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Audio-Technica ATH-ANC 70 Noise Cancellation Headphones

The best way to prevent hearing loss is to reduce the volume of hazardous noise from a roar to a quiet whisper. You can accomplish this task by using active or passive ear protection. The active noise reduction route uses noise cancellation technology. In this product review we will look at the new Audio-Technica ATH-ANC70 QuietPoint® headphones and see how they use active noise cancellation to eliminate environmental noise. See photo 1.

Microphone and Music/Phone Control Button are integrated into the earcup for optimal voice pick-up & easy-to-find convenience.



The loud environment you want to eliminate could include a very noisy airplane, your working environment, or even the vocal pestering of your very active and loud brothers and sisters. The Audio-Technica ATH-ANC70 QuietPoint® headphones can remove 90% of the normal noise that surrounds you. If you don't have to pump up the volume of your music or video game to drown out environmental noise you just might avoid hearing loss later in life. Loud noise

regardless of its source is responsible for most hearing loss that people eventually experience as they grow older. To avoid law suits your smartphone, game machine, and tablet all warn you to keep the volume reasonably low.

Passive noise cancellation can be rubber or foam that you squish in your ear or a set of headphones that are loaded with sound absorbing foam. Before active noise cancellation technology was invented this type of noise cancellation was the only way to protect your hearing at a gun range or if you worked in an environment that included extremely loud machinery.

Active noise cancellation technology reduces background noises by creating an opposing sound wave that cancels out the background noise. To apply this concept the Audio-Technica ATH-ANC70 headphones have miniature microphones inside that pickup the noise from your surroundings. The electronic circuitry of the unit, which is powered by a single AAA battery, then creates a sound wave that is 180° out of phase of the offending sounds. This

second sound wave acts as an acoustical eraser eliminating most of the loud noise that you would hear if you were not wearing an active noise cancellation device.

To see what these QuietPoint® headphones could do I



tested them on a flight from New York to Athens, Greece. During the flight I used them in active and non active mode while listening to music and video to see just how effective they were at actively cancelling

the noise of the plane's jet engines and the crying babies on the flight. See photo 2.

The packaging says they can "reduce environmental noise by up to 90%". With them already in place over my ears I switched the power button on and the roar of the airplane jet engines was reduced to the sound made by a stream of running water. With my music playing the background noise seemed to completely disappear. For the final airplane test I jacked them into my video player which was playing a movie with an extremely low sound track. They made it very easy for me hear what the actors were saying.

Reasons to Drool

The headphones successfully reduce the noise of your environment by 90%. They are comfortable to wear and include a microphone, music pause button, and volume control all built into the right ear cup so it is easy to use them with your smartphone. The center of the right cup also lights up blue when you have noise cancellation turned on.

Not So Cool

The left ear cup has the battery compartment and it is opened by sliding its faceplate up. This action causes it to separate from the unit to give you access to the battery compartment. This plate is then held in place by a thin glued on plastic strip. The purpose of the strip is to reduce the chance you will lose the cover. The cover is clumsy to open and clumsy to reattach. See photo 3.

