

by Alan J. Pierce, EdD  
pierceaj@techtoday.us

## Soundbook X3 Portable Wireless Speaker

Our iPhones, iPads, and Android equivalents all perform the tasks that we want reasonably well. That is until we try to share our music with our friends using the puny speakers that are built into these devices. So we turn to external speakers that usually connect wirelessly using Bluetooth.

I have written many reviews on these external speakers in the past, but never found one with the quality of sound that is produced by the Bayan Audio Soundbook X3. This sound quality comes from the 20 watts of power that Bayan built into an audio case that definitely resembles a book. See photo 1.

This speaker system can do much more than just bring fantastic sound to your personal Smartphone, Tablet, or notebook computer.

### Size and Features

The packaging includes the necessary adapters to charge your X3 in foreign countries and a 3.5mm stereo cable for use in its auxiliary mode. The Soundbook X3 body measures 9 ½ inches long, 5 inches tall, and 1 ¾ inches deep. These dimensions, however, are not representative of its actual footprint when you are using it. The body of the X3 is designed to sit at an angle. Opening the cover serves as the Soundbook X3's on/off switch and its stand which prevents the X3 from toppling over. See photo 2. The sturdy aluminum case and components makes it tip the scale at 3 pounds. Its 20 watts of power is produced by its four 1 1/2 inch drivers in combination with a 3 inch passive bass radiator. The bass radiator creates the sound of a large woofer by increasing bass frequencies thereby improving the overall sound of the system.

The Soundbook X3 has multiple forms of attachment and the display shows you which mode you are in.

### Display Modes

1. Auxiliary speaker system (Aux)
2. Bluetooth speaker/speakerphone a perfect system for group chats (Blue).
3. A standalone FM radio (FM) The display shows the radio station being selected.

When fully charged you can expect about 10 hours of play time if you are not blasting the volume. You can also use the X3 as a charging station by plugging in your own charging cable into its USB port. This port can only be used to charge other devices and performing this act will definitely reduce how long it can serve its speaker functions.

### Reason to Drool

The sound is fantastic and the design is striking. Its multifunctional possibilities make it the perfect speaker for sharing your music with your friends.

### Not So Cool

When the battery is low it will display low on the front panel. Continual metering of the state of the battery would be better. The hinge design which angles the body of the speaker looks great. However I expect that if you use it a

great deal out of doors the sun will eventually cause this plastic/ballistic nylon hinge to break. This design also prevents the unit from standing up when the cover is closed. The unit is not waterproof so you will also need to be careful how you use it out of doors. See photo 2 again.



## Bayan Audio Soundbook X3

Photo 1



Photo 2

The cover becomes the stand. Without it the X3 can't stand up.

Alan is co-author of *Introduction to Technology Glencoe McGraw-Hill 2010* and a *TechDirections Magazine* Columnist . Visit [www.technologytoday.us](http://www.technologytoday.us) for past columns, reviews, and resources.