



Denon AH-D9200 £1,400

This flagship might be the smallest model here, but it still manages to pack a hefty sonic punch

As befits a flagship model, some of the technology here is completely different to anything else found in the group. The drivers are 50mm dynamic units made of an unspecified 'nanofibre' and mounted in a special energy absorbing resin baffle designed to keep the driver rigid.

This is the only model here that is closed backed, making it better suited for use on the move. The enclosures are backed with a processed bamboo that Denon says has natural damping properties. These are mounted to an aluminium frame that integrates the headband, which like the earpads is finished in leather. The result is comfortable, although the pressure it exerts on the sides of the head is high.

As one of the less expensive designs here, it is as well-made as its rivals although the finish doesn't feel quite as good. The bamboo looks better in

photos than it does in reality and some of the detailing is prosaic.

Sound quality

Requiring (by an admittedly small margin) the lowest volume on the source equipment to hit the test level, the AH-D9200 delivers a consistently entertaining performance. There is an energy that underpins everything it does that means *How Long I'd Wait* positively crackles with excitement. Helping this is a level of outright bass heft that ensures everything has a force and scale to suit.

As you might expect from a closed-back design, the area where the Denon has little choice but to concede ground to its open-back rivals is in its ability to create the feeling of air and space around the performance. *Quail* feels smaller and more constrained as a result, although the AH-D9200 is still an

DETAILS

PRODUCT
Denon AH-D9200

ORIGIN
Japan

TYPE
Closed-back, over-ear headphone

WEIGHT
375g

FEATURES

- Driver type: dynamic
- Driver size: 50mm
- Frequency response: 5Hz-56kHz

DISTRIBUTOR
Sound United

TELEPHONE
0208 1034770

WEBSITE
denon.com

IN SIGHT

- 1 Bamboo enclosure
- 2 50mm dynamic driver
- 3 Detachable 3m cable



impressive performer for a design of this type. Tonal realism is extremely good, with both the piano and cello sounding convincing and being helped by that low-end heft.

With the more rhythm-focused *Seven Wonders* the Denon is on much happier ground and delivers a rendition that is unapologetically good fun. Without getting any of the basics wrong or sounding perceptibly coloured, it is able to deliver the joy that is stitched throughout the track. Listened to side-by-side with other headphones in the group, some of the fine detail that it finds is harder to pick out, but this doesn't detract from the entertainment the Denon manages to deliver. With Joe Satriani, this same energy ensures you are pulled into the performance, able to focus on the guitar, but also enthused by that same liveliness. It is also worth pointing out that this is the only headphone in the group you can use without disturbing anyone in the same room, which is very useful ●

Hi-Fi Choice

OUR VERDICT

SOUND QUALITY
★★★★★
LIKE: Powerful and lively sound; sturdy build; good value

VALUE FOR MONEY
★★★★★
DISLIKE: Lacks a little air and space; looks a little prosaic

BUILD QUALITY
★★★★★
WE SAY: Even if you don't need its notional portability, this is a satisfying listen at a competitive price

EASE OF DRIVE
★★★★★

OVERALL

