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All hail hi-fi's newest superstar



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The looks might be on the functional side, but you'll never need to worry about breaking these...

Best for a life on the road

German Maestro GMP 8.35 D £150

Chances are you've never heard of German Maestro, which is fair enough as the company is new to the UK.

We can't help but wish that it could have come up with a more enticing name for its first cans than 'GMP 8.35 D', though. Not that you should let it put you off - they're are really rather good...

These are clearly studio-focused headphones, with durability prioritised over outright style, but to our eyes there's actually something quite neat about the heavy-duty looks. They seem nigh-on indestructible, too, with a solid, endlessly flexible headband and very chunky cable making them perfectly suited to a life of abuse on the road.

And above all, they sound good. A little splashiness creeps in at the top of the frequency range when

you push them with something like Passion Pit's latest indie-pop album, but overall they're also clear and detailed enough to deliver focused, engaging tunes with nicely judged, punchy bass and standout vocals.

In it for the long haul

The tight but comfortable fit and leak-free, closed back design (perfect for long-haul listening - both for you and fellow passengers) provide further wins for these German Maestros. You might never have heard of them, but the GMP 8.35 Ds demand an audition if you're looking to spend £100+ on some headphones for out-and-about use.

Rating ★★★★★

FOR Almost indestructible; punchy, clear and detailed delivery

AGAINST Can be pushed to a little brashness

VERDICT No matter where you go or how you mistreat them, the meaty Maestros will continue to deliver the sonic goods
