

Minitest

Final Audio Design

Heaven II

PRICE: £80 TELEPHONE: 01903 768919 WEBSITE: final-audio-design.com

DETAILS

PRODUCT

Final Audio Design
Heaven II

ORIGIN

Japan

WEIGHT

16g

FEATURES

1.2m flat cable;
Original Balanced
Armature driver;
102dB quoted
sensitivity

DISTRIBUTOR

KS Distribution

WHEN IT COMES to expensive high-end earphones, Japanese brand Final Audio Design leads the way with several models costing £1,000 or more. But happily it provides some affordable options for those of us that can't afford to break the bank (including the gorgeous £170 Heaven IV, tested *HFC 377*). Boasting the same 'canal type' design as the IV, the Heaven II is without doubt the sleekest of all of the in-ears in the roundup. Simplicity appears to be the buzzword here and the slim stainless steel barrel is the antithesis of the Musical Fidelity offering. They're available in a choice of blue/grey or black finish and come with a selection of five sets of buds. There's no bag, no inline remote control and no mic, which isn't disastrous but I can't help missing the remote after having it available on the other models.

The upside of the simple barrel design is that the Heaven II feels incredibly unobtrusive and is hardly

noticeable. Of all the earphones, the buds appear to go further into the ear canal to form a tighter seal against the outside world that makes leakage almost non-existent and isolation about as good as it gets. Impressive though this undoubtedly is, I begin to find the experience a little uncomfortable and can't wear the earphones for much longer than 10-15 minutes and I find that if I take one earpiece out to speak to someone, the other one tends to fall out with surprising ease.

Heaven sent

Like the IV, the Heaven II is an extremely impressive earphone, capable of some excellent results. Key among which is undoubtedly the sensitivity that comes to the fore with acoustic material. Similarly, the amount of fine detail present is also a highlight, making it possible to pick out individual instruments in more complex mixes where lesser earphones



collapse into a mush of noise. The only minor criticism – and it is minor – is that high frequencies tend to sound harsher as the volume is cranked up ●

VERDICT

Impressive sensitivity and a solid all-round performance, if not the most comfortable

