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Value Electronics

Exceptional A/V products and custom installation

PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – PRESS INVITED

Target markets: Headphone and audio enthusiasts, music lovers, technology enthusiasts, and all who want the best in audio entertainment.

2023 Headphone Shootout® Event Crowns “King of Headphones”

Industry Experts Tested and Evaluated Premium Headphones in several categories

SCARSDALE, NY (February 28, 2023) – [Value Electronics](http://ValueElectronics.com), a leading independent Audio/Video retailer in Westchester County, NY, hosted its first Headphone Shootout Evaluation event Monday, February 27, 2023 in NYC. Value Electronics partnered again with [Dealerscope](http://Dealerscope.com), one of the leading B2B Publications in Consumer Tech retailing published by CT Lab Global Media to host their headphone event. Results are in and winners have been determined in the categories evaluated for 2023.

This is the first year Value Electronics added headphones to include an audio comparison in addition to their TV Shootout® and Projector Shootout® evaluation events. Two price categories of in-ear headphones and three price categories of over-ear headphones were evaluated to determine “King of Headphones” in each group tested. A panel of professional audio engineers, audiophile/headphone experts, and audio equipment reviewers were assembled to judge and vote on all audio quality attributes tested, as well as the comfort of each headphone.

For the first category, in-ear headphones that range from \$149 to \$249, two models competed, Sennheiser’s IE 200 \$149, and Technics’ EAH-AZ60 \$199. The Sennheiser IE 200 performed slightly better in the criteria evaluated and won this section.

The next slightly higher priced in-ear headphone category ranging from \$279 to \$299 included Bose’s QuietComfort II, Bowers & Wilkins Pi5 S2, and Sony’s WH-1000XM5. This time the Sony WH-1000XM5 took the win, sweeping all the attributes of audio quality.

Moving on to over-ear headphones, in the entry-level \$349 to \$399 category, there were 5 contenders: Bose’s 700, Bowers & Wilkins’ Px7 S2, Sennheiser’s Momentum 4, Sony’s WH-1000XM5, and Technics’ EAH-A800. The Bowers & Wilkins Px7 S2 won the category with the best performance in all categories, except for Dynamic Range where the Sennheiser had a slight edge.

The mid-priced over-ear headphone category included Bowers & Wilkins’ Px8, Denon’s AH-D5200, Focal’s Bathys, and Sony’s MDR-Z7M2. Focal’s Bathys won the category with the top overall score, and all the audio attributes judged, although the B&W Px8 scored best in comfort. The judges all noted that there was a noticeable step up in sound quality from the lower price range, with more even balance and clarity, as well as aesthetics and design improvements. Judges were surprised that the wired and wireless headphones were extremely close and commented that the bar is raised in wireless headphones.



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Finally, in the higher priced over-ear headphone category ranging from \$1,499 to \$1,799, the contenders included Denon's AH-D9200, Focal's Clear-MG, Sennheiser's HD 800 and Sony's MDR-Z1R. There was a tie, with both the Focal Clear-MG and Sony MDR-Z1R being declared King of Headphones for the category. The Focal won in dynamic range, tonal balance, and also clarity/detail. The Sony won in soundstage/imaging and comfort. In overall score these two winners both tied. Judges remarked that they enjoyed all the headphones in this price tier.

Here's a recap of the headphones that competed in the event organized by price and category type with the King of Headphones noted in bold:

\$149 - \$249 In-Ear Headphones:

- **Sennheiser IE 200 \$149**
- Technics EAH-AZ60 \$199

\$279 - \$299 In-Ear Headphones:

- Bose QuietComfort II \$299
- Bowers & Wilkins Pi5 S2 \$299
- **Sony WF-1000XM4 \$279**

\$349 - \$399 Over-Ear:

- Bose 700 \$379
- **Bowers & Wilkins Px7 S2 \$399**
- Sennheiser Momentum 4 \$349
- Sony WH-1000XM5 \$399
- Technics EAH-A800 \$349

\$699 - \$799 Over-Ear:

- Bowers & Wilkins Px8 \$699
- Denon AH-D5200 \$699
- **Focal Bathys \$799**
- Sony MDR-Z7M2 \$799

\$1,499 - \$1,799 Over-Ear:

- Denon AH-D9200 \$1,599
- **Focal Clear-MG \$1,499**
- Sennheiser HD 800 S \$1,799
- **Sony MDR-Z1R \$1,799**

The latest state of the art in switching, distribution, and test equipment are being supplied by AVProEdge. Technics new SL-G700MK2 Network SACD/CD Player was a source device.

Qobuz is the exclusive streaming sponsor for the headphone event. Qobuz was chosen due to their excellent catalog of music available in CE or Hi-Res quality.

The Headphone Shootout evaluation event is available to watch online:
<https://www.youtube.com/@therealshanelee>.

About Value Electronics

Value Electronics, founded in 1998, is a custom A/V integrator with a retail showroom in the Village of Scarsdale, NY. Owners Wendy and Robert Zohn created and began hosting the TV Shootout® evaluation event in 2004, and have added the Projector Shootout® and now Headphone Shootout®.

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