Sonodyne Malhar review: Classic style, powerful audio

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While audio is a personal choice, at times buyers find them struggling to find that perfect speaker for home entertainment. Many fall short in terms of design, sound performance, or affordability, leaving enthusiasts searching for the speaker that ticks all the boxes.

Made-in-India Sonodyne Malhar speaker aims to bridge the gap between classic aesthetics and modern functionality. Priced at Rs 37,500, the speaker features a wooden cabinet with two front-facing woofers and tweeters paired with side-faced dual passive radiators.

In this review, we'll explore whether the Malhar can indeed meet the high expectations of audio lovers looking for a reliable speaker or is it just another contender in the market.

Sonodyne Malhar design

The Sonodyne Malhar 180-watt speaker features a 'timeless design' with a modern twist. It has an old-school, vintage-inspired look – a rectangular-shaped cabinet made from MDF wood with a glossy finish. This material

choice gives the speaker both classic design and durability. Edges are sharp that give it a bold profile and adds to its vintage aesthetics.

On top of the Sonodyne Malhar speaker, there's a sleek control panel with physical buttons that offer direct access to essential functions like volume control, power on/off, play/pause, track forward/rewind, and mode selection between USB, optical, or Bluetooth. While the layout is intuitive, the buttons themselves are quite small, which adds to the speaker's minimalist aesthetic. Having said that we like to add that it may require a bit more precision during use. Despite their compact size, these buttons give the speaker a tactile, hands-on feel, complementing its blend of retro design.

The speaker's IR sensor on the front allowed us to control the device wirelessly via a remote that came bundled inside the box. Using the remote - which we must say is sleek and stylish – gets all the controls that are available in the control panel on the speaker that we just mentioned above.

The Sonodyne Malhar speaker comes with two passive radiators placed on the sides to enhance the bass response. These radiators work by responding to the air pressure generated inside the speaker, delivering deeper and more powerful low frequencies.

The woofer and tweeter units are placed on the front behind a metallic grille, enhancing the speaker's vintage appeal as well as protecting the drivers. The company's branding can be seen at the front bottom. The speaker's rear side is home to inputs for AUX, Optical, USB along with the power input. A manual switch is also located on the back, allowing you to control the speaker's power while it remains plugged in. Now do note that the device weighs 8kg and you will be finding it tied to one place

Overall, the speaker's design combines elegance, durability, and accessibility features, making it a worthy addition in your living room.

Sonodyne Malhar audio performance

Top-notch! The Sonodyne Malhar bluetooth speaker delivers an exceptional audio experience that truly stands out. Let's quickly run through the technical info. The speaker is equipped with two 5-inch glass-cone fiber woofers, two 1-inch polycone tweeters, and dual 5-inch passive radiators. It has a D Class high power amplifier that goes up to 180 watt, producing loud sound that can fill even a big room.

With its powerful woofer and precision tweeter, the speaker offers a remarkable balance of deep, resonant bass and crystal-clear highs, ensuring that every note is rendered with stunning clarity. The speaker's 5-inch dual passive radiators enhance the low-end response, providing a rich and immersive soundstage that fills the room.

The Sonodyne Malhar speaker does true justice to its name by delivering exceptional performance. And of course, we started the audio test with Hindi classical music. We chose a Hindi classical playlist in the Spotify app and that is when we came across musical gems like Gaud Sarang and Dhani by Shruti Sadolikar, Ahir Bhairav by Buddhadev DasGupta and Muskurahte-Reprise by Shail Handa. These intricate melodies and rich nuances of ragas come alive with the Malhar speaker, making it an ideal choice for music admirers of this genre.

For example, when listening to 'Gaud Sarang Dhani' by Shruti Sadolikar, the speaker's ability to render the delicate notes and subtle expressions is truly impressive. Similarly, 'Ahir Bhairav' by Buddhadev DasGupta showcases the Malhar's capacity to deliver depth and warmth in its sound, creating an immersive listening experience. Tracks like 'Jaa Kaga' and 'Muskurahte-Reprise' by Shail Handa highlight how the Malhar captures the emotional essence of each piece, making every song feel engaging.

We also tested the speaker for other genre songs like Olivia Rodrigo's 'Good 4 U', and Therefore I Am by Billie Ellish. The Sonodyne Malhar speaker handled the energetic pop of 'Good 4 U' impressively, delivering punchy bass and crisp vocals. Meanwhile, 'Therefore I Am' showcased the speaker's ability to reproduce Billie Eilish's signature sound, with the subtle nuances coming through clearly.

Sonodyne Malhar speaker will not disappoint you if you are an admirer of songs like Softly by Karan Aujla, Pasoori by Ali Sethi x ShaeGill or Hass Hass by Diljit Dosanjh. We also watched a couple of movies like the Do Patti on Netflix and the speaker surely added to the experience.

Whether you're enjoying your favorite music or watching movies, the Malhar captures the full spectrum of sound, making every moment engaging and enjoyable.

Verdict

Sonodyne Malhar debuted with a price tag of Rs 37,500. But you can easily buy it below Rs 32,000 on Amazon and other platforms. At this price point, Malhar offers remarkable value for its combination of classic design, robust audio performance, and modern features. Its impressive bass response and clarity make it suitable for a variety of genres. Overall, the Sonodyne Malhar speaker is a worthy investment.