

OPTOMA NUFORCE PRIMO 8

£399.99 ★★★★★

After having a limited release last year, these premium in-ear headphones have been unavailable since Christmas following the sale of maker's NuForce to projector manufacturer Optoma.

In that time they've developed something of a mystical reputation amongst audiophiles online. Now available once again, the question is, do they still warrant the hype that surrounds them?

While most in-ears commonly feature a single driver, the Primo 8s pack four balanced armature

drivers in each earpiece. With a single driver each for mids and treble, the remaining two deal with bass frequencies, cleverly addressing the usually disappointing low range performance of this type of headphone.

While I struggled to find a good fit, and therefore sound, with the provided silicone tips, thankfully there's also a pair of Comply memory foam tips in the box that fit securely, even



when jogging. Once snug, the Primo 8's performance was indeed revelatory, delivering a range of wide detail rarely experienced with any sort of headphones, let alone in-ears.

Both clean and revealing, yet full of low end and mids, there were numerous times I picked out elements I'd never noticed before in familiar tracks.

The placement of the in-line mic is a little too low, which will annoy if you're a regular hands-free chatterer, although the lead is removable.

On a personal level I wasn't too keen on the somewhat daft earpiece design, which makes you look as if you're wearing two miniature bike helmets.

Both of these issues should matter little though as the precise, unexaggerated tone the Primo 8s deliver lives up to their growing reputation.

STAR RATINGS ★★★★★Brilliant ★★★★★Good ★★★Average ★★Poor ★Dreadful