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## Review: FlexTune is a flexible speaker/docking system for iPods, iPhones

Posted by Dennis Sellers Jun 19, 2008 at 4:48pm



Macally's \$59.99 FlexTune portable speaker system packs a lot of punch in its small form. But what really makes it useful is the flexibility it offers in providing a vertical or horizontal orientation.

The former is good is for viewing video on an iPod classic. The latter is great ideal for watching widescreen movies on an iPhone or iPod touch. And you read it right: the FlexTune works with the iPhone (I've only tried it on a first gen iPhone, but it should work with the iPhone 3G, as well).

The FlexTune handles its dual orientations thanks to sliding speakers. The speakers slide outward to for inserting your Apple device. Then you slide them inward to help secure the iPod or iPhone in place.

The FlexTunes serves as an all-in-one docking station for all iPods and the iPhone. Weirdly, the system only recharges your device when you press the power button to activate the speakers. If you don't press the button, the iPod or iPhone just sits in the dock without recharging.

The speaker system also has a line-in on the back for attaching other music devices. The usual suspects of buttons (Prev, Play/pause, Next, Volume down, Volume up and power buttons) are located at the front base of the speaker system. A remote is also included, though the one that came with my system only worked intermittently. However, I've not heard of others having this problem so I must have gotten a defective remote.

The Macally system can run on AC power or four "AA" batteries for taking it on the road. The average battery

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**Dennis Sellers**

Dennis has been a newspaper editor/reporter (seven years) and teacher (seven years). He has over 4,000 magazine, newspaper and online articles to his credit. He has also covered the Mac and tech industries for over a decade for such online publications as MacCentral, MacMinute and now MacsimumNews.

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life with the batteries is around six hours.

The system boasts 1500mW power output per channel and the sound is quite good for a small speaker system, though it tends to distort somewhat at really high volumes. The FlexTune has a small footprint (7.5 inches wide by 4 inches tall by 2.3 inches) and looks look in its silver and black casing. It feels a little cheap and “plastic-y,” but at under 60 bucks, that’s to be expected.

You’re not going to want to use the FlexTune for your main audio system. However, it’s a convenient, portable player/speaker/charger set-up at a reasonable price.

Macsimum rating: 7 out of 10.



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