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Oehlbach® BTT 5000 Upgrade for your stereo

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With the BTT 5000, the accessory specialist Oehlbach® now presents a Bluetooth adapter that transmits signals from a high-quality music system through the house in CD quality. Exactly the opposite, so to speak, to the BTX 1000 already presented by us, which receives the music from a smartphone, tablet, etc. We have looked at this smart accessory in practice.

There are now plenty of Bluetooth accessories available although, when we talk about adapters, we normally mean receivers. These make it possible, like the BTX 1000 from Oehlbach®, for example, to transmit music data from a smartphone, tablet or PC to a stationary hi-fi system or active loudspeaker which does not have its own receiver. With the new BTT 5000, it can now be done the other way round - the applications are also varied, however.

The situation: The beloved, high-quality hi-fi system with CD player, tuner and maybe be a record player has been in the living room for years. But you want to take advantage of new media, too, and listen to songs in other rooms via your smartphone and Bluetooth speaker. But if you happen to want to enjoy a CD or record on the patio via the Bluetooth speaker - it's not possible.

The classic hi-fi system simply cannot transmit. This is where the Oehlbach® BTT 5000 comes into play. We hook up the small transmitter to the connections on the system in the living room. This can be an RCA output at the back. A suitable cable is included. Alternatively, you can also use the headphone output, though most receivers then switch to mute. This means it is not possible to listen via the system and the Bluetooth transmitter in parallel. This is not the fault of the BTT 5000; it is, rather, due to the receiver. A small cable is connected to the transmitter itself - the RCA adapter referred to can then be used to connect to the sound system.

If the BTT 5000 is then connected to the speaker, the music also plays in the other room. This worked perfectly in our test as long as you don't go out of Bluetooth range. Tested with a small battery speaker, it went slightly beyond the specified 10 meters in the open, and we didn't have any problems in the house, either, on the same floor.

However, going down a flight of stairs with a reinforced concrete floor in between did produce interruptions depending on the location. This is something that is intrinsic to Bluetooth and also greatly depends on the structural conditions.

The transmission quality is in accordance with the current AptX standard and therefore corresponds to CD quality, with the sound essentially depending on the terminal device used. In this way, you can use a small, portable speaker for the patio, for example, or a high-quality stereo system like the recently tested Heco Ascada 2.0. Or, as an alternative, also a Bluetooth headset, of course - or any device that has an integrated receiver.

Operating and connecting the devices: This was quite easy because you simply set the device you want to connect to pairing mode. The BTT 5000 with the USB-compatible power supply then automatically finds the loudspeaker or headphones. We tested this on different speakers from various manufacturers and there were no problems whatsoever. The successful pairing is signaled on the transmitter via a small, blue LED.

And there's another advantage on top: The BTT 5000 is equipped with dual pairing mode, making it possible to connect two terminal devices. This means you can build a small multi-room system. However, to connect a second loudspeaker, it might mean having to deactivate the first one connected beforehand. This also functioned perfectly. Whether the two systems then run synchronously depends on the data processing of the terminal devices.

Conclusion

The BTT 500 is precisely the right device for anyone who has a high-quality hi-fi system but would also like to listen to a CD or record via Bluetooth speakers or headphones sometimes. It transmits everything offered by the audio system to corresponding terminal devices via Bluetooth. Installation is simple and quick and the small, high-quality finish transmitter can easily be hidden out of sight behind the hi-fi system.

