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Best Speakers Ever

Now, this is not a critical review. I haven't really exercised them enough, for one thing. I haven't listened to them in a more critical environment, either. But right now, they seem like the best [PC](#) speakers I've ever heard.



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Now, they're not quite as neutral as the Paradigm Studio 20's I have as my fronts in the home theater, but that really required a minor tweak to the X-Fi equalizer. But the stereo imaging is phenomenal, the overall sound clean and they get really loud. They're built with 1-inch thick MDF, so are pretty solid—no vibration at all. Also, rubber padding is mounted on the bottom, so they don't vibrate stuff on your [desktop](#), unless you turn them up pretty loud. And you can turn them up pretty loud, and still get clean sound.

According to Audioengine, they build their own drivers. That's pretty amazing in and of itself. The amplifier built into the left speaker pumps out 50W RMS—more than enough to drive what are essentially a set of small [bookshelf speakers](#).

There are two relatively significant downsides:

They're not cheap. The best price I've seen is \$305 for a pair of [stereo speakers](#). In a world where \$99 PC speakers are considered pricey, that's a hefty chunk of change.

They don't have deep bass. The woofer is 5-inch kevlar, so they bottom out at 50Hz. You can add an Audioengine subwoofer (yay, another \$399); the speakers have full range outputs to connect to the sub (which is where you adjust the crossover).

They have a USB power port on top of the left (the power amp side), and a second mini-jack input, suitable for powering and

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Apple has redesigned, shrunken, and added more features to the least-inspiring member of the iPod family.

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connecting an iPod or other [digital music player](#). But really, playing only compressed digital music through these speakers is something of a waste.

So right now, I'm thoroughly in love with these speakers. Will it last, or will they be fickle, like all the other PC speakers that have graced my desktop. Only time will tell. But it's good to see that someone is building PC speakers in the same way that "real" speakers are built.

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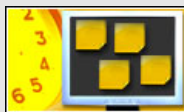
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