

3 Best Headphones for Recording Vocals: Wired & Wireless Options

Meta Description: Find out the 3 best headphones for recording vocals in 2026. Shop wired and wireless options at Sam Ash, with free shipping over \$49 and a 45-day return policy.



Alt text: Audio-Technica ATH-M40x Professional Monitor Headphones.

Key Takeaways

- The Audio-Technica ATH-M40x delivers tuned-flat frequency response through precision 40mm drivers, two detachable cables and a collapsible design, making an affordable entry into professional vocal monitoring.
- The Audio-Technica ATH-M50x steps up to proprietary 45mm large-aperture drivers with extended 15Hz to 28kHz response, and the sonic detail that has made it one of the most widely used studio headphones in the world.
- The Beyerdynamic DT 770 Pro 80 ohm is German-engineered with 45mm drivers spanning 5Hz to 35kHz, plush velour earpads that set the comfort standard for marathon recording sessions.
- The Audio-Technica ATH-M50xBT2 adds Bluetooth with 50 hours of battery life to the M50x's sonic signature for reference listening and everyday use, with a wired cable included for zero-latency monitoring during tracking.
- Find all three [headphones](#) at Sam Ash with free shipping on orders over \$49 and a 45-day return policy that lets you test your new monitoring solution in your actual recording environment.

Why Headphones Matter for Vocal Recording

The headphones you wear while tracking vocals are a direct part of your signal chain in a way that directly affects the quality of every take you record. If they leak sound, your condenser mic picks it up. If they color the tone, you make decisions based on what the headphones add rather than what is actually there. If they are uncomfortable, your performance suffers three takes in.

Professional closed-back studio headphones solve all three of those problems by isolating your ears from the room, presenting sound with honest accuracy, and sitting comfortably on your head long enough to get the work done. The three wired models in this guide have each earned their place in studios around the world through years of real-world use, from bedroom setups to major label facilities. We also cover a wireless option for reference listening between sessions.

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Audio-Technica ATH-M40x



Caption: The ATH-M40x's tuned-flat frequency response and detachable cables make it one of the most accurate and practical entry point into professional vocal monitoring.

Alt text: Audio-Technica ATH-M40x Professional Monitor Headphones.

Specifications

[The ATH-M40x](#) employs precision-engineered 40mm drivers with rare earth neodymium magnets and copper-clad aluminum wire voice coils, delivering tuned-flat frequency response across an extended range of 15Hz to 24kHz.

This flat tuning distinguishes the M40x from consumer headphones that artificially enhance bass or treble, providing the honest representation that critical monitoring demands.

The 35-ohm impedance ensures efficient operation with virtually any headphone output, from professional studio equipment to audio interfaces and portable devices, while 98dB/mW sensitivity delivers adequate volume without requiring dedicated amplification. The

closed-back circumaural design contours around the ears for excellent sound isolation, preventing bleed into microphones during recording while blocking external distractions.

Features

Audio-Technica designed the ATH-M40x specifically for professional monitoring applications where accuracy matters more than excitement. The 90-degree swiveling earcups enable single-ear monitoring, essential for singers who need to hear their natural voice alongside the cue mix while tracking vocals.

Two detachable cables address different usage scenarios: a 9.8-foot coiled cable for studio use and a 9.8-foot straight cable for extended reach or portable applications. The locking mechanism ensures cables stay connected during performance, while the standardized connector means replacements remain readily available and affordable.

The collapsible design and included carrying pouch facilitate transport between sessions, and the robust construction withstands the demands of professional daily use.

Audio-Technica ATH-M50x



Caption: The ATH-M50x's 45mm large-aperture drivers and three included cables have made it one of the most widely trusted studio headphones in the world.

Alt text: 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 exceptional clarity throughout an extended frequency range of 15Hz to 28kHz.

This extended response captures the lowest bass fundamentals and highest harmonic content that shorter-range headphones miss, providing complete picture of vocal recordings, including room tone and breath sounds. The 38-ohm impedance ensures efficient operation with virtually any source, while 99dB/mW sensitivity delivers ample volume without requiring dedicated headphone amplification.

The circumaural closed-back design contours around the ears for excellent sound isolation, preventing bleed into microphones while blocking external distractions.

Features

Audio-Technica designed the ATH-M50x for professional audio applications demanding both exceptional sound quality and practical versatility. The 90-degree swiveling earcups enable single-ear monitoring, essential for singers who need to hear their natural voice alongside the cue mix while tracking.

Three detachable cables address different usage scenarios: a 9.8-foot coiled cable for studio use, a 9.8-foot straight cable for extended reach, and a 3.9-foot straight cable for portable applications.

The locking twist mechanism ensures cables stay connected during performance, while the standardized connector means replacements remain readily available. The collapsible design and included carrying pouch facilitate transport, and the robust all-metal construction withstands the demands of professional daily use.

Beyerdynamic DT 770 Pro (80 ohm)



Caption: The DT 770 Pro's plush velour earpads and German-engineered 45mm drivers deliver the comfort and transparency that vocalists need for extended recording sessions.

Alt text: Beyerdynamic DT770 Pro Mixing Headphones 80 ohms.

Specifications

[The DT 770 Pro](#) employs Beyerdynamic's renowned dynamic driver technology with 45mm transducers delivering an extraordinarily wide frequency response from 5Hz to 35kHz, extending far beyond audible range to ensure complete capture of harmonic content and transient detail. This extended response reveals nuances that narrower-bandwidth headphones mask, providing comprehensive insight into vocal recordings.

The 80-ohm impedance variant strikes an ideal balance for recording applications, working efficiently with standard headphone outputs while benefiting from the current delivery of dedicated headphone amplifiers.

Sensitivity of 96dB/mW provides adequate volume with typical studio equipment, though the impedance optimizes for quality rather than maximum efficiency. The closed-back circumaural design provides excellent isolation and passive noise reduction.

Features

Beyerdynamic manufactures the DT 770 Pro in Germany to exacting standards that have established the company's reputation for quality. The single-sided, coiled cable extends to approximately 10 feet, providing freedom of movement during recording while maintaining neat cable management when at rest.

The distinctive velour earpads set these headphones apart from competitors, providing exceptional comfort during extended sessions while allowing the ear to breathe and preventing the heat buildup that pleather pads can cause.

The robust spring steel headband maintains consistent clamping force throughout years of use, and the padded headband distributes weight evenly across the head. All components, including earpads and headband padding, remain user-replaceable, ensuring these headphones can provide decades of service with appropriate maintenance.

Wireless Option: Audio-Technica ATH-M50xBT2



Caption: The ATH-M50xBT2 brings the M50x's acclaimed sonic signature into a wireless package with a wired cable for zero-latency monitoring when tracking.

Alt text: Audio-Technica ATH-M50xBT2 Wireless Over-Ear Headphones.

For vocalists who need wireless flexibility without sacrificing the signature ATH-M50x sound, the [ATH-M50xBT2](#) delivers the same 45mm drivers and sonic character in a Bluetooth-enabled package.

While wireless headphones introduce potential latency that makes them less ideal for real-time monitoring during recording, the ATH-M50xBT2 excels for reference listening, reviewing takes, and everyday use between sessions. The included 3.9-foot cable enables wired operation when zero-latency monitoring matters, giving you the best of both worlds in a single headphone.

Key Features

The ATH-M50xBT2 achieves up to 50 hours of continuous playback on a single charge, with rapid charging providing 3 hours of use from just 10 minutes of charging. The AK4331

advanced audio DAC and dedicated internal headphone amplifier deliver superior sound quality beyond typical Bluetooth implementations.

Low latency mode improves audio/video synchronization for streaming and video editing applications. Dual beamforming microphones ensure crystal-clear call quality for remote collaboration sessions. The multipoint pairing function allows simultaneous connection to two Bluetooth devices, enabling seamless switching between computer and phone without re-pairing.

Quick Comparison Table

Feature	Audio-Technica ATH-M40x	Audio-Technica ATH-M50x	Beyerdynamic DT 770 Pro	ATH-M50xBT2 (Wireless)
Type	Closed-Back Dynamic	Closed-Back Dynamic	Closed-Back Dynamic	Closed-Back Dynamic
Driver Size	40mm	45mm	45mm	45mm
Frequency Response	15Hz – 24kHz	15Hz – 28kHz	5Hz – 35kHz	15Hz – 28kHz
Impedance	35 ohms	38 ohms	80 ohms	38 ohms (wired)
Sensitivity	98 dB/mW	99 dB/mW	96 dB/mW	99 dB/mW
Cable	Detachable (2 included)	Detachable (3 included)	Coiled (attached)	Detachable (1 included) + Bluetooth
Bluetooth	No	No	No	Yes (50hr battery)
Weight	240g (8.5 oz)	285g (10 oz)	270g (9.5 oz)	307g (10.8 oz)
Earpads	Pleather	Pleather	Velour	Pleather
Foldable	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Carrying Case	Soft pouch	Soft pouch	Not included	Soft pouch
Made In	Taiwan	Taiwan	Germany	Taiwan
Best For	Flat monitoring, budget studios	Studio tracking, mixing	Extended sessions, critical listening	Reference listening, wireless flexibility

Sam Ash: Hear Your Vocals the Way They Actually Sound

Selecting [headphones](#) for vocal recording involves more than comparing specifications. The monitoring solution must work with your interface's headphone output, complement your recording workflow, and provide the comfort needed for your typical session lengths.

[Sam Ash](#) has equipped recording studios and professional musicians since 1924, building expertise that helps match monitoring solutions to individual recording needs. When you call the Gear Experts at 800-472-6274, you reach working musicians and audio professionals who understand how different headphone characteristics affect real-world recording results.

Every headphone purchase comes with a 45-day [return policy](#) and 60-day price protection, so you get the best available price even if costs drop after you buy.

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Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Which headphones are best for beginners?

The Audio-Technica ATH-M40x offers exceptional value for vocalists building their first serious recording setup. Its flat, accurate sound teaches you to hear what's actually in your recordings, while the price point minimizes risk and the detachable cables ensure longevity.

Do I need a headphone amplifier for these headphones?

The Audio-Technica ATH-M40x and ATH-M50x work efficiently with virtually any headphone output, including those built into audio interfaces and mixers. The Beyerdynamic DT 770 Pro (80 ohm) benefits from a quality headphone output but doesn't require a dedicated amplifier for adequate volume in most studio situations.

Can I use wireless headphones for recording vocals?

Wireless headphones introduce latency that makes them challenging for real-time monitoring during recording, as the delay between singing and hearing yourself can affect performance. The ATH-M50xBT2's included wired cable enables zero-latency monitoring when needed, while Bluetooth operation suits reference listening and everyday use.

Which headphones are most comfortable for long sessions?

The Beyerdynamic DT 770 Pro's velour earpads and balanced weight distribution make it the clear comfort winner for extended recording sessions. Vocalists who regularly record for several hours at a stretch will appreciate the breathable earpads that prevent heat buildup.

Does Sam Ash offer financing on headphones?

Yes. [Sam Ash](#) provides financing through Synchrony and Affirm on all three headphones, making professional monitoring accessible regardless of immediate budget constraints.

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.