

bhi HP-1 headphones

Let's cut to the chase. These are comfortable, remarkably well-performing stereo headphones, lightweight, foldable and easily adjustable. The closed, over-the-ear design really helps to cut out background noise and, at the same time, keep what you're listening to inside so you don't risk disturbing anyone around you.

When I first picked up the bhi HP-1 headphones I was surprised how small they were folded, which would make them ideal for travel. They aren't heavy either, which makes them far less fatiguing for longer-term wear. They unfolded and adjusted to my head size very easily and nicely fit over my ears. My first impression was – ooh, hasn't it gone quiet? Even though these aren't active noise-cancelling headphones, they gave me an impressive ocean of relative tranquillity.

The construction is mainly plastic, with a metallic insert visible in the band size adjustment areas. The design and finish are excellent, with no 'plasticky' feel. A leatherette-type material over foam gives a

nice, comfy seal around the ears. A good thickness of foam forms the centre of the ear section. The top of the headband is also padded and covered in leatherette. The ear cups tilt up and down to suit the angle of your head but there is no swivel movement. A nicely flexible cable I measured at 1.5m long emerges from under the left cup and terminates in a conventionally-wired 3.5mm stereo plug. A 3.5mm to quarter-inch adapter is included.

In use

I used the bhi HP-1 headphones to listen to a range of sources. HF SSB and CW seemed crisp, clear, easy to listen to and well-defined; when added to the significant degree of noise isolation from my surroundings, the result was very good indeed. I was listening to a Top Band rag-chew as I wrote this and the external noise suppression was so good I couldn't hear the sound of my clattery keyboard. I also listened to a variety of music



The bhi HP-1 headphones with the right side folded up and the left in its normal position.

and spoken word and was very impressed by the clarity, sensitivity and quality. Used with a key or desktop mic, these would make for a very relaxed operating session.

With a list price of under £20 the bhi HP-1 headphones are an absolute bargain and, in my opinion, outperform some devices costing far more. Highly recommended.