

Shure SRH440 HEADPHONES

Following last month's review of Shure's SRH840 model, we try their little brother on for size. Say hello to the SRH440...

It's really important when purchasing headphones to get the right ones for the job but this is so often overlooked as for many headphones are just as much about fashion as performance, have Shure got the right balance?

As with a good pair of studio monitors, reference headphones are designed with a flat response so they replicate exactly what is going on in the mix and allow you to make those finite adjustments for the perfect sound. Shure's SRH440 are clearly designed as studio reference headphones but also have many attributes that would suit most DJs too.

Weighing in at just 274 grams the SRH440s are easy to wear for those extended sessions, with their large padded headband and soft padded cups that swivel for perfect positioning. The first impression of the SRH440 is the feel of quality about them; even the glossy packaging has a touch of class about it, and it's nice to get a large enough carry bag to protect your investment when not in use or travelling.

Being circumaural, the earphones completely cover your ears and offer excellent sound isolation, making them spot on for listening to the nuances of the mix. The part-

coiled, three metre cable offers plenty of movement around your studio or DJ booth and is also user replaceable with a locking mini jack into the left ear cup should you ever need to replace the cable. It also includes a threaded 1/4" (6.3mm) gold-plated adapter.

The specs suggest a frequency

response of as low as 10hz but, as with all headphone manufacturers' specs, you should take this with a pinch of salt as it all depends on how they measure this response. Saying that, the bass response is very good. The tailored frequency response of the 40 mm neodymium dynamic drivers deliver a mix of rich bass, clear mids and crisp highs. A word of caution in that the cable

connecting the ear cups to the headband is not inside the swivel arm assemblies, so care should be taken when handling the headphones so you don't snag the cables.

Considering this cable is often the first thing to break in certain headphones, Shure's design may be a blessing in disguise.

As reference headphones go the Shure SRH440 ticks all the boxes, while Shure's reputation and pedigree speak for themselves. Having clean sound, flat response, being comfortable and very nicely made, as well as being comparably priced with its competitors, all adds up to make the SRH440 well worth checking out. Considering their weight and quality they may well suit many DJs as well. They even come with a two-year limited warranty! **IDJ**

Words: Paul Morrissey



FEATURES

- Reference studio headphones
- Closed back circumaural
- Detachable single sided cable
- Folding design
- Gold 1/4" jack adaptor
- Carry bag
- 40mm drivers
- Sensitivity 105dB
- Impedance 44 ohms
- Maximum input 500mW
- Frequency response 10Hz - 22kHz

ALTERNATIVES

Alternatives: You should also check out what Beyer, Audio Technica and Sennheiser have to offer, they all produce good quality reference headphones.

PROS & CONS

✓ Flat response, very comfortable, good overall build quality with nice extras included and only weigh 274 grams.

✗ The external wiring needs some care, but may be a blessing in disguise.

VERDICT

Very nice headphones for DJing or studio with an all-important clean and flat response. They look nice and have a number of features that deliver good value for money.

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