

HI-FI THRILLS

Don't like in-ear buds but want something portable? These on-ear cans are just the ticket

Beyerdynamic **T50p** £240 ★★★★★

Last month's *First Test* of the T50ps was little short of effusive. The nearest we could find to a criticism concerned the looks - as a lightweight (174g), closed-back design ideal for use while out and about, we wondered if their styling might deter people.

But if anything, that feeling has been leavened by lining the T50ps up alongside these seven nominal competitors. It's also reinforced our impression that these cans are, pound-for-pound, among the best.

There are simply no meaningful flaws in the way the T50ps go about reproducing music. A lossless file of Steve Mason's *Boys Outside* sounds full-bodied and purposeful: there's clarity and bite at the top of the frequency range, tremendous poise and eloquence

in the midrange and taut, punchy bass. Timing is natural, rhythms and tempos sound unforced, and integration is smooth.

Feed them Duke Ellington's *New Orleans Suite*, and the T50ps don't break stride. Big dynamic variances are dispatched confidently, and their even-handedness minimises fatigue in long listening sessions. They aren't wrong-footed by tricky time signatures and bass notes start and stop right on the money.

On top of all this, they're comfy, resist heating your ears up too much and don't thump through their wiring. The T50ps are about as good as it gets.

Rating ★★★★★

FOR Lightweight and comfy; controlled, authoritative and engaging sound

AGAINST The looks aren't for everyone

VERDICT Intimidatingly capable and quirky-looking headphones that deserve full consideration

BEFORE YOU BUY

These are all closed-back designs, but some leak sound more than others. Important if you're using yours in public.

