



Beyerdynamic T50P First Impression

JULY 14, 2010 | BY [MIKE](#) | [FEATURED](#), [PORTABLES](#)

I just received the super cool looking Beyer T50p portable headphone. Brief comparison to the other closed headphones (HD25-1, Shure SRH-840) reveals that the T50p is much superior in resolution. It's really a baby T1, and it would seriously challenge the supremacy of more expensive portables like the ATH-ES10 and the Ultrasone Edition 8 in technicalities. The treble is pretty much the best I've heard on portable headphones, getting very close to the T1's treble territory. Very clear treble, very well extended, and yet very smooth and effortless, and in some ways reminiscent of the treble in Stax Lambdas. The Edition 8, though a very fine headphone by itself (you can find the review [here](#)), simply can't match the treble resolution of the T50p. I think Beyerdynamic has succeeded in creating a truly revolutionary product in the T50p than they did with the T1. Clearly, the full size, 600 Ohms T1 headphone is still superior in terms of technicalities. But what I mean is that while the T1's performance doesn't stand out so much in the realm of flagship full size headphones, the T50p is truly a revelation in the class that it's competing in.

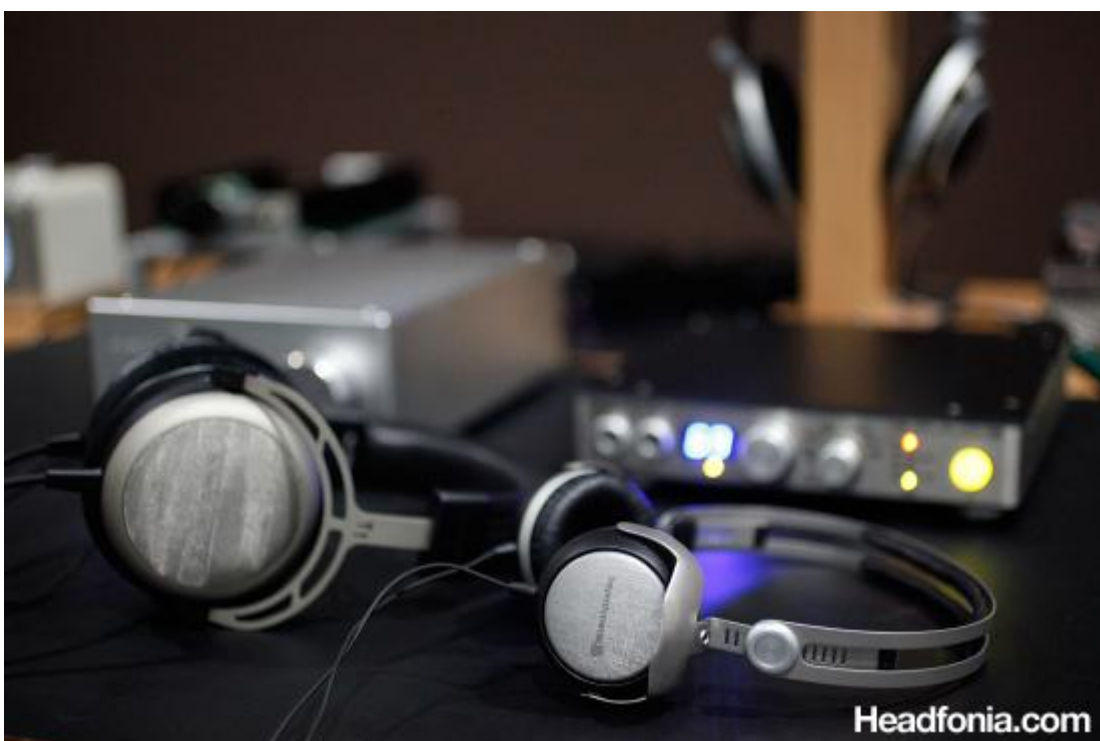
When I first heard the T50p straight from the box, I only hear the brilliant treble, but everything else is not very good in terms of frequency balance. I thought that the midbass control was lacking, and that there is a dip in the midrange area which makes the problem worse. However, after only a few hours of running in, the frequency balance has smoothed out a lot, and it's becoming very nice to listen to. I think that the improvements here are more on the pads softening and following the shape of my ears better. Previously it's very hard to get a good sealed fit, but now the fit is very good on my ears.



I compared the T50p to the T1 from the Burson HA-160 amp. While the T1 ultimately has a more superior technical performance, its musicality is not very good, lacking a little warmth and midrange body. The T50p is more favorable in terms of

musicality, having a less hot treble, slightly warmer sound, and more midrange and bass body than the bigger brother. I also played some female vocals on the T50p and found the T50p to have more body on the vocals than the big brother. Very good indeed.

In my experience, it's easier for a closed headphone to have more low end and midrange body than an open headphone, and that's probably the biggest reason that the T50p has more body than the T1. Yet, headphones with fuller low end body often also have less precision in the bass areas, and that's what I'm hearing here too. The T1 has a much better control and focus on the bass than the T50p. Keep in mind that the T1 is still superior in terms of overall technical performance, and these comparisons are just for the sake of giving a picture of how the T50p sound.



These observation is taken when the T50p has less than 24 hours of run in, and so I will hold final comments after at least 100 hours of playtime.

Some photos first before we continue.



Compared to the Sennheiser HD25-1.



Compared to the Audio Technica ESW-9.



Compared to the Shure SRH-840.



A carrying case is included with the T50p.



Very functional indeed. The compartments can be used for a portable amp and an Ipod.



The brilliantly designed aluminum frame allows full 180 degree rotation of the cups to either direction.



Very sturdy hinge should last for many years.

The build quality is really awesome, and something to behold. The design is very modern, and seems to be better designed than the T1. Beyer should have created a similar design for the T1, instead of just modifying the old DT880 frame. The T50p is very lightweight, and allows plenty of adjustments in the headband as well as complete 180 degrees rotation of the cups to either direction. The supra-aural pads are made from high quality synthetic leather, and feels very comfortable. I do wish that they can include a velour replacement pads. Beyer also included a carrying case, which is both very well made and also very practical.

Although the design of the frame is very good, initially I had some difficulty getting a good fit. I guess I'm used more to the fit of the Sennheiser HD25-1, which is as simple as it gets. The Beyer T50p's cups are smaller than the HD25-1, and combined with weaker headband clamping force, makes the fit a little looser than the HD25-1's. After a few hours of use, I do find that the newer design gives a much more superior fit than the archaic HD25-1 plastic frame. There is less clamping force, but enough to plant the headphones firmly in our head, and it's more comfortable for long term listening than the HD25-1 is, even with the velour pad on the Senn. If I hold the three headphones in my hand, the T50p is heavier than the HD25-1 and the ESW-9, but placing them on your head, the T50p feels very light, and much more comfortable than the HD25-1 and slightly more comfortable on my ears than the ESW-9. The Beyer team really have done their research well. If there is one thing that the HD25-1 and ESW-9 is superior at, is the noise isolation. Having a stronger clamping force on the HD25-1 and ESW-9 give a tighter seal on the ears for a better isolation. Yet the T50p is not far behind, and surprisingly it gives just as much isolation as the big circumaural Shure SRH-840 headphones.

Of course, the T50p's design looks like something pulled out of the Avatar movie, and they look much slicker to wear than either HD25-1 or the SRH-840. You can actually wear a formal suit, and the T50p won't look out of place. If they give the T1 a Red Dot design award, I think the the T50p should win a Platinum Dot design award (if there is anything like that).

Almost all the portable closed headphones have a problem with housing reverb due to the closed design. The HD25-1 is the best in this regard, and probably the best among all the closed headphones I've tried, even high end ones. The T50p is not totally free from the reverb problem, and is inferior to the HD25-1 in this category, but is much less severe than the SRH-840.

Being a 32 Ohms design means that the T50p should work fine straight out of an Ipod, and it is. I really haven't used the T50p long enough to experiment with portable amps, but when I plugged in the T50p to the Grace m902 DAC and Burson HA-160 desktop set up, the T50p sounds very improved than my Ipod Nano direct set up.



My initial impression of the T50p is very very good. I think Beyer could sell these at \$500 and it would still be worth it. Of course, Beyer is probably targeting a much bigger crowd with the T50p and the \$300 is right on the spot to compete with

the popular Bose and Beats headphones, as well as the recently released B&W P5 headphone.

Stay in tune for a more in-depth T50p evaluation.

