

## Recommendation for Bluetooth Headset for Smartphone

I changed smartphones recently and am in the market for a new Bluetooth headset. My old smartphone would constantly drop the Bluetooth connection so I haven't used Bluetooth headsets for years. There are enough headsets in the market that there's infinite choice which is, essentially, no choice at all. (Imagine going to Home Depot and wanting to buy just "white" paint).

My criteria:

- Price, of course. I'd ideally like to buy a few because, let's be honest, I'll likely lose it, drop it in my coffee, etc.
- Noise cancellation. I hate it when people talk on Bluetooth in the car and all you hear is road noise. I don't think background noise can be eliminated entirely, but for the sake of image, I'd like my clients to not have to fight background noise to hear me.
- Boom. I think most headsets have booms (i.e. the bit sticks out from the ear towards the mouth) now. In the office, I usually use this Plantronics headset for my landline (

[https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B0001M4E72/ref=oh\\_aui\\_search\\_detailpage?ie=UTF8&psc=1](https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B0001M4E72/ref=oh_aui_search_detailpage?ie=UTF8&psc=1))

and it works beautifully. People have uniformly said that they can't even tell I'm on a headset at all. Based on the shape of my head, I think my "mouth to ear hole dimension" is bigger than most so I don't think the current trend to smaller earbuds works for me.

General factors like fit, finish, comfort, purchasing experience, etc are all important too, of course.

Thanks!

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My husband has and loves an LG HBS-910. He says that it takes a little bit of getting used to, but the call quality (including car calls) is worth it.

He also says that the music quality is even better. This is the second set he's owned. The first lasted a good 5 years.

Looking at the LG site, this model might be discontinued, but the 920 looks like it's the same thing. And you won't have to buy a few because they hang around your neck; no chance of dropping it in your coffee.

Kelcey Patrick-Ferree, Iowa

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I second that endorsement. Long time LG Tone user here.

Eugene Lee, California

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This is the one I have (actually I have a couple). I also bought the charging case so it's never dead when I need it. I've been very happy with it. Friends say they don't hear road noise and can't tell when I'm in the car. I have recommended it to several solo attorneys who have all been pleased. I don't know if the boom is big enough for what you want.

Feel free to reach out to me directly if you have questions.

Kristin Haugen, Minnesota

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Ok, so maybe it has been a while since I shopped for a Bluetooth phone headset. I was expecting something to be worn around the ear.

Are there headsets now that you wear around the base of your neck too? I know there are headphones (i.e. play music only) that are like that.

There's a U-shaped horse collar thing you wear around the base of your neck and then ear buds on wires that you then string to your ears. If that is a Bluetooth headset also, where is the microphone that you speak in to?

Andy Chen, California

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I recently bought the Mpow Trucker's Headset [https://www.amazon.com/Mpow-Bluetooth-Microphone-Wireless-Headphones/dp/B00UYL7LIY/ref=sr\\_1\\_3?s=electronics&ie=UTF8&qid=1518532043&sr=1-3&keywords=trucker+headset](https://www.amazon.com/Mpow-Bluetooth-Microphone-Wireless-Headphones/dp/B00UYL7LIY/ref=sr_1_3?s=electronics&ie=UTF8&qid=1518532043&sr=1-3&keywords=trucker+headset) for use with my iPhone. It has worked with no problems. The only downside is that it works only for calls - you can't listen to music or podcasts with it (it looks like there is another model that plays media). The price is good at \$20. I haven't used it in a noisy environment, so I can't speak that aspect.

I had tried an earpiece style before that and it did not work for me - it kept wobbling, or falling off in the middle of a call. Probably user error, but the over the head style eliminates that altogether.

Caroline A. Edwards, Pennsylvania

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The set I mentioned is the "horse collar" type you're talking about. The ear buds are actually in the ends--they're retractable. (Here's the LG listing for the 920 model, which may give you an idea of what I mean:

<http://www.lg.com/us/bluetooth-headsets-headphones/lg-HBS-920-Rose-Gold.>)

The microphone is somewhere in the "horse collar," but I have no idea where. My husband has never had to worry about it. He wears it with shirts with collars, and has never had a problem.

I hope that helps!

Kelcey Patrick-Ferree

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Yes, I have the SkullCandy version of this "horse collar" unit. The mic is in the horsecollar and seems to work fine; though I usually use mine to listen to podcasts rather than have phone conversations. The few phone calls I've taken on it have gone well though.

Disclaimer: Still never been a lawyer at Microsoft or any other company

Ben M. Schorr, Washington

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I have been using the Jabra Supreme since 2014. I settled on this model after purchasing three others and finding that among the four, sound fidelity was, overall, the best. I write "overall" because, if you use the headset for both telephone calls as well as for listening to music and podcasts, you need to consider what the sound fidelity is like for the person to whom you are speaking. While the Plantronics Voyager Legend had better sound fidelity on my end, it had much worse sound fidelity for the other party. One said it sounded like I was speaking through a handkerchief. The Jabra Supreme is also more compact. I did my comparison four years ago, so things may have changed. However, in an era where last year's model can become quickly outdated, the Jabra Supreme is still being sold. There is also a version called Jabra Supreme UC, that comes with a dongle that you could plug into the USB port of your laptop and hear the audio of your laptop through the earbud. It is a little bit pricier.

See

[https://www.jabra.com/products/bluetooth/jabra\\_supreme\\_\\_new\\_/jabra\\_\\_supreme\\_\\_new\\_](https://www.jabra.com/products/bluetooth/jabra_supreme__new_/jabra__supreme__new_).

<https://www.amazon.com/Jabra-SUPREME-UC-Bluetooth-Headset/dp/B007VL90QG> - Jabra Supreme UC

<https://www.amazon.com/Jabra-SUPREME-Bluetooth-Headset-Packaging/dp/B008X0TBKO>

The model at the Jabra website is called "Jabra Supreme Plus." I don't know if that differs from the models found on Amazon, but, if you are interested in this device, you may want to find out what the differences are between the two versions.

Avram L. Sacks, Illinois

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I second the SkullCandy horse collar.

Wal\*Mart. Under \$50

I bought for podcasts and the phone feature was secondary. The horse collar is nice b/c I can drive with one in the left ear and the other dangles to answer the proverbial "How much longer until we get there..." questions.

No Problem Whatsoever with call clarity.

I do not like the flap that goes over the charging port; a bit of a uneasy fit.

A friend of mine got a Google Pixel with two ear pieces that have only a (non-conductive) cord b/t the two pieces. The way it charges is in a glasses-type case. The pods have magnetic wells and then you plug the case in to the wall.

Looked neat. Didn't look like my one-ear application would do so well.

My 0.02.

Michael J. Sweeney, Connecticut

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