



What portable PA System?

Edwards' Reviews and Recommendations for 2016

Challenger 1000D

We call it the Swiss Army knife of portable systems. There are not many situations that it won't cover with ease. The sound quality is top of its field for both music and speech. Plus your purchase is future proofed because it is simple to extend with extra speakers and modular add-ons – recorders, additional wireless mic channels and repeater links etc.

Suits:

- Schools: halls, assemblies, sports fields, beach and pool events
- Events: outdoor and indoor, including outdoor and beachside weddings
- Places of worship, maraes: main meeting venue, side rooms and outside events
- Hire companies and rental: the Coach 1000D is used extensively due to its flexibility and portability (the built-in trolley is a winner!)
- Celebrants



Stage Pro

This is powerful, super compact, the sound quality is excellent and it is priced very competitively. There isn't currently anything at this level able to compete with the Stage Pro for audio, quality and price. It is built with stage performances in mind and will fill the room with sound but without filling your stage with gear. Perfect for live acts and school performances which often have large and all-inclusive acts on stage, as well as all the applications of the Challenger above - wide coverage indoors and outdoors for speech and music!

The Chiayo Stage Pro PA won silver at the prestigious Japan Genius Award.

Suits:

- Professional street performers
- Stage performers, vocals
- Schools: looking for a bit more power in halls, sports fields or playground
- Places of worship, maraes: as with the above – if you are looking for more power
- Corporate: larger meetings and conferences
- Hire and rental companies: a little lighter and more powerful than the Challenger make it a popular choice for hire companies catering for larger audiences



Focus 505

This is a discrete, low profile system with ‘Hi-Fi’ sound quality. From the front it is the same size as a piece of A4 paper! The heaviest option only weighs 6.5kgs and it is very simple to operate. These are competitively priced, fully featured professional portable sound systems - probably the best compact portable sound system for wireless microphones in the world easily covering a moderate group of people, where the Challenger or Stage Pro would be overkill.

Suits medium-sized audiences of up to approximately 100 people.

- Schools: it is used frequently in smaller school halls and court-sized outdoor spaces
- Rest homes: for presentations and entertainment
- Meeting rooms: RSA, halls, Probus clubs, Chapels and Churches



Coach 400

The Coach projects sound over a surprisingly large distance. It will easily cover a school hall, sports field or outdoor court. The sound quality is loud and clear. Very light and powerful, perfect for conducting civil defence procedures, especially in light of the sirens. It might look expensive due to its compact size but outperforms others on the market and you get what you pay for - in an emergency those extra few dollars could make all the difference. The shoulder carry bag is a game changer for tour guides or teachers on an excursion! It comes with pockets for accessories and transmitters and a liftable front panel so you can still use the Coach over your shoulder facing either forwards (for addressing a group) or backwards (for guided mobile tour groups) inside the carry bag. And the USB-in can be a goldmine (literally!) at a fundraiser, playing recorded adverts for the various stalls or activities. Make sure no one misses the cake stand at your next calf-day!

Suits:

- Schools: civil defence emergency procedures, sporting events such as cross-country, school trips
- Guided tours
- Lectures in small conference rooms
- Trade fairs
- Election events
- Any public meeting place requiring a device to communicate if the power goes down or needs to get people's attention in an instant!



Comparison Chart Overleaf...

	Power & Size Audience	Inputs	Speaker Size	Weight	Protection/Transport	Battery Life & Type	Extend-able	Add on modules	Other features
Challenger 1000D	100's of people 120w RMS audio. Max music 150	Mic in (Combo), Line in (R/L) BT receiver & digital recorder/player included (records speeches onto USB or SD) Up to 4 wireless mics Fixed mic	10" with tweeter	17.7kg	Built-in trolley plus optional ruggedized version for outdoor use; optional weather & dust cover	Lead acid > 6hrs music > 10hrs speech	Yes. Repeater ready. Multiple slave speakers up to 100 m away and no cables!	CD/USB player Digital video player/USB/SD player, receiver or transmitter	Voice priority
Stage Pro	100's of people Crossover amp 100w to Low Frequency driver and 50w to high.	Multiple line in options! Mic Instruments Digital-in for audio files direct from computer via USB	8" + 1" High Frequency	13kg	Optional tripod stand	Lead acid or optional lithium Lithium: up to 10hrs Lead acid: up to 6	Yes. Wired or wireless options available.	CD/US/SD/Digital Video player, receiver, transmitter, digital recorder & player, Bluetooth module 4 diversity receiver modules	Voice priority Compartment to add additional battery
Focus505	>100 people 30w RMS audio. Max music 50w	Mic in Aux in	6.5"	5kg	Optional carry case, tripod stand, wall mount bracket	Lead acid 5-6 hrs music 10-12 hrs speech	Yes. Passive or active speakers available.	Bluetooth and digital recorder, up to 2 wireless mic channels	2 separate remotes to control audio and voice
Coach 400	Large groups 25w RMS audio. Max 40w music	Mic in, aux in and USB in – can read and record digital music files (.mp3s), play ads or recorded messages	4"	1.6kg	Includes shoulder bag. Optional tripod stand	Lithium 5-6 hrs in music, 10-12 speech	No	Comes with a small handheld mic and wireless mics available	2 alarm sounds for broadcasting in an emergency

