



The New *play*Series from HEAD acoustics

Accurate Binaural Playback for the Entire Workflow

With the new *play*Series, HEAD acoustics is expanding its portfolio with consistently well-designed solutions for accurate binaural playback. The product family—consisting of *playBasic*, *playPro*, and *playStudio*—ensures optimal, reproducible listening conditions for a wide range of application scenarios: from mobile workstations to specialized listening studios.

The human ear decides

Binaural recordings are an indispensable basis for analyses that help us understand how products are actually perceived in real acoustic environments. In practice, however, one crucial step is often underestimated: faithfully reproducing what a binaural recording system, such as an artificial head, has recorded. Without defined levels, headphone-specific equalization, and complete control over all playback parameters, identical audio data can sound fundamentally different across workstations. For

applications in NVH, sound design, product sound evaluation, or psychoacoustics, this variability undermines the high value of binaural data.

HEAD acoustics addresses this critical issue with the *playSeries*. **The company is currently the only provider to cover the entire binaural signal chain with consistently high-quality standards – from calibrated recording and precise software analysis to accurate reproduction**, tailored to the headphones used. The *playSeries* translates HEAD acoustics' binaural expertise into practical, reliable hardware solutions. Every device in the *playSeries* guarantees **correct level reproduction** and integrates **headphone-specific equalization**. This ensures that the perceived acoustic scene remains consistent – regardless of where a recording is evaluated or which teams are involved.

playBasic – precise binaural hearing, anywhere



playBasic was developed **for mobile workflows**. The compact device enables reliable binaural playback without additional configuration or calibration effort, making it ideal for time-critical workflows. As a high-quality, low-threshold offering, it is perfect for equipping the entire team, enabling efficient work. It is offered exclusively as a package – with a choice of open or closed headphones from HEAD acoustics –

and is ready for immediate use. This makes *playBasic* ideal for variant comparisons, quick sound evaluations, or cross-departmental communication where a uniform and technically reliable reference is required.

playPro – two outputs for joint decisions



In many development phases, variants must be discussed, subjective impressions compared, or results validated long before a listening studio is available. *playPro* supports this process with **two independently equalized headphone outputs**, allowing two people to listen to the same binaural scene simultaneously under identical conditions. The device stores individual equalization data for calibrated headphones,

enabling reproducible evaluations at any time.

playStudio – reference playback for laboratories and simulators



For **listening studios, research facilities, and demanding simulation environments**, *playStudio* offers the highest precision in binaural playback. Professional digital and analog interfaces such as AES/EBU, ADAT/TOSLINK, and analog outputs, as well as the daisy chain function, even when the device is turned off, enable scalable multi-device setups. *playStudio* can be securely installed in a rack and becomes the central reference point for jury tests, psychoacoustic

investigations, management demos, and simulator applications.

The missing link

The **playSeries** makes binaural listening a scalable, reproducible technical tool for all areas of application. Developers can evaluate NVH signatures directly at their workstations, while laboratories and studios maintain the highest reference standards. At the same time, management, purchasing, and quality assurance are given the opportunity to conduct sound evaluations under defined, technically optimized conditions.

In this way, the **playSeries** facilitates informed communication between individuals and departments, makes subjective evaluations traceable, and enables development decisions that reflect how products are actually experienced by users. **The playSeries makes binaural hearing a reliable, technically valid tool across the entire development chain.**

For more information:

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<https://www.head-acoustics.com/products/playback/playseries/>

About HEAD acoustics

HEAD acoustics GmbH is one of the world's leading companies offering holistic sound and vibration analysis solutions. In the telecom sector, the company enjoys global recognition due to its expertise and pioneering role in developing hardware and software for measuring, analyzing, and optimizing voice and audio quality, as well as customer-specific solutions and services. HEAD acoustics' range of services covers sound and vibration engineering for technical products, investigation of environmental noise, speech quality engineering, training, and support. The medium-sized company from Herzogenrath near Aachen has subsidiaries in China, France, India, Italy, Japan, South Korea, the UK, the USA, and numerous sales partners worldwide.