



## Musaïc MP10 **£370**



If your interests in multi-room go further than audio, the MP10 has some unique talents

### DETAILS

#### PRODUCT

Musaïc  
MP10 Music Player

#### ORIGIN

UK/China

#### TYPE

Wireless multi-room  
speaker system

#### WEIGHT

2.6kg

#### DIMENSIONS

(WxHxD)  
412 x 146 x 115mm

#### FEATURES

- Quoted power output: 60W Class D
- Supports up to 24-bit/192kHz
- AptX Bluetooth
- Streaming service support: Spotify; Napster; Rhapsody
- Internet radio: SomaFM; AllPlay Radio; DAR.fm

#### DISTRIBUTOR

Musaïc

#### TELEPHONE

0207 5588984

#### WEBSITE

[musaic.com](http://musaic.com)

**T**he MP10 is the larger of two speakers from the Musaïc range, although in the context of the group it is one of the smaller speakers here. As a relatively new arrival to the market, Musaïc has chosen to include functionality not replicated anywhere else in the test to differentiate itself (see box out), but it hasn't ignored the basics while doing so. This is a 24-bit/192kHz-capable UPnP streaming device with aptX Bluetooth and a selection of streaming services.

Internally, the MP10 is built around a pair of 45mm drivers that sit on either side of a single 90mm bass driver. Power is supplied by a Class D amplifier with a claimed output of 60W. The speaker uses a tweaked version of HDSX processing to give as wide and immersive a soundstage as possible. Externally, it is a pleasing piece of industrial design with silver accents helping it to look less anonymous. The touch-panel buttons on top are usefully responsive and allow for a reasonable degree of control without the app. The styling is rather pedestrian, but the overall fit and finish is of a good standard and very respectable at the asking price.

Musaïc has developed Android and iOS apps for the platform and these prove to be completely stable and fast to respond to inputs over the test period. The app does not compile its own database like the Bluesound or Sonos models do, but does manage to do a better job of showing the album list rather than the other apps that rely on the server. The setup procedure is also fast and effective. The number of streaming services supported is lower than some rivals, but Tidal support is on the cards and Musaïc is committed to adding more services in the future.

### Sound quality

The MP10 has to use a greater proportion of its output than some of the speakers here to hit the test level, but still has a fair amount in reserve and doesn't show any signs of being under any strain. Instead, its performance of *Rubberbandman* is punchy and rhythmically engaging in a way that gives it an advantage over many of the speakers in the group. The impressively deep bassline is delivered with a speed and assurance that pulls you into the performance.

This same speed and sense of timing is present with the Josefín Öhrn piece, but the more rough and ready nature of this recording does show that the upper registers are not quite as forgiving as the lower frequencies. There is plenty of detail and the Musaïc handles Öhrn's vocals well, but the high guitar notes have a slightly hard edge to them, which isn't necessarily present elsewhere. This

### LIGHT FANTASTIC

With only two products on the market (although more are planned), Musaïc doesn't offer the breadth of system possibilities that some rivals do, but counters with functionality beyond home audio. The MP10 and smaller MP5 are compatible with third-party lighting systems that integrate with the control of the speakers, giving the Musaïc 'smart home' potential.

Perhaps even more interesting still is that the company is the first of its type to offer integration with IFTTT (If This Then That). This is open-source software that allows it to perform a given action if another compatible piece of equipment performs a specific function. This can include adding tracks to a Spotify playlist if you like them on the MP10 or being able to sound an alarm in the room if a compatible smoke alarm is triggered in the house, for example.

appears to be more to do with the tonal balance of the MP10 than the volume level as even when used a little more quietly, it can still be on the bright side.

With better recordings, though – like the Hargrove piece – this ceases to be an issue and instead allows it to sound genuinely impressive for such a small speaker. The piano in the opening bars is handled with weight, texture and a tonal accuracy that leaves some of the other speakers here sounding a little artificial in comparison. It can't work miracles – with both this and *Outlands*, it never really sounds like anything other than a single source rather than a stereo one – but the Musaïc consistently delivers a sound that balances accuracy and detail with a willingness to have fun. When you consider the low price and the potential offered by its additional functionality, this is a very strong offering indeed ●

### Hi-Fi Choice

#### OUR VERDICT

##### SOUND QUALITY

★★★★★

**LIKE:** Punchy and engaging sound; well thought out app; price

##### VALUE FOR MONEY

★★★★★

**DISLIKE:** Won't flatter poor recordings; limited model range and streaming service support

##### BUILD QUALITY

★★★★★

##### FEATURES

★★★★★

**WE SAY:** Strong sonics and unique functionality

##### OVERALL

★★★★★

