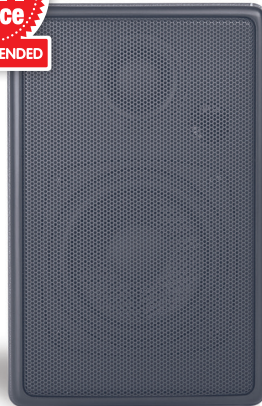


Minitest

Blue Aura

x30

PRICE: £259 TELEPHONE: 01480 4777738 WEBSITE: blueaura.co.uk



DETAILS

PRODUCT

Blue Aura x30

ORIGIN

China

DIMENSIONS

(WxHxD)

112 x 175 x 145mm

WEIGHT

1.5kg per speaker

SOCKETS

RCA stereo phono in; digital optical in; subwoofer line out; USB (for wi-fi extender only)

FEATURES

Quoted power output: 2x 30W; aptX Bluetooth 4.0; NFC; wall/stand mount; remote control

DISTRIBUTOR

Blue Aura

AS THE SOLE UK participant, Blue Aura is a fairly new speaker name but we saw its floorstanding x40 in *HFC* 397. Like its sibling the x30 comes with a faux leather exterior and adds additional colours and build quality is reassuringly good, with a removable metal grille hiding two drivers.

Its Bluetooth implementation is the latest 4.0 version with aptX. The left speaker is a slave unit and is tethered to the right by a proprietary cable. The latter has a wealth of connectivity with RCA stereo phono and digital optical inputs, plus a subwoofer line out. There's also a USB, for use with Blue Aura's optional 2.4GHz wireless dongle, which provides extended range and multi-source setup.

Each two-way speaker has an individually amplified 20mm soft dome tweeter and 87mm paper cone, which are fed by a 30W Class D amp.

Setting up and using the x30 is an absolute doddle, with the unit being operated using a neat remote control

handset, which is a nice size and weight and has six decent quality rubber buttons that allow you to select source inputs, change or mute the volume and power on/off. Bluetooth pairing is done using a button on the rear or by NFC.

Power house

Considering its dinky dimensions, the x30 is much more powerful than it has any right to be and listening to *Isn't She Lovely* it delivers a dynamic sound that has plenty of energy. Clarity is particularly impressive in the

mid-range and higher frequencies but bass hounds will, inevitably for speakers of such compact cabinets, feel a little short changed at the bottom end. Nonetheless Cyrus Chestnut's *Grandma's Blues* comes across as smooth and well rounded, with a pleasingly light touch to the upper registers of the piano ●

VERDICT

Well built with plenty of input options. A really good sound that's balanced and powerful

