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SmartyPants3002

Apple AirPods Max vs Sony WH1000XM5: My Review

Music lovers will understand the importance of picking a new set of headphones, in most cases these will be living on your head for two to three thousand plus hours over the years that you will own them. For the last year and a half I have been using Sony WH1000XM5s (XM5s) as my daily headphones and have racked up 1400 hours on them so far. Two weeks ago I switched these out for a pair of Apple AirPods Max. Here's my honest thoughts of the two, and my recommendation for which you should buy.

Noise Cancelling

When comparing the noise cancellation the AirPods Max have the clear win, with both excellent cancellation of constant noises such as the drone of an airplane and sporadic noises such as cars, passers by etc which most lower end noise cancelling headphones struggle with. The XM5s feature some seriously impressive noise cancelling, which is a very close second to the AirPods Max. The AirPods Max take the win here due to much

to be honest, the XM5s are a very close second to the AirPods Max.

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⊖ ↑ 3



LightKnight2311 • 2mo ago

I mean, realistically, most of the improvements in your listening experience would come from the audio drivers themselves and the way they're tuned. If I was presented with a headphone that has LDAC and poor tuning/technical capabilities, and a headphone that lacks LDAC but has great tuning and technical capabilities, I'd pick the one with greater tuning and technical capabilities because what's the point of having LDAC in a headphone that won't have the capability to make good use of it?

I have tried both in person, and personally found that the APM had better overall tuning, especially in the bass because the XM5 is on the bloated side and it does bleed into the midrange and make it a bit more mushy sounding, whereas the APM is more open sounding with a larger stage, though they are quite veiled. I wouldn't get either of them to be honest because I don't find either of them to be very comfortable, and I'm not looking forward to getting another ANC headphone that goes bad within a year. Maybe my replacement ULT Wear might change that, but I'm still skeptical.

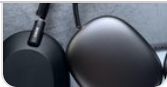
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Pulled the trigger on these after my AirPods Max were disappointing and broke on me, researched the hell outta the XM series, and tried out to XM6. My thoughts below:



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Tried all 3, AirPods Max, XM5, XM6

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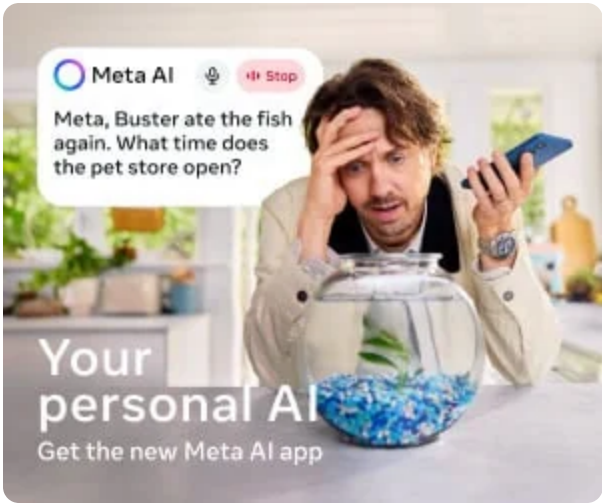
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