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Design Notes:

The wireless speaker for the modern music lover

Double Spot

Home Wireless Speaker



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Because your life doesn't take on just one dimension, we introduce Double Spot as the perfect speaker to bring music into your home. Balancing the sound output and clarity of larger systems with a modest footprint that makes it both home-friendly and movable, Double Spot is the perfect choice for a modern music lover.

In a moment of introspection, we asked ourselves “If we could only buy one wireless speaker, what would it be?” After examining the competitive landscape (including our own product line), we didn't find a definitive answer. Of all the great speakers out there, none serve more than a few needs well or shine all around the home. So we set out to make the one wireless speaker that everyone needs.

In doing so, we weighed lots of considerations in the realms of sound, design, size, and features. It was a daunting place to start, but after hearing the feedback from our customers, friends, and selves, we had the blueprint for Double Spot. Maybe it wasn't quite a blueprint, but it was at least a napkin sketch. And from that sketch, we continued to craft an indispensable speaker for everyone.

Design Approach

Over the past 30 years or so, home stereos have progressively become smaller and smaller, going from cumbersome hi-fi systems (which were as much furniture as consumer electronics) to mini-systems, to micro-systems, to sound docks, to wherever we are today. In examining the current landscape, we took into account both the movement towards smaller footprints, and the technology that's changing how people listen to music.

We began with one of the more interesting pieces of feedback we had gotten – people had been using our collapsible, portable, Sound Kick as a home speaker. Customers valued the small footprint and low-profile shape, but the sound output naturally wasn't a good fit for larger rooms. The portable

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nature of Sound Kick didn't maximize that footprint from an acoustic engineering standpoint. So we set out to design something that did.

Double Spot finds itself falling squarely between “too big” and “too small” for a size that’s just right for a home.

Also, Sound Kick has a fairly utilitarian appearance that lends itself very well to portability, but doesn't feel as complementary to home decor. So from that, we drew on Sound Spot, which was designed specifically for the home. In designing the Double Spot, we strove for a larger size that was able to improve on the sound put out by Sound Spot, yet still small enough to move around and fit in gracefully with home decor. We felt that while a bigger size facilitates bigger sound, it becomes less portable and is harder to fit into a home's design, both literally and figuratively. Double Spot finds itself falling squarely between “too big” and “too small” for a size that's just right for a home.

The double circular grills contrast the rectangular silhouette and allow us to contrast the front grill with color and wood accents or to keep it all black-on-black for a more traditional look.

We then looked to a dedicated home speaker, our Sound Step, in two different ways. Firstly, as the basis for the quality of sound and volume, and secondly, to Sound Step Recharge for versatility and mobility. Not an outdoor speaker per se, but flexible enough that it can travel away from an outlet to go wherever you need the music to be.

So, drawing from this pool of knowledge, we set out to make a home speaker with the following: small footprint, big, clear sound, and an aesthetic that proved warm, yet versatile. And that maintained a degree of portability.

The Look

Double Spot pretty clearly shares some design DNA with Sound Spot. For both products, mid-century design serves as the impetus for the banded wood front, as well as the two round grills that yes, we know, look a bit like eyes. However, whereas Sound Spot prides itself on portability, we knew that Double Spot was more likely to spend time in one place, so we made it wider, and a little shorter, reminiscent of the shape of Sound Step.

We chose to lose the front dock that's on Sound Step and left the charging responsibilities to the USB port tucked away in the back. This not only made Double Spot's real estate smaller, but gave it a cleaner look that melds better with home decor.

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The Sound

While we were flattered that people were happy enough with our portable devices' sound to showcase them in their homes, we saw many opportunities to maximize the acoustic output of a similarly shaped device, and that's exactly what we did. The rectangular brick shape allows for a hefty allocation of interior space to increase both low-end and volume, all while maintaining a modest footprint. Unless your home has a cavernous dining hall (in which case, congratulations on your success), we think that Double Spot will have no problem filling a room with sound. Just as we found a sweet spot with its size, the sound quality of Double Spot lends itself just as well to focused album listening as it does in a party.

The two drivers in Double Spot were also placed far enough apart to realize some true stereo qualities. However, we thought we could do more than distancing the speakers to increase the stereo effect, so we also pointed the speakers slightly outward to increase the distance in the projection of sound.

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Then we used UQ3, a spatial sound enhancement algorithm that creates a psychoacoustic effect which results in your perceiving the sound as coming from sources more separate than they actually are. We feel bad about tricking your brain, but think you'll agree that the final sound quality makes it all worthwhile. If it makes you feel any better, we also offer three tone settings that serve as EQ presets based on your listening preference.

Features

Despite the many considerations that went into Double Spot's development, the end result is pretty straightforward. It's got the audio features mentioned above, as well as a USB port in the back of the speaker to charge your phone. We've showcased these features

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many times before in our products, and as long as they prove useful to buyers, we'll continue to include them.

However, there is one big feature we haven't addressed yet.

It seemed that our customers could all agree on the size and sound of Sound Step, but were split on its portability. Some found Sound Step Recharge's rechargeable battery to be a huge selling point and value-add. Some saw no use for a battery feature and opted against it. Unfortunately, that was a decision that customers needed to make at the time of purchase before even having a chance to use the speaker.

This time around we offer a battery compartment for a vvvv-hour rechargeable battery. You can get the battery when you buy

the speaker, you can buy it à la carte later on, or you can never buy it. That way, you're never left paying for something you're not sure you'll need. And if you don't pay for it, but decide you want it later, you can add it on for no more than if you had originally bought it with your speaker.

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