



## Review

**Future Sonics Ears(TM)** by Future Sonics, Inc. <[www.futuresonics.com](http://www.futuresonics.com)>

Minimum requirements: audio source

Retail price: \$159.00 USD

Test Rig: Ti4/500; 768MB RAM; iTunes 4

Review Date 05: September 2003

OK. So we're all "iLiving." Well...most of us, anyway, and a big part of our lifestyle is music. Unfortunately, the weak link in the chain is usually our headsets and earbuds. They're either bulky or they don't stay in your ear and they never have proper bass response...until now.

## THE GOOD

Very simple, very effective. You get the main unit (the same company provides earpieces for performers like Beyonce, Shania Twain, R.E.M., U2, Stevie Wonder, The Late Show's CBS Orchestra, Reba McEntire and countless other luminaries) but instead of getting the pricey personalized earpiece that has been custom molded for your ear canal, you get a comfy high tech foam earpiece with a memory that closes the canal to stop any sound from leaking out. This is why you get such incredible bass response compared to other listening devices.

What makes this set different is that you can hear every part of the audio spectrum, as opposed to some devices that are tin-y sounding or too mid-rangy. The Ears sound complete and round. The definition is very clear. You can pick out the effects quite easily. In fact, on older recordings, you can clearly hear the tape hiss!

This product is really designed for live performance and broadcast but it just happens to work brilliantly in any high quality audio device like...oh, I don't know...say an iPod.

In fact, the foam keeps out the external sound so well that the directions warn you to set your audio to low volume at start up to prevent any injury. You will have to replace the foam components every so often (your ears aren't one of the cleanest parts of your body). Again, bear in mind that these are professional earphones and that the cost of the foam replacement packs is only about \$15.00 US for a ten pack. I haven't found the need to replace my first set of foam sleeves yet after several weeks of consistent use but "your mileage may vary..."

## THE BAD

The test pair have to be returned. They're not the prettiest things you'll ever see, but then they are designed to blend in under stage lighting. More importantly, the sound makes up for the look ten fold.

## THE UGLY

The price may be out of the range of most everyday users, particularly if you've just plunked down a fair chunk of change for a new iPod. If you're a part-time or full-time musician or just want to make your iPod, iBook or PowerBook sound like you know it should, it is definitely worth the listen as you can use it to perform double-duty, both personally and professionally.

## NUTSHELL

This company is MUG-savvy as well as customer friendly and has really embraced the user group community via sponsoring MUGdinners, "Your Mac Life with Shawn King" and has been seen on Jason O'Grady's "Powerpage." Their site even has a testimonial from Steve Wozniak on this product. Plus, there is good news in that their list price was just reduced from \$198.00 US to \$159.00 US with an online price of \$143.10 US.

These are excellent. Simple as that. They are not cheap. Simple as that. And if you can afford them, buy them. Simple as that.



For more info, visit: <http://www.futuresonics.com>

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