



**Party starter**  
It's got an iPod dock! Which means it works with iPhones too, and will charge (almost) any Apple gadget you slap in it. It won't improve your taste in music though.

**Super sub**  
Look mum, no power: USB-only connection for sound and juice means the FS-1s are ideal for travel, and they don't drain much power from your laptop.

**Epoz AktiMate Micro**  
£260 | [aktimate.com](http://aktimate.com)

**What's that noise?**

From a land down under, the Epoz name is an Aussie offshoot of established hi-fi brand Epos (geddit?). The AktiMate Micro speakers may be the company's most compact model, but they're the closest thing here to a proper stereo speaker in design, size and weight. There's a 3.5mm input on the back and a proper iPod dock on top, too.

**How does it sound?**

We've no complaints with the sound, which is as big and weighty as you'd expect, with loads of muscular bass. Controls are a little fiddly: power is out of sight around the back, the volume knob is hyper-sensitive and knowing which input is selected is guesswork. We'll live with all that, though, because they really do sound great.

**Stuff says ★★★★★**

Bold and bassy and with the added bonus of a built-in iPod dock.

**TECH** ● 40W ● 3.5mm input ● iPod dock ● 145x200x240mm ● 6.95kg

**Frankenspiel FS-1**  
£130 | [frankenspiel.com](http://frankenspiel.com)

**What's that noise?**

Crazy name... yet fairly sensible, compact, desktop speakers. Plonk one either side of your laptop and you have two presentable cubes of affordably-built sound. They take power as well as their audio feed via the solitary USB input, and they claim to produce up to 40W of noise with little appreciable power drain.

**How does it sound?**

Bass tends to require a big box, and so it proves here — if you listen to a non-stop diet of dubstep, the FS-1s may not cut it. But voices are clear and there's good detail, so movie dialogue is comprehensible and FX-laden games sound controlled. As they're USB-only you're tied to your computer for volume control, but considering the FS-1s' price and portability, the performance is top-notch.

**Stuff says ★★★★★☆**

Far from monstrous, Frankenspiel has created a solid USB speaker.

**TECH** ● 40W ● USB input ● 90x90x90mm ● 1kg