

Cochlear Nucleus 8 vs Kanso 2 - Comprehensive Comparison

Executive Summary

Both processors offer NO direct connection to computers (Windows or MacBook). For computer audio, you'll need the **True Wireless Mini Microphone 2+** accessory, which connects to both processors via its built-in 2.4 GHz wireless technology and to your computer via its line-in jack.

TWMM 2+ Size: 61mm × 28.5mm × 22mm = 2.4" × 1.1" × 0.9"

Shared Features

Feature	Nucleus 8	Kanso 2
Connectivity		
• Direct streaming	✓ Apple/Android phones	✓ Apple/Android phones
• Computer connection	✗ Requires Mini Mic 2+	✗ Requires Mini Mic 2+
• True Wireless accessories	✓ Mini Mic 2+, TV Streamer	✓ Mini Mic 2+, TV Streamer
• Smart App control	✓ Nucleus Smart App	✓ Nucleus Smart App
Performance		
• SmartSound iQ	✓	✓
• ForwardFocus	✓	✓
• Water resistance	✓ IP68 (1m, 60 min)	✓ IP68 (1m, 60 min)
• Warranty	✓ 5-year	✓ 5-year

Distinctive Features

Feature	Nucleus 8	Kanso 2
Physical Design	Behind-the-ear (BTE)	Off-the-ear (OTE)
	Multiple retention options:	Single-unit design
	- Earhook	- Less to track/lose
	- Snugfit (3 sizes)	- No cables/coils to manage
	- Safety cord/lines	- Built-in retention
	- Earmold adapter (custom)	- Battery locked in
	More parts to track	Simpler/fewer parts
Performance		
• SCAN technology	SCAN 2 (enhanced)	SCAN (standard)
	- 8% better noise classification	- Standard noise detection
	- 11% overall improvement	- 6 scene types
• ForwardFocus	Improved version	Standard version
	- 5 dB SRT improvement	- Standard performance
	(compared to BEAM directional)	(reduces rear noise)
	- More powerful noise reduction	- Basic noise reduction
• Future ready	Bluetooth LE Audio ready*	Current Bluetooth only
Battery & Charging		
• Battery type	Removable modules	Built-in rechargeable
• Battery life	35h (disposable)	18h rechargeable
	19h (compact), 51h (extended)	(real-world > 16h)
• Charging	Separate charger	Wireless charging case
• Field flexibility	Can swap battery modules	Required portable charger
Amateur Radio Considerations		
	Can jerry-rig with spare modules	3-4h charge time needed
	Multiple battery options	Fixed battery design
	More complex, more flexible	Simpler but less flexible

Key Insight: ForwardFocus Quantification

Improved ForwardFocus (Nucleus 8) provides:

- 5 dB SRT (Speech Reception Threshold) improvement in clinical trials
- Significant improvement in spatially-separated noise environments
- "More powerfully reduces" background noise compared to standard version

Standard ForwardFocus (Kanso 2) reduces noise from behind but has not been specifically quantified separately

Key Takeaway for Your Decision

For your Amateur radio needs:

1. **Nucleus 8** advantages:

- Can jerry-rig with spare battery modules (better for field use)
- Multiple retention options including custom earmold
- More complex but more flexible for emergency situations

2. **Kanso 2** advantages:

- Fewer parts to track/lose (critical in field operations)
- 16-18 hour battery life sufficient for most ops
- Simpler design = less that can go wrong

Choose based on whether you prioritize **field flexibility** (Nucleus 8) or **simplicity/reliability** (Kanso 2).

Amateur Radio Considerations

RF Safety: Your Amateur radio operations are perfectly safe!

- **100W HF EFRW at 20'**: Well beyond required safety distance
- **5W VHF/UHF HT at 1 meter**: Extremely low power, no concerns
- Professional studies confirm medical RF devices much closer to implants have no adverse effects
- Going QRP isn't necessary for safety - operate at full legal power with confidence

For CI600 series implants (likely your CI6200):

- Designed to handle much stronger EMF/RF than Amateur radio
- MRI-tested up to 3T with magnet in place
- No technical literature suggests Amateur radio poses any CI risk
- Standard safety warnings cover extreme cases (MRI, electrosurgery) not typical ham operations

*Bluetooth LE Audio requires future firmware update