

Denon AH-D2000

PRICE: £300 CONTACT: 01753 680568

WEBSITE: DENON.CO.UK

ANOTHER closed-back design, this one has the lowest impedance of the group, a characteristic that could give it an unfair advantage in a listening comparison. Denon mentioned the use of acoustically optimised materials, including micro-fibre in the drive units, while the faux-leather earpads are comfortable and ensure that the headphones don't easily slip off your head. The lead is covered with fabric braid and can be a little noisy when it rubs on clothing.

The sound is interesting. Bass is terrific, with great extension and as much weight as a headphone can plausibly give: it also has speed and good tuning, but it never seems excessive. Midrange and treble are just a little odd, though, for there are various resonances in operation which seem, at times, to reinforce some frequencies. As a result, a favourite test track by the Penguin Café Orchestra seemed a little dull, while familiar classical voice recordings were a shade more sibilant than they should be. Sometimes such resonances are quickly tuned out by the ear, but in this case 'mileage may vary', as they say, depending on the music. Rock is very successful, but classical fans may find more joy elsewhere.

VERDICT



BASS is near-impossible to fault, but coloration higher up the spectrum is hard to overlook in many musical styles. Closed back gives moderate isolation.

