



Noisebreakers From £82

Close, but not too close for comfort

When it comes to earphones, comfort is a priority. Listening to music should be a wonderful experience, unhindered by the physical attributes of the earphones you are using. If only someone could take a mould of your ear and then make an earbud that fits exactly to it...

Cue the Noisebreakers. Where there's a gap in the market, no matter how ludicrous, you can guarantee it'll be filled by somebody. The Noisebreaker earphones from Emtech laboratories were originally earplugs used to prevent damage to the eardrums in loud environments. The company then decided to turn its attention towards making earphones using the same custom-built technology.

If you want a pair of these very unique external sound blockers, you will have to go and have a mould taken of your ear. The mould will then be tuned into a cast and then an earplug will be made from it. The final stage of the process involves drilling a hole in each of them for the sound to travel down and then fitting a set of Senheiser earphones to them.

The result is startling – these earphones really fit. They are extremely isolating and the sound quality is superb. You can request that your own favourite earbuds be turned into Noisebreakers if you have a preference and you also have your moulds kept, so you can get replacements should you lose or damage the original pair. The only gripe we can think of is that they fit so well that getting them in and out takes a bit of practise. But that's all.

Compatibility

• All iPods

Learn more...
www.noisebreaker.co.uk

BUY NOW?

Pros Can you really get any more comfortable than an earbud moulded to your ear?

Cons They are very isolating, so turn the music down when crossing roads or operating machinery.



Radura case for nano \$20 (about £10)

Tough without being typical

The nano is by far the cutest-looking model of the iPod lineup. The shuffle may be the smallest, but it also looks very hardwearing. The nano with its decent-sized screen, on the other hand, looks as though it requires a little protection.

It's no wonder, then, that there are thousands of nano cases on the market. This entry from Mophie looks to set itself apart by adding a cool design twist to a tried-and-tested recipe for success.

Made from crystal-clear polycarbonate, this case has a very thin profile and offers great protection for your iPod's screen. There is no cover for the Scroll wheel, but this does mean that there is nothing getting in the way of your control of the device. There is an obvious trade-off here – the Scroll wheel is susceptible to damage and dirt, but retains its feather-light usability.

The case comes in two halves, which slot together easily and can also be opened easily. The interesting design twist comes in the form of a rubber inlay that rests inside the back of the case. Each case comes with three colour options: black, green and pink. The inlays act as both a shock absorber for when you set the iPod down and, on a slightly shallower level, a fashion statement when you're waving the device about like you're in one of the iPod adverts.

Overall, this is a well-made case that has something different for those that want to be noticed.

Compatibility

• iPod nano

Learn more...
www.mophie.com

BUY NOW?

Pros A tough, durable case that also adds an element of flair and individuality to your iPod.

Cons There's no cover for your Scroll wheel, so you may see a buildup of dirt.

