

Review: PreSonus Eris HD10BT

These over-ears headphones can be connected classically with a cable, but they also support Bluetooth and even offer active noise suppression. **by Jan Wilking**

Features

Closed-back Headphones
Circumaural
Cable or Bluetooth
Noise-Cancelling
40 mm Driver
20 - 20000 Hz
Impedance: 16 Ohm



Facts

Manufacturer: PreSonus
Web: presonus.com
Price: 116 Euro

- ▲ Highly Adaptable
- ▲ Solid Workmanship
- ▲ Great Sound (Cable)
- ▲ Bluetooth Remote
- ▲ Noise Suppression
- ▼ No HQ Audio Codecs

Sound: ■■■■■□
Build: ■■■■■□
Price/Perf: ■■■■■□
Rating: ■■■■■□

Alternatives

JVC HA-S65BN
77 Euro
jvc.com

Pioneer SE-S6
116 Euro
pioneer-headphones.com

Sennheiser HD 450BT
149 Euro
sennheiser.com

With its features, these headphones are recommended for stationary use in a desktop studio as well as for producing or pure music enjoyment on the road. For mobile use, these space-saving headphones can be folded and transported in the supplied case. They have a very rugged design and the most important components are made of metal instead of plastic. This makes the headphones, which weigh a good 350 grams, look more expensive than many of its competitors. The oval cups can be folded, tilted and swivelled, which, together with the angled mounting, increases the fit and comfort of these headphones. In the test, the headphones sat securely and snugly enough on the head to neither slip nor press uncomfortably. The soft imitation leather of the padding feels nice to the touch, but you should expect some heat build-up, especially in summer.

With or Without Cable

These headphones can be connected by cable to a sound card, amplifier or mobile device. A high-quality mini jack cable and a suitable adapter to a 6.3mm jack are included. The headphones can also be connected wirelessly via Bluetooth. The manufacturer promises a good 17 hours of running time when listening at a higher volume. After two hours of testing, the battery indicator matched this

In Bluetooth mode, you control your mobile device with the buttons on the side.



statement. With the noise suppression activated, the running time was reduced as expected, but should still be about 12 hours. If the battery is drained, it can be fully recharged in about 3 hours using the USB cable provided.

Bluetooth with Remote

In the test, the headphones were easily connected to iOS and Android devices via Bluetooth. The range could be better, but this doesn't matter in a desktop studio or mobile production anyway, since you won't be further than 5 to 6 meters away from the playback device. When listening to music, the three big buttons on the right side are handy for starting and stopping tracks and jumping to the next or previous track. You can also answer and end phone calls with the big central button, and we noticed the excellent speech intelligibility. Please note, however, that the HD10BT does not support high quality audio codecs like aptX or AAC; therefore, you'll have to accept a certain amount of audio quality loss in wireless operation.

Balanced Sound

In the sound test, the headphones are powerful and offer more than sufficient volume levels. We liked the contoured and clean bass, which is not as overemphasized as with many other headphones and, therefore, allows you to mix your own tracks. The trebles are not exaggerated either. Overall, the HD10BT have a rather centered sound image and a pleasing warm and rounded

sound. The details are also clearly defined; at least via cable. Via Bluetooth, the overall sound is a bit less finely resolved, which isn't a big deal when you're on the road. We liked the overall tuning a lot in both operating modes - at least when noise suppression is deactivated.

Noise Cancelling

Immediately after activating the noise suppression via a switch on the left side of the headphones, a certain feeling of isolation and seclusion from the outside world sets in. In addition, the reproduction of the deep bass, which is rather modest in normal operation, is greatly enhanced. This makes the bass response a bit spongy, which makes it difficult to mix when noise suppression is activated. On the other hand, this bass emphasis is quite practical, because it allows you to switch on the subwoofer if necessary and hear how your mix would sound on Dr. Beats or comparable bass-heavy headphones and systems. Furthermore, when travelling by train, this deliberate low bass effectively cuts out annoying low-frequency external noises.

Verdict

The HD10BT is a true all-rounder. Wired, these very well-crafted headphones offer a balanced and detailed sound. If necessary, they can be folded small and used wirelessly via Bluetooth while on the move. The integrated remote buttons allow extensive remote control and you can leave your mobile device in your pocket. Loud outside noises, especially low-frequency noise when travelling by train, can be effectively masked out with the noise suppression function; simultaneously a decent bass boost can be activated for listening pleasure. ❖❖

