

IM TEST

Oehlbach
BTR Evolution 5.0

lite Testurteil
2020

89/90
Oberklasse

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**STABLE AND
LIGHT-FOOTED
WITH DRIVE**

Oehlbach BTR Evolution 5.0

**BLUETOOTH UPGRADE FOR
HIGH-END COMPONENTS**



*Bluetooth receiver or transmitter?
The Oehlbach BTR Evolution 5.0
is both in one box.*

Oehlbach BTR Evolution 5.0

Bluetooth-Upgrade for high-end components

The Oehlbach BTR Evolution 5.0 is a clever way to make even older HiFi systems streamable. OK, you know this from other products. The special here: With this small box, music can be brought alternatively wirelessly into the hifi-system or alternatively send for example also from the hifi-system to Bluetooth headphones or mobile loudspeakers. All this works perfectly and is also surprisingly demanding in terms of sound.

Today the smartphone is the most loyal companion for many people. According to a survey, over 80 percent of all German citizens (who have reached at least 14 years of age) own a smartphone. Almost one in two of them also stores a considerable amount of music on their cell phone or is listening to their favorite songs via one of the popular online music services. Those can be easily accessed via app and offer up to 40 million songs. At almost ten euros per month, they are also very attractively priced. If you are for example an owner of a BTR Evolution 5.0, the music you have stored on your smartphone or tablet, can be played fast and comfortably over each older or also modern hiFi-systems. Or you can simply listen to the CD or playlist via wireless headphones.

Pretty & effective

First of all the obvious: The BTR Evolution 5.0 is a small, gently rounded and handsomely styled box. Pretty but rather inconspicuous and really very well made! With a height of 19 millimeters and a side length of 75, the small transmitter should find a suitable place in every rack, shelf or on every lowboard. Four small rubber feet provide a non-slip stand. In order to integrate it as perfectly as possible, it is available in silver and red. No matter which color you choose: The cover plate is always kept in black and decorated with the Oehlbach logo. On the rear side the BTR is equipped with a Micro-USB socket for power supply, one optical digital input and output each, as well as a combined RCA input/output. The on/off button, an input selector switch and a switch to choose the operating status are located on the right side of the housing. The latter is used to decide whether the Oehlbach should work as a transmitter or Bluetooth receiver.



The BTR can be switched on and the operating status can be set using the control panel recessed into the side of the unit.



The connector panel of the BTR Evolution 5.0 provides analog and digital inputs and outputs.

Modernizing an old plant

To use the BTR Evolution 5.0, only one free input on the existing stereo amplifier/receiver is required. This can be an analog RCA input or optionally an optical digital input. At least one of both should be available on every HiFi system. I want to know it exactly and connected the Oehlbach to my Luxman Receiver R-1033 from 1981, which is almost 40 years old by now. If I want to send music from my smartphone to the R-1033, for example, I simply plug the Oehlbach transmitter into a free RCA input (AUX). Oehlbach supplies corresponding adapters, for example RCA to 3.5 millimeter jack, directly with the device. So in most connection scenarios you can now start directly. If the transmitter is connected, you just need to supply it with power. A USB micro-USB cable and a corresponding power plug are also included in the box.



Oehlbach supplies almost all cables needed to get started immediately.



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Model:	Oehlbach BTR Evolution 5.0
Category:	Bluetooth Transmitter/Receiver
Price:	around 125 Euro
Warranty:	2 Years
Colors:	Silver, Red
Distribution:	Oehlbach, Köln 02203 / 2974 700 www.oehlbach.com

Product data

Dimensions::	19 x 75 x 75 millimeters
Weight:	0,145 Kilos

Inputs:	- optical - RCA
Outputs:	- optical - RCA

receivable file formats:	- Bluetooth SBC - aptX - aptX-LL - aptX-HD
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Pro and contra

- + ultra-compact housing
- + very easy setup
- + high ease of use
- + very stable connection
- + transmitter function

Scope of delivery

- BTR Evolution 5.0
- audio cable (3,5mm)
- mini jack/cinch adapter
- charging cable
- Power plug
- Brief instruction

Grading

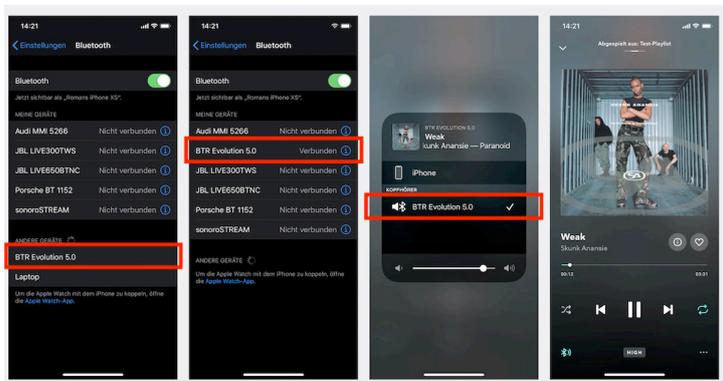
Sound (69%):	89/90
Practice (20%):	89/90
Features (20%):	90/90
Total:	89/90
Class:	Oberklasse

The BTR Evolution 5.0 is quickly installed

The installation is done really quick. First, I need to connect the Oehlbach via cable to the amplifier. After that, I just need to supply the Bluetooth transmitter with power. That's it. But before the first tones sound, the BTR Evolution 5.0 must be paired wirelessly with the source. In my case this is an iPhone. This can be done as follows:

1. Set the right switch to „RX
2. Press the power button for three seconds
3. Press power button twice briefly
4. Select „BTR Evolution 5.0“ from the list of available BT partners
5. Start music playback

Once the connection is established, the Oehlbach even provides information about the transmission standard via its colored LED. Blue means SBC, red AAC, green aptX, white aptX-LL and red/blue stands for aptX-HD.



The Bluetooth connection is established in about one minute.

Highest stability

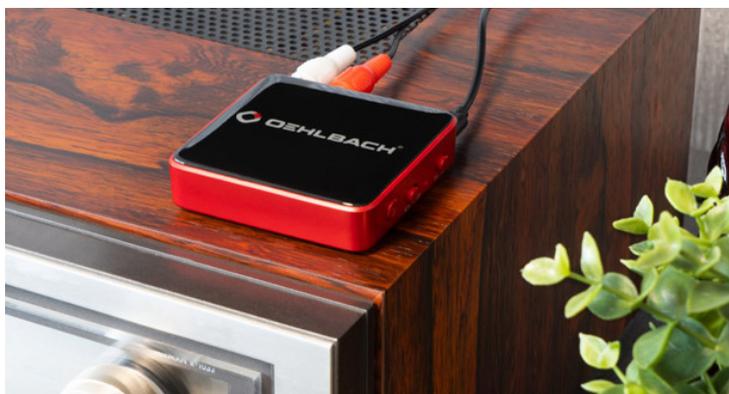
Experience has taught me that the stability in Bluetooth transmission varies greatly. Within a distance of two to three meters from the receiver everything always works perfectly. If you then move a little further away or leave the room with your smartphone, contact is quickly broken off with some devices. But to experience this with the BTR Evolution 5.0, you have to go much further to interrupt the pairing. With the office doors open, I had to be about 12 meters away from the receiver to get the connection in trouble. With the doors closed, the connection remained stable two rooms further on - through two dry walls. In terms of distance and stability the small Oehlbach transmitter is already playing in the top league. Music, music, music - without any interruption or restriction. Very good! For that, my test guest earns the first bonus points.



Even through two dry walls, the Bluetooth connection remains uninterrupted.

Very good transducer

As far as sound quality is concerned, the decisive factor is, of course, in which HiFi system the BTR Evolution 5.0 is playing. Which part of the Oehlbach transmitters actually has, I want to find out by comparing it with a no-name adapter (at half price): Both can be connected quickly and easily and connected to the smartphone. When in Skunk Anansies „Weak“ the first tones sound shortly afterwards, it is quickly clear that the converter in the Oehlbach is of much better quality. Played back via the BTR, the sound appears much tighter, more targeted. The stage stands firmly in front of me. Slightly over the locations of the two loudspeakers, it also pulls itself accordingly into the depth. This way my old stereo amp from the 80s produces a sound I didn't expect. I am particularly impressed by the tangy, hard upper bass reproduction. Drums dominate the sound, but never seem overdone or obtrusive.



Even old HiFi receivers from the 80s (here a Luxman R-1033) can play music from a smartphone/tablet with support of the Oehlbach transmitter.

For every music genre

One frequency floor below, the Oehlbach also has everything under control. This becomes particularly clear in Madonna's „Medellin“. A song that lives on three things: bass, rhythm and reverb. All three elements are reproduced here absolutely freely and without influence, without trimming and without noticeable effort.

In general, bass, mids and highs are equally effective. The emphasis of one frequency range or weaknesses on another level never have to be concealed here. Consequently, the BTR Evolution 5.0 is not specifically dedicated to any musical genre. Instead, it shows itself to be a very



HiFi receiver, speakers, BTR Evolution 5.0: Today a HiFi system can look that easy.



The small Oehlbach wireless adapter can even be „hidden“ under some HiFi components.

open-minded playing partner that feels at home in any music genre. In „Let Me Love You“, for example, it easily reproduces the diversity in Awa Lys' voice. In „Reason“ by Supermassive, it also succeeds into more forceful tones without difficulty. It puts gently plucked strings into the right light as well as the powerfully arranged drums.

There and back

So the small BTR passed the first part of my test with bravura. It is not only a Bluetooth receiver, but also a transmitter. Therefore it must now prove itself in this task. More precisely, it should send signals received from a laptop (here via tidal) wirelessly to a Bluetooth speaker. To realize this, the Oehlbach is first connected to my MacBook Air with the cables i've found in the box. This is done in a minute, even the power supply works here via USB. Then the BTR Evolution 5.0 is put into transmitter mode by switching from RX to TX. Then my test guest is paired with the smartphone via Bluetooth. After that, I press the power button twice in quick succession. Now the BTR is looking for another gaming partner. If I now couple my Bluetooth speaker via the smartphone, both devices automatically connect to each other.



In transmitter mode, the BTR Evolution 5.0 is supplied with signals by cable. After internal processing, it then sends them via Bluetooth to appropriate speakers or headphones.

Stable and light-footed with Drive

Now one short fingertip on the Play button is enough and „Disco Queen“ of Hilow flows from the small Bluetooth Speaker. I quickly realize: Also as a supplier the small Oehlbach adapter makes its thing outstanding.

Once again, I experience a clean voice and detail reproduction. Nothing is nasty, nothing looks thin or fake. This pop song comes fresh and with verve. Light-footed, with a lot of drive and accuracy I get the basic tones and the airy basses. The bass range is still my favorite now. Of course, this is largely due to the quality of the speaker. And with the Denon Home 150 I have a really outstanding product in my test. However, it also depends on being properly supplied. And the BTR Evolution 5.0 simply does that very well. The most important thing is that even if I switch to the next room with the Bluetooth speaker, the connection remains stable.

Conclusion

Your older HiFi receiver or stereo system does not have a Bluetooth receiver, but you would like to play your playlist from your smartphone? With the BTR Evolution 5.0 even older HiFi systems can be upgraded quickly and effectively. The connection is established in a few moments, the connection is always stable. The special thing here: This small adapter is not only a Bluetooth receiver, it also becomes a transmitter with the change of a single button. This means that even the music on the record or CD currently playing, can be transmitted wirelessly to Bluetooth headphones or speakers. It could hardly be more modern. Optically, the Oehlbach transmitter is ultracompact, so it can be placed almost anywhere inconspicuously. In the case of my old Luxman Receiver even under the device. OK, with 125 Euro the small adapter is no bargain. But in view of the offered equipment and the delivered performance the BTR Evolution 5.0 is a really demanding solution and therefore worth every cent.

Translated with
www.DeepL.com/Translator (free version)

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