

8 headphones for studio sound

ADAM Audio H200

Agood 5 years after the SP5, the renowned Berlin audio manufacturer is launching its second pair of headphones. The H200 is a closed, circumaural headphone with strong insulation in both directions. You can also use it for recording without the playback being recorded. On the other hand, external noise is effectively shielded, making the compact headphones ideal for mobile use. With a low impedance, the H200 sounds loud and powerful even on a smartphone or tablet.

The simple packaging, which does not contain any plastic, is commendable. And the cable is plugged into the headphones via a standard mini jack, so it can be easily replaced if it breaks. A positive aspect is that you can choose whether you attach the cable to the left or right. The relatively strong contact pressure is particularly beneficial when recording on the move, as nothing slips even with vigorous movements.

In terms of sound, the H200 impresses with a powerful but clean and contoured bass down to fairly low ranges. The highs are also very pronounced, so details can be heard well. The H200 therefore cuts a really good figure, especially with electronic music with little or no vocals. The upper mids are also very present, which is why rockier music with distorted guitars is also a lot of fun. However, this tuning comes at the expense of the lower mids. Vocals and natural instruments lack a little warmth as a result, and with more complex songs this range seems a little opaque and compressed. If this is important to you, you should also try alternatives from other manufacturers.

However, there is no alternative in this price range to a special feature of the H200, which can also correct the weaknesses in the mids mentioned above. It is called Headphone Utility and is correction software that is integrated into the DAW as a plug-in. ADAM Audio has already integrated such software into its range in the A series of studio monitors, there from Sonarworks, this time developed in-house by Sonnox. In the plug-in you can adjust the sound curve to the material of the ear cups, which are available in velour as an alternative to imitation leather. In the plug-in you can also activate gain compensation for even volume and to protect your ears from peaks that are too loud. Externalisation ensures a more natural sound via crossfeed. This means that the signals on the H200 no longer reach the left and right ears strictly separately, but rather, as when listening via loudspeakers, each ear also hears a little audio from the other stereo channel. And finally, there is the choice between two so-called voicings:



Pure aims to offer the most neutral possible tuning for mixing and mastering, while Uniform Natural Response with its smiley frequency curve can make enjoying music more fun. But that is always a question of personal taste, and the possibility of customization is definitely an advantage.

Verdict

For a relatively low price of €159, the closed headphones really offer a lot. A firm fit combined with very good shielding make the H200 ideal both as a universal headphone in the studio and for mobile use. In both cases, the headphones deliver clean and powerful bass, detailed highs and a very present upper mids. Slight weaknesses in the wider mid-range can be compensated for a little with the free correction plug-in, and this headphone utility also enables a more natural sound thanks to adjustable crossfeed. All in all, a great package!

Web: www.adam-audio.com

Price: 159 Euro

Rating: ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■