

OPTOMA NUFORCE NE800M EARPHONES – REVIEW

Optoma are a maker of many products, primarily projection products, but they also have a solid line up of audio related items. A while ago I reviewed the Optoma uDAC-3 which received a silver award. Today I am taking a look at a set of their NuForce in-ear headphones, the NE800M. Made from Carbon Fibre and Brass, they certainly look the part.

Specifications

Frequency Response	10Hz - 40kHz
Impedance	16Ohms
Sensitivity	113dB +/- 3dB
Maximum Input Sound Level	120dB S.P.L
Cable Length	1.37M
Connector Type	3.5mm (4-pole)
Driver	8.6mm (Titanium Coated Diaphragm)

A Closer Look

The Optoma NE800M come packaged in a stylish gold and black box.



The rear has a list of the specifications.



The NE800Ms are packaged extremely securely with plenty of foam locking the headphones in place.



Inside with the headphones you get several sets of silicone tips, two sets of Comply tips and a carbon fibre patterned pouch to carry them all in.



The Optoma NuForce NE800M have a carbon fibre casing with brass accents.



The cable is styled with grey accents and is designed to be anti-tangle.



There is an integrated microphone and controls on the left headphone. It also has a gold plated L-Shaped jack.

In Use

To begin I decided to use the provided silicone tips with the NE800M^s. I then put them to the test as my daily drivers using them for my journey to and from work each day. With my usual mix of FLAC music stored directly on my phone being used to test the earphones.

All equaliser options were disabled as was any bass boost on the phone before the test.

As the days passed with a mix of metal, acoustic and classical music that was playing I was unhappy with the overall comfort and audio quality of the NE800M earphones. This was a bit jarring and remained the case when I swapped the silicone tips for other tips from other earphones I have used.

At that point I swapped the silicone tips for the smaller pair of Comply memory foam tips. After getting used to them over another few days, the improved sealing properties made for a far more comfortable feel and far improved sound response.

The Comply tips seal was very impressive and improved the audio performance a lot. They also immediately felt extremely secure in my ears.

The cable is stated to be anti-tangle but is coated in a very rubbery and therefore grippy material. After placing the NuForce NE800M in my bag for example they became tangled quite quickly and because of this coating were a bit more awkward to untangle than my regular set of earphones.

The jack for the NE800 is L-shaped and quite short. This is a nice design as it means that there is little flex applied to the jack and makes it feel more secure.

The controls on my android device were a bit finicky as they required multiple quick presses of the button to achieve the various actions. If you weren't quick enough, you would merely pause music for example rather than skipping.

The microphone was adequate in my brief uses; I do like that it is on the left earpiece and not the right as I am left handed so it made the buttons easier to press.



Conclusion

Thanks to the included Comply tips, I was impressed by the NuForce NE800M earphones. They are available online for around £130 which is certainly a high price. The use of Carbon Fibre and Brass make for a stylish, unique and premium design which help the earphones feel worthy of the price, but for some it might be a bit more than they want to spend.

The overall audio quality was very impressive, at least when I changed to the included Comply tips. With a nice warm sound that was impressive across the many different styles of music I was playing.

I would have liked an asymmetrical design to the cable and for the cable to actually be anti-tangle.

Overall, the NE800M have been really nice to use and I have been impressed with both the build and sound quality provided. With this I am happy to award the NE800M and Optoma the Gold Award.

I would like to thank Optoma for providing them for review.

