



**AV MAX**

★ **RECOMMENDED** ★

# Scan For Sonic Waves

The Scansonic R5 is not just a smart table radio player, it can play back your CDs, and MP3s equally efficiently. And best of all, it's good looking enough to be portable.

Portable radios add a lot of spark and joy to our lives. We can carry them around from one room to another and over the weekends, they make for a perfect portable player that can be carried away to your farm house. But a device that can playback only radio won't serve much of a purpose all

the time. In fact, throw in other features like a CD player and an auxillary input and you will have a perfect looking unit that can serve a variety of purposes. One company that makes such portable radios is Scansonic. The company is headquartered in Denmark and has three decades of experience and reputation in the loudspeaker

manufacturing industry. We recently tested the R5 from their product lineup of portable radios and found that the company is completely dedicated to the fine nuances even in the smallest of their products.

### OUT OF THE BOX

The R5 embraces a smooth style

of aesthetics. Curved edges and rounded appearance are its forte. When you turn on the unit, the volume dial gets lit with a blue colour LED that makes it simply amazing to look at. The R5 houses a speaker on its top panel that is neatly hidden under a perforated grille. If you go around exploring the unit, you will also find a port on the rear panel, which is the back firing port of the R5. This vent will certainly help reinforce the bass frequencies of the R5. In addition to this bass reflex design, the R5 also boasts of eight layers of high gloss paint and a solid MDF cabinet. The MDF finish lends a sturdy build quality to the R5. It improves the portability of the radio unit making it tough and resistant to external factors.

### TECHNOLOGY

The R5 is a high-quality table radio and has been incorporated with a variety of connectivity options and features to give you a wholesome package. The FM tuner comes with the standard frequency specification of 87.5MHz to 108MHz. Further, the tuner has been backed by a high quality 75ohm telescopic antenna. The R5 has a long antenna lead, which is quite essential in areas where the signal gets weak. With a long antenna, it gets easier for the receiver to pick up a good amount of electro-magnetic vibrations in the air.

Coming to the CD unit, the R5 cannot playback MP3 or WMA CDs, but the inbuilt CD unit can surely handle your audio CDs pretty well. Moreover, the R5 has skipped a tray loading mechanism and instead it has opted for slot loading options. So you need not worry about tray loading hassles at all. Your CDs can easily slide in and out of the unit with ease and elegance. And it's not only elegance that matters when it comes to table radios, sound quality is also a big concern for these little boom boxes. For that, the R5 has a built in 3.5" full-range loudspeaker to handle all the frequencies of the audio spectrum.

In terms of connectivity, the designers back at Scansonic have ensured that almost all audio sources out there in the market will find an input terminal on their radio unit. If you rotate the unit, you will

find an aux in on the rear panel along with a stereo line out and a headphone out. The aux in will certainly come in handy to connect your iPod or a mobile phone.

### REMOTE CONTROL

The remote control of the R5 operates on a 3V lithium battery. The buttons on the controller are placed in close proximity to each other; this is something that doesn't really work for any remote control. The reason is that while you intend to press a particular button, unintentionally, another button gets pressed, and this happens a lot when you are either in a hurry or when the lights are dim in the room. What works is that the controller is just the size of your palm and the layout of the buttons isn't complex either; it is lightweight, easy to hold and comfortable to use.

### PERFORMANCE

Table radios like the R5 are an unending source of music, FM broadcasts expose us to new forms of music and artists, which we may have never heard of. Radios may not have superior sound quality compared to a CD player, you may never enjoy the full musical capability of a song when heard through FM, nonetheless, you cannot overlook the fact that FM can play a major part in people's lives who do not purchase music. So it becomes essential for the circuitry within the radio to not only sound good, but it should also be able to deliver the fine nuances in the music that is being broadcast. This high quality musical experience is possible only from high-quality tuner. And when it comes to the R5, we must say that we truly enjoyed the performance of the unit.

When we switched on the unit, the technical expertise and finesse with which the R5 was built was easily visible. Using the small remote control, we hit the search function to store all the FM stations that the unit could pick up. This barely took few minutes, and once that was done, we sat down on the studio couch to audition the tunes' sonic capabilities.

Well, on most of the channels that are being broadcast all over India, Bollywood music is the most dominant genre. Hindi film

### Specifications

- DRIVERS** 1x3.5" Full Range Driver
- CONNECTIVITY** Aux In, Line Out, Headphone Out
- PLAYABILITY OPTIONS** AM, FM And CD
- FREQUENCY RESPONSE** NA
- POWER OUTPUT** 7W
- WEIGHT** 1.5kg
- DIMENSIONS**



Scansonic R5	
<b>PRICE</b>	₹ 30,000
<b>WARRANTY</b>	1 Year
<b>CATEGORY</b>	CD Player
<b>AESTHETICS</b>	★★★★★
<b>BUILD</b>	★★★★★
<b>AUDIO</b>	★★★★★
<b>EASE OF USE</b>	★★★★★
<b>VFM</b>	★★★★★
<b>WHAT SAY AV?</b>	The Scansonic R5 has excellent build quality and a fine aesthetic appeal. The tuner has a beautiful sound quality and excitement in it; it sounds spacious, wholesome and engaging. The CD playback is also excellent and comes in handy when you are saturated with hours of non-stop FM radio. Overall, the R5 is a perfect deal for those who care about good quality FM reception.
<b>OVERALL</b>	★★★★★
<b>CONTACT</b>	www.designeraudio.in





music doesn't have the dynamic range that other audiophile genres have. We kept a keen ear to hear the tuner's ability, and how well it managed to keep the radio hiss at a minimum level. The R5 tuned into the channels perfectly, and the apparent hiss in the broadcast was not at all audible. The R5 had a good tuner built in its belly, otherwise, it would not be possible for a radio unit to reduce this hiss that usually causes fatigue over long term listening. Besides reducing this broadcast noise, the R5 had good musical capabilities too.

The music never sounded flat and boring, it had its own spark and excitement in it. We couldn't believe our ears, it was amazing to see what a 3.5" full-range driver was capable of doing in our studio, which is sonically balanced and absorbed. The bass was tight and deep. It didn't have the room filling quality, but if you place the R5 near a wall boundary, you are likely to get a good amount of room filling bass, something that many listeners would like in Bollywood and modern day commercial music. The mid-range too was open and full of life. It never sounded choked or congested. This feat, too, took us by surprise. The reason being that the R5 has just one driver to

---

For a unit of this size, it does a swell job plus the rear firing port aided the full-range driver in delivering a wholesome sonic experience.

---

**WHAT IS**

**\*SENSITIVITY**

Sensitivity is the ability of a radio receiver to pick up radio signals. A higher sensitivity rating implies that the unit is capable of picking up weak signals, this becomes quite essential when the distance between the radio receiver and transmitter is great.

handle all the frequencies of the audio spectrum. Vocals sounded spacious and full of energy. When we shifted to CD mode, the musical performance of the R5 climbed up another level altogether. The R5 gives you a lot of options when it comes to portability. The entire rack of CDs that may be lying in your bedroom will get a new lease of life. The R5 is a masterpiece and

it proved its calibre to us when we played back a wide genre of music ranging from 'Soldier of Love' to 'The Dali CD', 'Battle Studies' and so on. Here also, the bass was tight and rounded. The low end that we were receiving from John Mayer's album was commendable. This is another feather in the cap of the R5, the reason being that its bass response was simply superb. For a unit of this size, it was doing a swell job plus the rear firing port aided the full range driver in delivering a wholesome sonic experience. As we turned up the volume quite a bit, it still sounded balanced. Harshness or fatigue never crept in. The mid-range that was coming to us was smooth and warm. Even the highs never sounded bright.

**CONCLUSION**

The Scansonic R5 has an excellent build and sound quality. We couldn't test the sensitivity\* of the unit in picking up weak signals as we were within city limits where all FM signals are strong. But we realized that the tuner within the R5 is of top-notch quality. The music is smooth, balanced and ear pleasing. Neither the mids nor the highs sound harsh and bright. The remote control can be a little troublesome to use in low light conditions, but it serves its purpose efficiently. The versatility of the R5 is its USP; you can use as a table radio, or a CD player, or even connect your iPod to it through the aux in, it performs well over all sources. All this makes it a perfect companion in places where space is a constraint, and you don't want to compromise on the sound or the aesthetic quality of the unit.

**Lionel D'souza**

