



## Solwise HomePlug AV Simple Connect

*A clever idea that's finally come of age.*

200Mbit/sec HomePlug network kit



**POWER PLUG ADAPTERS** are devices that use the mains electricity lines in your home as network cables. To add a PC to your network, you just connect an adapter to its Ethernet

port, then plug the adapter into a mains socket. You need another adapter cabled to another PC (or router), and plugged in elsewhere in your home, to complete the link, so they're sold in pairs. It's a simple way to set up a network, and doesn't suffer the range and reception issues of WiFi.

Our last group test of power plug adapters (click Labs at [www.computerbuyer.co.uk](http://www.computerbuyer.co.uk)) was won by the Devolo dLAN 200 AV Desk. With a sustained data transfer rate of 15Mbit/sec, it was more than twice as fast as its closest rival. This month we got our hands on the new Solwise HomePlug AV Simple Connect and it achieved 50Mbit/sec - more than three times as fast.

This seemed too good to be true, so we checked, and got the same results. We even dusted off the Devolo products and re-tested them in exactly the same way as the Simple Connect. Still 15Mbit/sec.

The Solwise adapters have another benefit: when you plug them in, they automatically connect to any compatible adapters on your mains. You press the Simple Connect button on one adapter, then make your way briskly to the second (you've got two minutes) and press the button on that. The adapters will find each other, and your two PCs are now connected. We tried it, and it works.

Your connection is secured with 128-bit AES encryption - more than enough to prevent anyone trying to sneak in. The software that comes with the adapters doesn't do much except allow you to update firmware and specify some quality of service (QoS) settings, but getting the adapters working is so easy that you don't need any more.

These are the fastest power plug adapters we've seen, and cost the same as their nearest competitor, which is three times slower. Sold. **KW**

### Solwise HomePlug AV Simple Connect



Not cheap, but a much better deal than any other HomePlug kit we've seen so far.

£100 inc VAT

1x Ethernet port

SEE IT [www.solwise.co.uk](http://www.solwise.co.uk)

BUY IT [www.solwise.co.uk](http://www.solwise.co.uk)

PART CODE

NET-PL-200AV-PUSH

FEATURES ★★★★★

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★

VALUE ★★★★★

### Samsung YP-P2



A good touchscreen player with Bluetooth at an enticing price.

£79.99 inc VAT

3 inch touchscreen • Bluetooth 2.0 • FM radio with recorder

SIZE 100x52x9.9mm

WEIGHT 85g

SEE IT [www.samsung.com/uk](http://www.samsung.com/uk)

BUY IT [www.advancedmp3players.co.uk](http://www.advancedmp3players.co.uk)

FEATURES ★★

PERFORMANCE ★★★

VALUE ★★★★★

## Samsung YP-P2

*Can it touch the iPod?*

Portable music player



**THE SAMSUNG YP-P2** is a relatively inexpensive alternative to Apple's iPod touch. The unit was 2GB, but still costs about

equivalent iPod touch. So what? Surprisingly little, we found, since it has no WiFi, so you can't stream music services. However, the P2 has Bluetooth of its own: Bluetooth. You could pair it with a pair of Bluetooth earphones and listen to music without wires, and still have the advantage of the price of Apple's touchscreen iPod touch. Philips' SHB6102 headset and the P2 can be used to pair with the YP-P2. The two are connected, and our music continued to play when we strayed up to ten metres.

Sound quality was superb, though the same wasn't true with the basic Samsung supplies. We got about 35 hours of play from a battery charge using the headphones - double that without - reasonably close to the claimed 35 hours. Only the P2 is included, as with most competitors you'll need to pick up a mains charger online.

The YP-P2 plays MP3 and AAC files and can also handle protected files, though it's a bit annoyingly unusual. MPEG-4 video is supported, but annoyingly you're forced to use a conversion software to do this. The P2 also has a drag and drop music files directly to the device.

The touchscreen interface, which is up to Apple standards, is easy to use, and ourselves prodding menu items which was frustrating. However, the clarity and contrast is outstanding, and it's easily activated accidentally with a finger.

If you don't feel the need for a high-end, attractive and affordable player, the Samsung YP-P2 is in white and purple. **AZ**

3 inch screen

