powered on, and if so, can then determine whether the transmitter **140** is paired with the corresponding channel (e.g., Channel 1 or Channel 2). In further cases, the processor **100** determines whether audio input is being received via the paired wireless transmitter **140**. According to some implementations, the loudspeaker **10** only adjusts the audio signal from the hard-wired connector **130** (Process P2) if a wireless transmitter **140** is powered on and paired with the corresponding input channel (e.g., Channel 1 or Channel 2). In further implementations, the loudspeaker **10** only adjusts the audio signal from the hard-wired connector **130** (process P2) if a

wireless transmitter **140** is paired and an audio input is being received from that transmitter **140**. If the processor **100** determines that a transmitter **140** is powered on, but not paired or not providing an audio input, the processor **100** prioritizes the hard-wired connection and outputs the audio input from connector **130** as primary audio (process P3).

[0083] In particular examples, adjusting the audio signal in process P2 includes switching the input channel **120** for the hard-wired connector **130** to an effects loop. In certain of these cases, adjusting the audio signal in process P2 includes adjusting a pre-amplification order of the audio signal (from hard-wired connector **130**) prior to providing the audio output, for example, by prioritizing amplification of the wireless signal from transmitter **140** over the signal from the hard-wired connector **130**. In various implementations, the audio input from the source device (e.g., microphone, instrument, additional connected speaker or audio gateway) received via the hard-wired connector **130** is received as a digital audio input and converted to an analog audio signal. In particular cases, the transmitter **140** transmits at a frequency of approximately 2.4 giga-Hertz (GHz).

[0084] Returning to FIG. 4, in particular implementations, the processor **100** is configured to select the audio input (e.g., between transmitters **140A**, **140B**, connector **130**) based on a command from an application run on the connected smart device **400** (e.g., smart phone, smart watch, tablet, controller, etc.). In particular cases, the smart device **400** runs or otherwise accesses a program (e.g., application) configured to control functions of the loudspeaker **10**, e.g., selecting inputs, adjusting volume and/or equalization settings, controlling power settings (e.g., on/off/standby), etc. In certain cases, functions of the application can be executed on a dedicated controller in addition to, or alternatively to, the smart device **400**.

Dynamic Display Characteristics

[0085] FIG. 11 shows a close-up view of a display **500**, which can include one or more control elements **24** illustrated in FIG. 4. The display **500** can be located on any of the surfaces of the loudspeaker **10**, and in particular cases, is located adjacent to the control elements **24**. Examples of control elements **24** shown in FIG. 11 include volume adjustment controls (e.g., knobs) **505** for each of a plurality of inputs (e.g., Channel 1, Channel 2, and BT input). In certain implementations, the display **500** includes a plurality of sub-displays **510A**, **510B**, **510C**. One or more aspects of the display **500** can include digital display elements such as a digital screen or window, e.g., as illustrated in sub-displays **510A**, **510B**, **510C**. In some cases, the sub-displays include organic light emitting diodes (OLEDs).

[0086] In various implementations, as illustrated in FIGS. 11 and 12, the orientation of the display **500** is configured to adjust between a first orientation (FIG. 11) and a second orientation (FIG. 12) in response to detecting a change in orientation of the loudspeaker **10**. That is, when the loudspeaker orientation is adjusted between two or more orientations, the display **500** (e.g., including one or more sub-displays **510A**, **510B**, **510C**) is adjusted between at least two orientations. FIG. 11 shows a first orientation of the display **500** relative to the loudspeaker **10** and FIG. 12 shows a second orientation of the display **500** relative to the loudspeaker **10**. In certain implementations, the orientation of the display **500** is intended to be easily discernable to a user in a given loudspeaker orientation, e.g., readable from left-to-right and vertically oriented. As described herein, the loudspeaker **10** can be configured to operate in at least three distinct predetermined playback orientations (e.g., as shown in FIG. 1A, FIG. 1B and FIG. 1C). In certain examples, the first orientation of the display **500** corresponds with two or more of the playback orientations (e.g., as shown in FIG. 1A and FIG. 1B), while the second orientation of the display **500** corresponds with a distinct playback orientation (e.g., in FIG. 1C).

[0087] As noted herein, the processor **100** is coupled with an orientation sensor **520** (FIG. 5) for indicating an orientation of the loudspeaker **10**. The orientation sensor **520** can include a gyroscope, a magnetometer, an accelerometer and/or an inertial measurement unit (IMU), and can be configured to provide data to the processor **100** regarding changes in orientation in response to

detecting such changes, e.g., as modified by a threshold and/or hysteresis factor. In a particular example as shown in FIGS. 11 and 12, the display 500 includes a set of visual signal indicators 530 corresponding with the input channels (e.g., hard-wired channel connections 130A, 130B and/or wireless connections 150A, 150B). As illustrated in FIGS. 11 and 12, the visual signal indicators 530 can provide visual feedback about the signals received at each of the input channels (e.g., via hard-wired connection(s) 130A, 130B and/or wireless connection(s) 150A, 150B). In one example, as shown in a close-up view of the visual signal indicators 530 in FIG. 13, the set of visual signal indicators 530 each have a lower signal end 600 and a higher signal end 610 spanning between: the input channel (connector) 130A, 130B or the dock 160A, 160B, and a corresponding display screen 510A, 510B associated with a given one of the channels. According to some implementations, each visual signal indicator 530 is configured to indicate one or more of: i) no signal (e.g., lack of fill, as shown in Ch. 2), ii) sufficient signal (e.g., green, as shown in Ch. 1), or iii) clipping (e.g., an inconsistent signal, or high signal level, as sampled at ~50 ms intervals and illustrated, e.g., in red, as in BT channel). In certain cases, e.g., where the loudspeaker 10 is in an upright orientation (FIGS. 12, 13), the visual signal indicator 530 spans from the lower signal end 600 at a left-side portion of the display 500 to the higher signal end 610 at a right-side portion of the display 500. [0088] In additional implementations, the display 500 further includes a set of visual battery level indicators 620 (FIG. 11, FIG. 12) corresponding with each of the detachably housed wireless transmitters 140 associated with each wireless input channel 150. In particular cases, battery level indicators 620 can indicate a remaining battery amount (e.g., in percentage terms, level, and/or time) for transmitters 140 that are absent from a corresponding dock 160. Additionally, battery level indicators 620 can display an indicator that a battery is in the process of charging, and/or is fully charged (when applicable), when the transmitter 140 is in a given dock 160. Battery level indicators 620 can also indicate a battery level in a connected Bluetooth device, e.g., connected via BT channel shown in FIGS. 11-13.

[0089] In particular implementations, the processor 100 is further configured to communicate with the application run on smart device 400 (FIG. 4) to provide an additional visual signal indicator or an audible signal indicator. For example, a visual signal indicator at the smart device 400 can be displayed through the application interface, e.g., in a progressive manner, to provide information to the user about the signal received via the input channels. The visual signal level indicators at the smart device 400 can be similar in format and/or style to the visual signal indicators 530 on the display of the loudspeaker 10, or can take a different format and/or style. In various implementations, the visual signal level indicators at the smart device 400 are part of a digital display. Additionally, the application can initiate an audible signal indicator via the smart device 400 speakers, such as an audible beep, chime or tone, clipping sound, etc., to indicate a characteristic of the signal received at the channel(s). Even further, the visual and/or audible signal indicators can include information about suggested adjustment(s) to improve the signal received at the speaker 10. For example, the suggested adjustment can include a message (e.g., visual and/or audible) that suggest the user adjust the physical connection (e.g., at hard-wired connector 130, or between the audio connector(s) 220, 230 and source device), or that the user move the transmitter 140 closer to the speaker 10 (e.g., for wireless transmitter 140).

[0090] In additional implementations, the processor 100 is configured to provide an error indicator at the display 500 in response to detecting that the speaker 10 is mis-oriented relative to the predetermined playback orientations. For example, the processor 100 can provide an error indicator (e.g., visual indicator at display 500, and/or audible indicator via the transducer(s) 82, 84 that the speaker 10 is tipped or upside down. In certain implementations, a tipped position is indicated by the speaker 10 being between predetermined playback orientations, or otherwise in an unstable position. In additional implementations, a tipped position is defined by the speaker 10 being in an orientation other than the three predefined orientations in FIGS. 1A, 1B, and 1C. An upside down orientation can be defined as any position where the upper surface (e.g., at top portion 51) of the

speaker **10** is below the lower surface (e.g., at bottom portion **52**).

[0091] Returning to FIGS. **11** and **12**, in some examples, the display **500** can include three distinct sub-displays **510A**, **510B**, **510C** that are each associated with an actuatable button, knob, switch, etc. In some cases, the actuatable button includes control **505**. While the button(s) **505** are illustrated as separate from the associated sub-display(s) **510**, in certain implementations, the sub-displays **510** are capable of receiving a push-button command in addition to, or in place of the button **505**. That is, the display(s) **510** can include touch interfaces (e.g., capacitive touch interfaces) for receiving touch commands from a user. In any case, the button **505** (and/or display **510**) can be configured to receive one or more commands, and in particular cases, a press-and-hold command at a given button **505** presents a configuration menu on the associated display **510**. A configuration menu can include a configuration selection and/or adjustment option for a plurality of loudspeaker configurations, for example: battery mode (e.g., low power mode), settings (e.g., audio settings such as equalization, or sleep timer settings), and/or a shutdown menu enabling shutdown of the loudspeaker **10**. In certain implementations, as illustrated in FIG. **4**, the display **500** further includes a tone match preset switch **630** for enabling tone matching for each of the input channels, including wireless channel inputs from transmitters **140**.

[0092] As described herein, the loudspeaker **10** can provide a number of practical and beneficial configurations for users, including but not limited to: wireless instrument and/or microphone connectivity, automatic channel detection and audio adjustment and dynamic display characteristics. As compared with conventional portable loudspeakers, e.g., portable PA loudspeakers, the loudspeaker **10** can enhance the user experience and provide numerous benefits.

[0093] One or more components in the loudspeaker **10** can be formed of any conventional loudspeaker material, e.g., a heavy plastic, metal (e.g., aluminum, or alloys such as alloys of aluminum), composite material, etc. It is understood that the relative proportions, sizes and shapes of the loudspeaker **10** and components and features thereof as shown in the FIGURES included herein can be merely illustrative of such physical attributes of these components. That is, these proportions, shapes and sizes can be modified according to various implementations to fit a variety of products.

[0094] As used herein, controllers and/or control circuit(s), where applicable, can include a processor and/or microcontroller, which in turn can include electro-mechanical control hardware/software, and decoders, DSP hardware/software, etc. for playing back (rendering) audio content at the loudspeaker **10**, as well as for communicating with other components in the loudspeaker **10**. The control circuit(s) can also include one or more digital-to-analog (D/A) converters for converting the digital audio signal to an analog audio signal. This audio hardware can also include one or more amplifiers which provide amplified analog audio signals to the loudspeaker(s) **10**. In additional implementations, the controller/control circuit(s) include sensor data processing logic for processing data from sensors.

[0095] The functionality described herein, or portions thereof, and its various modifications (hereinafter “the functions”) can be implemented, at least in part, via a computer program product, e.g., a computer program tangibly embodied in an information carrier, such as one or more non-transitory machine-readable media, for execution by, or to control the operation of, one or more data processing apparatus, e.g., a programmable processor, a computer, multiple computers, and/or programmable logic components.

[0096] A computer program can be written in any form of programming language, including compiled or interpreted languages, and it can be deployed in any form, including as a stand-alone program or as a module, component, subroutine, or other unit suitable for use in a computing environment. A computer program can be deployed to be executed on one computer or on multiple computers at one site or distributed across multiple sites and interconnected by a network.

[0097] Actions associated with implementing all or part of the functions can be performed by one or more programmable processors executing one or more computer programs to perform the

functions of the calibration process. All or part of the functions can be implemented as, special purpose logic circuitry, e.g., an FPGA and/or an ASIC (application-specific integrated circuit). Processors suitable for the execution of a computer program include, by way of example, both general and special purpose microprocessors, and any one or more processors of any kind of digital computer. Generally, a processor will receive instructions and data from a read-only memory or a random access memory or both. Components of a computer include a processor for executing instructions and one or more memory devices for storing instructions and data.

[0098] Elements of figures are shown and described as discrete elements in a block diagram. These may be implemented as one or more of analog circuitry or digital circuitry. Alternatively, or additionally, they may be implemented with one or more microprocessors executing software instructions. The software instructions can include digital signal processing instructions. Operations may be performed by analog circuitry or by a microprocessor executing software that performs the equivalent of the analog operation. Signal lines may be implemented as discrete analog or digital signal lines, as a discrete digital signal line with appropriate signal processing that is able to process separate signals, and/or as elements of a wireless communication system.

[0099] When processes are represented or implied in the block diagram, the steps may be performed by one element or a plurality of elements. The steps may be performed together or at different times. The elements that perform the activities may be physically the same or proximate one another, or may be physically separate. One element may perform the actions of more than one block. Audio signals may be encoded or not, and may be transmitted in either digital or analog form. Conventional audio signal processing equipment and operations are in some cases omitted from the drawings.

[0100] In various implementations, electronic components described as being “coupled” can be linked via conventional hard-wired and/or wireless means such that these electronic components can communicate data with one another. Additionally, sub-components within a given component can be considered to be linked via conventional pathways, which may not necessarily be illustrated.

[0101] Other embodiments not specifically described herein are also within the scope of the following claims. Elements of different implementations described herein may be combined to form other embodiments not specifically set forth above. Elements may be left out of the structures described herein without adversely affecting their operation. Furthermore, various separate elements may be combined into one or more individual elements to perform the functions described herein.

Claims

1-20. (canceled)

21. A portable speaker, comprising: an enclosure housing: at least one electro-acoustic transducer for providing an audio output; and a processor coupled with the at least one transducer; an input channel for receiving a hard-wired audio input connection at the enclosure; and at least two wireless transmitters detachably housed in the enclosure.

22. The portable speaker of claim 21, wherein the at least two wireless transmitters are each in communication with a corresponding wireless input channel for receiving audio input from a source device.

23. The portable speaker of claim 22, wherein each wireless input channel corresponds to an input channel for receiving a hard-wired audio input connection.

24. The portable speaker of claim 21, wherein each wireless transmitter enables distinct wireless connections between a source device and a corresponding wireless input channel.

25. The portable speaker of claim 21, wherein each wireless transmitter comprises at least one command button comprising a power button.

26. The portable speaker of claim 21, wherein the at least one wireless transmitter comprises one of

a tip-sleeve (TS) audio connector or an XLR audio connector for coupling with the source device.

27. The portable speaker of claim 21, further comprising a set of docks for housing the at least two wireless transmitters.

28. A portable speaker, comprising: an enclosure housing: at least one electro-acoustic transducer for providing an audio output; a processor coupled with the at least one transducer; and an audio input module coupled with the processor for receiving audio input signals, wherein the audio input module includes a set of input channels, each input channel enabling connection of a source device either wirelessly, or via a hard-wired connection.

29. The portable speaker of claim 28, wherein each input channel is connected with a hard-wired audio input connection at the enclosure.

30. The portable speaker of claim 28, wherein each input channel is coupled with at least one wireless transmitter detachably housed in the enclosure.

31. The portable speaker of claim 30, wherein the enclosure includes a dock for storing the at least one wireless transmitter.

32. The portable speaker of claim 31, wherein the at least one wireless transmitter is detachable from, and attachable to, the enclosure at the dock without a tool or other external device.

33. The portable speaker of claim 31, wherein the dock includes a spring-loaded coupling and a magnet for coupling the at least one wireless transmitter.

34. The portable speaker of claim 31, wherein when docked, an outer face of the at least one wireless transmitter is approximately flush with an outer surface of the enclosure.

35. A portable speaker, comprising: an enclosure housing: at least one electro-acoustic transducer for providing an audio output; and a processor coupled with the at least one transducer; a set of docks in the enclosure, each dock for housing a corresponding wireless transmitter; and an input channel for receiving a hard-wired audio input connection at the enclosure.

36. The portable speaker of claim 35, wherein the set of docks includes two or more docks and the corresponding wireless transmitters include two or more wireless transmitters.

37. The portable speaker of claim 35, wherein each dock includes a spring-loaded coupling and a magnet for coupling the corresponding wireless transmitter.

38. The portable speaker of claim 35, wherein when docked, an outer face of the corresponding wireless transmitter is approximately flush with an outer surface of the enclosure.

39. The portable speaker of claim 35, wherein each wireless transmitter is configured to connect a source device with a corresponding wireless input channel of the portable speaker in response to detecting a connection with a source device.

40. The portable speaker of claim 35, wherein each corresponding wireless transmitter includes a battery and is configured to initiate charging of the battery in response to being engaged in one of the docks.
