






## Solution: Cisco Spark Room Kit

WR's hands-on testing of a powerful, mid-range, all-in-one video endpoint.

Categories:	Video Conferencing Endpoint	RATING (scale 1 – 5)	
Vendor Website:	<a href="http://www.cisco.com">www.cisco.com</a>	Ease of Use:	 4.75
Vendor HQ:	California, USA	Feature Set:	 4.75
Test Date:	September 2017	Performance:	 4.5
SW Version:	Cisco Spark Room OS 2017-09-14 Cisco Collaboration Endpoint SW 9.0	Bang for the Buck:	 4.5
List Price:	\$11,900 - on-premises registration \$3,990 + \$99/month - cloud registration Includes Cisco Touch 10 controller	<b>Overall Rating:</b>	 <b>4.6</b>

Cisco Spark Room Kit (“Room Kit”) is an all-in-one, full-HD (1080p) capable, standards-based (H.323 / SIP) video conferencing system for use in small to medium-sized meeting rooms.



The Room Kit includes an integrated mic, speakers and a 5K digital camera, and supports dual monitors and both wired and wireless content sharing. In addition, Room Kit comes with the Cisco TelePresence Touch 10 wired touchscreen controller (see our [review of Touch 10](#)).

### THE GOOD

- Sleek and appealing design with a solid build quality
- Kit / bundle includes wall mount and screen mount
- All-in-one design combines camera, codec, speakers, and mic in a single device (just add one or more displays, power and network)
- Integrated 15.1 MP camera with digital speaker tracking (powered by an integrated 6-element mic array) with ability to detect faces and report the number of participants in the room
- Extensive connectivity capabilities:
  - o Support for dual monitors, each at a resolution of up to 4K 60p
  - o 2 x 3.5 mm connectors for external microphones
  - o 1 x 3.5 mm connector for an external subwoofer or for assistive listening
  - o Dual network ports (1 for LAN, 1 to connect to Touch 10)
- Supports registration to Cisco (or other stands-based) on-premises infrastructure and Cisco Spark service
- Registration to Cisco Spark service offers various benefits including automatic provisioning, automatic software updates, support for dialing, managing and transferring calls using the Spark app (in lieu of the Touch 10 UI)
- Extensive and professional web admin interface (similar across all Cisco endpoints)
- Includes and leverages the intuitive and customizable Cisco TelePresence Touch 10 UI

- System automatically wakes up and powers up system displays (using CEC control) when user with device running Spark app enters the room
- Pairs automatically to devices running the Cisco Spark app using ultrasonic audio
- Strong content sharing capabilities, including support for:
  - o Wired and wireless content sharing
  - o Content sharing from Cisco Spark app for Windows / Mac (mobile device sharing not supported)
  - o Dual content sources for local presentations (requires dual monitors)
  - o 4K content sharing at 30 fps locally or 5 fps during a video call
  - o Supports Cisco Proximity app (for systems not registered to the Cisco Spark service)
- Optional 4-way multi-point video call support
- Strong video and strong audio performance (for an integrated mic)
- Offers enterprise-grade security features, such as 802.1X authentication, management using HTTPS and SSH, and need to use the Spark admin portal to manage device (if registered to Spark)

### **THE BAD**

- System requires an external power supply (no integrated power supply or PoE support)
- Network port for connecting the Touch 10 device does not include PoE, so a PoE injector is required
- Audio inputs use a non-standard (dual-ring) 3.5 mm connector
- Camera offers 3x digital zoom only (no optical zoom). Typically, the system zooms in on several people instead of the person speaking
- No support for OS-native content sharing protocols (AirPlay, Miracast, Chromecast)
- Some benefits / features available to Spark users only

### **THE BOTTOM LINE**

Cisco Spark Room Kit is a well-designed, well-performing video conferencing endpoint that really shines when combined with the Cisco Spark service.

Cisco Spark Room Kit includes almost everything needed to collaboration-enable a small meeting room in a single, aesthetically pleasing package. Just add one or two displays, power and network, and away you go. Baked in are the most frequently requested features, including audio and video conferencing, wired and wireless presentation, and more. Thanks to the Cisco TelePresence Touch 10 UI, the Room Kit is easy to use and manage. It feels like every other Cisco video endpoint.

Our testing confirmed that the Room Kit works quite well as a stand-alone SIP / H.323 video device, offering a strong in-room meeting experience. But without the Cisco Spark service you'll miss out on many powerful and innovative workflow benefits and features. We especially like the way the Spark app knows when a user is near an available video system registered to Spark, and defaults to using that room system when the user launches a call. This is a fast, easy and intuitive way to make or join a call. But alas, the Spark "magic" is available to Spark users only.

Overall, we view Cisco Spark Room Kit as a strong solution for use in small and even medium-sized meeting rooms. But for organizations leveraging Cisco Spark, the Room Kit is a virtual no-brainer.

## TESTING NOTES AND OTHER COMMENTS

When connected to two displays, the Cisco Spark Room Kit allows users to present two content sources simultaneously (one wired and one wireless) when not in a video conference.

We found it a bit annoying that once the system is connected to the Cisco Spark service, some of the configuration capabilities in the web admin interface (such as the ability to change the system's IP address) are disabled or are accessible only by using Touch 10.

Our audio testing showed that Room Kit's microphone performance is identical to that of the Cisco TelePresence SX10 video system ([evaluated by our team in 2015](#)).

### About the "From the Lab" Program

As a part of our ongoing research, the WR test team in South Florida, USA, routinely tests products and services of various types. With the exception of sponsored projects, the WR test team chooses the solutions we wish to test, as well as the depth of our testing. Readers should note the date and version number of our testing and should complete their own due diligence before making purchasing decisions.

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