

Audioengine A5N Bamboo

I'm a big fan of Audioengine's \$349 A5 speaker system. Few speakers for the iPod or Mac come close to the A5's performance, plus you get a USB port for charging an iPod and a built-in AC jack for connecting an AirPort Express.

But the new Bamboo version, the A5N (\$449), may win even more converts. Each speaker's enclosure is made of beautiful, solid bamboo from sustainable sources and is hand-finished, using a natural carbonizing process rather than stains or paint to achieve the proper look. In addition, the A5N's automatic standby mode meets Energy Star requirements. The result is the same sound quality and features of the original A5 in a more-attractive, environmentally friendly package. What's not to like (www.audioengineusa.com)?—**DAN FRAKES**

