

Link Bar Combines Soundbar and Android TV

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The Link Bar is an interesting proposition from JBL-- an Android TV-powered soundbar with built-in Google Assistant, allowing for voice control of a number of features and even compatible smart home devices.



First announced at Google I/O 2018 before a showing at CES 2019, the JBL Link Bar doubles as an Android TV box and features a built-in Chromecast, providing an array of media sources for customers. A Privacy Switch feature allows one to disable the microphones in case they do not need the virtual assistant, and they can also use Google Assistant while the TV is off.

Connectivity includes x3 HDMI inputs and x1 HDMI ARC output, with voice cues allowing users to seamlessly switch between connected devices. On the audio hardware side of things, the Link Bar offers maximum power output of 100W through two 20mm tweeters and 44 x 80mm woofers. Customers wanting additional bass can add an optional subwoofer.

The Link Bar was initially slated for an October 2018 release, but following delays the soundbar is now set to ship on Q2 2019.

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