

No tears with Sonneteer's system

Sonneteer BardUSB

£240

WIRELESS AUDIO TRANSMITTER

↑ FOR

Incredibly easy to set up; discreet receiver; flexibility; maintains a good level of sound quality

↓ AGAINST

Can't control your source remotely

◆◆◆ VERDICT

A truly simple modern wireless music solution that doesn't forget the value of good old sound quality



DO YOU STORE music on your computer's hard drive? Would you like to play the music through your hi-fi? Do you value sound quality? If so, this could be the system for you.

The BardUSB is one of the simplest wireless solutions we've ever used. It

consists of just a USB transmitter and a receiver unit with a pair of phono leads. There's nothing to plug into the mains and no software.

Simply plug the BardUSB into your computer (it's PC and Mac compatible), hook up the receiver to your amp and pop the kettle on – your work is done. You can now play tunes from your hard disk drive, internet radio, or even CDs or DVDs, sending them wirelessly to your existing hi-fi system. You can also, of course, play internet radio through your hi-fi, negating the need for a separate tuner or external aerial.

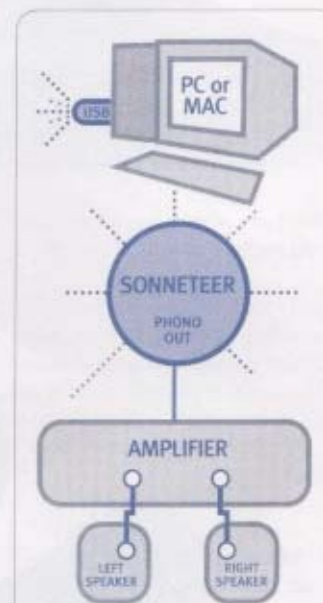
And how does it sound? Well, Sonneteer claims the BardUSB is

superior to many rival digital systems, because it doesn't compress the audio signal – whatever the technicalities, we agree it does a great job. Sure, it doesn't sound as dynamic as a CD playing on a dedicated player, but you get decent detail and bass weight, plus the system avoids nasty treble fizz. The final sonic outcome depends on the quality of both the source and hi-fi, but as a cheap wireless solution we are totally impressed.

On the downside, this system can't control your source remotely. You'll need an alternative solution for this, but for extended listening you can programme your computer – say, for parties. Overall, the BardUSB is simple, and works extremely well.



The Sonneteer system's USB includes a wireless transmitter



GETTING CONNECTED

Connect the BardUSB to your computer, hook the receiver to your amp, and you're done