

TECHNOLOGY STORY

Bose® QC®25 headphones are the best around-ear headphones from Bose. They combine best-in-class noise reduction and audio with an updated look and convenient features.

How are Bose® QC®25 headphones different from other Bose headphones?

These headphones are the latest around-ear noise cancelling headphones from Bose – replacing the legendary QC®15 headphones. They represent the very best audio performance that Bose has to offer in headphones – supported by active noise reduction.

How are Bose® QC®25 headphones different from Bose QC®15 headphones?

Bose QC25 headphones build on the technologies established with QC15 headphones, but with meaningful improvements in several key areas, including portability. Because more people are using QC15 headphones in more places, Bose designed these headphones with pivoting earcups so they fold and fit into a smaller case. The improved fold-flat design makes it easier to take these headphones with you wherever you go. The addition of passive audio also ensures that if the battery depletes, you can continue to listen to your music until you get a new battery. Noticeably improved low-frequency noise reduction also gives you more relief in noisy environments – with or without music.

What makes Bose® QC®25 headphones the best-performing around-ear headphones from Bose?

Several factors contribute to the overall performance of these headphones. With refinement of the acoustics, these headphones offer improvements in both passive and active noise reduction. Active equalization enhances smoothness and tonal balance throughout the entire spectrum of sound for lifelike audio reproduction. TriPort® technology fosters deep, full-bodied bass response. A custom digital ANR chip contributes to overall performance by reducing the footprint of the electronics, which makes room for new features – such as passive audio – without the need to make the earcups larger. In addition, a low noise floor also reduces the annoyance of an electronic hiss commonly found in other noise reduction headphones. The result is headphones so precisely tuned, they're not just for the frequent flyer anymore; they're for people who love music and want nothing to get in the way of the experience.

To help people enjoy these headphones in more places, Bose designed them to be more portable. A robust mechanical pivot now allows you to fold these headphones into a much smaller form factor for stowing and carrying them from place to place. This single design change also influenced the redesign of all internal mechanisms that control the extension of the headband – ensuring durability.

Great attention to detail was also applied to the mechanical design of these headphones. Design angles, arc lengths and radii of the headband components were carefully analyzed and re-engineered so the headphones sit closer to your head. This improves appearance and maintains the same level of comfort people enjoy with QC®15 headphones.

What are the limitations of these headphones?

The additional power used to achieve improvements in noise reduction and audio results in slightly less battery runtime compared to Bose® QC®15 headphones. Our advertised minimum battery life of 35 hours remains the same, but with QC®25 headphones there is less spare power available. One AAA

battery provides enough power for about 40 hours of use with QC25 headphones. By comparison, one AAA battery provides enough power for about 50 hours of use with QC15 headphones.

In addition, passive audio – while a convenient backup listening option when the battery is depleted – does not sound as full and natural as audio delivered in active mode. Passive audio is engineered to play loudly enough so music can be enjoyed in noisy environments, but without the enhanced listening benefits that come with audio supported by active noise reduction.

Why don't QC®25 headphones have Aware mode like QC®20 headphones?

When it comes to engineering headphones that let you block the outside world with full noise reduction and tune into it with Aware mode, around-ear earcups present technical challenges that in-ear devices do not. One of those challenges is delivering an Aware mode experience that sounds natural while avoiding distracting, unexpected audio artifacts such as squeaks and chirps. Although Bose engineers are working on this, the technologies needed to meet both performance criteria are not yet mature enough to enable this feature for Bose® QC25 headphones.

How do Bose® QC®25 headphones compare to Bose QC®20 headphones?

The obvious difference is form factor – around-ear vs. in-ear. Beyond that, Bose QC25 and QC20 headphones both deliver the very best audio performance Bose has to offer in headphones – supported by active noise reduction. They both also feature passive audio, which enables you to continue listening to your music after the battery depletes. Although noise reduction levels are similar overall, QC25 headphones reduce more low-frequency rumbling while QC20 headphones eliminate more of the mid-band, air-rushing-over-a-fuselage type of sound. Unlike QC20 headphones, which feature a built-in lithium-ion battery that you can recharge, QC25 headphones use a single AAA battery.