

3 Best Closed Back Headphones for Music Production in 2026

Meta Description: Fiind out the best closed-back headphones for music production in 2026, featuring professional isolation for tracking and monitoring.



Alt text: Beyerdynamic DT770 Pro Mixing Headphones 80 ohms.

Why Closed-Back Headphones Matter for Music Production

Key Takeaways

- The Beyerdynamic DT 770 Pro is a studio staple with 45mm drivers spanning 5Hz to 35kHz, plush velour ear pads for all-day comfort and fully replaceable components built to last decades of professional use.
- The Audio-Technica ATH-M50x delivers the industry's most widely trusted closed-back sound through proprietary 45mm large-aperture drivers with 15Hz to 28kHz response and 38-ohm impedance that works with virtually any source.
- The Beyerdynamic DT 700 Pro X features the newly developed STELLAR.45 driver system with 5Hz to 40kHz response, 48-ohm impedance optimized for modern interfaces and portable devices
- All three are closed-back designs that provide the sound isolation music production demands, preventing bleed into microphones during tracking and blocking external noise during monitoring.
- [Sam Ash](#) Gear Experts at 800-472-6274 can help you choose the ideal closed-back headphones for your specific production needs, with 45-day returns and flexible financing.

Why Closed-Back Headphones Are Essential for Music Production

Closed-back headphones serve a specific and critical role in music production that open-back designs cannot fill. They keep sound in and noise out, which means your condenser mic does not pick up what is playing in your ears during tracking, and your monitoring is not compromised by whatever else is happening in the room.

That isolation is not optional when you are recording vocals, overdubbing instruments, or working in a space that is not acoustically treated. The three headphones in this guide have each proven themselves across thousands of professional sessions, from home studios to major facilities.

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The logo for Sam Ash DIRECT is displayed on a dark blue rectangular background. The words "Sam Ash" are written in a large, white, cursive script font. Below them, the word "DIRECT" is written in a bold, white, sans-serif, all-caps font. At the bottom of the logo, the text "Online Music & Sound Megastore" is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font.

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Beyerdynamic DT 770 Pro



Caption: The DT 770 Pro's velour ear pads and spring steel headband have made it the closed-back comfort benchmark for tracking and monitoring sessions that run for hours.

Alt text: Beyerdynamic DT770 Pro Mixing Headphones 80 ohms.

Specifications

[The DT 770 Pro](#) employs precision-tuned 45mm drivers within a fully closed circumaural design that delivers professional-grade sound isolation while maintaining the detailed, transparent audio reproduction that studio work demands.

The frequency response spans 5Hz to 35,000Hz, providing the extended range necessary to hear the full spectrum of recorded material. The 80-ohm impedance version pairs ideally with professional audio interfaces and headphone amplifiers, delivering optimal performance when driven by quality studio equipment.

For producers who need compatibility with mobile devices and consumer electronics, the 32-ohm variant achieves proper volume levels without dedicated amplification.

Features

Beyerdynamic designed the DT 770 Pro specifically for demanding professional studio environments where reliability, comfort, and acoustic performance must coexist without compromise.

The soft velour ear pads distribute pressure evenly while allowing extended wearing without the heat buildup that pleather alternatives can cause during long tracking sessions.

The robust spring steel headband construction maintains consistent fit pressure over years of professional use while remaining flexible enough for comfortable all-day wearing. The single-sided coiled cable eliminates tangling during studio use and allows performers to move naturally without cable management concerns.

Every component remains serviceable and replaceable, reflecting Beyerdynamic's commitment to professional tools that serve for decades rather than disposable consumer products.

Available at Sam Ash

The DT 770 Pro is available in multiple impedance options to suit different studio configurations:

- **DT 770 Pro (80 ohm)** → Ideal for studio interfaces with quality headphone outputs.
- [**DT 770 Pro \(32 ohm\)**](#) → Better for mobile devices and lower-powered sources.

Audio-Technica ATH-M50x



Caption: The ATH-M50x's 45mm large-aperture drivers and three detachable cables have earned it a place in more studios worldwide than any other closed-back headphone in its class.

Alt text: Audio-Technica Audio-Technica ATH-M50x Professional Studio Monitor Headphones, Black.

Specifications

The ATH-M50x employs proprietary 45mm large-aperture drivers with rare earth neodymium magnets and copper-clad aluminum wire voice coils, delivering the exceptional clarity and extended frequency response that made its predecessor legendary among audio professionals.

The frequency response spans 15Hz to 28,000Hz with the low-end weight and high-frequency detail that reveal everything within a recording. The 38-ohm impedance and

99dB sensitivity ensure these headphones achieve excellent volume levels from virtually any audio source, from professional interfaces to smartphones and portable recorders.

The circumaural design completely covers the ears, creating passive isolation that blocks environmental noise while preventing sound leakage during monitoring.

Features

Audio-Technica updated the classic ATH-M50 with practical improvements that address real-world production workflows without compromising the sonic signature that made the original an industry standard. The detachable cable system includes three options: a 1.2-meter straight cable for portable use, a 3-meter straight cable for studio applications, and a coiled cable that extends from 1.2 to 3 meters for flexible positioning.

The twist-lock mechanism prevents accidental disconnection during critical recording or listening sessions. The 90-degree swiveling ear cups enable one-ear monitoring, essential for tracking engineers who need to hear both the headphone mix and the live room simultaneously.

The collapsible design reduces storage space requirements and enables transport in bags or cases without risking damage to the headband. The ATH-M50x is available in multiple color options, such as [ATH-M50x \(Black\)](#) and [ATH-M50x \(White\)](#).

Beyerdynamic DT 700 Pro X



Caption: The DT 700 Pro X's STELLAR.45 driver system and 48-ohm impedance are engineered to deliver professional monitoring from modern interfaces and portable devices without dedicated amplification.

Alt text: Beyerdynamic DT 700 PRO X Studio Recording Headphones.

Specifications

[The DT 700 Pro X](#) showcases Beyerdynamic's newly developed STELLAR.45 driver system, engineered and manufactured in Heilbronn, Germany, to deliver the proven Beyerdynamic sound at unprecedented performance levels.

The frequency response extends from 5Hz to 40,000Hz with exceptional accuracy throughout the audible spectrum and beyond, revealing subtle details that lesser drivers miss entirely. The 48-ohm impedance represents a deliberate design decision to ensure excellent performance from modern audio interfaces, laptops, and portable devices without requiring dedicated headphone amplification.

At 100dB sensitivity, these headphones achieve professional monitoring levels efficiently from virtually any quality source equipment.

Features

Beyerdynamic designed the DT 700 Pro X to bring professional-grade closed-back monitoring into contemporary production environments where workflow flexibility matters as much as acoustic performance.

The detachable cable system uses mini-XLR connectors for secure, professional-grade connections that won't accidentally disconnect during critical sessions. Two cable lengths ship with every unit: a 1.8-meter cable for mobile use and a 3-meter cable for studio installations.

The soft velour ear pads provide the long-wearing comfort that extended production sessions demand, and both ear pads and headband padding remain user-replaceable to extend service life indefinitely. The memory foam headband distributes weight evenly to prevent pressure points during marathon tracking days.

Quick Comparison Table

Feature	Beyerdynamic DT 770 Pro	Audio-Technica ATH-M50x	Beyerdynamic DT 700 Pro X
Type	Closed-Back Dynamic	Closed-Back Dynamic	Closed-Back Dynamic
Driver Size	45mm	45mm	45mm (STELLAR.45)
Frequency Response	5Hz – 35kHz	15Hz – 28kHz	5Hz – 40kHz
Impedance	80 ohms (32 ohm also available)	38 ohms	48 ohms
Sensitivity	96 dB/mW	99 dB/mW	100 dB/mW
Cable	Coiled (attached)	Detachable (3 included)	Detachable mini-XLR (2 included)
Ear Pads	Velour	Pleather	Velour
Headband	Spring steel	Padded	Memory foam
Foldable	No	Yes	No
Single-Ear Monitoring	No	Yes (90° swivel)	No
Replaceable Components	All (pads, headband, cable via service)	Pads, cable	All (pads, headband, cable)
Best For	Extended tracking sessions, comfort	Versatile studio workhorse, portability	Modern interfaces, next-gen monitoring

The Best Closed-Back Headphones for Production Start Here

All three of these [headphones](#) deliver the isolation and accuracy that music production demands, but they each prioritize different things. The DT 770 Pro leads on comfort for long sessions. The ATH-M50x leads on versatility and portability with its detachable cables and folding design. The DT 700 Pro X leads on driver technology and impedance matching for modern gear. The right pair depends on how you work and what matters most when you are in the middle of a session.

Call 800-472-6274 if you want help matching a pair to your interface and workflow. Our 45-day [return policy](#) gives you time to evaluate your choice in your actual studio before you commit.

[Shop our headphone collection today!](#)

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Can I use closed-back headphones for mixing?

Closed-back headphones can serve for mixing reference and rough mixing work, particularly when environmental noise or sharing a space with others makes open-back headphones impractical. However, most engineers prefer open-back headphones for primary mixing duties because the open design provides a more natural, speaker-like soundstage that helps make accurate judgments about stereo imaging and spatial relationships.

Why do some closed-back headphones have different impedance options?

Manufacturers offer multiple impedance versions to optimize performance with different audio equipment. Lower impedance headphones (32–50 ohms) achieve proper volume levels from smartphones, tablets, and laptops without requiring dedicated amplification. Higher impedance versions (80–250 ohms) pair better with professional audio interfaces and headphone amplifiers, often delivering superior sound quality when properly driven because the higher impedance allows for more precise driver control. Choose based on your primary audio source equipment.

How much isolation do closed-back headphones provide?

Quality closed-back headphones typically provide 15–25 dB of passive noise isolation, though this varies by design and ear pad material. This isolation works bidirectionally: external sounds are reduced by the same amount that internal sounds are prevented from escaping. For tracking applications, the key metric is how much sound leaks from the headphones when driven at normal monitoring levels, as this leakage is what microphones can potentially capture.

How long should studio headphones last?

Quality closed-back headphones from established manufacturers should provide many years of professional service with proper care. All headphones in this roundup feature replaceable components—ear pads, cables (where detachable), and headband padding can be renewed as they wear, extending useful service life significantly.

Do I need a headphone amplifier for these headphones?

[For the headphones](#) in this roundup, the answer is generally no. The Audio-Technica ATH-M50x at 38 ohms and Beyerdynamic DT 700 Pro X at 48 ohms work excellently with virtually any quality audio interface or even smartphones. The Beyerdynamic DT 770 Pro at 80 ohms benefits from the quality headphone outputs found on professional interfaces, but doesn't require dedicated amplification.

The 32-ohm DT 770 Pro version specifically addresses users who need more flexibility with lower-powered sources. Call Sam Ash Gear Experts at 800-472-6274 to discuss your specific equipment setup.

Prices mentioned in this article are accurate at the time of publication and may vary. Please visit [Sam Ash](#) for the most current pricing and availability.