

Dynaudio Xeo 4 | Wireless speakers | £1775

Xeo sends out the right signal

When it comes to wireless speakers, sound quality is often traded off for convenience. Dynaudio is one of the few manufacturers to buck that trend, achieving great wireless sound in 2012 when it introduced its wireless hi-fi speaker range, Xeo.

Now that Xeo's successor, the solidly built Xeo 4 (also available in black), looks to take the range to new heights.

Wide-ranging improvements

This latest model, which is joined in the range by the Xeo 6 floorstanders, brings upgraded amplification, improved digital signal processing, the all-important high-res audio support (up to 24-bit/96kHz) and a new EQ setting for speaker position. Multi-band technology also aims to deliver a more stable connection too.

So how do they work? The Xeo 4 active speakers have built-in amplifiers - one driving the tweeter and another the mid/bass driver. The supplied Xeo Hub wireless transmitter connects directly to the source and sends a wireless signal to the speakers to achieve playback. All you need to build a complete system is a pair of Xeo speakers and a source. That's the beauty of it.

The Xeo 4s have plenty more in their arsenal than just convenience and versatility, though. Like their predecessors, they sound fantastic. Effortlessly musical, these are hugely revealing and rhythmically adept speakers.

Network access in no time

We hook the transmitter up to our Naim network player, and are up and running in seconds thanks to the speakers' automatic signal-detection. Jump straight in with a 24-bit/96kHz WAV file of Paul Simon's *Dazzling Blue* and the medley of instruments is delivered with precision and insight, each well imaged across a spacious soundstage. The rhythmic pattering of talking drums is spot-on, and well sustained as Simon's vocals step in.

Tonal balance holds the middle ground nicely, and there's no shortage of punch to make upbeat tracks like Drake's *Take Care* exciting. The song's thumping bassline has attack and tautness, while pounding piano attack has ample force behind it.



The City of Prague Philharmonic Orchestra's *The Fellowship* from *The Lord Of The Rings* OST brings our test to a sweet end, only confirming the speakers' stunning detail and dynamics.

It may be a wireless set-up but, as usual, wires aren't out of the equation. Both speakers require external power (and thus two power-points within range). Source and Xeo Hub also require a wired connection.

The odd-looking attachment atop each cabinet has a basic dot-light display and tiny buttons to control power and volume. Ultimately, we'd like better integration.

This is a versatile system - almost any source can be hooked up to it, with as many as four able to connect at once. It has optical, coaxial and USB inputs, all of which support high-res audio files up to 24-bit/96kHz, plus stereo RCA and 3.5mm inputs.



The passport-sized (though taller) Xeo Hub can sit up to 50m from the speakers

Room to expand

Splash out on a few pairs of Xeo 4s and you have a multi-room marvel. Whether in one room or several, multiple pairs can play from the same source or work in zones.

The supplied remote control is slim and nice to use - it's surprisingly uncluttered, with a thoughtful button arrangement.

It's safe to say that Dynaudio's Xeo range continues to wow with this next-gen model. These speakers certainly aren't cheap, but they offer hassle-free set-up plus insightful and musical sound from almost any source.

Rating ★★★★★

FOR Revealing; tonally balanced delivery; upgrades available; high-res audio support; multi-room capability

AGAINST Display could be better integrated

VERDICT The Xeo 4s serve up great-quality, convenient, versatile wireless sound

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System builder Total build £3060

Speaker stands

Q Acoustics Concept 20
★★★★★ £200

Not only will they make the most of the Xeo 4's detail and rhythmic aptitude, their black or white glossy finish looks great.



CD player

Naim CD5si ★★★★★ £995

This musical, dynamic player - a 2013 Product of the Year - will complement the Xeo 4's presentation nicely.



Bluetooth DAC

Arcam miniBlink ★★★★★ £90

Plug this tiny device into the Xeo Hub and music from a tablet or smartphone can be streamed to the speakers over Bluetooth.

