



	TEST RESULT 03/14
RECOMMENDATION	
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Oehlbach® BTX 1000
Bluetooth upgrade for any hifi system
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Oehlbach's BTX 1000 - the Bluetooth upgrade for any hifi system

You may love your hifi system, but would you prefer to stream music from your phone or tablet via said system? Well, nothing could be easier, because the BTX 1000 from German accessory specialist Oehlbach is an add-on that can turn any hifi or home cinema system into a Bluetooth receiver unit.

Compact all-rounder

When you initially hold Oehlbach's BTX 1000 in your hands it's hard to imagine the miracles that the tiny device is capable of. This is hardly surprising, because the ultra-compact dimensions of the clever add-on (less than 5 cm long by 2 cm high) make it the size of a standard USB stick. Equipped with just one small button and a 3.5 mm mini-jack, the BTX 1000 looks rather reserved and low-key. However, the small black unit is utterly compelling when it comes to its inner values. At the heart of our test unit is a battery pack, which, according to the manufacturer, is sufficient for at least ten hours of uninterrupted playback, as well as a fully-fledged Bluetooth 4.0 receiver, which is capable of receiving signals in CD quality from any Bluetooth device within a radius of around ten metres. So that you can start using it straight away, both a 3.5 mm mini jack/RCA adapter and a micro USB cable are provided with the unit; these can be used to supply the unit with power or to recharge the internal battery. Thanks to its clever configuration and the supplied accessories the unit can be used for countless applications, which Oehlbach describes as follows: „Simply connect the BTX 1000 Bluetooth receiver to a stereo system using the integrated 3.5 mm jack connector and play back audio signals from any Bluetooth-enabled device (such as an Apple iPad, tablet PC, smartphone, etc.). The BTX 1000 can also be connected to a car audio system; only a 3.5 mm Line In Stereo RCA or Aux connection is required. Naturally the receiver can also be connected directly to headphones with a 3.5 mm jack.“

In practice

In terms of establishing a connection Oehlbach hasn't go overboard and promised too much. It works – and it does so in less than a minute. This method of transmitting signals can be seen and heard – without any restrictions – . The songs that are transmitted via Bluetooth 4.0 in our test (in an m4a file format) are reproduced with the same level of quality that is generated when our iPhone is connected via a cable. It's completely irrelevant whether you're playing dynamic rock tracks, classical pieces or acapella songs that emphasise the treble and midrange. Even hard tracks such as Daft Punk's „Something About Us“ are reproduced in such an energetic and vehement manner in our listening room that we could have sworn a CD player was being used. The wide-ranging opinion held among many die-hard music enthusiasts that wireless audio transmission brings about a significant reduction in quality is simply dispelled by Oehlbach's unit. The accessories specialist from Pulheim clears up the preconception that wireless signals are unstable and associated with regular dropouts. We experienced the complete opposite, because our connection wasn't interrupted once over the several days we tested the unit.

Conclusion

The BTX 1000 from Oehlbach is the perfect tool for upgrading an existing hifi system and providing it with Bluetooth functionality. The unit can be installed extremely easily within a minute and stowed out of sight in the smallest of spaces thanks to its tiny dimensions. In a nutshell: Oehlbach's BTX 1000 is the perfect companion and whole-hearted recommendation for music enthusiasts who want to upgrade to Bluetooth streaming without having to dig deep in their pockets.