

## Ruark R1 Mk4 review: Enjoy the restyle and stay for the sound

The best bookshelf radio returns with a new style and even better sound



Our Rating : ★★★★★

Previous Ruark R1s have sounded impressive and the R1 Mk4 continues that trend. Its biggest strength is its versatility. Stick to pop on Radio One, Heart or Capital and the sound is crisp, warm and punchy, with plenty of detail at the high end and enough low-end welly to make the beats sound huge. Switch to jazz and there's space and body, with an impressively juicy pluck to double bass notes and a pleasing richness to saxophones and trumpets.

If you're serious about radio, then yes. It may be a big investment but the Ruark justifies it because it looks and sounds so good. In direct comparisons it outperforms established favourites, like the Roberts Revival iStream 3, and delivers a much wider and more dynamic sound than you've any right to expect from a compact bookshelf radio. It's a luxury, but you get exactly what you pay for.