

ORANGE AMPLIFICATION 'O' EDITION HEADPHONES

The brightly coloured guitar amp brand expands its accessories range with this pair of performance cans. **Duncan Haskell** plugs them in and checks them out

Considering its position as one of the most iconic and respected producers of amplifiers and other audio equipment, it makes perfect sense for Orange Amplification to bring out its own range of superior performance headphones. The 'O' Edition Headphones, which manage to find the balance between the needs of the bedroom producer and those of the casual audiophile, will do no harm to the company's lofty reputation.

The 40mm drivers have been engineered with sound clarity in mind. This means that the bass remains lively without ever dominating, and the top end is expressive enough. Together with the ample midrange they combine well, while maintaining precise layers of separation. Anyone looking to take their first proper steps into recording will find this sound familiar enough, but will recognise it's a progression from the norm. Those wanting to use them as their everyday cans will be equally delighted by the clarity on offer.

Though not 100 per cent effective, the natural noise isolation – provided by the cushioned closed-back earcups – prove surprisingly impressive. Without any need for batteries, it also prevents the headphones from feeling too heavy. At just 218g, and supported by the incredibly comfortable cushioning, they don't become burdensome during a long listening session.

It's also worth mentioning the design. The brand's striking amplifiers have

always looked pleasingly out of place when sat alongside their sombre companions. These headphones aren't quite as bold – with flashes of orange and an embossed company insignia the only nods to Orange's usual style – yet still look handsome. The accompanying clamshell carry case is similarly subtle, but a nice bonus nevertheless.

Of course, these are headphones for the modern age, and as such they come with two additional 3.5mm cables: one with a smartphone-compatible integrated microphone and another that has its own remote control. This isn't a case of Orange Amplifiers trying to be the jack-of-all-trades, if you'll pardon the pun; instead it simply helps to position the 'O' Edition Headphones as a welcome alternative in an extremely competitive marketplace.



IN TERMS OF COMFORT, STYLE AND QUALITY OF SOUND, THESE ARE SERIOUS CONTENDERS



Specifications

Style: On-ear, closed-back
 Driver size: 40mm
 Sensitivity: 116dB
 Impedance: 32 Ohms
 Frequency response: 20Hz-20kHz
 Weight: 218g
 Connectivity: Wired, with smartphone compatibility
 Price: £149.99
 Web: orangeamps.com

