

Comparison of Portable PA Speakers (Battery-Powered)

Full Specifications Comparison

Brand & Model	Wattage	Battery Life	Weight	Bluetooth & Inputs	Pairing Capability	Microphone Support	Price (~USD; pair)
Bose S1 Pro+ ¹ ²	150 W	~11 hours ³	14.4 lbs (6.5 kg) ³	Bluetooth; 2 × XLR-¼" combo (mic/line); 1 × 1/8" aux; 1 × ¼" TRS line-out ⁴	Yes – Wireless <i>Party Mode</i> (stereo) with second unit ¹ ; also wired line-out chaining	2 mic/line inputs (ToneMatch EQ presets, reverb; no phantom); supports Bose wireless mic transmitter (built-in receivers) ⁵	~\$649 each (~\$1,298/pair)
JBL EON One Compact ⁶ ⁷	120 W RMS (150 W peak) ⁶	~12 hours (swappable) ⁸	17.6 lbs (8.0 kg) ⁹	Bluetooth + app control; 2 × XLR-¼" combo (mic/line, phantom on Ch1); 1 × ¼" Hi-Z; 1 × 1/8" aux; 1 × 1/4" pass-thru out ¹⁰ ¹¹	No – (No wireless stereo; wired 1/4" pass-through for daisy-chaining) ¹²	2 mic preamps with 48V phantom ¹¹ ; 4-ch mixer with reverb/chorus/delay FX; headphone jack; app EQ control	~\$549 each (~\$1,098/pair)

Brand & Model	Wattage	Battery Life	Weight	Bluetooth & Inputs	Pairing Capability	Microphone Support	Price (~USD; pair)
Electro-Voice EVERSE 8 ¹³ ¹⁴	400 W peak ¹³	6–12 hours (moderate) ¹⁵ ¹⁶	16.8 lbs (7.6 kg) ¹⁷	Bluetooth (audio + control app); 2 × XLR-¼" combo (mic/ line); 1 × 1/8" aux; XLR line- out; USB-C charger; 12V DC out for wireless mic receiver ¹⁸ ¹⁹	Yes – Wireless stereo Bluetooth pairing with second unit (via app) ¹⁸	2 mic/line inputs with 48V phantom; built-in 4-ch digital mixer (EQ, FX, feedback suppressor, music ducking) ²⁰ ¹⁹	~\$799 each (~\$1,598/pair)
SOUNDBOKS (Gen. 3) ²² ²³	3 × 72 W amps (216 W RMS); 126 dB SPL ²⁴ ²⁵	5–40 hours (5h max volume; ~40h mid- volume) ²⁶	34 lbs (15.4 kg) ²³	Bluetooth 5.0; Inputs: 2 × XLR-¼" combo (mic/inst), 1 × 3.5mm aux; Output: 1 × 3.5mm aux out ²⁷	Yes – <i>TeamUp</i> wireless connection up to 5 speakers (SKAA, assignable stereo) ²⁸	2 mic/ instrument inputs (no phantom); no built-in effects (basic volume control); rugged plywood cabinet	~\$999 each (~\$1,998/pair)

Brand & Model	Wattage	Battery Life	Weight	Bluetooth & Inputs	Pairing Capability	Microphone Support	Price (~USD; pair)
Roland Cube Street EX <small>29</small>	50 W (25 W × 2 stereo) <small>29</small>	5–20 hours (8×AA batteries, selectable ECO modes) <small>29</small>	16.4 lbs (7.4 kg) <small>30</small>	<i>No Bluetooth</i> ; 4-channel analog mixer: 2 × XLR-¼" combo (mic/instrument with COSM amp sims, reverb), plus stereo Aux inputs (1/8" i-CUBE link + 1/4" L/R) <small>31</small> <small>32</small>	Yes – <i>Wired</i> stereo link jacks for second unit (expand coverage) <small>33</small>	2 mic/instrument channels (XLR combos, no phantom) with independent EQ/reverb; guitar amp modeling on instrument channels; includes AA battery operation flexibility	~\$599 each (~\$1,198/pair)
Mackie Thump GO <small>34 35</small>	100 W RMS (200 W peak) <small>36 37</small>	~12 hours (internal Li-ion battery) <small>34</small>	17.6 lbs (8.0 kg) <small>35</small>	Bluetooth 5.0 streaming; 2 × XLR-¼" combo inputs (mic/line); XLR thru output for chaining <small>38</small> ; 4 voicing modes, indoor/outdoor EQ presets (via rear switch/app)	No – (No wireless stereo; wired XLR output for chaining multiple speakers) <small>38</small>	2 mic/line inputs (no phantom or FX); basic 2-channel mixer with music/monitor speech modes (no built-in reverb)	~\$349 each (~\$698/pair)

Brand & Model	Wattage	Battery Life	Weight	Bluetooth & Inputs	Pairing Capability	Microphone Support	Price (~USD; pair)
Behringer Europort MPA40BT <small>39 40</small>	40 W (Class-D)	~12 hours per charge <small>41</small>	18.1 lbs (8.2 kg) <small>42</small>	Bluetooth (v3.0) streaming; 2 × XLR-¼" combo inputs (mic/line); plus 1 × stereo RCA aux input <small>43</small> ; <i>no line output</i>	No – (No stereo linking; only one unit output – has no dedicated line-out)	2 mic preamp inputs (XLR combos, no phantom); simple 2-band EQ on inputs; <i>Note:</i> model MPA40BT-Pro variant supports optional wireless mic receiver (Ultralink)	~\$199 each (~\$398/pair)
Samson Expedition XP106w <small>45</small> <small>46</small>	100 W (Class D)	Up to 20 hours <small>45</small>	16.3 lbs (7.4 kg) <small>47</small>	Bluetooth streaming; 4-channel mixer: 1 × XLR-¼" combo (mic/line), 1 × ¼" (instrument/line), 1 × 1/8" aux, plus Bluetooth channel <small>48</small> ; 1 × ¼" line output (cascade) <small>49</small>	No – (No wireless link; wired line-out allows daisy-chaining multiple units) <small>49</small>	1 mic preamp (XLR combo) – <i>wired dynamic handheld mic included</i> <small>46</small> ; plus 1 instrument input; music/speech EQ switch; USB port for Samson XPD wireless mic receiver	~\$329 each (~\$658/pair)

Brand & Model	Wattage	Battery Life	Weight	Bluetooth & Inputs	Pairing Capability	Microphone Support	Price (~USD; pair)
ION Audio Block Rocker Plus <small>50 51</small>	100 W peak	35–50 hours (up to 50h at low vol) <small>52</small>	20.7 lbs (9.4 kg) <small>51</small>	Bluetooth; 1 × 1/8" aux input; AM/FM radio tuner; USB power-out for charging devices; Mic input: 1 × 1/4" (dynamic mic included) <small>53 54</small>	No – (No multi-speaker pairing; single-unit use only; no audio line-out)	1 microphone input (1/4", no phantom) – includes wired mic; no mixer/EQ aside from bass boost button; (consumer-oriented design)	~\$199 each (~\$398/pair)

Sources: Specifications compiled from manufacturer datasheets and reviews 3 6 13 26 29 34 58 45
50 . See source links for each model for details.

Under-\$500 Portable PA Options

For those on a budget, several capable battery-powered PA speakers are available under \$500:

- **Behringer Europort MPA40BT-Pro** – (~\$199): A very affordable 40-Watt PA with an 8" woofer. It's simple to use and comes with a built-in battery (~12h) and even has wheels for transport 44 . **Pros:** Ultra-budget price, decent sound for small gatherings. **Cons:** Limited power and features (no wireless stereo, older Bluetooth).
- **ION Audio Block Rocker Plus** – (~\$199): Consumer-style 100W peak party speaker with a **50-hour** max battery 52 . Includes a mic, radio tuner, and huge battery capacity. **Pros:** Very long battery life, loud bass with boost, and mic included. **Cons:** Heavier unit; sound lacks clarity at high volumes 57 ; minimal EQ controls.
- **Samson Expedition XP106w** – (~\$329): 100W portable PA with a 6" woofer, up to 20h battery, and a 4-ch mixer. It even includes a handheld mic. **Pros:** Compact and only 16 lbs, includes mic, Bluetooth streaming. **Cons:** Only one mic input (plus one instrument input); not intended for large crowds.
- **Mackie Thump GO** – (~\$349): A 200W peak, 8" PA speaker with up to 12h battery life. **Pros:** Good sound quality and volume for the price, lightweight design. **Cons:** Lacks built-in reverb/FX; no included mic (needs external mixer for advanced mixing).

All of the above offer good value under \$500. For small events or presentations, these budget models provide portability and sufficient performance, albeit with some feature trade-offs compared to premium units.

Stereo Pairing Capabilities

Many portable PA speakers can be used in pairs for broader sound coverage or true stereo playback:

- **Wireless Stereo Pairing:** A few models support linking two units wirelessly. **Electro-Voice EVERSE 8** speakers can pair via Bluetooth into a true stereo set easily ¹⁸. **Bose S1 Pro+** systems also offer a *Party Mode* for stereo wireless pairing of two units ¹. **SOUNDBOKS Gen 3** goes even further with its SKAA-based *TeamUp* network – you can host up to 5 Soundboks speakers wirelessly (assigning them as left/right channels or just duplicating sound) for massive coverage ²⁸. These wireless setups require no cables between speakers, making them convenient for quick stereo sound at events.
- **Wired Pairing (Analog Daisy-Chaining):** Most models include audio outputs for linking speakers via cables if wireless mode isn't available. For example, **Roland Cube Street EX** units have *Stereo Link* jacks to split left/right audio between two units ³³. **Mackie Thump GO** provides an XLR *thru* output for chaining another speaker ³⁸, and **JBL EON One Compact** offers a 1/4" pass-through output to feed a second unit ¹². **Samson XP106** similarly has a line output for patching into a second system ⁴⁹. **Bose S1 Pro+** includes an XLR line-out, allowing one S1 to feed another for wider coverage. Using such outputs, you can send a mono mix to multiple speakers or configure one as Left and the other as Right channel (with appropriate mixing).
- **Models without Pairing:** A few budget units are strictly one-box solutions. For instance, **Behringer MPA40BT** and **ION Block Rocker** lack any stereo-link or line-out features – they are intended to be used as single standalone PA speakers (you would need an external mixer to use two together effectively).

When true stereo imaging or wider coverage is needed, consider models like the EV Everse 8 or Bose S1 Pro+ which make it easy to deploy two speakers as a stereo pair. For others, using the wired line outputs can still expand your sound, though with a bit more setup.

Summary Recommendations (Top Picks by Category)

After comparing all the options, here are the top recommended products in each category:

- **Best Sound Quality – Electro-Voice EVERSE 8:** Delivers superior, full-range sound with high SPL (121 dB) and a robust 8" woofer + horn combo. Its sound clarity and output outperform others in its size class, making it ideal when audio quality is paramount ¹³ ²¹.
- **Best Battery Life – SOUNDBOKS (Gen. 3):** Boasts an industry-leading battery (up to 40 hours at moderate volume) ²⁶. Perfect for long events and outdoor parties where you need music all day (or multiple days) without recharging.
- **Most Portable (Lightest) – Bose S1 Pro+:** Weighing only ~14.4 lbs ³ with a convenient carry handle, the Bose S1 Pro+ is extremely easy to carry. Despite its compact size, it provides clear, well-balanced sound – ideal for musicians on the move and small gigs.

- **Best Value for Money – Behringer MPA40BT:** At around \$180, it's the least expensive while still providing a usable 40W output and 12-hour battery ⁴¹. Great for those needing a simple, portable PA on a tight budget (small gatherings, speaking events) without breaking the bank.
- **Best for Stereo Pairing – Electro-Voice EVERSE 8:** The EVERSE 8 stands out for effortless stereo Bluetooth pairing via the QuickSmart app ¹⁸. A pair of Everse 8s will fill a larger venue with rich stereo sound and provide a flexible wireless solution for performers who want true stereo without cables.
- **Best Microphone Support – JBL EON One Compact:** With two combo inputs that have great preamps and phantom power for condenser mics ¹¹, plus onboard reverb/delay/chorus effects, the EON One Compact excels for vocals. It's like having a mini mixer – ideal for singer-songwriters or anyone needing to plug in mics and get polished sound on the go.

Each of these top picks addresses a different use-case, so you can choose according to your priority. Whether you need maximum fidelity, all-day battery, ultra-portability, budget pricing, an easy stereo setup, or a mini-PA for multiple microphones – the recommendations above cover the **best-in-class** choice for each scenario (with reliable performance backed by positive reviews and specs) ¹³ ²⁶. Each recommended model has proven to be a leader in its category and should serve you well in real-world use.

¹ S1 Pro+ Wireless PA System – Portable PA System | Bose

https://www.bose.com/p/portable-pa/s1-pro-wireless-pa-system/S1PROP-SPEAKERWIRELESS.html?srsltid=AfmBOor5tz8UcgWMwLScR6_6NeZGUVKtnYaKC9IhuAP_li3f8vl7pqlU

² ³ ⁴ ⁵ Bose S1 Pro+ Multi-position PA System with Battery | Sweetwater

<https://www.sweetwater.com/store/detail/S1ProP--bose-s1-pro-multi-position-pa-system-with-battery>

⁶ ⁹ ¹⁰ ¹² JBL EON One Compact Portable PA Speaker with Rechargeable Battery | Sweetwater

<https://www.sweetwater.com/store/detail/EONOneCom--jbl-eon-one-compact-portable-pa-speaker-with-rechargeable-battery>

⁷ ⁸ ¹¹ EON ONE Compact | JBL Professional Loudspeakers | English (US)

<https://jblpro.com/en-US/eon-one-compact>

¹³ ¹⁸ ¹⁹ EV Everse 8 – United States

https://www.thomannmusic.com/ev_everse_8.htm

¹⁴ ²⁰ ²¹ EVERSE 8 | Electro-Voice

<https://products.electrovoice.com/na/en/everse-8/>

¹⁵ ¹⁶ ¹⁷ Electro-Voice EVERSE 8 Battery-Powered Speaker | zZounds

<https://www.zzounds.com/item--ELVEVERSE8US>

²² ²⁴ ²⁵ ²⁶ ²⁸ Amazon.com: SOUNDBOKS (Gen. 3 – Loudest Portable Bluetooth Speaker – Performance Speaker with Rechargeable Battery – Wireless and Water Resistant – 40 Hour Battery Life – 126dB (Black) : Electronics

<https://www.amazon.com/SOUNDBOKS-Gen-3-Bluetooth-Performance-Swappable/dp/B09MQRMDGP>

²³ ²⁷ a.storyblok.com

<https://a.storyblok.com/f/123643/x/130639dd0a/soundboks-gen-3-manual.pdf>

29 30 33 Roland - CUBE Street EX | Battery-Powered Stereo Amplifier

https://www.roland.com/us/products/cube_street_ex/

31 32 cdn.roland.com

https://cdn.roland.com/assets/media/pdf/cube_street_series_brochure.pdf

34 36 THUMP GO - Compact active sound system and speaker

<https://distriscenes.com/en/active-speakers/mackie/6158-mackie-thump-go-0663961063363.html?srsId=AfmBOopAD18O3VCav9Bvj8Xc4giRWUYZmklwzfZiG8yG0RuMiam8cDrr>

35 Thump GO 8 - battery-powered loudspeaker - MACKIE

https://mackie.com/en/products/battery-powered/live-sound/thump_go.html?srsId=AfmBOorCcvntw313ccSvCiUveDGwFoRI8O64hzkEwW0_52dqiUN_bQVg

37 Mackie Thump GO Battery-powered Loudspeaker – Advanced ...

<https://advancedsoundlighting.com/product/mackie-thumpgo/>

38 Thump GO Battery-Powered Loudspeaker - One Way Squared

<https://www.onewaysquared.com/shop/p/pgs-01>

39 40 42 43 58 Behringer MPA40BT 40W Portable PA System | Sweetwater

<https://www.sweetwater.com/store/detail/MPA40BT--behringer-mpa40bt>

41 Product | MPA40BT - Behringer

<https://www.behringer.com/product.html?modelCode=0313-AEV>

44 Best portable PA systems 2025: Lightweight and mobile PA | MusicRadar

<https://www.musicradar.com/news/best-portable-pa-systems>

45 46 47 48 49 XP106 | Samson

<https://samsontech.com/products/portable-pa/expedition-rechargeable/xp106/>

50 53 Bluetooth Rechargeable Speaker System | Block Rocker Plus | ION Audio

<https://www.ionaudio.com/blockrockerplus>

51 55 56 57 ION Block Rocker Plus | Garage Gym Reviews

<https://www.garagegymreviews.com/equipment/ion-block-rocker-plus>

52 54 Amazon.com: ION Block Rocker Plus - 100W Bluetooth Outdoor Speaker with Rechargeable Battery, Karaoke Microphone, Radio, Wheels, Telescopic Handle & USB Charging : Electronics

<https://www.amazon.com/ION-Audio-Block-Rocker-Plus/dp/B07C32XSH1>