

# iPOD HEAVEN

Spend more time listening to music on-the-go than in your home? You'll need luxury headphones...

## 1 KLIPSCH CUSTOM-3 £150

★★★★★

A clip runs over your ear to keep the Custom 3s in place. Sonically, they have an excellent, balanced and detailed delivery, but they are a touch hard and suffer from a smidge of clutter with a complicated ensemble.

## 2 SLEEKAUDIO SA6 £140

★★★★★

These headphones allow you to tailor the sound to your own tastes using a selection of bass ports and treble tips. Using the medium setup, the SA6s offer a big sound, with plenty of detail and clarity. We found them fussier over fitting than others here, and they leak noise – but are a worthy audition.

## 3 KLIPSCH IMAGE £200

★★★★★

These fine headphones are comfortable and secure. Music is delivered with exceptional clarity and tonal balance, and you get a bigger, more open soundstage than you'd think possible. £200 is a lot, but these headphones are a worthy winner.

## 4 SHURE SE310 £170

★★★★★

Few headphones offer the variety of buds the Shures do: triple-flange, foam or rubber bud, they're all here. Once in, the SE310s produce a terrific, rich sound, full of detail and texture. Bass is warm and full-bodied, treble is well-behaved, and the midrange is clear and smooth. An easy five stars.

## 5 ETYMOTIC RESEARCH ER-4P £150

★★★★★

The 4Ps, at the top of Etymotic Research's line-up, offer a clear and detailed midrange, which makes the most of vocals. Yet treble and bass are too far back in the mix, and neither is perfect: the top end comes across a little hard, the bottom end won't quite go deep enough.

## 6 SONY MDR-EX700LP £200

★★★★★

Load up a tune through these comfy Sonys and the wide soundstage and sweet midrange immediately impress. But extended listening reveals a performance that's a little soporific compared with the best. There's a touch of harshness at the top end, too. We expect more for £200.

## 7 AUDIO-TECHNICA ATH-EM9D £150

★★★★★

One for those who aren't keen on ear bud designs. They leak noise more than any other set here, and don't isolate ambient sounds. Still, for pure sonic ability, these headphones are great, offering a spacious, detailed, balanced delivery.

