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Subject: Headphone Recommendations?

Posted by [Larry Hogan](#) on Mon, 27 Apr 2009 18:10:01 GMT

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Greetings, PARISians,

Still here after many a year but I've definitely been out of the loop. (Fairly frequent lurking, but too busy to contribute much. Sorry.)

Two years ago, my wife and I moved. I had had a nice sound-proof studio and control room I had built back in the mid-90s, taking over 1/3 of my basement, but now I'll have to be rebuilding that. (My summer plan, hopefully.) Anyway, after ripping apart my studio and PARIS rig, I now need to get up and running again in a temporary area in order to finally complete a project started a few years ago. My new home is such that I will probably need to do most mixing/editing via headphones (with occasional real-world auditions via my near fields, of course) until I rebuild the studio.

Any tips on some very good-to-great (yet hopefully cost effective) headphones? (What DO good phones go for?) I would like to be able to support local businesses and, of course, be able to audition the phones there, so hopefully nothing too esoteric. Can I get a really nice pair for, say, less than \$200.

Many thanks in advance,  
Larry Hogan

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Subject: Re: Headphone Recommendations?

Posted by [Gantt Kushner](#) on Mon, 27 Apr 2009 19:42:01 GMT

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Still love my Sennheiser HD580's. Don't know if you can still get them, though. I have a pair of Audio Technica M50's but I don't think they're anywhere near as accurate. They are great for bass players, though.

Gantt

"Larry Hogan" <ooglybong@nycap.rr.com> wrote:

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Subject: Re: Headphone Recommendations?  
Posted by [dnafe](#) on Mon, 27 Apr 2009 21:08:57 GMT  
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If you could find a used pair of Grado SR325's they might fall into your price range

Don

"Gantt Kushner" <[ganttmann@comcast.net](mailto:ganttmann@comcast.net)> wrote in message  
news:49f61039\$1@linux...

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Subject: Re: Headphone Recommendations?  
Posted by [Wayne](#) on Mon, 27 Apr 2009 21:30:22 GMT  
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I use Sony MDR-7506 and MDR-V6. They sound almost identical and each run about \$100 bucks. I like the way they sound but haven't had great luck mixing with them.

Wayne

"Larry Hogan" <ooglybong@nycap.rr.com> wrote in message  
news:49f5fa71\$1@linux...

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Subject: Re: Headphone Recommendations?  
Posted by [Dave EK](#) on Mon, 27 Apr 2009 22:31:13 GMT  
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Audio Technica ATH-M50S are quite popular.

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Subject: Re: Headphone Recommendations?  
Posted by [Gantt Kushner](#) on Tue, 28 Apr 2009 02:26:01 GMT  
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MDR-7506's and V6's are too bright for critical listening. They're good for editing because you hear EVERYTHING and I don't mind the low end, though. But if ever there were a pair of cans to NOT mix with, 7506's are them!

Gantt

"Wayne Carson" <waynecarson@cox.net> wrote:

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>about \$100 bucks. I like the way they sound but haven't had great luck

>mixing with them.

>Wayne

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>"Larry Hogan" <ooglybong@nycap.rr.com> wrote in message

>news:49f5fa71\$1@linux...

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Subject: Re: Headphone Recommendations?  
Posted by [Gantt Kushner](#) on Tue, 28 Apr 2009 02:26:01 GMT  
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I don't trust the low end on M50's. Seems hyped to me.

Gantt

Dave Harrison. <[info@eksound.com](mailto:info@eksound.com)> wrote:  
>Audio Technica ATH-M50S are quite popular.

---

---

Subject: Re: Headphone Recommendations?  
Posted by [kerryg](#) on Tue, 28 Apr 2009 03:18:38 GMT  
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I'm probably not the guy to ask, but I've always got on very well with plain ol' AKG 270s and 271s.

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Subject: Re: Headphone Recommendations?  
Posted by [Larry Hogan](#) on Tue, 28 Apr 2009 03:34:01 GMT  
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Thanks to everyone for your quick responses. I obviously have a lot to think about, more importantly to hopefully be able to check some of these out at local stores. Would Guitar Center (45 minutes away) be a good source, or might Best Buy (15 minutes drive) be just as good? (I would guess that Best Buy would carry more like "living room" types of consumer headphones, right?)

getting a decent pair since mine are pretty old and crumbly around the padding. And the concept that a pair might be great for editing, but (what?) too harsh or exhausting to also mix with seems ironic, to say the least. It would have seemed like good 'phones would have been good 'phones. Ha. Guess I have a lot to learn.

If a pair were really superb for both functions, my budget might be able to stretch a bit, so any more advice is still appreciated. :-)

Thanks again.  
Larry Hogan

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---

---

Subject: Re: Headphone Recommendations?

Posted by [Larry Hogan](#) on Tue, 28 Apr 2009 03:44:01 GMT

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Thanks, Gantt. I checked the HD-580s out online, and you're right; they're apparently discontinued. People reviewing them at Amazon seem to recommend the Sennheiser HD-595 as a great replacement, but the negative aspect of some reports indicate that they're almost as loud to those around you as they are to the wearer, and that the leakage is actually both ways and that that is part of their supposed design superiority. Not a fan of leakage, even though they reportedly sound great and are comfortable for long periods of use. Comfort is a big plus, of course.

Thanks again.

Larry

"Gantt Kushner" <[ganttmann@comcast.net](mailto:ganttmann@comcast.net)> wrote:

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---

Subject: Re: Headphone Recommendations?

Posted by [Aaron Allen](#) on Tue, 28 Apr 2009 05:48:09 GMT

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<http://www.extremeheadphones.com/> if you need isolation that's, well.. extreme. I love mine to drum with live, nothing touches them. I think they're a bit dark but I like that extra low end umpph live, and I got the 'black' series with the extended low end. They're pretty close to 30dB isolation IIRC, and anything over about 100hz dies before it reaches your ears with them.

I have the K240, this looks like the replacement model (240 Mark II).

Clarity is pretty good on my 240's, but they are very open and bleeding....

[http://www.akg.com/site/products/powerslave,id,1063,pid,1063,nodeid,2,\\_language,EN.html](http://www.akg.com/site/products/powerslave,id,1063,pid,1063,nodeid,2,_language,EN.html)

I have tried electrostatics, and thought they were pretty good but thin for my tastes.. YMMV.

AA

"Larry Hogan" <ooglybong@nycap.rr.com> wrote in message  
news:49f67eb7\$1@linux...

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Subject: Re: Headphone Recommendations?  
Posted by Erling on Tue, 28 Apr 2009 08:22:19 GMT  
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I love my AKG 240 Studio, that also match your price.

<http://www.akg.com/personal/>

They're half open but my experience since the early sixties with headphones, open and halfopened systems have allways seems to be more natural in my ears. Here in Europe, AKG and Sennheiser have allways delivered good headphones for studio/sound use. Sennheiser HD-25 closed system, have been defacto standard for Broadway and mixing on festivals for years here in Europe and is well worth to use if there's much noise around you.

<http://www.sennheiserusa.com/newsite/category.asp?transid=ca t3>

<http://www.sennheiserusa.com/newsite/category.asp?transid=ca t0>

Have used them for years for controllistening, when making sounds on festivals and have seen them nearly everywhere here in Scandinavia for that kind of jobs. In my studio, I am using Stax electrostatic HP to controllisten since '80. It's the best "speakers" you can ever own but prices are really at the wrong end nowaday and they are really open and dangerous, since the sound are so good that you're not observating that it's too easy to play with too much extremely high volume, since the sound is just silky.

<http://www.stax.co.jp/Export/SR404e.html>

Good luck

Erling

"Larry Hogan" <ooglybong@nycap.rr.com> skrev i en meddelelse  
news:49f5fa71\$1@linux...

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Subject: Re: Headphone Recommendations?  
Posted by [Martin Harrington](#) on Tue, 28 Apr 2009 08:29:53 GMT  
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That's because they have an extremely false bottom end.  
As a location recordist / mixer, I, and indeed most of the location industry  
use the Sony's, but mainly so we can hear the rumble of a boom mic on the  
end of a pole, or traffic / Aircon noise.

Martin H  
Lend An Ear Sound  
On 28/04/09 7:30 AM, in article 49f629c1@linux, "Wayne Carson"  
<waynecarson@cox.net> wrote:

> I use Sony MDR-7506 and MDR-V6. They sound almost identical and each run  
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Subject: Re: Headphone Recommendations?  
Posted by [Dale](#) on Tue, 28 Apr 2009 09:40:01 GMT  
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Beyerdynamic DT 770 is pretty nice and isolates well. Guitar Center has regularly offered them for \$150 on their Memorial Day & Labor Day sales (if you can wait a month or so :)

dale

P.S. I listened to several Ultrasonics models & thought they were crap (rather spendy crap too)

"Larry Hogan" <ooglybong@nycap.rr.com> wrote:

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Subject: Re: Headphone Recommendations?  
Posted by [AlexPlasko](#) on Tue, 28 Apr 2009 16:41:23 GMT  
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I don't mix with them, but have good luck with AT ATH D-40 's.No complaints  
yet. around \$100.

not exactly snob grade but they work for me.

"Larry Hogan" <ooglybong@nycap.rr.com> wrote in message  
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Subject: Re: Headphone Recommendations?  
Posted by [Jamie K](#) on Tue, 28 Apr 2009 18:18:26 GMT  
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Looks like we have the same taste in headsets, Aaron. :^)

Aaron Allen wrote:

> <http://www.extremeheadphones.com/> if you need isolation that's, well..  
> extreme. I love mine to drum with live, nothing touches them. I think  
> they're a bit dark but I like that extra low end umpph live, and I got the  
> 'black' series with the extended low end. They're pretty close to 30dB  
> isolation IIRC, and anything over about 100hz dies before it reaches your  
> ears with them.

+1 on the extreme isolation headphones for drumming, studio recording with little or no bleed, and location sound. Mine lack high end but they offer significant isolation. Great when you need it. Not as comfortable as the 240 and I wouldn't mix with them.

> I have the K240, this looks like the replacement model (240 Mark II).  
> Clarity is pretty good on my 240's, but they are very open and bleeding....  
> [http://www.akg.com/site/products/powerslave,id,1063,pid,1063,nodeid,2,\\_language,EN.html](http://www.akg.com/site/products/powerslave,id,1063,pid,1063,nodeid,2,_language,EN.html)

My AKG K240 has been a decent sounding and reasonably comfortable headset for general studio use. Pretty good for mixing, but definitely check with speakers whenever you're trying to mix with headphones. It's never the same.

Cheers,  
-Jamie  
[www.JamieKruz.com](http://www.JamieKruz.com)

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> my tastes.. YMMV.  
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> AA  
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Subject: Re: Headphone Recommendations?  
Posted by [Riich S](#) on Tue, 28 Apr 2009 19:22:01 GMT  
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HD280's or K240's - I have both, K240 I like better if isolation is not an

issue - the HD280's have pretty good isolation. Either one work for you.

"Larry Hogan" <ooglybong@nycap.rr.com> wrote:

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>Greetings, PARISians,  
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>Still here after many a year but I've definitely been out of the loop. (Fairly  
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>Many thanks in advance,  
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---

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Subject: Re: Headphone Recommendations?

Posted by [john Macy\[2\]](#) on Wed, 29 Apr 2009 00:32:01 GMT

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---

Grados--my faves for years...George Massenburg says you can hear the grass  
grow in them....

"Rich S." <studiodog\_99@xxahoo.com> wrote:

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Subject: Re: Headphone Recommendations?  
Posted by [Gantt Kushner](#) on Thu, 30 Apr 2009 13:08:50 GMT  
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---

Hey Don - Do you mind saying what your low-ball bid was?

Gantt

"Don Nafe" <[dnafe@rogers.com](mailto:dnafe@rogers.com)> wrote:  
>I have a pair of RS-1s and Mr. Massenburg is absolutely correct.  
>  
>In my journey to reach the holy grail of headphones I tried out AKG, Sony,  
>Sennheiser and Beyer top end headphones (sorry, I forget which models) and  
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>Sometimes the cosmic comedian plays nice with you.  
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>Don  
>  
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>"John Macy" <nospamjohn@johnmacy.com> wrote in message  
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Subject: Re: Headphone Recommendations?  
Posted by [Gantt Kushner](#) on Thu, 30 Apr 2009 13:28:17 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

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Hmmm. I seem to have changed my name. TAKE THAT GOOGLE!

Find me now.

"Ganatt Kushner" <ganttmann@comcast.net> wrote:

>  
>Hey Don - Do you mind saying what your low-ball bid was?  
>  
>Gantt  
>

---

---

Subject: Re: Headphone Recommendations?  
Posted by [dnafe](#) on Thu, 30 Apr 2009 21:30:33 GMT  
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\$500 USD if I rememebtr correctly...came in at a little under \$750 CDN after shipping and taxes...which was \$400 below the best price I could find in Canada at the time

Don

"Ganatt Kushner" <ganttmann@comcast.net> wrote in message  
news:49f9a2e2\$1@linux...

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---

Subject: Re: Headphone Recommendations?  
Posted by [Tom Bruhl](#) on Thu, 30 Apr 2009 22:07:43 GMT  
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---

Some serious change there Don. I know I got the Sennheiser HD650s for around \$250 and am overjoyed with both their comfort and sound. Maybe not the same level that you're getting though? I have some mid priced Grados that are not comfortable and sound strident. The Senns I can mix on confidently and do so bouncing between other monitors.

Tom

"Don Nafe" <[dnafe@rogers.com](mailto:dnafe@rogers.com)> wrote in message <news:49fa1e68@linux...>  
> \$500 USD if I rememebr correctly...came in at a little under \$750 CDN

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Subject: Re: Headphone Recommendations?  
Posted by [Sarahtonin](#) on Fri, 01 May 2009 13:00:13 GMT  
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---

I just like 'em cuz they're comfy, and nice to listen to real loud. :) But I never mix on headphones, either. I like 'em just for tracking and diagnosing.

S

"Martin Harrington" <[martin@lendanear-sound.com](mailto:martin@lendanear-sound.com)> wrote in message news:C61CFBA1.972D%[martin@lendanear-sound.com](mailto:martin@lendanear-sound.com)...

> That's because they have an extremely false bottom end.  
> As a location recordist / mixer, I, and indeed most of the location  
> industry  
> use the Sony's, but mainly so we can hear the rumble of a boom mic on the  
> end of a pole, or traffic / Aircon noise.

>

> Martin H  
> Lend An Ear Sound  
> On 28/04/09 7:30 AM, in article 49f629c1@linux, "Wayne Carson"  
> <[waynecarson@cox.net](mailto:waynecarson@cox.net)> wrote:

>

>> I use Sony MDR-7506 and MDR-V6. They sound almost identical and each run  
>> about \$100 bucks. I like the way they sound but haven't had great luck  
>> mixing with them.  
>> Wayne

>>

>>

>> "Larry Hogan" <[ooglybong@nycap.rr.com](mailto:ooglybong@nycap.rr.com)> wrote in message  
>> news:49f5fa71\$1@linux...

>>>

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Subject: Re: Headphone Recommendations?  
Posted by [dnafe](#) on Sat, 02 May 2009 21:48:22 GMT  
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---

Those were the Sennheiser's I was looking at along with a pair of Sony, AKG and Beyer...all outstanding headphones for the price...I just couldn't find any (used) at the time.

Then I made the mistake of popping into a buddies place and got a chance to check out his broken in set of Grado's RS-1s and I was sold on the sound. as for comfort I'd give them an 7.5 - 8.0 out of 10

Don

"Tom Bruhl" <[arpeggio@comcast.net](mailto:arpeggio@comcast.net)> wrote in message <news:49fa266f@linux...>  
> Some serious change there Don. I know I got the Sennheiser HD650s for  
> around \$250 and am overjoyed with both their comfort and sound. Maybe  
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