



DETAILS

PRODUCT
Sendy Audio Peacock

ORIGIN
China

TYPE
Over-ear, open-back planar magnetic headphones

WEIGHT
578g

FEATURES
● 88mm drivers
● 2.2m cable with 4.4mm balanced connector
● 6.3mm and XLR adapters

DISTRIBUTOR
TBC

WEBSITE
sendyaudio.com

painfully slowly. There's a great sense of atmosphere and space too, and you get a real feel of the acoustics of the concert hall as the headphone picks out tiny background sounds and movements in the hall. Portishead singer Beth Gibbons' voice is a little deeper than a conventional soprano, but carries great warmth and depth of emotion, and that 40kHz upper frequency range is wonderfully bright and clear, allowing each note to hang in the air with painful stillness.

After this even the rumbling tones of Leonard Cohen seem cheerful, and again I am struck by the sense of space created by the Peacock on *You Want It Darker*. It is precise and evocative, while the striking bass riff – always surprisingly slinky and sensuous – is full and firm, and I am impressed by the sharp, staccato percussion that adds an urgent edge to the mood. The Peacock reveals all the rumbling depths of Cohen's voice, capturing its warmth and the rasping undertow on the deepest notes, as he mourns: "a million candles burning for the love that never came".

The Peacock can clearly do mournful, but it's equally adept strutting its stuff as I discover with The Rolling Stones' *Start Me Up*. There's an energetic swagger to the opening guitar riff, matched by the snarl of Jagger's voice and yet the Peacock understands that it's the precision of the bass and drums – and those crisp, sharp handclaps – that set the course and keep the song on track.

Conclusion

The high price of the Peacock obviously means that this is far from a casual purchase, and many people may prefer to wait until they can try the headphones for themselves in a showroom. But if your budget can stretch to £1,300 and you have a comfortable listening room, this luxurious offering is a satisfying and worthwhile investment ●

In plume

Sendy isn't well known here and is still setting up UK distribution. **Cliff Joseph** thinks the Peacock might change all that

Sendy's parent company, Sivga Audio of China, makes a wide range of affordable headphones but, as the rather hefty price of this one suggests, it concentrates on the more luxurious end of the market. And, like its namesake, the Peacock certainly wants to make an impression. The plain cardboard box it arrives in looks relatively modest, but inside you'll find the headphones and accessories wrapped in a large carrying case, complete with chunky bronze zips and buckles.

The Peacock takes its name from the fan-tail design of the steel grille on the large open-backed earpieces, which are made out of wood and finished with 24K gold trim. Each houses an 88mm planar-magnetic driver that claims 20Hz-40kHz frequency response and is mounted on a rigid frame made of aviation-grade aluminium. The brackets and hinges on the headband are made of the same aluminium and you can't help but notice how heavy it is when

you put it on for the first time. Thankfully, the adjustable headband and foam-padded earpieces help to take the strain, and it doesn't take too long to get used to.

There's a mini-XLR connector on each earpiece, with a detachable 2.2m, 8-core copper cable that ends in a 4.4mm balanced connector. Sendy also includes 6.3mm and XLR adapters. The lengthy braided cable is a bit of a handful, so a second, smaller cable wouldn't go amiss. There are no other accessories, but the open-back earcups means the Peacock is designed for use with a high-end system, rather than on the move with mobile devices.

Sound quality

Pairing the Peacock with the balanced 4.4mm output from iFi's Diablo DAC (HFC 474), I am immediately struck by the deep, mournful tones of the double bass introduction to Górecki's *Symphony Of Sorrowful Songs*. It captures the rich, wooden texture of the strings as they wind forward,

Hi-Fi Choice

OUR VERDICT

SOUND QUALITY
★★★★★

VALUE FOR MONEY
★★★★☆

BUILD QUALITY
★★★★☆

EASE OF DRIVE
★★★★☆

OVERALL
★★★★★

LIKE: Clear, precise sound; impressive open soundstage

DISLIKE: Expensive; heavy; long, heavy cable

WE SAY: An impressive open-back headphone that provides immense clarity and a great sense of space