BANG & OLUFSEN
AND GOOGLE HOME

Setup, settings and use-cases with Bang & Olufsen products combined with Google Home and Chromecast
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There are several ways to control your music and sound system, and people are getting more and more used to using an app whenever they want to select and control music at home. But another very convenient method is voice control.

Personal voice assistants have been increasingly popular since the launch of Apple’s Siri in 2011. Since then, more voice assistants have arrived and have evolved to be much more ‘intelligent’ and smart.

The biggest manufacturers on the market right now are Google (Home), Amazon (Echo) and Apple (Homepod).

Bang & Olufsen supports them all – and in regards to Google Home the link between Bang & Olufsen products and Google Home is Chromecast - and that is what we will dive into in this guide.
WHAT IS CHROMECAST

Chromecast is a cloud service from Google that allows you to control cloud-stream content from e.g. your mobile device to a Cast-compatible device.

It is highly supported by the market, and basically every streaming service/app, video or audio, supports Chromecast.

Simply start your favourite (Cast-supported*) app, start playing content, locate the icon and select the speaker/TV you wants to cast to.

Your Cast-compatible device will now start streaming directly from the cloud, and your phone will only act as a remote control. This saves power on your phone and prevents dropouts caused by e.g. distance to the router. Also, you can receive and make phone calls without music being interrupted as it is streaming from the cloud, not your phone.

It is also possible to create speaker groups, in order to stream to multiple Chromecast speakers simultaneous in perfect sync.

Please be aware that the Chromecast multiroom functionality is based on ‘Multiroom groups’, and must be seen as a separate Multiroom system. Therefor functions like “Join” and “Expand” from BeoLink Multiroom will not work when using Chromecast.

In order to stream Chromecast to your Bang & Olufsen, your product must support ‘Chromecast Built-in’. This needs to be activated in the first-time setup of the Bang & Olufsen speaker.

It’s easy to check if it is activated in the ‘Bang & Olufsen’-app by checking the settings of the specific product.

* Full list of Cast-supported apps: https://www.google.com/chromecast/audio/apps/
CHROMECAST-SUPPORTED PRODUCTS

• **Audio**
  - BeoSound Shape*
  - BeoSound Core*
  - BeoPlay M3*
  - BeoVision Eclipse*
  - BeoSound 35
  - BeoSound 1
  - BeoSound 2
  - BeoSound Essence (mk2)
  - BeoPlay A9 (mk2)
  - BeoPlay A6
  - BeoPlay M5
  - Chromecast Audio (Google)

• **Video** (No group functionality)
  - BeoVision Avant NG
  - BeoVision 14
  - BeoVision Horizon
  - Chromecast (Google)
  - Chromecast Ultra (Google)

Be aware that only Audio devices can be a part of a Chromecast multiroom speaker-group.

* These products are based on the latest hardware platform, and will appear more responsive (faster) than older products when casting.
Google Home’s main purpose is to be a personal assistant, that can help you with small tasks during the day, for example creating shopping lists, setting timers, give you traffic updates, weather information etc. - things that you would normally have to take your phone out of the pocket to find out. And it makes sense that such an assistant also could help you control your multimedia setup at home – and give personalized feedback and options, depending on who is talking to it.

There are currently 3 Google Home products; Google Home, Google Home Max and Google Home Mini. The difference between these are exclusively the speaker capabilities. The voice assistant functionalities are exactly the same.

The cool thing is that it’s really easy to setup. So follow this step-by-step guide, and you will soon be ready to play your favourite music, just by using your voice!

Google Home build-in services.

- **Music**
  - Google Play Music Premium (subscription required)
  - Spotify Premium (Free or Premium/Family account needed)
  - Deezer (subscription required – ONLY AVAILABLE IN SOME COUNTRIES)

- **Radio**
  - iHeartRadio (no subscription)
  - TuneIn (no subscription)
  - Spotify Free (Free account needed)
FIRST TIME SETUP

• Prerequisites
  • A Google Home device connected to mains
  • A Google account
  • A mobile device/ tablet with latest version of the Google Home app
  • Wireless network with internet connection
- Open the ‘Google Home’-app
- Your new Google Home will be autodetected
- Select ‘Set up’

- Confirm that your Google Home makes a little sound
- This is in order to make sure you are setting up the correct Google Home (in case there are multiple devices nearby)

- Select the location of your new device, using one of the predefined room names
- Alternatively you can setup a custom room name
• Select your Wi-Fi network
  • Be aware that Google Home does not support networks with WPA2 Enterprise encryption

• When your Google Home is connected to your Wi-Fi network, Google asks for permission to retrieve data from your mobile device in order to give you better personalized results

• Next, you have the possibility to let Google Home learn to recognize your voice, so it can differentiate it from other users in your household of your Google Home device
• It’s pretty simple, simply follow the instructions to say ‘OK google’ and ‘Hey google’ a couple of times

• Now it “knows” your voice, but will improve the recognition further over time

• Select continue

• Next, it will ask for your address

• It autodetects the address from the network connection, but this can be manually corrected if necessary

• Your location is used to provide e.g. weather forecast, points of interests nearby and commuting times
• Here you have the possibility to connect a music service

• The available music services are depending on your location (country)

• Deezer will also be available soon in some countries (already available in Germany and France)

• Review your settings

• Your first time setup is now completed
VOICE COMMANDS

On Google Home, every command starts with the wake word ‘Hey Google’ or ‘OK Google’

Knowing that, you can now try to say: ‘Hey Google, what’s my name?’
It will say the name you have set up in your Google account.
If that name for some reason isn’t correct, you can tell it: ‘OK Google, my name is <your name>’, and it will confirm – be aware that it may not be able to pronounce your name in your local language. However, there is a ‘workaround’ for that (see Tips and tricks-section).

TIP: Since Nov 17 it has been possible to say 2 commands in one sentence, i.e. “Turn on the lights and play music”. This can also be combined with a shortcut, a topic we will cover on page 19.

Other commands you can try: ‘Hey Google…’
   ‘Play news radio’
   ‘What is the weather forecast for today?’
   ‘Set a timer for 2 minutes’
   ‘What is the distance to the moon?’
   ‘What is 134 plus 247?’
   ‘Read me a poem’
   ‘Play some relaxing music’ (you need to have a music service linked)
   ‘Where is the nearest restaurant?’
   ‘Goodmorning’
   ‘How many days until Christmas?’
   ‘Translate ‘beer’ into French’
   ‘Tell me a joke’
DEVICES (CAST)

So now the initial setup of Google Home is completed. But we want to take it a bit further – we want to control our Bang & Olufsen speakers.

So we need to allow Google Home to control our speakers. Here is how you do that:

• Go to your ‘Google Home’-app
• Click the symbol in the upper right corner (Devices)

• Here you will get a list of Cast compatible devices in your network
• In this example we have a BeoPlay M3. Select the blue bar that says: ‘Enable voice control and more’
• Confirm by pressing ‘Yes, I’m in’

• This have to be done to all products you wants to voice control

• When that is done, you can try a command like the one below:

“Hey Google, play music on BeoPlay M3”
CREATE SPEAKER GROUPS

As mentioned earlier it is also possible to create speaker groups, making it possible to play music on multiple speakers in sync.

Because Chromecast is a more standardized multiroom system, it is possible to combine products from different brands, so you will be able to add, for example, a Chromecast Audio dongle to Bang & Olufsen products without the Chromecast functionality build-in (BeoPlay A9 mk1, Essence mk1, BeoMaster 5 etc)*

Here is how you create a group:

• Open your ‘Google Home’-app
• Go to ‘Devices’
• Select the 3-dotted icon on one of the speakers you want to be a part of the group
• Select ‘Create group’

• Tick mark the speakers you want to be part of the group
• Give it a name, in this example ‘All speakers’
• Press ‘Save’

* Please be aware that BeoSound Moment does not have Chromecast and a Google Chromecast audio dongle connected to the Line-in will always be out of sync (delayed) when playing as part of a speaker group.
• The group will appear in the same list as your devices.
• Now, try this command below:

"Hey Google, play music on all speakers"
SET DEFAULT SPEAKER

It is possible to install multiple Google Home devices in your home. Therefore it could make sense to link a Google Home to a specific speaker.

Example:

If you have a Google Home and a Bang & Olufsen speaker in your kitchen, wouldn’t it be nice just to say:

”Hey google, play music” instead of ”Hey Google, play music on BeoPlay M3”?

- Open your ‘Google Home’-app
- Go to ‘Devices’
- Select the 3-dotted icon on your Google Home device
- Select ‘Settings’

- Scroll down until you see the headline called ‘Media Playback’ and select it
• Select the default speaker, in this example BeoPlay M3
• Speaker groups can also be selected
• Now try this command below:

“OK Google, play Bruce Springsteen”
SHORTCUTS

A cool feature of Google Home is something called shortcuts. With shortcuts you can create short voice commands, that execute a command that would normally be much longer.

Example:
If I always listen to Radio Paradise in the morning in the whole house, I would like to be able to just say: ”Play Radio Paradise” or even just ”Play radio”, instead of ”Play Radio Paradise from TuneIn on All speakers”.

- Go to the frontpage of your ‘Google Home’-app
- Select the triple bar-icon in the upper left corner

- A panel will appear from the left side
- Select ‘More settings’*

* If you don’t see “More Settings”, please see tip on page 24.
• You will now see settings for Google Home and your Google account

• Scroll down to the bottom, where you will find a field called ‘Shortcuts’

• To add a new shortcut, press the blue ‘+’ icon in the lower right corner
• Now you can add 3 different ways to activate the command

• In this example we have only entered 2

• The field in the bottom is where you enter the full command that should be executed, when using one of these shortcuts

• Select ‘Save’

• It is also possible to deactivate the shortcut without deleting it by moving the blue slider to the left

“Hey Google, play radio”

“Okay, playing Radio Paradise from Tuneln on All speakers”
How to change the way it pronounces your name

• Go to the frontpage of your ‘Google Home’-app
• Select the triple bar-icon in the upper left corner
• A panel will appear from the left side
• Select ‘More settings’*

* If you don’t see “More Settings”, please see tip on page 24.
• You will now see settings for Google Home and your Google account

• Select ‘Personal info’

• Select ‘Nickname’

• If you select ‘Spell it out’ you can try to write your name phonically. Test by pressing ‘Play’ underneath

• Alternatively you can select ‘Record your own’
“More settings” not showing

• We have seen examples of this left side panel to have only limited subjects showing and therefore the “More settings” subject is missing. In order to have the full menu to appear, it sometimes help to click and change between various Google accounts on the top.

• Closing the app completely and opening again might also solve the issue

“Shortcuts” not showing

• It may be necessary to delete the Google Home app completely, change the country settings on your phone/tablet to United States and reinstall the Google Home app. We have also seen that it helps to try Google Home from another device
HOME CONTROL

It is convenient to start music from your personal voice assistant, but why stop there? Dim the lights, turn off your TV, open your garage door, get the temperature of your room, turn off the alarm – there is many many possibilities, and different ways to access the functions.

*3rd party accessories might be needed

**Built-in support**

Google Home has integrated support for a lot of connected devices – lights, switches, thermostats etc.

For a full list of supported devices, go to:

https://support.google.com/googlehome/table/7401014

**Cloud services**

Another option is to use one of the "cloud hubs". They allow you to set up voice triggers, which then performs one (IFTTT) or more commands (Stringify).

You could for example send a tweet from your Google Home using IFTTT.