

definitive technology d17 review

Definitive Technology D17 Review: An In-Depth Look at These Wireless Bookshelf Speakers

definitive technology d17 review – if you're on the hunt for high-quality wireless bookshelf speakers that combine sleek design with impressive sound performance, the Definitive Technology D17 might just catch your eye. Known for their innovative audio technology and stylish build, these speakers promise to deliver immersive sound with minimal fuss. But do they live up to the hype? Let's dive deep into the Definitive Technology D17 review to explore what makes these speakers stand out in the crowded wireless speaker market.

Overview of the Definitive Technology D17 Wireless Speakers

Definitive Technology has long been a respected name in the audio industry, celebrated for crafting speakers that deliver clear, powerful sound with a modern aesthetic. The D17 model takes this legacy a step further by offering a wireless bookshelf speaker system designed for versatility and ease of use. These speakers are part of Definitive's Demand Series, aimed at audiophiles who want both performance and convenience.

The D17 speakers feature built-in amplification and wireless connectivity, eliminating the need for a traditional receiver or amplifier. With compatibility for high-resolution audio streaming and support for popular wireless protocols, these speakers aim to be a complete solution for music lovers looking to upgrade their home audio setup without complicated wiring.

Design and Build Quality

Sleek, Modern Aesthetics

One of the first things you notice about the Definitive Technology D17 speakers is their clean, minimalist design. The speakers sport a smooth, matte black finish with subtle branding that fits well into any contemporary living space. Their compact bookshelf size makes them easy to place on shelves, desks, or stands without dominating the room visually.

Robust Construction

The build quality feels solid and premium. The enclosures are constructed from dense MDF with internal bracing to reduce resonance and unwanted vibrations. This attention to detail ensures that the sound remains tight and accurate, even at higher volumes. The magnetic grilles are removable, allowing users to customize the look or protect the drivers from dust.

Sound Performance: What to Expect from the D17

Clear, Detailed Audio

When it comes to sound, the Definitive Technology D17 delivers a rich and balanced listening experience. Thanks to their 4.5-inch polypropylene drivers and integrated 1-inch aluminum dome tweeters, these speakers produce clear highs, natural mids, and surprisingly deep bass for their size. Audiophiles will appreciate the detailed soundstage and the way vocals and instruments are reproduced with clarity.

Wireless Audio Streaming

The D17 supports wireless connectivity using WiSA technology, which stands for Wireless Speaker and Audio. This allows for high-fidelity, low-latency audio streaming without the clutter of cables. Setting up the speakers with compatible WiSA transmitters or home theater systems is straightforward, making the D17 an excellent choice for those seeking a clean wireless audio solution.

Power and Dynamics

Despite their compact size, these speakers can deliver powerful sound. Each D17 speaker houses a built-in Class D amplifier capable of driving the drivers efficiently. This means they can fill a medium-sized room with immersive sound without distortion. The dynamic range is impressive, allowing for both subtle background music and louder, more energetic tracks to come through effortlessly.

Connectivity and Features

WiSA Wireless Technology

One of the standout features of the Definitive Technology D17 is the integration of WiSA wireless technology. Unlike Bluetooth, WiSA transmits uncompressed, lossless audio signals at 24-bit/96kHz quality, making it ideal for audiophiles who don't want to compromise on sound fidelity. WiSA also supports multi-channel setups, so the D17 speakers can be part of a larger home theater system.

Compatibility with Other Devices

While the D17 excels in wireless streaming with WiSA, it's important to note that these speakers do not have built-in Bluetooth or Wi-Fi connectivity. Instead, they rely on a compatible WiSA transmitter or home theater receiver that supports WiSA. This might require additional hardware but ensures that audio quality remains top-notch.

Easy Setup and Control

Setting up the Definitive Technology D17 is relatively simple for users familiar with wireless audio systems. The speakers automatically pair with the WiSA transmitter once powered on, and users can control volume and playback via the connected source device or compatible remotes. The absence of complicated wiring makes these speakers an attractive option for minimalist setups.

How the Definitive Technology D17 Compares to Other Wireless Bookshelf Speakers

Pros Over Competitors

- ****Superior Sound Quality:**** Thanks to WiSA technology and built-in amplification, the D17 offers clearer, more detailed sound than many Bluetooth bookshelf speakers.
- ****Minimalist Setup:**** No need for external amplifiers or receivers, which simplifies installation.
- ****High-Resolution Audio Support:**** Unlike many wireless speakers that compress audio, the D17 maintains audio fidelity.

Considerations

- **WiSA Dependency:** Requires compatible WiSA transmitter hardware, which may add to the cost.
- **Limited Wireless Options:** Does not support Bluetooth or Wi-Fi natively, which some users may prefer for convenience.
- **Price Point:** Positioned at a higher price bracket compared to entry-level wireless bookshelf speakers.

Tips for Getting the Most Out of Your Definitive Technology D17 Speakers

To truly enjoy what the D17 speakers have to offer, consider the following tips:

- **Invest in a quality WiSA transmitter:** Since these speakers rely on WiSA for wireless connectivity, choosing a reliable transmitter or home theater receiver will ensure the best performance and compatibility.
- **Speaker placement matters:** Position the D17 speakers at ear level and maintain some distance from walls to avoid bass boominess and achieve a well-balanced soundstage.
- **Use them in a multi-channel setup:** The D17s can be integrated into a full WiSA-compatible home theater system, providing immersive surround sound that elevates movie nights and gaming.

Who Should Consider the Definitive Technology D17?

If you're someone who values audio quality and wants to avoid the hassle of traditional wired setups, the Definitive Technology D17 wireless bookshelf speakers are an excellent choice. They're particularly appealing to audiophiles and home theater enthusiasts who already have or plan to invest in WiSA-compatible equipment. However, if you prioritize convenience features like Bluetooth or voice assistant integration directly in the speakers, you might want to explore other options.

For those willing to embrace the WiSA ecosystem, the D17 provides a compelling combination of style, convenience, and sound excellence that few wireless bookshelf speakers can match.

The Definitive Technology D17 stands as a testament to how far wireless audio technology has come, blending high-fidelity sound with modern design in a way that suits today's connected lifestyles. Whether you're upgrading your living room sound or building a wireless home theater, the D17 deserves a close look.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the key features of the Definitive Technology D17 speakers?

The Definitive Technology D17 speakers feature a compact design, a built-in powered subwoofer for deep bass, high-quality aluminum dome tweeters for clear highs, and front-firing midrange drivers. They are designed for both stereo and home theater setups, offering balanced sound performance.

How does the sound quality of the Definitive Technology D17 compare to other bookshelf speakers?

The D17 offers impressive sound quality for its size, with clear highs, detailed mids, and solid bass thanks to its integrated powered subwoofer. Compared to other bookshelf speakers, it provides a fuller sound experience without the need for a separate subwoofer, making it stand out in its category.

Are the Definitive Technology D17 speakers suitable for home theater use?

Yes, the D17 speakers are well-suited for home theater use. Their powered subwoofer enhances bass response, and their dynamic range ensures clear dialogue and immersive sound effects, making them a good choice for smaller to medium-sized rooms.

What is the design and build quality of the Definitive Technology D17 speakers like?

The D17 speakers have a sleek, modern design with a black finish and a sturdy build. They feature a front-firing midrange driver and a rear-firing bass radiator, housed in a compact enclosure. The build quality is solid, reflecting Definitive Technology's reputation for durable and well-crafted products.

Do the Definitive Technology D17 speakers require an

external amplifier or receiver?

Yes, the D17 speakers are passive speakers and require an external amplifier or AV receiver to power them. However, the integrated powered subwoofer within the speaker cabinet means you do not need a separate subwoofer amplifier.

How easy is it to set up the Definitive Technology D17 speakers?

Setup is straightforward since the D17 speakers connect like standard bookshelf speakers. They require speaker wire connections to an amplifier or receiver. Their compact size also makes placement flexible, allowing for easy integration into various room layouts.

What is the price range of the Definitive Technology D17 speakers, and are they worth the investment?

The Definitive Technology D17 speakers are typically priced in the mid-range for bookshelf speakers. Given their built-in powered subwoofer and high-quality sound performance, many users find them a good value for the price, especially for those seeking a compact speaker with strong bass.

How do users generally rate the Definitive Technology D17 speakers in reviews?

Most user reviews praise the D17 speakers for their excellent sound quality, especially the bass response, and compact design. Some users note that while they excel in smaller rooms, they might be less ideal for very large spaces. Overall, the speakers receive positive feedback for delivering high-end performance at a reasonable price.

Additional Resources

Definitive Technology D17 Review: An In-Depth Look at a Compact Powerhouse

definitive technology d17 review opens the door to understanding a remarkable speaker designed to deliver impressive sound quality in a relatively compact form factor. As audio enthusiasts seek equipment that balances performance, aesthetics, and value, the D17 from Definitive Technology emerges as a noteworthy contender. This review aims to dissect its build, sound profile, technical features, and how it stacks up against competitors in the bookshelf speaker category.

Design and Build Quality

The Definitive Technology D17 is engineered with a modern but understated aesthetic, making it suitable for various home environments. Its compact dimensions make it a strong candidate for smaller rooms or desktop setups without sacrificing the brand's commitment to high-fidelity sound. The cabinet features a sturdy MDF construction with a sleek black ash finish, which not only contributes to durability but also helps minimize unwanted resonances.

One of the first things that stand out in this Definitive Technology D17 review is the attention to detail in the speaker's design. The front baffle is magnetically secured, allowing for easy removal and cleaning of the grille. The rear panel hosts a single set of gold-plated binding posts, designed to accept banana plugs, spade connectors, or bare wire, providing flexible connectivity options.

Technical Specifications and Features

Understanding the specifications of the D17 provides insight into how it achieves its sonic characteristics. It is a two-way bookshelf speaker featuring a 1-inch aluminum dome tweeter and a 5.25-inch mid/bass driver with a cast aluminum basket. The aluminum tweeter is designed to deliver crisp, detailed highs, while the mid/bass driver aims to produce tight, accurate midrange and bass frequencies.

- Frequency Response: 60 Hz to 25 kHz (+/- 3 dB)
- Sensitivity: 87 dB
- Impedance: 8 Ohms
- Power Handling: 10-150 Watts
- Dimensions: 12.13" H x 7.25" W x 10.5" D

The D17's frequency response range is respectable for its size, reaching down to 60 Hz, which is sufficient for most music genres and general audio consumption. However, bass enthusiasts might note that it does not extend into the deepest sub-bass territory, and pairing it with a dedicated subwoofer could enhance the low-end experience.

Performance and Sound Quality

When evaluating the Definitive Technology D17 review from a performance standpoint, the speaker excels in delivering a balanced and natural sound. The aluminum dome tweeter produces clear and airy highs without harshness, accommodating detailed vocals and instruments with precision. The midrange reproduction is warm and full-bodied, a signature trait that many users appreciate in Definitive Technology speakers.

Bass response, while not as deep as larger floor-standing models, is surprisingly tight and controlled. The 5.25-inch driver handles low frequencies well within its range, avoiding muddiness or boominess. This makes the D17 suitable for genres ranging from acoustic and jazz to rock and pop.

Comparatively, the D17 holds its own against other bookshelf speakers in its price range, such as the KEF Q150 or the ELAC Debut 2.0 B6.2. While the KEF's Uni-Q driver array might provide a more immersive soundstage, and the ELAC offers slightly more bass extension, the D17's tonal balance and build quality make it a compelling alternative.

Integration and Versatility

Another important aspect covered in this Definitive Technology D17 review is its ease of integration into existing audio setups. With an 8-ohm impedance and moderate sensitivity, the speakers pair well with a wide range of amplifiers and receivers, including budget-friendly models and higher-end audio gear.

The D17 also adapts well to different room sizes. Though ideally suited for small to medium rooms, positioning and room acoustics significantly influence performance. Users have reported that placing the speakers on sturdy stands or shelves at ear level enhances imaging and clarity. Due to their rear-firing bass port design, some care in placement is necessary to avoid unwanted resonance caused by proximity to walls.

Pros and Cons of the Definitive Technology D17

No review would be complete without a balanced assessment of strengths and limitations. Here's a concise summary:

- **Pros:**

- Clear, detailed treble with a smooth aluminum dome tweeter
- Warm, natural midrange reproduction
- Compact design suitable for desktops and small rooms

- Solid build quality with attractive finish options
- Flexible connectivity and compatibility with various amplifiers
- **Cons:**
 - Bass lacks deep extension; may require a subwoofer for full-range listening
 - Rear bass port demands careful room placement
 - Sensitivity is moderate, necessitating a moderately powered amplifier for optimal volume

Comparison with Definitive Technology's Own Lineup

In the broader context of Definitive Technology's speaker portfolio, the D17 represents the entry-level bookshelf option. It shares design philosophies with higher-end models such as the D7 and D9, which offer larger drivers and enhanced bass capabilities. For audiophiles seeking a step-up, these models provide more robust performance but at a higher cost and larger size.

Interestingly, the D17's design incorporates some of the same technologies found in its bigger siblings, such as the aluminum tweeter and a focus on cabinet rigidity. This continuity ensures that even the more affordable D17 benefits from the brand's audio engineering expertise.

Final Thoughts on the Definitive Technology D17 Review

The Definitive Technology D17 is a strong contender in the compact bookshelf speaker market, offering a blend of solid performance, quality construction, and aesthetic appeal. Its sound signature leans towards a natural and clear profile, excelling in midrange and treble clarity, while bass performance remains respectable within the constraints of its size.

For listeners who prioritize detailed vocals and instrument separation in small to medium-sized rooms, the D17 delivers consistent satisfaction. While it may not replace a full-range floor-standing speaker or a system with a dedicated subwoofer, it shines as a versatile, all-around bookshelf solution.

By examining the Definitive Technology D17 review closely, prospective buyers can better appreciate where this speaker fits in the competitive landscape and how it aligns with their listening preferences and spatial requirements.

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