

**Mackie MP-120**  
£89

1

**Mackie MP-240**  
£179

2

# Mackie MP Series Pro In-Ear Monitors

Can Mackie really transfer some of that immense studio monitoring experience into these miniaturised beauties? Time for a group test





### 3 Mackie MP-220 £135

**M**ackie's new in-ear monitor range comprises three different models. All are built using a common

moulded enclosure, which houses one of three model-specific driver configurations. The enclosure is shaped to fit snugly into the ear, and has a protrusion that completes the ear canal aspect of the design. On the top side is a MMCX cable connector, and this detachable lock/snap design also swivels for easy cable adjustment. The cable itself is stiffened for the first few centimetres, so it can be moulded to sit behind your ear, and is an internally-braided audiophile design that's pretty robust and should cope with heavy use. A 1/4" converter plug is also included, but you'll have to grab your own cable extender if the modest 1.5m cable doesn't suffice. All three come with three types of tips (silicone, foam and dual flange) each in three sizes, and these push onto the in-ear tip of the enclosure. Completing each package is a compact hard carry case.

[www.mackie.com](http://www.mackie.com)

#### MP-120

**1** First up is the most affordable offering and with it a chance to try the various tip designs. These are fiddly to fit to the enclosure, partly because they're quite tight. Still, once on, there's little chance they'll come off too easily, so your patience is rewarded. The different shapes and sizes offer a lot of comfort options, and, for us, the double flange design delivered the snugest fit. The MP-120 has a single dynamic driver, and the sound is fairly uninspiring. There's certainly no high frequency hyping and the mid range is quite

prominent, which is what you'd expect from a monitor rather than hi-fi design. They do the job though and once you find which tips you like, they're suitably comfortable.

### VERDICT 8.6

#### MP-240

**2** The MP-240 uses a dynamic driver for bass and a balanced armature for the mids and highs (Mackie call it a dual hybrid design), and although this model isn't substantially more expensive than the MP-220, we feel it's streets ahead sonically. First up, the mid range is more defined yet overall feels less prominent, which should be less fatiguing. However, it's the top end where these really win, with clear yet smooth high frequencies delivering excellent articulation. Indeed, switching back over to the MP-220 only goes to hammer home how much better the MP-240 sounds.

### VERDICT 9

#### MP-220

**3** The mid-priced model uses a dual dynamic driver design. The difference sonically is instantly apparent, with better separation between the lows and mids. Even so, the top end is not as refined as it could be, with the MP-220 lacking sparkle. Comparing these, the importance of achieving a snug ear canal fit really becomes clear. It's a factor which influences not only how much isolation the in-ears achieve (and the MPs are excellent in that respect), but also how much bass you get, with a tight fit delivering much better bass definition.

### VERDICT 8.6

## FM VERDICT



**THE HIGH PERFORMER** Unsurprisingly, the MP-240 comes out tops. The inclusion of a balanced armature driver makes a big difference, delivering excellent clarity – just what you need in monitoring



**THE BEST VALUE** With a shared form factor, the MP-120 offers the same comfort as the other two designs. The sound is less refined, and more nasal, but for under £100 they're a bargain