

Denon + Spotify = Amazing

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Denon

gadgets

Heos

Spotify



Wow, I really think Denon have hit a home run with their Heos wireless sound system!

Late last year my wife and I started using Spotify (what an amazing way to consume music), just about every album I have ever loved and owned is on this platform - and it runs on every device I use (including a native Linux client!).

The Spotify interface is excellent - really obvious how to add songs/albums to favourites and playlists, offline caching and really great public playlists. This really is the future of music consumption.

For Christmas (and birthdays) we decided to upgrade our house to wireless speakers. I picked Denon because they are a trusted name in audio, the wireless audio technology was developed in Australia and the price was right at Harvey Norman (they are running out the old models in favor of the new HS2 models - which happen to be backwards compatible).

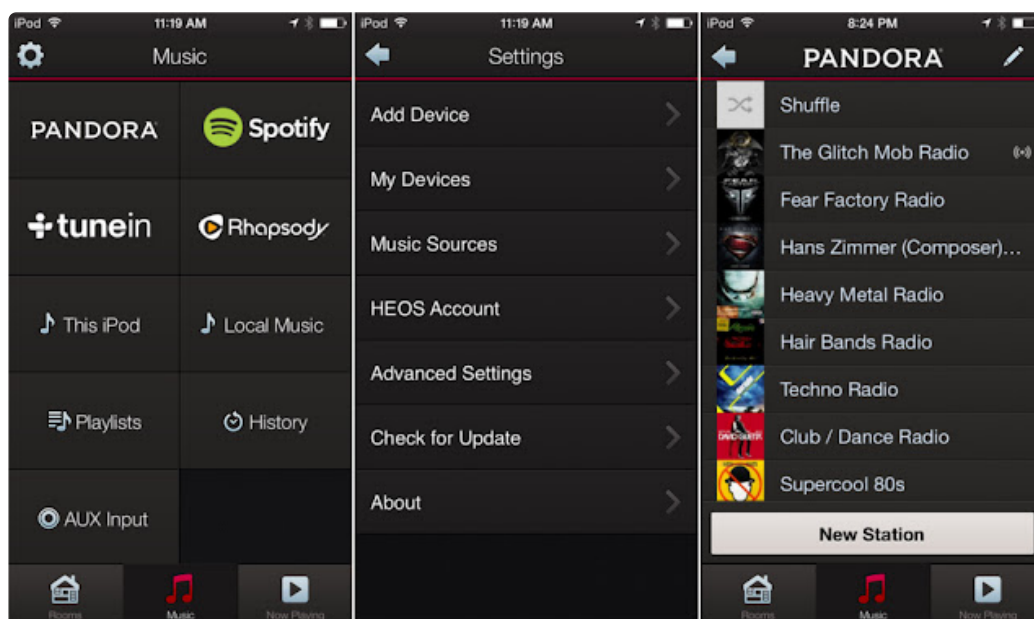
We ended up with 2 Heos sound bars (one for each TV), a Heos 3 and a Heos 1 (with go-pack).

Wireless speakers are pretty hot right now (note that these are speakers that primarily run over wifi - not bluetooth - although many provide options for both).

The things I love about the speakers I'll list in dot point form below:

- they look great
- are very easy to set up
- sound bars have sub woofers included in the package (unlike the sonos)

- the soundbars work really well with our TV's (Optical out), but they also sync with the other speakers in the house (which is crazy)
- Heos 3 and 5 can be set up as a single unit or a stereo pair
- they all support Ethernet (if Wifi isn't your thing)
- grouping the speakers in to zones is a breeze (you can use a pinch gesture to group all of your speakers together)
- Australian support is amazing - I had a problem with my first unit and they helped get a replacement organised in a very timely manner (thanks Andre!)
- Supports lots of music services (listen to triple J using TuneIn, iTunes match or stream Spotify)
- Audio quality is amazing (and I haven't upgraded to the high-def audio that the HS2 range supports)
- Audio is synchronized - there is no delay/lag between rooms (this is magical, and feels like I'm living in the future!)
- Native spotify support (it just lists the speakers - or speaker groups - as an output device)
- Heos 1 has a thing called a "Go Pack" that allows you to power the speaker whilst out and about
- Bluetooth modules are reasonably priced (I paid \$50 for one), this turns any heos speaker in to a portable bluetooth speaker (the HS2 range have this feature built-in)
- They are small and unobtrusive (wife compatible I guess)
- Works with both IOS/Android devices (with the Heos app loaded on my iphone it also integrated with the volume control buttons - a really nice touch!).



Things I'm not too fussed about:

- play bars do not support 5.1 Audio (like Sonos does)
- a bit derivative with their naming of the system (seems eerily like the Sonos Play naming)
- it takes a while to buffer when initiating playback to the speakers

So in a nutshell - it's so great to see and experience this level of innovation as a consumer. I would highly recommend this family of products!

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