

Sony Adds to High-Res Audio

Written by Marco Attard
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Sony expands its high-resolution audio product offering with the launch of 3 headphones (the MDR-27, MDR-1ADAC and XBA-Z5), the PHA-3 portable headphone DAC/amplifier and a selection of headphone cables.



The MDR-27 headphones promise ultra-responsive audio performance with solid aluminium construction, liquid crystal polymer diaphragms and large 70mm drivers. A 4-wire structure separates ground cables to minimise crosstalk between left/right channels and support balanced audio connectors, while silver-coated OFC cable strands reduce signal transmission loss.

Also included is a balanced output cable (2m) with the option of plugging into a compatible amplifier.

Meanwhile the MDR-1ADAC headphones feature a built-in S-Master HX digital amplifier handling both PCM (at up to 192kHz/24-bit) and DSD (at up to 5.6MHz) music files without need for an external decoder, and 40mm drivers delivering up to 100kHz frequency response. A built-in rechargeable battery provides up to 7.5 hours of playback.

The headphones include multiple inputs and cables allowing connection to smartphones, portable audio players or PCs, with different cables such as a specially developed thin and flexible USB cable, Digital connecting cable for use with Walkman and Xperia devices, a Lightning connector cable and a conventional audio cable.

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The final set of Sony headphones is the XBA-Z5, with a compact in-ear design featuring Linear Drive Balanced Armature technology, 16mm dynamic driver units and an adjustable ear-hanger design with shape-memory resin.

For customers wanting to further enjoy high-resolution audio Sony offers the PHA-3-- a portable DAC/amplifier able to decode virtually any PCM (up to 384kHz/32-bit) or DSD (up to 5.6MHz) audio source. It also uses DSEE HX technology to upscale low-resolution audio sources (MP3, AAC, ATRAC and WMA) to higher music quality.

It connects to most sources, including smartphones, portable audio player, PCs and analog devices, and features durable aluminium construction. The internal battery providing up to 5 hours of balanced audio playback when connected via USB or up to 28 hours of playback when using analog stereo input.

Also available from the company is a variety of headphone cables, including MUC-B series developed in partnership with Kimber Kable.

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