

Kayla Robertson

Airpods: No Big Deal

The technology behind the best wireless headphones to date.



Airpods: No Big Deal

Kayla Robertson

The Apple AirPods were released in 2016 and have dominated the market ever since. Acknowledged as the first fully wireless earphones that work reliably and with good sound quality, the AirPods can be purchased for around \$230. But what makes these earphones worth such a large amount of money?

Once purchased, the AirPods arrive in Apple's signature white box packaging, which contains the AirPods safely tucked away in the charging case, a lightning to USB charging cable and a set of basic instructions. The AirPods can then be easily connected to their iOS partner by simply opening the charging case next to the device, this will then bring up a control centre card on that device, allowing you to connect the AirPods. The AirPods come with a number of helpful and creative features, that add their overall usability and function.

The AirPods feature a long-lasting battery with an estimated 5 hours of listening time, however because of the charging case's extra battery, it is able to fully recharge the

Airpods multiple times before needing to be charged itself. But it gets better, with the installation of a W1 chip, the AirPods are able to gain 3 hours of battery power from just 15 minutes of charging, allowing you charge on the go and quickly. The AirPods battery life is also easily checked by simply opening the charging case next to the device it is paired to. This will bring up a screen with the battery status of each Airpod and the charging case.

The W1 chip is the backbone of the Apple AirPods, providing them with all the technology that makes them arguably the best fully wireless earphones to date. To start with, the W1 chip is the reason behind the AirPods large battery and effortless pairing capabilities. Most significantly however, the chip works to keep the two AirPods in sync and balanced, something that past wireless earphones have struggled to achieve.

The AirPods also have access to Siri, because what would we do without her? By simply double tapping either Airpod, Siri will be summoned and ready to help.



The W1 Chip inside the AirPods

Once activated, Siri can make calls, change music, give directions and provide updates on the AirPods battery status. However, the double-tap feature can also be used for a number of other controls and this can all be set up by the listener, to make the overall experience more personalised. The double-tap feature can be adjusted by going into Bluetooth settings, tapping on your AirPods and then adjusting what each Airpod does when double-tapped. Each Airpod can be set to play or pause music, skip to next song, go back to a song or pause music altogether, depending in the user's preference.

The AirPods also feature a tracking device, allowing a user to track them in the event that the AirPods are lost or stolen. By simply logging into the Find My iPhone app and selecting their AirPods, a map will appear with the approximate location of the AirPods. This feature will also alert the user as to the battery status of the AirPods, and whether they are on or off. This feature provides a sense of comfort to users, as



users have the ability to their AirPods, in the event that one falls out or is misplaced.

Apple has also included features that simply make the listening experience of the user more comfortable and easy. With sensors built into the AirPods, they are able to recognise when the user is wearing them and when they aren't. The feature allows the AirPods to pause music automatically when removed from the ear and resume instantaneously when placed back into the user's ear.

Overall, the Apple AirPods are packed with smart technology and clever features that make them comfortable to wear, easy to use and arguably the best fully wireless earphones to date.

References:

Smith, S. (2018). How to Use AirPods: Tips, Tricks and General Instructions. Tom's Guide. Retrieved on 15th October, from <https://www.tomsguide.com/us/how-to-use-airpods,review-5024-10.html>

Airpods. (2018). Apple. Retrieved on 15th October, from <https://www.apple.com/au/airpods/>
Dysart, J. (2017). Smart Earbuds: A Looming Threat to the Hearing Aid Market? The Hearing Journal. Retrieved on 15th October, from <https://journals.lww.com/thehearingjournal/>

[fulltext/2017/03000/Smart_Earbuds___A_Looming_Threat_to_the_Hearing.1.aspx](https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/abstract/document/7897392)

Dempsey, P. (2017). The Teardown. Engineering & Technology. Retrieved on 15th October, from <https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/abstract/document/7897392>

Bajarin, B. (2016). Apple's AirPods are so easy to wear you'll forget you have them on. Recode. Retrieved on 16th October, from <https://www.recode.net/2016/12/19/14009236/apple-airpods-wireless-headphones-voice-first-siri>

Kayla Robertson

Airpods: No Big Deal

The technology behind the best wireless headphones to date.



Airpods: No Big Deal

Kayla Robertson

The Apple AirPods were released in 2016 and have dominated the market ever since. Acknowledged as the first fully wireless earphones that work reliably and with good sound quality, the AirPods can be purchased for around \$230. But what makes these earphones worth such a large amount of money?



The W1 Chip inside the AirPods

Once purchased, the AirPods arrive in Apple's signature white box packaging, which contains the AirPods safely tucked away in the charging case, a lightning to USB charging cable and a set of basic instructions. The AirPods can then be easily connected to their iOS partner by simply opening the charging case next to the device, this will then bring up a control centre card on that device, allowing you to connect the AirPods. The AirPods come with a number

of helpful and creative features, that add their overall usability and function.

The AirPods feature a long-lasting battery with an estimated 5 hours of listening time, however because of the charging case's extra battery, it is able to fully recharge the AirPods multiple times before needing to be charged itself. But it gets better, with the installation of a W1 chip, the AirPods are able to gain 3 hours of battery power from just 15 minutes of charging, allowing you charge on the go and quickly. The AirPods battery life is also easily checked by simply opening the charging case next to the device it is paired to. This will bring up a screen with the battery status of each Airpod and the charging case.

The W1 chip is the backbone of the Apple AirPods, providing them with all the technology that makes them arguably the best fully wireless earphones to date. To start with, the W1 chip is the reason behind the AirPods large battery and effortless pairing capabilities. Most significantly however, the chip works to keep the two AirPods in sync and balanced, something that past wireless earphones have struggled to achieve.

The AirPods also have access to Siri, because what would we do without her? By simply double tapping either Airpod, Siri will be summoned and ready to help. Once activated, Siri can make calls, change music, give directions and provide updates on the AirPods battery status. However, the double-tap feature can also be used for a number of other controls and this can all be set up by the listener, to make the overall experience more personalised. The double-tap feature can be adjusted by going into Bluetooth settings, tapping on your AirPods and then adjusting what each Airpod does when double-tapped. Each Airpod can be set to play or pause music, skip to next song, go back to a song or pause music altogether, depending in the user's preference.

The AirPods also feature a tracking device, allowing a user to track them in the event that

the AirPods are lost or stolen. By simply logging into the Find My iPhone app and selecting their AirPods, a map will appear with the approximate location of the AirPods. This feature will also alert the user as to the battery status of the AirPods, and whether they are on or off. This feature provides a sense of comfort to users, as users have the ability to their AirPods, in the event that one falls out or is misplaced.

Apple has also included features that simply make the listening experience of the user more comfortable and easy. With sensors built into the AirPods, they are able to recognise when the user is wearing them and when they aren't. The feature allows the AirPods to pause music automatically when removed from the ear and resume instantaneously when placed back into the user's ear.

Overall, the Apple AirPods are packed with smart technology and clever features that make them comfortable to wear, easy to use and arguably the best fully wireless earphones to date.



References:

- Smith, S. (2018). How to Use AirPods: Tips, Tricks and General Instructions. Tom's Guide. Retrieved on 15th October, from <https://www.tomsguide.com/us/how-to-use-airpods,review-5024-10.html>
- Airpods. (2018). Apple. Retrieved on 15th October, from <https://www.apple.com/au/airpods/>
- Dysart, J. (2017). Smart Earbuds: A Looming Threat to the Hearing Aid Market? The Hearing Journal. Retrieved on 15th October, from https://journals.lww.com/thehearingjournal/fulltext/2017/03000/Smart_Earbuds___A_Looming_Threat_to_the_Hearing.1.aspx
- Dempsey, P. (2017). The Teardown. Engineering & Technology. Retrieved on 15th October, from <https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/abstract/document/7897392>
- Bajarin, B. (2016). Apple's AirPods are so easy to wear you'll forget you have them on. Recode. Retrieved on 16th October, from <https://www.recode.net/2016/12/19/14009236/apple-airpods-wireless-headphones-voice-first-siri>
- W1 Chip. (2017). 9 To 5 Mac. Retrieved on 16th October, from <https://9to5mac.com/guides/w1/>