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Kanto yu2 vs yu4 vs yu6

Hello everyone, I'm looking for some compact speakers, powered. I know the YU4 is a little bigger than the others in the title, but I'd say the added bluetooth and optical inputs are worth it. I'm looking for a versatile speaker with good audio quality. Of course, the A2+ is not audiophile-quality speakers and it doesn't look like Kanto really fits that bill, but they have the connectivity and size I'm looking for on a powered speaker. I don't have that much space on my desk. However, I plan to use these speakers with my computer and exchange them to my TV when needed. I think the AudioEngine is a little expensive. Which one would you choose? Or which one would you recommend instead? Edit: I'm pretty sure I'm going to go with the Edifier R1700BT. Large price range for speakers including bluetooth and two other inputs. I can settle for going from rca to aux as the connector and then just use bluetooth for when I want to connect a TV to them. Page 2Published byu/(deleted)3 years ago 13 reviews It may not be profitable or maybe it is too technically difficult. Either way, there don't seem to be too many companies out there making decent high-end speakers at reasonable prices. After recently talking to some of our readers, we were introduced to a Canadian company named Kanto Living, which produces high-end desktop speakers similar to those found in Audioengine's speaker line. As we've reviewed before and been pretty impressed with all the Audioengine offerings, we were pretty intrigued when we heard about Kanto Living. Looking at the Kanto Living website, they do everything from furniture to speakers, cables and mounts, but what interests us most is their bookshelf-powered speakers. Looking at its line of bookshelves with shelf technology, it includes three speakers: the Kanto YU2, the Kanto YU4 and the Kanto YU6. The two newest speakers in the lineup are the Kanto YU4 and Kanto YU6, both announced in Ces 2017. Specifications Manufacturer Kanto Living Model YU4 YU6 Type 2.0 Powered Library Speakers Power Output 140W Peak Total Power, 70W Total RMS 200W Total Peak Power, 100W Total RMS Inputs 1 x 3.5mm mini-jack, 1 x RCA L/R with Phono Switch Inputs, 2 x Optical (TOSLINK), 1 x Bluetooth with aptX outputs 1 x subwoofer, 1 x USB 5V 1A charging, 1x message link speakers type of Amplifier Class D frequency response 60 Hz – 20 kHz 50 Hz – Dimensions 20 kHz 5.5 W x 7.5 D x 8.7 H 6.9 W x 8.1 D x 10.7 H Weight (LEFT speaker) 6.6.9 lb (3.2 kg) 9.4 lb (4.3 kg) Weight (RIGHT speaker) 5.5 lb (2.5 kg) 7.8 lb (3.5 kg) Finishing options gloss black gloss white brightness teal gloss matte matte white matte black gloss black gloss matte white matte white materials and construction MDF cabinets 1 silk Dome Tweeters 4 Kevlar Woofers Cabinets 1 Silk Dome Tweeters 5.25 Kevlar Woofers Limited 2-Year Warranty Today we're going to check out the Kanto YU4 which is the medium-sized speaker on Kanto Kanto's shelf Alignment. On paper, the Kanto YU4 is a very well-specified speaker. With a combination of 1 silk dome tweeters paired with 4 Kevlar woofers, the Kanto YU4 is capable of a frequency range of 60 Hz – 20 kHz. The configuration power is a Class D amplifier that Kanto claims will emit 70W RMS and 140W peak. The Kanto YU4 is also very versatile with the ability to accept a wide variety of inputs including RCA, 3.5mm AUX, Optical and Bluetooth. Let's take a closer look. A closer look Here is a look at the packaging for the Kanto YU4. Included in the packaging is some documentation, speaker cable, remote with batteries, auxiliary cable from 3.5 mm to 3.5 mm, and a power cable. Kanto also includes some feet of adhesive foam for the YU4, which we'll see in a bit. Here's a look at the Kanto YU4 speakers themselves. Our wine shows in matte black, but the speakers come in a variety of additional color options, including glossy black, bright white, bright bluish, bright red, matte gray and matte white. Kanto YU4 cabinets are built with MDF and each speaker features a 1 silk dome tweeter combined with a 4 Kevlar woofer. On the back of each speaker there is also a port of 1 to help improve bass response. On the front of the left speaker there is a small knob that can turn the speakers on/off, cycle through the different input options and control the volume. At the back of the left speaker is where all the magic happens. Wired connectivity options include RCA connectors, two optical connectors, and a 3.5mm auxiliary connector. Wireless connectivity options include Bluetooth with AptX support. Outputs include output cable subports and speaker to connect to the right speaker. On the back of the speaker, Kanto also includes a line/phono switch for use with turntables, a 5V1A USB charging port, a ground wire pole, a DC power connector, and a power switch. The back of the right speaker simply has speaker cable poles for connection to the left speaker. At the bottom of the Kanto YU4 are 1/4 threaded inserts that can be used to mount the speaker on speaker mounts. Kanto also includes two sets of four-legged adhesives used to prevent scratches on speaker cabinets. I highly recommend using these as the speakers scratch very easily. I would have preferred Kanto to include a felt lining at the bottom similar to Audioengine speakers. This not only helps prevent scratches, but also doubles as a bit of sound insulation for the speakers. The remote control for the Kanto YU4 is quite busy. Allows you to change the different input sources, pair Increase/decrease volume/low/treble, adjust sound balance, and even offer basic music controls for connected Bluetooth devices. Since the remote control offers so much additional functionality, it's probably a good idea to make sure the remote doesn't get lost. That said, if the remote control is lost, Kanto will likely allow the purchase of replacement remote controls if you contact them through customer service. Here's a look at some of the on the left speaker of the Kanto YU4. The left speaker features a Class D amplifier that is capable of delivering up to 70W RMS and 140W of total maximum power. Separated from the amplifier is the audio circuit. Nothing here stands out too much beyond what is expected of a couple of speakers in this price range. Once connected, there is a status indicator light at the bottom left of the left speaker that indicates whether the speakers are on or off. In the off state, the LED lights up red while the LED lights up blank when the speaker is turned on. Here's a look at the Kanto YU4 next to a 13-inch MacBook Pro for reference. At 8.7 inches tall, the Kanto YU4 cannot be considered a small speaker, but it is still very compact, so it is an excellent size for desktop speakers. Those looking for something to fill larger spaces, such as a living room or entertainment center, will probably want to take a step towards the Kanto YU6. Performance In order to test the Kanto YU4, the speakers were connected via an RCA connection to a PC using the Audioengine D1 DAC. The Audioengine D1 is an excellent DAC based on the AKM4396 digital-to-analog converter chipset. The Kanto YU4 was then burned approximately 80 hours before the evaluation. The Kanto YU4's sound signature can be described as relatively flat with some additional treble and bass added to create a more exciting sound signature. Mids on the Kanto YU4 were warm and complete making the Kanto YU4 an excellent pair of speakers for a premium casual listening experience. The basses in the Kanto YU4 are very impressive for their size, which is largely due to their ported cabinet design. At higher volumes, the lower end of the Kanto YU4 tends to be a little boomer than I would like, but it's well-controlled enough in typical listening volumes, so it's not a big concern unless you're planning to oversmart the speakers on a regular basis. The real force with the Kanto YU4 however is in its ability to re-produce heavy vocal or string instrument music. The Kanto YU4's ability to play voices and string instruments to the level of clarity and sharpness it is capable of is pleasantly surprising. Compared to the Audioengine A5+, the Kanto YU4 works quite similarly, which is not surprising considering its similar design. However, the Audioengine A5+ has a slightly richer, more balanced sound that is likely to be caused by the cabinet design along with the way the speakers are tuned. That said, the difference is not easy to hear unless the speakers are placed side by side and because Audioengine does not offer a medium-sized speaker, it is not exactly a completely fair comparison when comparing the A5+ with the Kanto YU4. Although I didn't notice any major issues during testing, one thing that was a little disappointing was the Bluetooth range. Unlike Audioengine speakers, which features an external antenna that easily allows ranges of more than 30 feet through the walls, the Kanto YU4 packs the antenna inside, which unfortunately means Bluetooth Bluetooth range limited to a small room. Using a Samsung Galaxy Note 4, the Bluetooth connection began cutting at just 10-15 feet with a line of view connection to the speaker. As such, if wireless music streaming is something that's important to you, you may want to invest in something like a Google Chromecast Audio. This would not only solve the wireless range problem, but would also solve the problem with the Kanto YU4's auto power off function that turns off the speakers after a period of non-use. While speakers can wake up with a signal from a wired connection, this does not work with a Bluetooth connection. Conclusion Since we had the opportunity to review the Audioengine A5+ several years ago, Audioengine set the standard for the premium desktop speaker. After reviewing the Kanto YU4, I am confident to say that Kanto is a solid competitor in this segment, closely rivaling Audioengine with an equally impressive line of quality speakers with high sound quality, excellent design and world-class versatility. The Kanto YU4 is currently available online for around \$262, which is a bit expensive for a set of powered speakers, but is quite competitive for a speaker of this class. The similar Audioengine HD3 is priced at \$400, which is much more expensive than the Kanto YU4 despite using smaller drivers. Overall, the Kanto YU4 is an excellent pair of speakers. Those looking to significantly update their audio experience without investing 2-3 times the money on input-level audiophile-grade speakers with a separate amplifier will find the Kanto YU4 a great choice. Recommended! Sample provided by: Kanto Living Living

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