

AirPods Max

AirPods Max are wireless Bluetooth over-ear headphones designed by Apple, and released on December 15, 2020. They are Apple's highest-end option in the AirPods lineup, sold alongside the base model AirPods and mid-range AirPods Pro.

The main changes of the AirPods Max over the mid-range AirPods Pro are the over-ear design with larger speakers, inclusion of Apple's Digital Crown (found on the Apple Watch), more color options, and longer battery life.

Overview

Apple announced AirPods Max on December 8, 2020 via a website refresh, and released them on December 15, 2020. AirPods Max features an over-ear headphone design.

AirPods Max have an H1 chip in each ear cup,^[3] which is also found in the second-generation AirPods and first-generation AirPods Pro. AirPods Max, like the AirPods Pro, come with Apple's Active Noise Cancellation technology for blocking outside noise, and Transparency mode for listening to sounds around users. The "Digital Crown", similar to that of the Apple Watch, allows users to play or pause audio, control volume, skip tracks, control phone calls, and activate Siri. Proximity sensors automatically detect when they are on a user's head and play or pause audio accordingly. Spatial audio uses built-in gyroscopes and accelerometers to track movement of the user's head and provide what Apple describes as a "theater-like" experience.^{[4][3][5]}

Apple claims 20 hours of battery life, with five minutes of charging delivering 1.5 hours of listening time. AirPods Max are charged via the Lightning port. The Lightning port can also be used for line-in audio, with Apple selling cables with USB-A, USB-C and 3.5mm headphone ends.


AirPods Max are bundled with a Smart Case for storing.^[3] The Smart Case includes magnets that switch AirPods Max to low-power mode.^[6]

AirPods Max is available in five colors: Space Gray, Silver, Sky Blue, Green, and Pink. Users can select from these five colors separately for the ear cushions and external chassis for a total of 25 color combinations (or 125 if using two different ear cushion colors).^[7]

Compatibility

AirPods Max are compatible with any device that supports Bluetooth, including Android and Windows devices, although certain features such as Siri require an Apple device running iOS 14.3, iPadOS 14.3, watchOS 7.2, tvOS 14 or macOS Big Sur.^[8]

AirPods Max



AirPods Max in Space Gray

Developer	Apple Inc.
Manufacturer	Luxshare (on contract), Goertek (on contract)
Product family	AirPods
Type	Wireless headphones
Release date	December 15, 2020
Introductory price	US\$549.00
System on a chip	Apple H1 (each ear cup)
Input	Nine microphones, optical sensor (each ear cup), position sensor (each ear cup), case-detect sensor (each ear cup), accelerometer (each ear cup), gyroscope (left ear cup) ^[1]
Connectivity	Bluetooth 5.0 Lightning port for charging and audio line-in via USB and 3.5mm jack ^[1]
Current firmware	5E135 (April 11, 2023) ^[2]
Dimensions	AirPods: 6.64 x 3.28 x 7.37 in (168.6 x 83.4 x 187.3 mm) ^[1]

Mass	AirPods <div>13.6 ounces (384.8 g)</div> Charging case <div>4.74 ounces (134.5 g)^[1]</div>
Website	<div>AirPods Max - Apple (https://apple.com/airpods-max)</div>

Comparative technical specifications of all AirPods models

	Still in production		Discontinued		<u>Vintage</u>		<u>Obsolete</u> ^[9]
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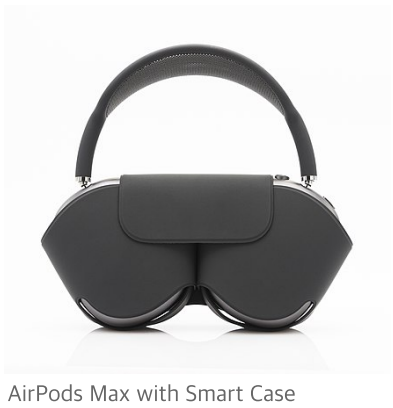
Model		<u>iPhone Bluetooth Headset</u>	<u>First-generation AirPods</u>	<u>Second-generation AirPods</u>	<u>First-generation AirPods Pro</u>	<u>AirPods Max</u>	<u>Third-generation AirPods</u>	^{[hide]} <u>Second-generation AirPods Pro</u>
Timeline	Announced	January 9, 2007 ^{[10]}	September 7, 2016	March 20, 2019	October 28, 2019	December 8, 2020	October 18, 2021	September 7, 2022
	Released	June 29, 2007 ^{[10]}	December 13, 2016		October 30, 2019	December 15, 2020	October 26, 2021	September 23, 2022
	Discontinued	March 23, 2009 ^{[10]}	March 20, 2019	Still in production	September 7, 2022	Still in production	Still in production	In production
Model	Model number	A1221	A1722 (Left AirPods) A1523 (Right AirPods) A1602 (Lightning case) A1938 (Wireless case)	A2031 (Left AirPods) A2032 (Right AirPods) A1602 (Lightning case) A1938 (Wireless case)	A2084 (Left AirPods) A2083 (Right AirPods) A2190 (Case)	A2096	A2564 (Left AirPods) A2565 (Right AirPods) A2897 (Lightning case) A2566 (MagSafe case)	A2931, A2699, A2698 (AirPods serials) A2700 (Magsafe Case)
	Model identifier	^{[data unknown/missing]}	AirPods1,1	AirPods2,1	iProd8,1	iProd8,6	AirPods1,3	AirPods Pro 2
	Order number	MA817AM (with iPhone Dual Dock) MB536AM (without iPhone Dual Dock)	MMEF2AM	MV7N2AM (Lightning case) MRXJ2AM (Wireless case)	MWP22AM	MGYJ3AM (Silver) MGYH3AM (Space Gray) MGYL3AM (Sky Blue) MGYM3AM (Pink) MGYN3AM (Green)	MME73AM	MQD83AM
Compatibility		Bluetooth 2.0	iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch models with iOS 10 or later, Apple Watch models with watchOS 3 or later, and Mac models with macOS Sierra or later. ^{[11]}	Devices running iOS 12.2 or later, macOS Mojave 10.14.4 or later, and watchOS 5.2 or later. ^{[12]}	Devices that support Bluetooth, including Android and Windows devices, although certain features such as Siri require an Apple device running iOS 13.2, watchOS 6.1, tvOS 13.2, and macOS Catalina 10.15.1	Devices that support Bluetooth, including Android and Windows devices, although certain features such as Siri require an Apple device running iOS 14.3, iPadOS 14.3, watchOS 7.2, tvOS 14 or macOS Big Sur. ^{[13]}	Devices running iOS 15.1 or later, iPadOS 15.1 or later, macOS Monterey 12.0 or later, and watchOS 8.1 or later. ^{[14]}	Devices running iOS 15.1 or later, iPadOS 15.1 or later, macOS Monterey 12.0 or later, and watchOS 8.1 or later. ^{[15]}
<u>System on a chip</u>		None	Apple W1 chip	Apple H1 chip (343500289, 343500290)	Apple H1 chip	Apple H1 chip (343500404)	Apple H1 chip	Apple H2 chip
Battery	Battery strength	^{[data unknown/missing]}	1.52-watt-hour (Case) 0.093-watt-hour (each AirPods)	1.98-watt-hour (Case) 0.16-watt-hour (each AirPods)	2 x 2.53-watt-hour rechargeable lithium-ion	1.33-watt-hour (Case) 0.133-watt-hour	1.997-watt-hour (Case)	

						(right ear cup)	(each AirPods)	
	Battery capacity	No case	398 mAh (Case)		519 mAh (Case)	664 mAh (right ear cup)	345 mAh (Case)	523 mAh (Case)
Firmware	Original release	Not upgradable	3.3.1	6.3.2	2B584	3C16	3E751	5A374
	Latest / Final		6.8.8	5E135				

Criticism

The AirPods Max Smart Case's design has been mocked by technology reviewers, along with users on Twitter for its resemblance to that of a bra or purse. Reporter Daniel Piper of Creative Bloq states: "If we're not entirely convinced by the design of the AirPods Max themselves, we're utterly baffled by that of their charging 'Smart Case'. The shape resembles, well, lots of things, from handbags to body parts."^{[16][17][18]}

Numerous people have reported that condensation can build up near the drivers of the closed-back headphones after prolonged use under the removable ear cups.^[19] It has been suspected that the major cause is its full-metal body that naturally has temperature-dependent thermal conductivity.^[20]



See also

- Apple headphones
 - EarPods
 - AirPods
 - AirPods Pro
- Google Pixel Buds
- Samsung Galaxy Buds Live

References

1. "AirPods Max - Technical Specifications" (<https://www.apple.com/airpods-max/specs>). *Apple*. Archived (<https://web.archive.org/web/20210822183736/https://www.apple.com/airpods-max/specs/>) from the original on August 22, 2021. Retrieved August 22, 2021.

2. "About firmware updates for AirPods" (<https://support.apple.com/en-us/HT213317>). Archived (<https://web.archive.org/web/20230109153323/https://support.apple.com/en-us/HT213317>) from the original on January 9, 2023. Retrieved September 12, 2022.

3. "Apple Announces AirPods Max Over-Ear Headphones With Noise Cancellation, Priced at \$549" (<https://www.macrumors.com/2020/12/08/airpods-max>). *www.macrumors.com*. Archived (<https://web.archive.org/web/20201208135741/https://www.macrumors.com/2020/12/08/airpods-max/>) from the original on December 8, 2020. Retrieved December 8, 2020.

4. Welch, Chris (December 8, 2020). "Apple announces \$549 AirPods Max noise-canceling headphones, coming December 15th" (<https://www.theverge.com/2020/12/8/21438042/apple-max-studio-noise-canceling-headphones-price-date>). *The Verge*. Archived (<https://web.archive.org/web/20201208193833/https://www.theverge.com/2020/12/8/21438042/apple-max-studio-noise-canceling-headphones-price-date>) from the original on December 8, 2020. Retrieved December 8, 2020.

5. Sherr, Ian. "Apple announces \$549 AirPods Max over-ear headphones, preorders today, launch Dec. 15" (<https://www.cnet.com/news/apple-announces-549-airpods-max-over-ear-headphones-preorders-today-launch-dec-15/>). *CNET*. Archived (<https://web.archive.org/web/20201208140444/https://www.cnet.com/news/apple-announces-549-airpods-max-over-ear-headphones-preorders-today-launch-dec-15/>) from the original on December 8, 2020. Retrieved December 8, 2020.