

Parameter	Speakers	Headphones
$f$ response	Typically 40Hz to 20kHz $\pm 3\text{dB}$	Typically 20Hz to 20kHz $\pm 3\text{dB}$
SPL level	Typically 80 to 90 dB SPL @ 1m for 1W.	Typically 90 to 100 dB SPL for 1mW
Crossover	At least one	None usually
Distortion (THD)	Typically 3%	0.5% possible
Clarity	Dependant on price	Excellent for \$ spent
Spaciousness	Usually good (dependant on room acoustics)	Limited
Localisation	A good 'soundstage' is possible	Poor, due to bypassing the pinna (no HRTF)
Stereo width	True, providing speakers are spaced correctly	Artificial (too wide) on music mixed for speakers
Bass vibration	Yes	No
Comfort	N/A	Varies
Movement restrictions	Few, but the 'sweet spot' is usually small	Set by cable length (None for mobile systems)
Isolation	None	Yes
Sharing the Experience	Yes (+for social, -for annoyance)	No
Surround	Yes	Few options