# **Sony MDR-7510 and MDR-7520** | from £134

With a good pair of headphones a studio essential, *Jono Buchanan* runs the rule over two new pairs

### WHAT IS IT?

Two new additions to Sony's MDR-7500 headphone series, offering quality to match price

# CONTACT

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## HIGHLIGHTS

 1 7510s are good value for money
2 7520s ooze sonic class
3 Both offer comfortable, rounded monitoring

### PRICING MDR-7510

£134 MDR-7520 £455

# SPECS

MDR-7510 Headphone Type: Dynamic, Closed Magnet Type: Neodymium Driver Size: 50.0mm Frequency Response:

Frequency Response: 5-40kHz Impedance: 24 Ohms Sensitivity: 108 dB/mW Power Handling: 2,000mW Plug Type: Gold, Stereo Unimatch 3.5mm/6.3mm adapter

Cord Length: 3m (9.8 ft) Weight: 261g

# MDR-7520

Headphone Type: Dynamic, Closed Magnet Type: Neodymium Driver Size: 50.0mm Frequency Response: 5-80kHz Impedance: 24 0hms Sensitivity: 108 dB/mW Power Handling: 4,000mW Plug Type: Gold, Stereo Unimatch 3.5mm/6.3mm adapter Cord Length: 3m (9.8 ft) Weight: 269g o programmer, producer or mix engineer worth their salt would contemplate carrying out a professional task without referring their mix to headphones at some stage. Indeed, many are as reliant on a decent pair of cans as they are on their studio monitors. Sony have a proud pedigree in this field and the models on review here extend its MDR-7500 range by two, which are both designed for critical

# **MDR-7510**

Starting with the cheaper MDR-7510s, these are built both for mixing and reference monitoring, pitching them as

listening with different budgets in mind.

an every-day choice. What's immediately striking is the detail in the bass end of these headphones – not murky or dark but full of weight and power. Similarly, the top end is nicely balanced – not falsely coloured or over-flattering, which is so important as these are the frequencies which lead to ear fatigue. For me, the detail in the mid-range is the only area where you have to be careful if you're making Dance music as the bass end is generous enough to leave low-mids, in particular, a little swamped.

However, they compare very favourably to my trusty AKG271s, which actually sounded a touch thinner by comparison. What's also pleasing is that the generous frequency response is consistent regardless of listening volume. Some headphones encourage louder monitoring through their poorer performances at low levels – fortunately, this isn't the case here at all.

# MDR-7520

If the 7510s are impressive,

the 7520s take headphone monitoring to a whole other level, as you'd hope, as these cans cost  $\pounds$ 455 – more than three times the price. The quality is unmistakable, with an extremely detailed sound and staggering power.

Like their little brothers, they feature a closed-back design which provides a great level of acoustic isolation but unlike the 7510's 2000mW of power handling, these headphones provide a whopping 4000mW, driven by a 50mm unit which uses a liquid crystal polymer film diaphragm. Also, frequency response is effectively doubled here, as while the 7510s range from 5Hz to 40kHz, the upper limit is extended to 80kHz within the 7520s. The amount of power offered here would cause vibrations in most headphone designs but Sony have countered this with a specially-designed magnesium-alloy housing, which has the added benefit of reducing weight and aiding comfort through extended listening sessions.

And what a joy those sessions are – bass is robust again but with tighter definition, the stereo picture seems more controlled, treble absolutely shines without becoming over-flattering and there's a detail which users will find an essential friend as they check and double-check mixes. Comparatively, the 7510s offer better value for money, as their quality belies their substantially cheaper price but the 7520s do provide a richer, more rewarding sound. The choice is yours but both models are seriously impressive. FM

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Two very solid pairs of pro headphones – check your wallet and take your pick.

RESULTS