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mars conjunct pluto in scorpio natal mature saggy tits nv m8n rtklib i hate weekends with my wife 5g toolbox matlab We've tested way too many noise-cancelling headphones to list them all here. Below are comments about some of the most recent and notable competitors; if you're curious about a model we haven't listed, drop us a note in the
comments section, and we'll post the information if we have it. To make the list easier to browse, we've split it into headphones are lightweight and comfortable to wear, and
they have an undeniably luxurious aesthetic. If you're a fan of a sound profile that's slightly bass-forward, you'll like the way this pair sounds with the ANC activated. However, these headphones lose some bass presence when you turn the ANC activated. However, these headphones lose some bass presence when you'll like the way this pair sounds with the ANC activated. However, these headphones lose some bass presence when you turn the ANC activated. However, these headphones lose some bass presence when you turn the ANC activated.
exceptionally directional. Even a tip of the head a few inches will change how much noise is reduced—especially if the source of the sound is located on one side of your body, like an air-conditioner unit or traffic noise from the street as you walk along the sidewalk. This may not bother you much if optimal noise cancellation isn't your priority.
However, given the $400 original price, we were hoping for consistently excellent performance to match the stellar looks. Cleer Alpha: For business travelers, this pair has a lot of nice features, including easy-to-use controls, specialized airplane noise range. However,
the physical sound isolation wasn't quite as effective in our tests. The sound quality wasn't our favorite, with a dip somewhere in the mid-frequency range that we couldn't tweak with the app-based EQ. We also weren't fans of the artificial-sounding Dirac spatial filter, which added a reverb-like quality to vocals, made the bass more boomy, and added
an incongruous tightness to the highs. The Haymaker HM100: With the ANC on, this pair had an exciting sound matching that of the Bose 700 and Sony WH-1000XM4. However, in wired mode, the sound profile lacked bass, and via Bluetooth, with ANC off, the lows were bloated and the highs were coarse in a way that audio fans would find absolutely
unlistenable. Sadly, the ANC isn't exceptional, either, and the headphones are heavy, so some people might not be able to wear them as long as they would a lighter option like one of our picks. Mark Levinson No. 5909: At $1,000, this pair is the most expensive set of ANC headphones we've tested. As such, we held the 5909 to a high standard. The
5909 is lightweight, and we appreciated the thoughtful extras included, such as fabric-wrapped cables. The ANC was decent in our tests, reducing airplane noise by 20.4 decibels at the max setting. However, we wish the physical sound isolation were better: The 5909 let in more high-frequency sounds like voices than the less-expensive Bose 700. Our
panel also concluded that the sonic profile leaned to the bright side, with especially noticeable peaks in the 2 to 3 kHz and 8 to 10 kHz ranges. Although some folks prefer that kind of sound, our panel said it negatively impacted the sense of space and eventually became fatiguing. Monoprice M1000ANC: We liked this pair's soft memory-
foam earpads and surprisingly natural hear-through mode. However, the ANC was less effective than that of our budget pick, the Soundcore Life Q20. Out of the box, the sound quality was pretty good—slightly flat but not offensive. The Dirac filter attempts to create a sense of artificial space, but we found the effect off-putting, as precise sounds in
the center channel ended up doubled, or ping-ponging right to left. Though the filter also increased the loudness of the lows and highs to make the sound more exciting, we were so thrown by phase trickery that we couldn't appreciate the boosts. At this pair's original $130 price, we didn't think its performance made it worth the extra cash over our
budget pick.PSB M4U 8 MKII: This pair's sound quality in wireless mode was above average, especially the low end. The M4U 8 MKII provided bass oomph without blurring, muddying, or overpowering any other frequencies. However, the highs had a somewhat icy edge when the ANC was turned on, and in corded mode, the sound quality was boxy,
dull, and on a par with that of $100 headphones. Also, the ANC seemed to reduce sound unevenly, creating an almost doughnut-hole effect to the noises around us. If this pair weren't priced at $500, we might be more forgiving. But for ANC, we'd stick with the Bose 700 pair, and for audio fans, the Sony WH-1000XM4 costs less, has more-even noise
cancellation, and (once you apply EQ) offers better mids and high performance on this pair was mild. Out of the box, the bass lacked definition, so music sounded blurry and smeared. The app-based EQ is rather deft if you know what frequencies you want to adjust, and with it, we were able to
get a pleasant sound profile. However, the sound is different with ANC on versus off, and you have no way to save multiple EQ profiles. As a result, you'll either need to stick with one option or readjust the sound profile every time you switch ANC on or off. Technics EAH-A800: This over-ear pair is capable of good performance, but getting there
requires effort. In our tests, out of the box, the sound quality was marred by a pronounced boost in the upper-lows that made acoustic guitar sound overly resonant and caused male vocals to get lost in tracks with heavy basslines. Though none of the app-based EQ presets could address the balance effectively, we were able to dial in the manual EQ to
create a sound that we found enjoyable—but because the sound quality varies based on whether the ANC is turned on or off, you need to readjust it for each setting. The dual hybrid noise cancellation significantly reduces the volume of airplane noise, but the physical sound isolation is less effective at blocking mid- and high-frequency sounds like
voices or traffic. The effect is exacerbated if you have a smaller head, as the larger earcups can gap and allow in more outside noise. For phone calls in our tests, the eight-microphone array did an excellent job of preventing background more
compressed. Lastly, the control buttons are small and tricky to use by feel, especially for people with larger fingers. We tested these over-ear headphones for previous updates: Ausounds AU-XT ANC: This pair was a great disappointment. The build quality, sound, and middling ANC seem more appropriate for headphones that cost well under $100,
rather than the original $200 asking price. The ANC has a slight hiss to it, the hinges on the headband creak and consonants at you like daggers. Avantree Aria Me: The Aria Me has a lot of features that could be useful for
the office or gaming. This pair comes with a charging stand to store the headphones on your desk or by the TV, and it has a removable boom mic. The hearing-test-based sound-adjustment feature isn't the most accurate we've tried, but it could be helpful, provided you aren't listening at unsafe volume levels. The noise cancellation is very mild, so it's
not really meeting the key criteria of this guide. Additionally, the build quality, while not overtly fragile, feels a tad creaky, and the app requires you to register before using it—so folks concerned with privacy issues may want to use a throwaway name and email address. Bang & Olufsen BeoPlay HX: Like all B&O headphones, these look fantastic—and the app requires you to register before using it—so folks concerned with privacy issues may want to use a throwaway name and email address. Bang & Olufsen BeoPlay HX: Like all B&O headphones, these look fantastic—and the app requires you to register before using it—so folks concerned with privacy issues may want to use a throwaway name and email address. Bang & Olufsen BeoPlay HX: Like all B&O headphones, these look fantastic—and the app requires you to register before using it—so folks concerned with privacy issues may want to use a throwaway name and email address.
it's the looks you're paying for with these $500 headphones. Although the sound profile is well-reviewed and adjustable, you can get equal performs well but is not superlative. If cost is no object and you like the looks of the HX, you'll likely
be happy with this pair. Beats Studio 3: Although these headphones remain popular, to our ears (and those of many other reviewers), they sound too bassy and boomy, and their noise cancelling is only average. Bose QuietComfort 35 Series II: This pair's noise cancelling ranks among the best available. On top of that, it sounded good in our tests, it's
exceptionally comfortable, and it packs up into a super-slim travel case. A dedicated button accesses Google Assistant or Amazon Alexa, letting you ask questions or send and listen to messages. The downsides: The aggressive noise cancelling produces eardrum suck, a sensation that many people find uncomfortable, and this pair lacks the 11-step
ANC adjustment of the Bose 700. Bose QuietComfort 45: This pair is the update to Bose's popular QuietComfort 35 Series II. The QC45 offers an awareness mode, background-noise-reducing microphones, 24 hours of battery life, and quick-charge abilities. If you happen to have a Bose soundbar, the QC45 is compatible with SimpleSync, which allows
you to pair it to your Bose soundbar and use the QC45 as a set of wireless TV headphones. In our tests the noise cancellation measured nearly identically to that of the more feature-rich Bose 700, as well as that of the MCC35 Series II—which is to say, it's excellent. Even so, you should spend a little more to get the adjustable ANC on the Bose
700. Bowers & Wilkins PX5: Nice to look at, unpleasant to wear. Our panel found that the headband was too tight. The bass was unfocused, and the highs had a sizzling quality on consonants and cymbal hits. Bowers & Wilkins PX7: We just didn't enjoy using this expensive pair. The headband had an uncomfortable, pinching fit even on smaller skulls
The boomy bass veiled details in the bass guitar through the male vocal range. Cleer Enduro ANC: This pair's noise cancelling is most effective at very low-frequency sounds, so airplane engine rumble is reduced, but you'll still hear the upper grinding sounds of the engine whir. The sound quality is a little uneven (the default sound profile is hyped in
the lows and highs), but listening to the Enduro ANC is nonetheless quite enjoyable. The app offers EQ adjustment, but the frequency ranges represented on the faders aren't dexterous enough and are a touch baffling. (Most people can't hear 20 kHz after infancy, so why is that one of the EQ options?) But the fit is comfortable, the microphone is
clear for phone calls, and the $150 price is a solid value. Plus, the 60-hour battery life is great for folks who forget to charge their headphones regularly. Cleer Flow II. We have nothing overly negative to say about the Flow II. We have nothing overly negative to say about the Flow II. The noise cancellation is middle of the road but effective enough to reduce air-conditioner hum or airplane noise. We found
that this pair didn't produce enough bass, and the earcups could be a bit large for those with smaller heads. If you like a brighter sound profile and prefer less intense ANC, this set is recommendable. House of Marley Exodus ANC: This pair seemed to have a decent amount of noise cancellation, but with the ANC activated, the bass notes were very
boomy. When we turned the ANC off, the low notes had less reverb, but high-pitched sounds such as consonants and strings gained an icy, metallic edge. It's a pity, as we love the more sustainable materials Marley employs in its designs. House of Marley Positive Vibration XL ANC: This is a really lovely pair of Bluetooth headphones, but a mediocre
pair of noise-cancelling headphones. The fit is comfortable, with a soft, padded headband and ear cups. Unlike most new Bluetoooth headphones, this pair includes a cable with a single-button remote and microphone; so, if the battery dies, the XL ANC is still functional and can take calls. Should eco-friendly practices be of importance to you, House of
Marley has a more environmentally minded business plan than many other electronics companies. However, the noise cancellation, though effective on very low frequencies, isn't supported by good sound is fantastic—balanced and
clear. However, the ANC negatively impacts the sound louder yet duller at the same time, as though someone turned up a subwoofer and tossed a blanket over it. JBL Club One: The noise cancelling on the Club One is better than average at reducing lower frequencies, and the "silent now" feature that disables the auto
shutoff and allows you to use the ANC without music is a nice touch. The microphones are clear over calls, even in mildly windy conditions. We also like that this pair comes with two cables—one coiled and one with a single-button remote—which is handy for folks looking for a pair of headphones that can go from a sound booth to a commute.
However, professionals won't want to use this pair for mixing. The Club One has a hearing-test-based tuning feature in the JBL app, but we found that the sound profile we received was too bass-forward, a touch blurry in the upper lows and mids, and lacking clarity in the highs. With manual EQ, we were able to find something we liked well enough
but your personal sound profile is only accessible via Bluetooth. Additionally, the headband could use some additional padding because the somewhat weighter build of the Club One pressed on our panelists' heads in a way that would be fatiguing and possibly headache-inducing over the course of a long mix session or work day. JBL Tour One: The
adaptive noise cancelling feels a little like a work in progress here. There clearly are ANC adjustments occurring as the sounds around you change, but the effect can be off-putting. For example, if there is an air conditioner on your left, the left earcup suddenly blocks more noise than the right one, which feels similar to having a cold and one of your
ears is clogged. Fortunately, this feature can be turned off, and the standard ANC performs consistently and usefully. The sound is pleasantly balanced and adjustable in the JBL app. Google and Alexa users will be happy that there is a dedicated button to call up their respective assistants, though this button doesn't serve Apple users; Siri devotees
need to use the multifunction button instead. The combination of touch and physical buttons works well enough, though the volume buttons are very close together and may take some practice to learn to find by touch alone. Overall the Tour One is flawed enough to keep it from being a pick, but it's still a good pair of headphones. JBL Live 650BTNC:
This pair dropped out of the running for a spot in our picks lineup for several reasons—its active noise cancellation wasn't as effective as that of the Bose NC700, it didn't sound as good as the Jabra Elite 85h, and it's not as inexpensive as the Anker Soundcore Life Q20. But if you want something that fits in between the Life Q20 and the Elite 85h in
performance and price, this set fits the bill. In our tests, the sound was pleasant (balanced but lacking the clarity and low-end definition of pricier models), the ANC was passable, and the fit was comfortable. The included cable has a remote and mic, which is rare. Plus you can customize the look on the JBL website, which is fun. These headphones are
highly recommendable, especially for the price. JLab Studio ANC: While the noise cancellation on this pair isn't superlative, it does reduce enough noise to be mildly useful in a plane. The controls are easy to use, and the battery life is decent at 28 hours with ANC on. In our tests, the sound quality was fine: It was a little on the bass-heavy side but not
objectionable. What we don't love is that the earcups don't swivel, so the pads can sit a little awkwardly on the ears, and the set has no hear-through option, these headphones might be a good fit for you. Marshall Monitor II A.N.C.: The noise
cancellation on this headphone pair was similar to what we got from the Jabra Elite 85h, averaging around 14.1 dB, which is a useful amount but not the best we've seen in our tests. Although the collapsible design is nice, the clamping force was a little much for us—even on Lauren's smaller noggin, the Monitor II A.N.C. became uncomfortable to
wear after about 15 minutes. The signature Marshall sound was on the warmer side; Brent enjoyed it, but our other panelists wanted a smidgen more detail in the high end. The hear-through mode muffled the sound, so using it for conversations was difficult. Master & Dynamic MW65: If you don't mind paying a higher price, the MW65 is a decent
choice. The problem is that the design is the only way in which these headphones are superlative. The ANC was middling, we found them a little heavy to wear, they didn't seal out external sounds too well, and the sound, while quite nice, was a bit unnaturally boosted in the lows and highs. If these headphones weren't $500, we could overlook all of
those concerns, but at that price, we want something closer to perfection. Panasonic RB-M700B: This pair offers haptic bass response that causes you to feel the bass physically through little vibrations. It's fun, but the noise cancelling isn't extremely effective. Plus the headband is made of metal that resonates, so every time you bump it or pause your
music, you'll hear it ringing like a tuning fork. Phiaton 900 Legacy: Though the looks are sleek, the fit comfortable, and the active noise cancelling decently effective, there is a baffling jagged quality to the sonic tuning in the high-frequency ranges of this pair. The spikes add emphasis to any air-hiss noise in recordings and give cymbals and strings a
tinny, sizzling quality that's harsh and off putting. The volume controls cause large jumps in loudness; it takes about six swipes to go from silent to top volume, so any in-between adjustment must be done on your device. The microphone is clear for calls and seems to handle a light breeze well, but overall, we were very disappointed in this pair's audio
performance. Philips Fidelio L3: These headphones run on the larger side, so folks with smaller heads may have a tough time getting the earcups to sit on their head without gapping. In our tests the sound quality was quite good for music, but the ANC was middle-of-the-road, the hear-through mode was overly sibilant and not ideal for longer
conversations, and the touch controls were prone to misfires. Philips H9505: This pair sounded dull out of the box. The EQ presets in the app could help to add clarity to the vocal range, but no matter what we did, the bass notes lacked definition, much like a paint thinned by too much water. The noise cancellation was quite effective when we were
facing the cause of the sound (for example, an air conditioner) but less so when the noise was coming from the sides. The hear-through mode was helpful for short-term use but sounded as if we were listening to the world through a paper-towel tube. Puro Pro: We love that the PuroPro offers volume limiting similar to what you get with the
company's kids headphones, which will ensure that you don't push your loudness into ranges that are unsafe for your hearing health. The noise cancelling is mild but useful, and the sound unnatural, and a boost in the upper mids that makes
female voices sound like they have a bit of a cold. None of these are terrible flaws, but it was enough to keep this pair from being a pick. Raycon Everyday Headphones: These perform acceptably for the price but are unremarkable. The "balanced" sound profile is pleasant to listen to. (The other sound profiles are too bass- or treble-heavy to be useful
for most listeners.) The active noise cancellation is middle-of-the-road, but the passive noise isolation is minimal, so you'll still hear a lot of higher-pitched noises (like voices) from your surroundings. The microphone has a digital distortion quality that isn't up to par with that of the competition. Sennheiser Momentum Wireless: Also known casually as
the Momentum 3, this pair is the next iteration of the Sennheiser Momentum/HD1 line. This latest version is an improvement, but unfortunately not enough of a shift to maintain competitiveness with the increasing number of new options. The overall design remains the same, with improved padding on the headband. The sound quality also hasn't
changed: In our tests, it produced rolled-off high frequencies and bloated, heightened bass, and everything sounded two-dimensional and somewhat dull in comparison with the sound from other headphones in the $400 price range. The app has an EQ function, but the interface is so amorphous it's nearly useless. Although the ANC is decently
effective, it's not as powerful or adjustable as on the Bose 700. The auto play/pause and on/off features are nice, and the microphones were clear in our phone calls, but overall these headphones don't live up to their $400 price tag. Sennheiser HD 450BT: Sadly, we weren't impressed by the amount of airplane noise this headphone pair was able to
reduce, and our panel found the sound quality to be dull and muddy in the lows and tizzy in the highs. Basslines blurred together, and cymbals and strings sounded unnatural. We tried to use Sennheiser's app to adjust the sound in specific
places. Shure Aonic 50: While the look of these headphones is luxurious, we were disappointed to find that the sound quality that lacked the sparkle and detail in the highs and the crispness in the attack and decay of the bass that we'd want in $400 headphones. The Shure app
allows for EQ tweaks, but you have to play music through the app to get the benefit (which isn't helpful if you stream your tracks). And the carrying case is at a premium. Skullcandy tried to jam too many
features into this pair, and the sum of their parts is a lackluster experience—coarse highs, overly boomy bass (even with the hearing-based tuning or haptics turned down), and an audible hiss when the set is powered on. Skullcandy Venue: These headphones had okay noise cancelling, but their sound was thin and piercing. Sony WH-XB910N: The XB
stands for "extra bass," and wow, does this pair have that. Imagine if you lived in a small, studio apartment and had a subwoofer next to your couch, and then you adjust the balance, but it's not nimble enough, which leaves you with the choice of too
much or too little low-note emphasis. In our tests, the noise cancellation was above average, and the hear-through mode was quite good. But seriously, consider these headphones only if you like a ton of bass. Soundcore Life Q20+: These headphones are the same as our budget pick, the Q20 set, with the added convenience of app-based adjustable EQ
and hear-through capabilities for a bit more cash. If those add-ons appeal to you, this pair is just as good as the original. Soundcore Life Q30: If the Soundcore Life Q30: If the Soundcore Life Q30. The biggest differentiator is the Q30's included app,
which offers EQ adjustment, toggling between the three levels of ANC via a widget (for iPhone users), and adjustable relaxing/focus soundscapes. However, this pair has smaller controls that are harder to use, especially for folks with larger fingers, and the Q30 costs more than the Q20, so unless you really want
the bonus features, you can stick with our budget pick. Soundcore Life Q35: If the Soundcore Life Q30 is a small step up from our budget pick, then the Life Q35 is a small step up from the Life Q30. Each version adds a few more features and somewhat better sound, but also increases the price. The Q35 lacks much in the way of physical sound
isolation, so this pair struggles to combat sounds in the human vocal range. The active noise cancelling is able to reduce airplane and traffic noise rather well, however. The microphones reduce background noise impressively for the price: Although the compression means your voice might sound a little less full-bodied, your callers won't hear as much
keyboard clicking or wind whooshes. Out of the box and via the included cable, the Life Q35 sounds bass heavy and muddy. With the app's EQ we were able to get more clarity in the highs and reduce the boominess in the upper lows. For the original $130 asking price the Q35 provides a few more digital bells and whistles than the $80 Q30, but if you
are looking for affordable ANC, we'd stick to our budget pick or one of the options in Other good noise-cancelling headphones. Tribit Quiet Plus 72: This pair is affordable, and the noise cancellation is rather effective. The sound quality isn't objectionable, but it isn't balanced, with somewhat bloated lows and shushing highs. This might be forgivable
for the price, but the build quality is also lacking. The headband is too long and positioned the ear cups too low on most of the panel's faces, and the hinges snap loudly and disconcertingly when you fold and unfold the headphones. Additionally, the microphone picks up a lot of background noise on calls. Urbanista Los Angeles: This is the first pair of
solar-powered headphones that we've tested. We were excited about the idea of potentially infinite battery life, and we hoped that we would love the experience of using this set. Unfortunately, this pair had such tight headband clamping force, in combination with shallow earcups, that we aring it was deeply uncomfortable after only a short time, even
our outer ears a bit, which could prove uncomfortable for folks with ears that stick out. The headband's tight clamping force also pinched the noggins of our testers with larger hat sizes. Performance-wise, the bass is so blobby and loud in the mix, you'll feel like you're sitting next to a subwoofer in a way that made male vocals hard to distinguish.V-
Moda M-200 ANC: As with all things V-Moda, the M-200 ANC headphones are made of metal parts and feel solidly built, and they feature optional ornamental shield customization. But that style comes at a hefty price, as these start at $500. The noise cancellation is quite good, and the intensity is adjustable via the V-Moda app—but the fit will affect
your experience here. The headband was a touch long for Lauren's face, so the earcups were slightly lower than optimal, which made the ANC less effective. This should only be a problem for those with small heads. We heard a jagged boost in the sound that caused vocals to be too forward in the mix, which both John and Lauren thought made
singers sound strained or shouty. Though this may be fixable through the V-Moda app's EQ settings, at the time of our review the app was buggy and on our iPhone 12 frequently crashed or got hung up on a spinning loading wheel. Parents will also want to use caution as the M-200 headphones get incredibly loud at max volume. Wyze Noise
Cancelling Headphones: Folks who value their privacy will be put off by the fact that you must create an email-verified account to use the app. And the app is required to access many bonus features, like choosing between low and high ANC levels as well as EQ adjustment. Out of the box the bass is dull; you can increase low-end loudness via the app's
EQ, but the controls are broad and heavy-handed—so adding more bass also muddies male vocals and bass guitar. The noise cancellation is noticeably reduced very low
frequencies but was less than superlative overall. The L700A's sound quality consisted of dull, thudding lows with an overemphasized spike in the highs that made stringed instruments sound as if they were recorded improperly. The 3D audio setting only made matters worse by making everything sound as if they were recorded in a reverb-heavy
metal box. And due to the large headband and earcups, folks with small hat sizes won't even be able to get the earcups to center over their ears. Here are the pair's diminutive size and natural-sounding transparency mode, but we weren't happy with
the sound, even when we used 1More's SoundID system to adjust the sound to our preferences. We wished we could split the difference between the bass-bloated standard audio mode and the SoundID mode, which produced recessed male vocals. We also weren't thrilled with the limited controls and muffled sound of the microphone during
calls.1More EVO: The ANC was middling, and this pair had limited physical sound isolation. Out of the box, the bass had a mushy quality that was exacerbated when the ANC was on. The EVO uses the SoundID system to adjust the sound isolation. Out of the box, the bass had a mushy quality that was exacerbated when the ANC was on. The EVO uses the SoundID system to adjust the sound isolation.
lacks the ability to control volume or tracks. Adidas Z.N.E. 01 ANC: Though this pair sounded quite good, the ANC wasn't very effective and the tap controls were prone to miscommunication. In addition, the lengths of the stems and sound tubes don't allow for each earbud to seat deeply in the ear canal, so many folks may find it impossible to get a
secure fit.Cleer Roam NC: Sadly, we weren't fans of this affordable pair. The shape was difficult to keep in place; small ears especially struggled. Mild ANC and sizzly sound that wasn't the strongest attribute of this pair, as we found the
effects to be mild. We enjoyed the mid- and low-frequency musical reproduction, but the highs had several distinct peaks that created a sizzly quality to recordings. Our voices sounded clear but somewhat distant on calls, so we couldn't use these earbuds to take a call in a place where it was necessary to speak in hushed tones (like a waiting room or a
quiet office.)Dirac Sudio E2: This pair was a total miss. The sound out of the box was bizarre, with a narrow range of bass boosted in a way that meant descending basslines seemed to diminish in volume as they dropped in pitch. When we turned on the Dirac spatial processing, we found the result to be heavy-handed and vaguely incongruous, like
riding a 3D amusement-park ride whose effects are slightly out of alignment—for instance, finger snaps that were mixed to be directly in the center kept ping-ponging from one side to another. We admire folks trying something new, but this wasn't what we hoped it would be. Earfun Air Pro SV: This pair's ANC was quite effective, but the physical
sound isolation was lacking. Out of the box the sound was especially bass heavy, and this pair benefited from some liberal adjustments in the app-based EQ. Though we wouldn't describe the balance we achieved as ideal, it was pleasant enough. What definitely impressed us was the noise-reduction microphone processing, which did a wonderful job of
identifying when we were speaking and shutting the mic off when we stopped talking, a feature that can be helpful for reducing street noise. However, your caller can still hear background sounds when you are speaking, so the effect is somewhat like listening to segments of cut-up audio. Though the cut-hole case design looks nifty, we question how
well it can protect these earbuds from lint or crumbs in a bag or pocket. Grell TWS 1: Out of the box, this pair had a flatter, more traditional "audiophile" sound, in which occasionally sounded distorted. We attempted to use SoundID to see the
effects, which had mixed success. Brent Butterworth measured the TWS 1 for Soundstage Experience, if you're curious to see what we heard in more visual terms. People with very large ear canals may have a tough time getting a seal with this pair. Additionally, we had stuttering connectivity, which also affected our ability to update the firmware on
our test pair. Jabra Elite 7 Pro and Elite 7 Pro and Elite 7 Active: Both pairs were particularly comfortable on a broad range of ear shapes, the sound quality was great with a little EQ adjustment, and the microphones were clear for phone calls, especially for those with a deeper-pitched voice. (We noticed that high-pitched voices could sound harsh, which may have
been due to the microphone sensitivity or the background-noise-reduction software.) When we initially reviewed these headphones, we had some concerns about their spotty connectivity and ANC effectiveness. After a recent firmware update, we retested them to see if the changes resulted in better performance, and the update seemed to address the
stutters and dropped calls that had given us pause during our first round of testing. As with many Bluetooth headphones, dual-device connectivity can still cause some hiccups, especially when you're using these earbuds for app-based video meetings such as in Zoom, Google Meet, or Microsoft Teams. You can resolve many of the issues if you adjust
the settings in those apps, but it's nonetheless frustrating and worth mentioning. The noise cancellation, though mildly improved after the firmware update, was still less than we'd hoped. The 1More true wireless pair still performs a few decibels better and generally costs less. If active noise cancellation is your primary concern, these headphones are
not for you. Lypertek PurePlay Z5: Although the Z5 isn't quite as superb as our top picks, it's still a solid pair of earbuds. The ANC was effective, on a par with that of the Beats Fit Pro. We appreciated the wide array of ear-tip shapes and sizes that were included in the box. Although the Dass was a bit more forward and the highs were a touch coarse
compared with what we heard from our top options, we recognize that many people may not find such results objectionable. Our biggest concern was the very sensitive touch controls, which could easily miss a tap especially if the wearer had long hair in the way. Mobvoi Earbuds ANC: This pair has a unusual voice-activation system that essentially
serves as an always-listening trigger for your device's own voice assistant. The "Hey Siri," or "Hi Bixby" can cost twice as much as these Mobvoi headphones, this feature could be very helpful for folks who want hands-free digital-assistant activation on a
budget. However, there are a few caveats. The noise cancellation is minimal, the touch controls offer limited functionality, the ear tips secure to) don't extend far out enough from the widest part of the chassis for larger or deeper ear canals to get a complete
seal. Monster DNA Fit: The eyeglass-sized case is large and unwieldy. When we tried to download the app, the Monster site said it was unavailable. The noise cancellation was barely effective. When music played, the bass was so formless and blurry, we had difficulty telling when individual notes actually hit. But we did appreciate the inclusion of 22
pairs of ear tips. Motorola Buds S ANC: This pair offered middle-of-the-road performance in all aspects. The noise cancellation took the edge off but wasn't astounding. Music playback lacked low-frequency support, which could make hip-hop, pop, and electronic music sound like it's lacking some oomph. The tap controls didn't always register double-
taps, and as a result we frequently made music play when we meant to toggle the ANC. Oddict Twig Pro: The appearance of the Twig Pro is its primary appeal. The sound out of the box wasn't ideal, but with some fiddling of the app-based EQ, we were able to get a mix that we liked. The squeeze-control buttons are a little tricky to find at first, but may
get easier to use with practice. The microphones sounded clear for calls. However, we wish that this pair had volume controls, and that the hear-through weren't quite so hissy-sounding. To us, the performance wasn't stellar enough to warrant this pair had volume controls, and that the hear-through weren't quite so hissy-sounding. To us, the performance wasn't stellar enough to warrant this pair had volume controls, and that the hear-through weren't quite so hissy-sounding.
expense. One Plus Buds Pro: If you have a One Plus phone, you may like this pair for the "Hey Melody" functionality. We found the fit to be comfortable. The ANC was quite good, though like many earbuds that lack strong physical sound isolation, this pair still allowed higher-pitched sounds such as clicks and voices to come through. If you need to
focus, the app provides multiple white noise sounds that you can preload, such as before a flight. We listened to both the standard sound profile and the one suggested based on the One Plus Audio ID hearing test; both had extra bass, and we wished there were a manual EQ option to split the difference between the two high-frequency profiles. That
said, both were pleasant, if not 100% authentic-sounding. The squeeze controls can be a little finicky when you need to triple- or double-squeeze them. Overall, this pair isn't a favorite of ours, but we can recommend it for OnePlus Buds Z2: A decent pair of earbuds. The noise cancellation was reasonably effective, but the controls were
limited and the bass frequencies in music were overemphasized in a way that made male vocals sound recessed. These aren't massive flaws, but in a competitive field, they're enough to keep these headphones from being a top pick. Phiaton BonoBuds: Although the ANC was quite good in our tests, this pair has other flaws. The earbuds, though
lightweight, are a bulbous bean shape that would benefit from some extra stabilization to hold them securely in small ears. The entire outer surface of the earbud hosts touch controls, so adjusting the fit or taking the earbud hosts touch controls, so adjusting the fit or taking the earbud hosts touch controls, so adjusting the fit or taking the earbud hosts touch controls, so adjusting the fit or taking the earbud hosts touch controls, so adjusting the fit or taking the earbud hosts touch controls, so adjusting the fit or taking the earbud hosts touch controls, so adjusting the fit or taking the earbud hosts touch controls, so adjusting the fit or taking the earbud hosts touch controls, so adjusting the fit or taking the earbud hosts touch controls, so adjusting the fit or taking the earbud hosts touch controls, so adjusting the fit or taking the earbud hosts touch controls, so adjusting the fit or taking the earbud hosts touch controls, so adjusting the earbud hosts touch controls and the earbud hosts touch controls are taking the earbud hosts touch controls.
way that sounded as though the bass notes were being played through a massive car subwoofer just outside. It doesn't lose clarity in the other frequencies, but it has a boomy, distant quality that may not appeal to everyone. Philips Fidelio T1: The charging case is heavy and unnecessarily large, though it has a boomy, distant quality that may not appeal to everyone. Philips Fidelio T1: The charging case is heavy and unnecessarily large, though it has a boomy, distant quality that may not appeal to everyone. Philips Fidelio T1: The charging case is heavy and unnecessarily large, though it has a boomy, distant quality that may not appeal to everyone. Philips Fidelio T1: The charging case is heavy and unnecessarily large, though it has a boomy, distant quality that may not appeal to everyone. Philips Fidelio T1: The charging case is heavy and unnecessarily large, though it has a boomy, distant quality that may not appeal to everyone. Philips Fidelio T1: The charging case is heavy and unnecessarily large, though it has a boomy, distant quality that may not appeal to everyone. Philips Fidelio T1: The charging case is heavy and unnecessarily large, though it has a boomy, distant quality that may not appeal to everyone. Philips Fidelio T1: The charging case is heavy and unnecessarily large, though the philips Fidelio T1: The charging case is heavy and unnecessarily large, the philips Fidelio T1: The charging case is heavy and unnecessarily large, the philips Fidelio T1: The charging case is heavy and unnecessarily large, the philips Fidelio T1: The charging case is heavy and unnecessarily large, the philips Fidelio T1: The charging case is heavy and unnecessarily large, the philips Fidelio T1: The charging case is heavy and unnecessarily large, the philips Fidelio T1: The charging case is heavy and unnecessarily large, the philips Fidelio T1: The charge case is heavy and unnecessarily large case is heavy and unnecessarily large.
leather on the lid. It will not fit in a pocket comfortably, unless you wear cargo pants. The earbuds themselves are also quite big, and medium and small ears won't find them to feel stable. The ANC was unimpressive in our tests, and the microphones picked up the sound of long hair every time the wearer moved their head. Sennheiser Momentum True
Wireless 3: This true wireless pair doesn't do anything particularly poorly, but it doesn't do anything particularly well, either. We appreciated the full suite of touch-based controls, the ANC was effective, and the hear-through mode sounded natural enough to leave on for awareness. The microphones sounded compressed but clear over our test phone
calls, but because the Momentum 3 lacks side-tone, you may find yourself fighting the urge to talk too loudly. If you know you're a fan of Sennheiser's Momentum tuning, you'll like the sound. The bass is broadly boosted, giving low notes a quality that fans call immersive but detractors find blurry. While the highs have a few notable spikes that make
vocals easier to understand, this pair also adds a whistle-like quality to "s" sounds and a sizzling aspect to snare hits. Though the app has manual EQ, EQ presets, and a sound adjustment test, the adjustment test, the adjustment test, the adjustment test, the adjustment test, and a sizzling aspect to snare hits. Though the app has manual EQ, EQ presets, and a sound adjustment test, the adjustment test, the adjustment test, the adjustment test, the adjustment test, and a sizzling aspect to snare hits.
securely enough to handle high-impact movements, and the cube shape is likely to pose a fit issue for small ears. Those with large ears may also want to buy XL third-party tips, as the included tips may not seal large canals. Sennheiser fans may like this pair, but for most other folks, it isn't compelling enough to merit its original $250 price. Xiaomi
Buds 3T Pro: This pair will fit only diminutive ears; people with medium to large ears will find that the tiny earbuds don't get enough purchase to stay put. This loose fit is exacerbated by the squeeze controls, which cause you to dislodge the earbuds every time you try to play or pause your music. If this pair does fit you, it can produce pretty good
sound, with a balanced profile that isn't exciting but also isn't boomy or overly sibilant. The noise cancellation seemed to reduce some low-frequency noises in our tests, but it didn't wow us, and it isn't effective if you can't get a proper ear-tip seal. We tested these earbuds for previous updates: 1 More ColorBuds 2: These true wireless earbuds add
noise cancellation to the original ColorBuds. They are small and should fit most ears, and we like the tiny charging case. However, the only controls are play/pause and could have used some lower-end oomph to balance them out.1More
ComfoBuds Pro: These earbuds cancel noise very well and sound great, but they don't have any track controls other than play/pause, and they don't power down without the case. Folks who prioritize ANC earbuds and get these instead. But we
think that, for everyday use, you may want to spend more to get more. Amazon Echo Buds (2nd Gen): The biggest benefit of the second-generation Echo Buds (2nd Gen) is your only (and a totally acceptable)
choice. However, the Echo-specific benefits like Echo device drop-ins, voice product ordering, Amazon Prime Music, and so forth are accessible via the Alexa app in your phone, regardless of what earbuds you choose. When evaluated sans Alexa, the Echo Buds (2nd Gen) is an above average pair of earbuds with only average noise cancellation.
Despite the stabilizing wings and four pairs of tips, the buds themselves might be a little large for smaller ears. The controls are limited, and the five-hour battery life is middling. Apple AirPods Pro earbuds represent a major step up over the basic AirPods Pro earbuds represent a major step up over the basic AirPods Pro earbuds represent a major step up over the basic AirPods Pro earbuds represent a major step up over the basic AirPods Pro earbuds represent a major step up over the basic AirPods Pro earbuds represent a major step up over the basic AirPods Pro earbuds represent a major step up over the basic AirPods Pro earbuds represent a major step up over the basic AirPods Pro earbuds represent a major step up over the basic AirPods Pro earbuds represent a major step up over the basic AirPods Pro earbuds represent a major step up over the basic AirPods Pro earbuds represent a major step up over the basic AirPods Pro earbuds represent a major step up over the basic AirPods Pro earbuds represent a major step up over the basic AirPods Pro earbuds represent a major step up over the basic AirPods Pro earbuds represent a major step up over the basic AirPods Pro earbuds represent a major step up over the basic AirPods Pro earbuds represent a major step up over the basic AirPods Pro earbuds represent a major step up over the basic AirPods Pro earbuds represent a major step up over the basic AirPods Pro earbuds represent a major step up over the basic AirPods Pro earbuds represent a major step up over the basic AirPods Pro earbuds represent a major step up over the basic AirPods Pro earbuds represent a major step up over the basic AirPods Pro earbuds represent a major step up over the basic AirPods Pro earbuds represent a major step up over the basic AirPods Pro earbuds represent a major step up over the basic AirPods Pro earbuds represent a major step up over the basic AirPods Pro earbuds represent a major step up over the basic AirPods Pro earbuds represent a major step up over the basic AirPods Pro earbuds repr
are good for Apple fans, they may not be worth the price for everyone else. We found that the active noise cancellation was decent, with an average of 8 dB in reduction, but that result isn't as good as the less-expensive 1More True Wireless ANC's average reduction of 18.2 dB, and the AirPods Pro may cause "eardrum suck" for some people. With a
battery life of four and a half hours, they won't last through a cross-country flight or a full workday without a charging break. Additionally, they don't work with a cable, so you can't use them with in-flight entertainment that requires a cord. While we like that Apple did away with the tap-based controls, the squeeze controls are fiddly (we often played
or paused when we wanted to skip tracks) and still lack volume controls. In the end, we don't dislike the AirPods Pro; we just like using other earbuds a little better. Audio-Technica ATH-ANC300TW: This true wireless pair does a decent job of reducing noise. However, despite the inclusion of four sizes of silicone tips and one pair of Comply tips, the
larger earbud chassis shape and a lack of stabilizing wings may make it more challenging for people with petite ears to get a good fit. The buttons are easy to use for track and volume control, though we couldn't suss out how to activate a digital assistant and saw no mention of it in the manual. As for sound quality, the forward bass and spiked treble
made drums sound unnatural, as though the impact and resonant aspects were disconnected. On top of that, for sensitive listeners, consonants could become fatiguing over longer listening sessions. Ausounds AU-Flex ANC: If you like a brighter sound profile, the AU-Flex earbuds are a great introductory effort from a newer company. They're best
suited to high-end audio fans looking for a more convenient commuter design. But the ANC was only mild in our tests, and we'd like a little more bass foundation. Brent, in his review for SoundStage Solo, came to the same conclusion. Ausounds AU-Frequency ANC: The ANC is less than effective, and the sound quality makes bass notes sound odd—like
you're listening to a band in front of a parking garage, and only the subwoofer is in the garage itself, so the bass notes are blobby and echoed and everything else is clear. Ausounds AU-Stream Hybrid: We loved the petite charging case, which would fit in a jeans key pocket. For our panel, the earbuds were comfortable but on the larger side, so people
with smaller ears will likely want to look elsewhere. The tap-based controls can get annoying if you have to use them frequently. The sound quality was by no means objectionable, but the highs had a shushing quality, and snares, strings, and cymbal hits sounded a bit unnatural. Interestingly, the hear-through mode seemed to have a volume limiter, so
sudden sounds caused the loudness to dip. This seems like a good idea—unless you need to have a conversation with someone and a car passes by every few seconds. Overall these earbuds have a diminutive size that will fit most ears well, though this
pair lacks fit-stabilizing wings or hooks, so folks with very small ear canals may find that these feel less stable than a pair with added support. While the IPX4 water-resistance rating means the Studio Buds is the characteristic hyped
Beats sound (with extra emphasis in the highs and lows that can make consonants and basslines pop a touch more forcefully in the mix), which many people will find exciting, especially for hip-hop and electronic pop. The Studio Buds offer better-than-average active noise cancellation that is useful for reducing air conditioner or airplane sound, but
doesn't rival that of the 1More True Wireless or the over-ear AirPods Max. The control buttons are well designed—they are generally easy to find by feel and press without painfully mashing the earbuds into your ear canal. But they lack volume control. Unlike other Beats headphones, the Studio Buds are compatible with Android one-touch pairing, in
addition to pairing to Apple mobile devices with ease, and can support the assistants for both mobile operating systems—but this also means there is no "always listening" Siri. The microphone quality is perfectly acceptable, but lacks some detail and wind resistance. Though the Studio Buds support Apple Music's Dolby Spatial Audio, they do not offer
head-tracking features. If you're looking for the Beats true wireless experience for under $200, the Studio Buds are sure to make you happy. Bose QuietComfort 20: Available in either an Apple-friendly version, this wired pair offers the some of the best noise cancelling we've measured from any in-ear headphones (without
producing the eardrum suck that you might experience with the over-ear QuietComfort 35 Series II). These headphone jacks. However, the QC20 doesn't sound quite as good as our other earbud picks, nor does it have wireless capabilities, so you'd
need an adapter for mobile devices lacking a headphone jack. Bose QuietComfort Earbuds: Despite their significantly larger-than-normal earbud size, the QC Earbuds fit very comfortably. The sound quality is very good, too; if you're familiar with the signature Bose sound, this pair won't disappoint. However, wearing this pair is an unusual experience
The noise cancellation is exceptional between 150 and 200 Hz, but it's only average in every other frequency range. That means one specific part of airplane noise will be almost completely cut out, like a donut hole of quiet surrounded by muffed noise. The 1More True Wireless ANC earbuds (which cost around $100 less) reduce noise as well as or
better than the QC Earbuds with other frequencies. Plus, the Bose charging case is the size of a guest-bathroom bar of soap—definitely not pocket size. There are no volume controls, and the hear-through feature is activated by removing one earbud, which in our opinion defeats the point. All in all, this pair had too many flaws and odd design choices
bass-forward sound that B&W is known for. The PI7 has adaptive noise cancellation and a case that doubles as a Bluetooth transmitter—but the audio quality via the case transmitter was poor. The onboard controls are touch-based, have the tendency to misfire, and lack volume capabilities. In order to use the hear-through feature, you need to access
the app on your phone, which is more cumbersome than taking an earbud out. We were disappointed that such promising earbuds could be ultimately derailed by poor user-interface choices. Our panelist Brent Butterworth agrees. Cleer Ally Plus II: These true wireless earbuds feature adaptive ANC that is very effective. However, the sound quality
isn't the most appealing: Low notes are too forward and bloated, while high pitches have a sizzling quality to them. Unfortunately, the app-based EQ doesn't help adjust the sound in the necessary ways. We also wish the onboard controls weren't so limited. The 11-hour battery life per charge is impressive, but the solid battery life and good noise-
reduction performance aren't enough to make the Plus II a top pick. EarFun Air Pro 2: This pair had quite effective ANC, but the earbud shape and long stem made it difficult for our panelists with larger ears to get a seal. The touch controls were a bit fussy, and the dominance of bass in the sound meant that this pair wasn't an overall favorite. EarFun Air Pro 2: This pair had quite effective ANC, but the earbud shape and long stem made it difficult for our panelists with larger ears to get a seal. The touch controls were a bit fussy, and the dominance of bass in the sound meant that this pair wasn't an overall favorite.
Free Pro 2: These true wireless earbuds are great at noise cancelling and are very comfortable, but the overpowering bass and lispy-sounding hear-through mode make this set less successful as noise-reducing earplugs. Edifier NeoBuds Pro: These started as an Indiagogo campaign, but they can be bought via retail as
of August 2021. We liked the large amount of included color-coded tips, which make getting a proper fit a breeze. The case has a Kitt from KnightRider vibe, with a ping-ponging red light. The noise cancellation is excellent: Though this pair doesn't reduce noise quite as well as our top ANC picks, it does a really good job on sustained, low-pitched
sounds. But music playback has a bit too much bass, and the bump extends too far into the upper lows, so there is a reverb-y quality that can't be EQed out in the app. The microphones are clear on calls, but in windy conditions the signal processing makes your voice bizarrely bass-like. You won't hear much wind, but your caller may ask why you
suddenly sound so weird. And we were sad to see that you can adjust. Edifier TWS NB2 Pro: These earbuds are a decent choice if you want good active noise cancellation but don't care about earbud-based controls. Each earbud can have only two assigned controls (so play/pause or
track forward or ANC mode), and this pair doesn't power down without the case. But we did appreciate that you can adjust the touch-control sensitivity in the Edifier app. The sound is boosted in the low frequencies in a way that can muddy male voices, but it has lovely mids and highs on less bass-heavy songs. Our voices sounded clear over phone
calls, though the right earbud picked up wind noise in blustery conditions. Also, the textured coating means the stem that extends from the earbuds can transfer some noise if you have long or thick hair that brushes against them, and this can be especially pronounced in hear-through mode. EnacFire A9: The included tips run small, so folks with larger
ear canals may struggle to get a seal. The sonic tuning is bloated in the upper lows, so acoustic guitar sounds like it has reverb on it, yet songs with a deep bassline lose their oomph. The active noise cancellation is useful for airplane rumble, but the isolation is minimal, so you'll still hear a good bit of other higher-pitched sounds like conversations,
cars, etc. Though the touch controls offer track, volume, call, and digital assistant callup, it's easy to accidentally trigger them when adjusting the earbuds in your ears. House of Marley Redemption ANC true wireless earbuds were lacking in other
areas. The tap-based controls require an uncomfortable amount of force to activate, and they respond inconsistently. Additionally, in our tests the active noise cancellation was extremely minimal, and the overall sound quality was muffled. Jabra Elite 85t: There is a lot to like about these earbuds. They're very small and comfortable, with easy-to-use
controls. They have adjustable noise cancellation (including variation between each ear), fantastic wind-resistant microphones for clear calls, IPX4 water resistance, a 6-hour battery life, a useful hear-through mode, a very small charging case that's Qi compatible, and a two-year warranty. However, this pair isn't as good at reducing
expensive 1More True Wireless ANC earbuds, and the included tips run on the smaller side, so Brent (who has larger ear canals) couldn't get a seal at all. If the tips were a standard shape, we might not call this a dealbreaker, but the sound tube and tips are an unusual oblong shape that may make it difficult to find larger replacement tips. JBL Reflect
Mini NC: The Reflect Mini NC is a great pair of gym headphones, but it does a better job at reducing noise through isolation than via active noise. If you're looking for a pair of workout headphones, check out our guide for our
thoughts on how the Reflect Mini NC compares to our picks, but if noise cancellation is a priority, these aren't the earbuds you're looking for. JBL Tour Pro+: These earbuds look a little on the large size, but the chassis is contoured in a way that will allow them to fit most ears comfortably. Five pairs of included tips and two stabilizing winglets also
help hold the buds in place. An IPX4 rating means a little rain or sweat won't hurt them. This pair performs excellently all around. Right out of the box the sound is fantastic, with deep bass notes that don't overwhelm and clear, detailed highs—if it isn't a Harman curve tuning, it's darn close. The adaptive noise cancellation isn't as dramatic as on our
top picks, but it is absolutely effective and helpful in reducing airplane noise or air conditioner hum. Pixel users will appreciate the "Hey Google" compatibility. The tap-based controls are less prone to fussiness and less likely to be inadvertently bumped. But you can't get full controls at once—through the app, you must choose at least one option to be
left off. And though the microphones are clear on phone calls and handle wind well, we didn't notice sidetone, which could be key to avoiding yelling when you're talking. Those minor flaws were enough to keep these earbuds from being a pick, but if these things aren't dealbreakers for you, the Pro+ pair is a solid alternative. JLab Epic Air ANC: This
pair fits pretty comfortably and comes with six pairs of ear tips, which should help most folks get a good seal. We were also impressed with the 12-hour battery life. The noise cancellation is successful enough to be useful in reducing air-conditioner or airplane noise, but otherwise the Epic Air ANCs offer a middle-of-the-road experience. The tap-based
controls are customizable, but you need to choose three for each ear, which means at least one key control (ANC on/off, volume, track reverse) is excluded. The ambient awareness feature is louder in the left ear, which is distracting during a conversation. Though the EQ can be adjusted in the app, the adjustments are tricky—and the sound quality
still has a coarse quality to high frequencies, even after making EQ adjustments. JLab Epic Executive: We got pretty good noise cancelling from this set, but the sound was a little too soft for our taste, and the microphone sounded quiet and muffled over phone calls. JLab Epic Air Sport ANC: The overall design felt comfortable to wear, and we like the
case's built-in USB cable. The active noise cancellation is mild, but it cuts down the sound of low hums like that of an air conditioner. The sound quality on the primary EQ setting is bass heavy, but not terribly so. You can still hear male vocals clearly enough on bass-intense songs. The app has EQ that can balance out the lows (if you take the time to
adjust it). The claimed 11 to 15 hours of battery life is quite impressive. The only real issue we had was with the tap-based controls, which are rather fussy. For example, when we meant to adjust the volume, we instead paused the music. In the middle of a workout, this type of thing could be very frustrating. But if you don't plan on using the controls
frequently, this pair is otherwise a decent option. KEF Mu3: The Mu3 is one of the best-sounding pairs of true wireless earbuds we've tested—but the noise cancellation is mild. Though you're likely to notice a small reduction in volume in the airplane band, the overall effect is middle-of-the-road and feels like an afterthought rather than a key feature.
You can read more about this pair in our wireless Bluetooth earbuds guide. Klipsch T5 II ANC version: This pair offers some interesting bonus features such as gesture-based controls, but the noise cancellation wasn't stellar, the physical buttons caused us to push the earbuds uncomfortably into our ears, and the $300 asking price makes the flaws
more noticeable. Master & Dynamic MW08: These true wireless earbuds have stellar build quality, with an earbud chassis made from ceramic and stainless steel and a small but weighty metal charging case. The noise cancellation on the "max" setting is guite effective on low-frequency sounds, so travelers looking to reduce plane noise will be satisfied
with the performance. Those who are prone to eardrum suck may prefer the less-intense "all day ANC" mode. The battery life of 10 hours per charge feature that powers both the earbuds and case from 0 to 50 percent capacity after just 15 minutes plugged in. The earbuds are IPX5 rated, so they can handle some
rain or sweat. The physical buttons are easy to understand and activate, though folks with large fingers may struggle a bit with the teeny volume toggle. The sound quality is excellent, but because these are $300 earbuds, we feel the need to quibble. The over-emphasis on both bass notes and high frequencies is fun but doesn't feel fully authentic. The
soundstage is less three-dimensional than we'd prefer in a premium product. While the microphones handle calls clearly and reduce background noise well, we prefer some side-tone to avoid the urge to speak too loudly. But if money isn't a concern and you like the luxurious look, you'll be happy with the MW08.Marshall Motif ANC:
These headphones have above-average noise cancellation, and the transparency mode sounds more authentic than that of most earbuds. But larger ears may have a tough time getting a seal due to the earbuds and lows
that Marshall is famous for, the highs had a harsh edge that made strings sound edgy, as if amplified by a cheap speaker. Nothing Ear 1: These earbuds offer a futuristic look and guite good active noise cancellation, but the sound is less impressive. Despite the availability of a handful of EQ options, the bass notes in our tests had a mushy quality,
lacking definition and clarity, and the highs had a jagged frequency response that caused every "s" to sound as though it were coming from between cupped hands. The microphones were quite good at reducing wind noise for callers, though we wished we had an option for sidetone. Though the Ear 1 has volume, play/pause, skip, and
ANC/transparency toggle controls, we missed having track-reverse and digital-assistant call-up. Padmate Pamu Z1: This pair had middling noise cancellation and sound—the performance wasn't the best we heard. There are no volume controls, the buttons' tap-based activation can be fussy, and the microphones caused us
to sound a little compressed to callers. The price of the Z1 seems to vary by the week, so it's hard to compare in that regard, but we found the "balanced" setting to be the most enjoyable, though still overly bloated and blurry in
the bass frequencies. The touch controls can be a little fussy, and it requires four presses to call up your digital assistant, which can feel a tad excessive. The hear-through function is pretty good, and the noise cancellation performs effectively on sustained low-frequency noises, but the silicone tips don't isolate very well so you'll still hear voices and
higher-pitched sounds rather clearly. If that bothers you, Raycon includes three pairs of foam tips, which are more effective. The microphone is not as clear as your phone handset, but it works well enough in a quiet room.RHA True Control ANC: We love the abundance of eartips included (10 pairs!), as well as the three-year
warranty. But the earbuds themselves are so thick that only those who have the largest of ears will find them to be comfortable. Two of our panelists found their ears aching after only a brief listening session. Additionally the touch controls are sensitive, so adjusting the fit will often cause you to play or pause your music. Out of the box, the sound
quality is warm, and while we'd like a touch more sparkle on higher frequencies to balance out the mildly emphasized lows, it's a minor concern. There are EQ settings available through the app, but all of them were too extreme to be pleasant. The ANC does make a dent in the airplane band, but overall the ANC isn't a standout. Samsung Galaxy
Buds2: These earbuds fit comfortably and securely. Out of the box, the sound was pretty good but a little dull. Unfortunately the EQ was heavy-handed and wasn't able to address the lack of detail in the highs. We wish this pair had more controls, and we're also kinda disappointed that you have to download a separate app on Galaxy phones; usually,
seamless connectivity is the entire reason to buy earbuds in the same ecosystem as your mobile device. Samsung phones. They've gotten mixed reviews from places like Engadget and Cnet, who claim the sound is mostly good, but the noise
cancellation isn't very effective and the fit can be tricky for smaller ears. As such, we don't recommend these for folks who need good noise reduction. Samsung Galaxy Buds Pro: For Galaxy users who want always-listening Bixby, these are the best option available. Seamless connecting means that once you pair the Pro to a device that is signed in with
your Samsung account, all other Samsung devices to which you're signed in will automatically be paired as well. The microphone quality is impressively clear, even in wind. The sound quality is enjoyable, though a touch on the bass-heavy side. The ambient awareness mode can be triggered by speaking, but if you stop talking to listen to your
conversation partner, it shuts off after 15 seconds, which is mildly annoying. The controls are limited: play/pause, tracks, and answering calls are always accessible, but you must choose between ANC on/off, Bixby, Spotify, or volume. Both the case and earbuds are very small, but the included tips run on the smaller size, so folks with large ear canals
may have to buy third-party tips to get a seal. The noise cancellation is minimal, and the earbuds themselves don't isolate very well. If you're a Samsung devotee who wants to access all the features your Galaxy device has to offer, you'll likely be happy with these, but users of other devices will be better suited by our picks. Skullcandy Indy ANC: The
tap controls have a serious learning curve, and the sensor is small enough that it's easy to miss if you're trying to tap while in motion. That might seem like no big deal, but when different actions are activated by triple and double taps, it's really annoying to have one tap not register. The ambient awareness mode is fine for having a conversation, but
sounds very compressed, so you won't want to use these for minding traffic around you. Music will sound very bass forward, even if you do the app-based hearing test that adjusts the EQ for you. The noise cancellation is effective enough to be helpful but is outshined by the performance of our top picks. Skullcandy Method ANC: The active noise
cancellation on this pair is pretty mild, and the included tips aren't large enough to fit the ear canals of folks who usually wear most brands' large enough to fit the ear canals of folks who usually wear most brands' large enough to fit the ear canals of folks who usually wear most brands' large enough to fit the ear canals of folks who usually wear most brands' large enough to fit the ear canals of folks who usually wear most brands' large enough to fit the ear canals of folks who usually wear most brands' large enough to fit the ear canals of folks who usually wear most brands' large enough to fit the ear canals of folks who usually wear most brands' large enough to fit the ear canals of folks who usually wear most brands' large enough to fit the ear canals of folks who usually wear most brands' large enough to fit the ear canals of folks who usually wear most brands' large enough to fit the ear canals of folks who usually wear most brands' large enough to fit the ear canals of folks who usually wear most brands' large enough to fit the ear canals of folks who usually wear most brands' large enough to fit the ear canals of folks who usually wear most brands' large enough to fit the ear canals of folks who usually wear most brands' large enough to fit the ear canals of folks who usually wear most brands' large enough to fit the ear canals of folks who usually wear most brands' large enough to fit the ear canals of folks who usually wear most brands' large enough to fit the ear canals of folks who usually wear most brands' large enough to fit the ear canals of folks who usually wear most brands' large enough to fit the ear canals of folks who usually wear most brands' large enough to fit the ear canals of folks who usually wear most brands' large enough to fit the ear canals of folks who usually wear most brands' large enough to fit the ear canals of folks who usually wear most brands' large enough to fit the ear canals of folks who usually wear most brands' large enough to fit the ear canals of folks who usu
out. Although the controls are customizable, you can have only two button activated at one time, so you're forced to choose among volume, track controls, digital-assistant activation, and ANC on/off. The sound out of the box is quite good and the noise cancelling is useful for reducing loud fan-like noises, but the interface and fit were enough
to give us pause in making this pair a pick. Soul Emotion Pro: These earbuds fit comfortably in part because of the seven pairs of included tips. The transparency mode sounded more natural than that of many competitors. However, the noise cancellation was only so-so, and the low frequencies were boosted too broadly. The sound had an echo-like
quality even with acoustic guitar, and the app-based EQ was unable to adequately adjust it. Soundcore Liberty 3 Pro: This pair has a lot of fantastic features, so we were extra disappointed when certain aspects fell short. First, the good: The ANC was quite effective, the wind-noise reduction was impressive, and the light-up case is honestly cool. We
initially liked the stabilizing wings because the earbuds felt very secure, but after an hour of wearing, our ears began to ache. This pair fell short of our picks in sound quality, as it produced a sibilant edge to vocals that EQ couldn't remove. And though this pair offers dual-device connectivity, we found that enabling it led to an excessive amount of
connection stuttering. A good bit of these flaws could be fixed by firmware, so if Soundcore makes improvements, we'd be open to reevaluation. Soundcore these flaws could be fixed by firmware, so if Soundcore makes improvements, we'd be open to reevaluation. Soundcore makes improvements, we'd be open to reevaluation.
(which is an impressive eight pairs) but because the stem and short sound tube design make it impossible to push the earbuds deeper into your ear to get more stability or an improved seal. If you do get a good fit, the Air 2 Pro offers up a lot of bells and whistles for a competitive price: a hearing test that adjusts the EQ, an audio-based fit test,
multiple noise-cancelling modes, and a background-noise-reducing microphone for calls. The sound quality is quite impressive in the 800- to 100-Hz range, but it isn't as great on very low-pitched sounds, which may make those who are sensitive to eardrum suck want to
avoid the strongest ANC setting. Overall, folks looking for an alternative to the AirPods Pro will be happy with these earbuds...as long as they fit. Soundcore Life P3: This pair is a mix of pros and cons. They sounded quite good for true wireless earbuds under $80. Out of the box, the highs in our tests were sibilant, but you can adjust that kind of thing
using the equalizer tool in the Soundcore app. However, the limited controls are a bummer. Though the microphones handle wind noise relatively well, your voice will sound compressed to your conversation partner. We found the fit to be comfortable, but this pair didn't feel as secure as it might with optional stabilizing wings. TCL MoveAudio S600:
This pair is compatible with "OK Google" on Android phones, but not with the Google app on a non-Android phone, but not in a heavy-handed way. The S600 pair is very enjoyable to use. Even though the controls are customizable in the app, you can choose only a few to
assign, so you'll need to use your phone for some controls. The included tips don't isolate very well, so although the noise cancellation takes the edge off of the lower-pitched hum of a plane engine, you'll still hear the edge off of the lower-pitched hum of a plane engine, you'll still hear the edge off of the lower-pitched hum of a plane engine, you'll still hear the edge off of the lower-pitched hum of a plane engine, you'll still hear the edge off of the lower-pitched hum of a plane engine, you'll still hear the edge off of the lower-pitched hum of a plane engine, you'll still hear the edge off of the lower-pitched hum of a plane engine, you'll still hear the edge off of the lower-pitched hum of a plane engine, you'll still hear the edge off of the lower-pitched hum of a plane engine, you'll still hear the edge off of the lower-pitched hum of a plane engine, you'll still hear the edge off of the lower-pitched hum of a plane engine, you'll still hear the edge off of the lower-pitched hum of a plane engine, you'll still hear the edge off of the lower-pitched hum of a plane engine, you'll still hear the edge off of the lower-pitched hum of a plane engine, you'll still hear the edge off of the lower-pitched hum of a plane engine, you'll still hear the edge off of the lower-pitched hum of a plane engine, you'll still hear the edge off of the lower-pitched hum of a plane engine en
earbuds, you leave the case open with the earbuds inside for 10 seconds. We can imagine many situations that could lead to the case inadvertently being left open and earbuds that will require re-pairing. It's not the end of the world, but it's a silly design flaw that could easily have been avoided. Technics EAH-AZ60: The larger earbuds make this pair
tougher to keep in place for smaller ears. The sound was good, but the bass notes had a slightly resonant quality that we couldn't get rid of with EQ, and similarly we weren't able to reduce the spike in the 7 to 8 kHz range that added an overemphasized sibilance to strings and vocals. The noise cancellation was very effective, as was the wind
reduction for the microphone. If this pair fits you and you don't mind slightly fussy touch controls, the AZ60 is a solid pair of earbuds. Technics EAH-AZ70W: The flaws on this pair of true wireless earbuds are relatively minor. The larger size means they likely won't fit smaller ears, the controls aren't the most intuitive to learn, and there is a high-
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frequency peak that gives strings a metallic edge. We liked that the ANC is useful for lower frequencies and is adjustable, and that there are five sizes of silicone tips included. So if your outer ear can accommodate the chassis, you'll likely be able to get a good seal. Aside from that slight high-frequency peak, the sound quality is rather balanced, but it lacks the sonic depth of field that we'd like to hear for the original \$250 asking price. Nothing is majorly wrong with the AZ70W, but with so much steep competition, just being good isn't good enough. Tribit FlyBuds NC: If noise cancellation is your priority, these aren't your earbuds. The ANC is so mild, it's really not helpful. Urbanista London: The



