Panasonic energy storage 10 kWh

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The Bluetti EP900 and the Panasonic Evervolt are modular home batteries, offering the same amount of energy storage capacity per system and a similar design. I've spent hundreds of hours scouring through tech specs, talking to industry experts and creating scoring methodologies for home batteries. And while Panasonic's Evervolt is still a solid option, the Bluetti EP900 is the clear winner in comparison. It was also named CNET's Best Solar Battery of 2024.

Modular batteries allow you to start small and upgrade your system’s capacity as your energy needs change. If you decide you need a capacity upgrade, you can add another battery module to your existing system. This way you won’t need to buy another giant battery.

The smallest system size for both the EP900 and the Evervolt is 9 kWh, which is two battery modules. You can install up to four modules per system. If you hit maximum capacity on your system (18 kWh), you’ll have to install an additional system to upgrade your capacity. Panasonic allows you to install up to four Evervolt systems for a total capacity of 72 kWh. Bluetti allows up to two EP900 systems for a total capacity of 36 kWh.

Both batteries do just fine in the performance department. But the EP900’s continuous 9 kW output gives it a big advantage over the Evervolt. Your battery’s continuous power output is the amount of power your battery can supply to your home at any given moment. The higher the output, the more parts of your home the battery can supply power to.

The Evervolt, however, offers a continuous output of 7.6 kW at any capacity size -- but only if installed with solar panels. Without solar panels, you’ll only get 5.5 kW of continuous power if you choose the 9 kWh Evervolt model. The Bluetti EP900 gives you 9 kW of continuous power, regardless of the energy storage capacity option you choose.

The depth of discharge for each battery is the same (90%). A battery’s depth of discharge is the amount of energy you can drain (discharge) from the battery relative to its maximum capacity. Draining your battery completely can actually shorten its lifespan. To avoid this, some manufacturers will block off a certain amount of your battery’s capacity to ensure it never truly reaches zero. With both the EP900 and the Evervolt, you have access to about 90% of your battery’s actual maximum capacity.

And lastly, there’s round-trip efficiency. This is essentially the amount of energy that makes its way into the battery for energy storage without getting “lost” during the process, usually to heat. Think of it as a measure of how efficient your battery system is at storing energy.

Panasonic’s Evervolt has better efficiency specs, no matter how you choose to wire it up. It has a round-trip efficiency rating of 89% when AC-coupled and 94% when DC-coupled. The EP900 has one of the lower round-trip efficiency ratings we’ve seen for home batteries (85%). The average round-trip efficiency rating for home batteries is around 90%.

Based on each battery’s expected energy throughput, Bluetti’s warranty promises a longer lifespan for its battery than Panasonic. The expected energy throughput is the total amount of energy the manufacturer estimates your battery will be able to deliver during its lifetime. In most cases, once your battery hits its throughput, your warranty expires, even if you still have years worth of coverage left.

And while Panasonic does offer a 12-year warranty, the actual expected lifespan of the Evervolt is about industry standard (6,000 cycles). That doesn’t necessarily mean it’s bad -- it’s just average. Bluetti expects each battery module for the EP900 system to deliver 15.48 MWh worth of energy during its lifetime, which is pretty great for a small 5 kWh module. Bluetii also promises a higher end-of-warranty capacity guarantee.

However, Panasonic offers a more robust warranty for its system. The 12-year warranty applies to the entire system (battery, inverter, SmartBox) -- not just the battery modules themselves. Labor costs are also included.

Because of the site-specific nature of a home battery purchase, it can be tricky to find accurate pricing for home battery systems. Every home is different, and your battery system needs to be tailored to your home’s specific energy needs. In most cases, you’ll need to get a quote from an installer in your area to get the most accurate estimate of how much this is going to cost you.

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