

FrontRow Juno vs Phonak Digimaster 5000

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Audio

	Digimaster 5000	FrontRow Juno	Why it's important
Speakers	12 speakers in line-source configuration	3 speaker, 2.1 line-array including one woofer for a rich, stereo sound.	Single line array speakers distribute more horizontal sound, reducing sound reflection from ceilings and floors. Woofer speakers help produce more natural sounds better audio clarity, and increase sound coverage throughout the classroom.
Sound Coverage Area	100m ² /1076ft ² Can not expand sound coverage	83.6m ² /900ft ² 148.6m ² / 1600ft ² with Speaker Expansion module and additional IR Sensors	More even sound coverage means more students can hear the Soundfield speaker with less audio drop-off.
Signal-to-noise Ratio	>70 dB	>70 dB	Signal-to-noise ratio is the amount of desired sound (signal) is coming out of the speakers, as opposed to the unwanted sounds (noise). The higher the ratio, the more desired sound a student will hear.
Power Output	40W	40W	Having adequately powered speakers allows them to distribute sound with enough volume to reach all parts of the classroom.
Feedback Suppression	None	Uses FrontRow's Adapto technology scans audio 375 times per second to eliminate feedback before it happens.	Feedback is the loud squealing sound that can come from speakers. In a learning environment, feedback is disruptive to learning and student engagement.
Optimised Speech Clarity	None	Uses FrontRow's patented OptiVoice technology designed to emphasise critical speech sounds.	On average, students miss up to 25% of what the teacher says. By emphasising critical speech sounds, students have a better comprehension of classroom learning. Optivoice settings can also be changed to support students with low hearing loss or sensory disorders — ensuring they can hear what the teacher is saying.
Advanced Software Control	None	FrontRow Teacher Edition	Advanced software control gives teachers the ability to control volume and other settings to ensure the soundfield is perfectly catered to their classroom. Using the software, teachers can also lock the LCD screen to prevent students or other teachers from changing the settings.

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Connectivity

	Digimaster 5000	FrontRow Juno	Why it's important
Audio	Requires Phonak Multimedia Hub to connect to external audio devices	Can connect to external audio devices through device inputs and Bluetooth.	Connecting external audio devices such as phones, mp3 players, TV's is important for teachers to have a full suite of technology at their disposal
Inputs	1 x 3.5mm Audio Input 1 x Mini-USB	3 x Stereo RCA Inputs 1 x USB B Input 1 x 3.5mm Audio Input	Device inputs allow audio from external devices such as digital displays, multimedia players, computers, and phones to be played through a soundfield device.
Outputs	None	1 x 3.5mm Audio output	Having an audio output allows teachers to play audio through other devices such as speakers or ALD transmitters for students with hearing impairments.
Bluetooth	No	Bluetooth (receiver only)	Bluetooth enables a wireless audio connection from compatible devices such as TV's, phones, tablets, and laptops.
Operating Range	20m/6.5ft	30.4m/100ft, line of sight (typical)	Higher operating ranges cater for larger learning environments and gives teachers more ability to move around the classroom.
Assistive Listening Device Compatibility	Phonak Devices	Most devices and hearing aids	Maximising device compatibility is important to ensure hearing augmentation is accessible to everyone who needs it, regardless of what device they have.
Microphone Connectivity	Requires 'syncing' to Digimaster 5000 tower	Automatically connects using IR technology	Requiring 'syncing' to the microphone can lead to technical issues if it becomes disconnected from the tower. With automatic connectivity, teachers can focus on teaching rather than fixing classroom technology.

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Accessibility

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Voice Commands	No	Yes	Voice Commands allow control of the soundfield and compatible networked devices using only your voice. For example, a teacher can turn on a projector by saying "Turn on the projector".
Touch Screen	Included on Touch Screen Microphone	Yes	Touch screens improve accessibility for the user and provide easy and simple controls for the device.
Hearing Augmentation	Connects to Phonak devices. Requires a hearing loop for other ALD brands.	Requires transmitter to send a signal to ALD's.	Hearing Augmentation is an important part of accessibility for students with a hearing impairment.

Other

	Digimaster 5000	FrontRow Juno	Why it's important
Tower Stand	Uses large stand that requires floor space	Uses a small stand so the Juno can be placed on desks or tables.	Being able to put devices on desks or tables ensures they are not a tripping hazard and there is less risk of the device being knocked over by students walking around the class.
Wall Mount	Uses Phonak mount specific to Digimaster 5000	Uses a standardised VESA Mount to ensure mount compatibility	Wall mounts are useful for ensuring devices and any leads remain secure and do not present a hazard in the classroom.
Microphone Battery	Non-replaceable Lithium-ion battery	Replaceable Lithium-ion battery	Lithium-ion batteries ensure good battery life so teachers get the most out of their microphone. Replaceable batteries allow schools to replace them with ease if needed. With non-replaceable batteries, the microphone must be sent back to the manufacturer, causing extended downtime in the soundfield system.