

hOTSTUFF



iMUFFS

\$129.99

As a wireless Bluetooth headphones and a phone headset in one, iMuffs are a great addition to your aural arsenal. With on-board controls to skip songs, pause music or answer phone calls, your iPod can be several feet away on your kitchen table or tucked away in your daypack on a hike. If you have a cell phone with a media player that supports A2DP protocol (the ability to transmit stereo audio via Bluetooth), this is an all-in-one solution, but if you have both an iPod and a cell phone the iMuffs work seamlessly with them together. When listening to music, the headset automatically pauses it and allows you to answer the phone by holding down the play/pause key. Since iPods don't have Bluetooth by design, the iMuffs come with an adapter that plugs into the dock port. Though a bit large, it does the trick.

Set up was, well, nonexistent for use with an iPod. Just plug the adapter in and go. The iMuffs also paired easily with an iPhone and MacBook Pro (to be used as a headset for phone calls and video conferencing). The noise and echo-cancelling mic cleans up the audio very well and there were no complaints from the people on the other end. Overall the sound quality in all applications was

very good. The headphones recharge via a mini-USB port using a provided cord and adapter or by plugging into your computer. Battery life is very good, rated at 16 hours.

All-in-all the iMuffs are a nice bit of ear candy perfect for all kinds of activities, especially when the handling of your iPod is undesirable or impossible. They work with several types of phones and devices so they are versatile too. Overall we recommend these to anyone tired of untangling those white cords every time they get on the subway. As a slight caveat, maybe you're thinking (like I was), "Now I can finally listen to music from my iPhone wirelessly and answer the phone,"...sorry to say that is not the case. The iMuffs are built for use with your iPod and a phone (though, as mentioned, the headset works great with an iPhone for phone calls) but plugging in the adapter to listen to music then answering a call on an iPhone causes the music to play over your phone call and all hell breaks loose! If your phone supports A2DP then you are in luck, the iMuffs will work with your built in media player and phone at the same time.
www.wi-gear.com - Mike Severson