

Bang & Olufsen Takes on Modular Speakers

Written by Marco Attard
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Bang & Olufsen presents the BeoSound Shape-- a wireless speaker series featuring a hexagonal wall-mountable modular design customers can clip together and turn into a piece of wall art.



Each Shape panel hides a different audio component, namely a speaker, amplifier or sound-absorbing acoustic damper. Bringing all together is the final component, the BeoSound Core, a hub featuring AirPlay, ChromeCast, Spotify Connect and Bluetooth 4.1 connectivity as well as ethernet, USB-C and line-in ports. Customers can also combine the system with the BeoLink system to create a multi-room setup based on B&O and Beoplay products.

A base package includes 8 Shape tiles-- 4 speakers, 2 acoustic dampers, 1 amplifier and 1 Core-- and the system is expandable to up to 11 amplifier units, each able to support 4 speaker tiles (for a total of 44 panels). In turn, each speaker tile carries a 13.3cm woofer and a 1.9cm tweeter.

B&O offers an online design tool for optimal layouts, even if a built-in mixing algorithm promises "crisp and precise sound" for the wall in question. The tiles are also customisable with fabric coverings from Danish textile designer Kvadrat.

The BeoSound Shape system hits the market on August 2017.

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