

AKG K275
£149

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AKG K Series

The K Series trio of production headphones boast a flexible, foldable design, which their makers AKG claim is a first for their class. Combined with impressive power, are these the ideal headphones for the modern on-the-go producer? Let's find out...

2 **AKG K245**
£129



1 **AKG K175**
£109

1 As with all three pairs of headphones in AKG's new K Series, the K175s have a foldable design that lets the cups tuck in under the self-adjusting headband, so each pair packs down neatly to fit into its carry bag. Despite this flexibility, the build on all three pairs feels durable, with plenty of flexibility from the frame and robust-looking metal hinges that don't feel likely to snap from overuse. The overall range design is pretty comfortable in use too; the foam ear cups can get a little sweaty after long periods, but they're nice on the ears and the easily adjustable frame makes it simple to get your headphones fitting right.

Even folded up, these aren't the most compact headphones out there – the durable design naturally results in more bulk – but they strike a solid balance between studio functionality and portability. Of all three, the on-ear K175s are the most compact, as well as the most affordable. They have a closed back design, with 40mm drivers, which AKG claim are the biggest in their class. They certainly provide plenty of power for their size, with good bass extension and a reliable response across the frequency spectrum and stereo field. They aren't the most high-spec'd studio headphones on the market, but they perform well for their price and sound reliable enough for general production and mixing duties. The on-ear design isn't the best for long studio sessions, but, in all, these give a good compromise between portability and quality, particularly at this price. Good for those looking to balance studio and general listening duties.

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VERDICT 8.5

2 The mid-level pair in the K Series, the K245, use an over-ear, semi-opened back design, resulting in more leakage – which isn't really ideal for recording, or mixing in public spaces – but makes them generally airier and better for long sessions in the studio. The drivers here are upped to 50mm, for added power. Even when they're hooked up to just a smartphone, you can get an impressive level of volume here whilst retaining a clear sound.

Of the three, the foldable design seems least useful here. While the headphones are just as portable, the semi-open design makes them less suited to working on the go; travelling producers who might want to work on trains, planes or in noisy public spaces are certainly better off with the closed backed K275s. These are lovely for home/studio use though, and at under £130 they're still a good purchase even if portability isn't a consideration.

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VERDICT 8.1

3 The K275s have the same 50mm transducers as the K245s, along with a similar on-ear design, albeit this time fully closed-back. These make for a great option for on-the-go production headphones that can be used in a variety of situations. There are better dedicated studio cans out there, but thanks to the foldable design, decent isolation and impressive power, these make a great go-anywhere headphone option for producers looking for something they can pack into a bag and use wherever needed.

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VERDICT 9.0

FM VERDICT



FOR EVERYDAY USE: The K175s are the most compact and affordable of the range, but still perform well in terms of power and quality. Great if you want a set of cans for both studio use and everyday listening.



FOR ON-THE-GO PRODUCTION: The top-end K275s back up their portability with decent isolation and power; great if you need cans that can compete with the rumble of a jet engine at 30,000 feet!