

"I can't wait for Apple's AirPlay. Simple streaming of my Lossless music all over my home? Fantastic!"

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11 APPLE AIRPLAY

Finally, multi-room audio for everyone: all you need is iTunes plus a suitable AirPlay-equipped AV component

If distributing music around your house has always seemed too complicated before, Apple's AirPlay promises to make things considerably easier. An evolution of the Airport Express wireless networking system, it's been designed to connect home entertainment gear directly to PCs and Macs over wi-fi or ethernet, letting you free your content with the minimum of fuss, and get it where it needs to be.

Streams are breath of fresh Air

Using AirPlay and iTunes 10, you can stream simultaneously to multiple devices around your home. If you have AirPlay-enabled speakers in your kitchen and living room, they can both receive the same audio stream and remain perfectly in sync. You can also view album art and artist info if

your AirPlay equipment has a display.

This gives the system an appreciable edge over generic streaming solutions.

So, what AirPlay hardware can you buy? Initially not a lot. But that will change, and fast, as 2011 unfolds. If you can't wait, Denon's AVR-4311, AVR-3311 and special edition A100 AV receivers, as well as the CEOL Network Music System, are Airplay-compatible, as are the Marantz SR7005 AVR, AV7005 Preamplifier, NA7004 Network Audio Player and the Melody Media Network CD Receiver (above). B&W is also joining the party, but has yet to make a formal announcement about hardware. The smart money is on a revamped version of its award-winning Zeppelin iPod dock, but there might be other surprises in store. More at www.apple.com/itunes/airplay