

Audeze LCD-2 Classic review

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If you put high quality sound into it, you'll get high quality sound out of it



Intro

Audeze has released the 3rd generation of the LCD-2, the new LCD2 Classic. With the Classic, Audeze seeks to return to the sound-signature of the 1st generation LCD-2. According to Audeze, these new headphones remain virtually free from distortion, even at 100 db.



FEATURES AND BUILD

Visually, the LCD-2 Classic stays close to the original LCD-2. The large capsules with the precisely cut out pressure balancing slits give the LCD-2 Classic the same, powerful appearance. Nevertheless, there are some differences.

The capsule of the Classic is no longer made of Caribbean rosewood, but of a composite material, which Audeze calls “crystal-infused nylon” and is supposed to have similar acoustic and dampening properties as wood.

The most striking change, however, is the new headband. It is designed to spread the stately weight of 558 grams more evenly, therefore providing enhanced comfort, especially when worn over extended time.

The memory foam ear pads are covered with a very soft faux leather and enclose the leaks gently but determinedly. The principle of an open sound transducer allows external noise to penetrate relatively clear to the ear. Therefore, these are best used in quiet, sound-insulated spaces.

The supplied interchangeable cable connects to the headphones with mini-XLR plugs, that automatically lock tight, preventing accidental slip outs caused by sudden movements of the head.

As for drivers, Audeze sticks to their proven large-format planar magnetic transducers equipped with an ultra-thin diaphragm.



Sound quality

Connected to the excellent headphone amplifier Pioneer U-05, we fed the LCD-2 Classic a wide variety of lossless material. Overall, the Classic's soundstage is the best we've yet heard. The LCD2C has a negligible amount of distortion, consequently more sonic detail can be heard.

The level of transparency that these LCD2 Classics provide means that, if you put high quality sound into it, you'll get high quality sound out of it.

We especially like the clear mid range vocals and sense of timing, but the way complicated tracks are managed, all while remaining warm and organic, is also very impressive. These 3rd generation LCD-2 headphones definitely have a warmer sound than the 2nd generation Fazor LCD-2 headphones.



Conclusion

Compared to the original, the Classic may lack some depth and spaciousness, but if you like Audeze's "house sound", you'll certainly appreciate the stellar sonic that the Classic delivers for its reasonable asking price of \$799.

