

Energy Power Bar Elite Klipsch knows sound

• COST: \$600 MSRP • MANUFACTURER: Energy, www.energy-speakers.com

You might be asking yourself, "Who the heck is Energy?" Well, they're owned by **Klipsch**. Yep, that's right — the speaker company that rocked the PC gaming world during the '90s and '00s. Not a bad lineage to have.

We tested this setup with everything we could throw at it — music, video, movies, and games — and though the Power Bar Elite's sound quality was incredible, we found its lack of connections to be limiting. While this baby rocked TOSLINK optical and RCA audio options, anyone with an HDMI-enabled TV will find themselves out in the cold — a startling and confusing reality, given how common the

connection is these days.

Still, with the Power Bar Elite being a **Klipsch** product, the audio output was superb in the basement we used for testing — the unit did a great job in that confined space. Explosions in *Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 3* matches were intense, and we could hear subtle sounds — like someone trying to creep up behind us with a knife — very clearly.

Unlike the Yamaha and Sony soundbars, though, the Energy Elite is really heavy, making it less ideal for wall-mounting. Of course, all that beef does mean that this thing bumps, and bumps big time. We can imagine it doing a great job of filling even large spaces with thun-



derous sound, particularly given its wireless subwoofer, which allowed us place the boom box up to 20 feet away from the soundbar.

Though other soundbars still surpass it, the Power Bar is solid choice for a gamer who has a more simple setup and doesn't necessarily rely on HDMI. — **William O'Neal**

- ♦ Great audio quality with impressive bass.
- ♦ Wireless subwoofer packs a punch, and gives you flexibility in setup.
- Lack of HDMI could be a deal-breaker.
- ? Does the name of this soundbar make you think of Cliff bars, too?



NEXT MONTH: We're planning, not promising, coverage of the BenQ GP2 Projector, as well as a couple of wireless headsets.

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