

# Icon

## Denon AH-D5000

£500

01234 741 200 | [www.denon.co.uk](http://www.denon.co.uk)

### **I've heard of this Denon fella. Makes DVD players, doesn't it?**

Indeed it does, learned friend. But that's just part of the story. Denon has a rich history of pioneering hi-fi design – it's actually Japan's oldest hi-fi company. Headphones are a recent project for the brand but you can guarantee it has the know-how to make something rather special.

### **Hmm... Brown. I'm not into brown.**

There's brown and there's brown. This is most definitely the latter. The colouring of the closed-back cans isn't painted on; it's a real polished mahogany finish. And the sumptuous details don't end there. The frame is crafted from the finest, lightest magnesium, ensuring that extended use doesn't pull your ears off.

### **Bet they don't hold a candle to a pair of Sennheisers. They shouldn't anyway. Wood and magnesium sound a tad flammable...**

As with all headphones, it's probably best to keep these away from naked flames. But the AH-D5000s aren't just about fine materials and craft: they're about good old hi-fi engineering. Their microfiber diaphragms are 100 times the density of traditional cellulose versions, reducing distortion and ensuring that the quality of the music reproduction is tip-top. An acoustic optimiser bolsters dynamics, too – and as we know, dynamics make music fun.

### **So they sound good. £500 is a lot to pay for good sound.**

Agreed – but look at the package you're getting. They're not just headphones – they're a slice of proper old-school opulence, the likes of which most people will never experience. Putting these on each morning for the commute instead of supplied iPod headphones is the equivalent of boarding the underground wearing burgundy slippers and smoking jacket, sherry in hand. Some people would feel daft doing this – but wouldn't it be fun? If the thought of wearing £500 on your ears in public is disconcerting, plug them into your home hi-fi, recline in your wingback chair and drift off into a mahogany-coated wonderland.

