

# Gadgets

## ● SONODYNE MALHAR MUSIC SYSTEM

# A bit bulky, but puts out loud and clear sound

This wireless speaker has a wide soundstage and multiple inputs

SUDHIR CHOWDHARY

IN HINDUSTANI CLASSICAL music, *raag Malhar* is associated with torrential rains. Some say that singing this collection of pitches can bring rain to the area. Sonodyne's Malhar might not possess that ability, but this high fidelity stereo wireless music system is disarmingly detailed and powerful, and does justice to an artist's musical creation by its ability to produce impressive sound. In particular, its soft and warm tone when played at a low volume is most soothing. At ₹31,999, its high price tag might cause some people to shy away from it, however, take my word – the Malhar has a premium look and feel, and the sound quality is what makes this speaker special.

Sonodyne was started in the summer of 1970 by Ashoke Mukherjee, a bright young engineer from IIT Roorkee. Starting from a makeshift office in south Kolkata, the homegrown venture has since grown to be a well-known player in the high fidelity audio space. Its sound



### KEY FEATURES

- Hi-Fi stereo wireless music system
- 180 watt output power
- Optical, Aux, USB, Bluetooth connectivity
- 2 x 5" woofer, 2 x 1" dome tweeter, 2 x passive radiators
- Wide stereo soundstage
- **Estimated street price:** ₹31,999

systems are installed in some of the leading retail chains, such as, Reliance, Future Group, Aditya

power, volume, input selection, mute as well as play/pause, previous and next functions of the USB player.

Inside, we are looking at two powerful 5-inch woofers especially designed for deep bass capability, mounted in a bass-reflex enclosure. The woofers are augmented by two 5-inch passive radiators on either side. These passive radiators assist the woofer in reproducing deep bass notes. I feel this is also an ingenious way to get a whole lot of extra oomph out of the sound system. The woofers are driven by a high power 2 channel Class-D amplifier. There are two separate 1-inch dome tweeters with neodymium magnet which ensure smooth, wide and extended high frequency response.

In actual usage, I connected the Malhar to my Samsung Galaxy S23 Ultra and streamed music from the Spotify app. Without a doubt, the sound quality is impressive. There is a lot of depth and openness and a crystal clear sound. The speaker certainly offers much more stereo experience than many Bluetooth speakers from brands such as Sonos, Marshall or JBL Harman. However, I personally feel it's still not quite the same as listening to a pair of separate speakers that many people are more comfortable with.

Both in terms of volume and bass performance, the Malhar is good. I also liked the fact that it sounded clearer and more natural, with a wider soundstage. It isn't as sleek or compact as a Bose system, but it still manages to produce good sound. Highly recommended.