

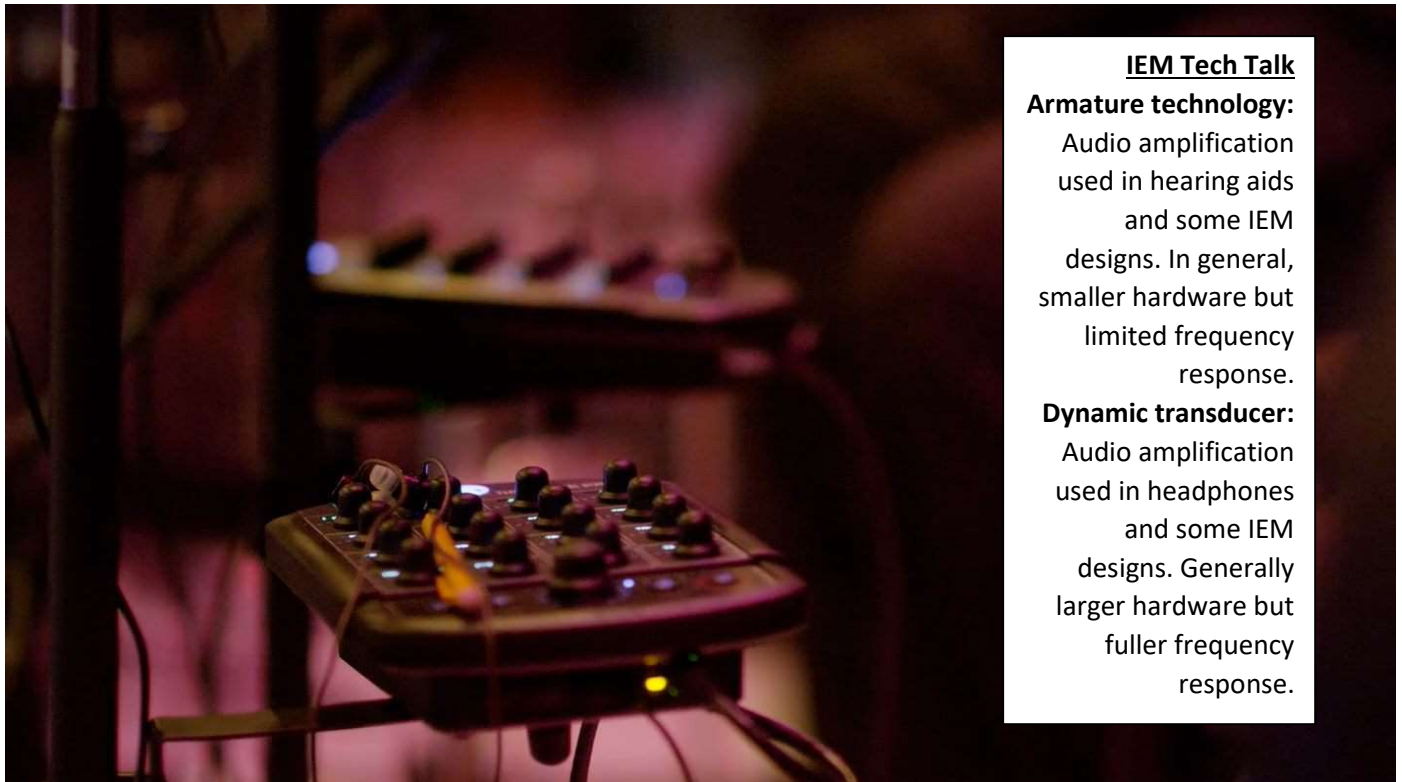


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HEADPHONES OR IN-EAR MONITORS? Pairing the right ears with your gear

Hear Technologies designs equipment to provide quality audio, with an emphasis on accuracy. However, the headphone control system is only part of the equation. The high-quality audio from Hear gear is only as good as what ends up in your headphones or in-ear monitors. But which is the right solution?

There's no wrong answer. It depends on how you use them. For example, if you need to block out stage noise, PA sound, or crowd noise, headphones with good isolation or sealed in-ear monitors are a solution to consider. On the other hand, if you're in a quieter studio environment and need to be able to hear your surroundings or people speaking, open-backed headphones might be your go-to. The best in-ears or headphones are the ones you're used to, as your ears are already accustomed to them. Hear Tech engineers even recommend bringing your own quality pair to the studio or when performing live. And the best way to find new ones is to try them out in-person with a recording you know by heart.



IEM Tech Talk

Armature technology:

Audio amplification used in hearing aids and some IEM designs. In general, smaller hardware but limited frequency response.

Dynamic transducer:

Audio amplification used in headphones and some IEM designs. Generally larger hardware but fuller frequency response.

There are a few things to be aware of when choosing a pair of headphones or in-ear monitors.

- Consumer headphones and ear buds are designed to listen to already-mastered pieces, so the dynamics are more controlled. They also tend to have exaggerated low and high frequencies, which can result in a musician changing their tone to compensate. Some are well designed, but in general can be prone to distortion.
- Monitoring live music means more dynamics, so your headphones/IEMs will get hit with a lot more energy that can damage some consumer-grade headphones.
- With in-ear monitors, armature technology and dynamic transducers offer different advantages.
- If you use just one IEM in one ear to allow you to hear the stage/studio noise with the other, be sure to disconnect the earpiece not in use – IEMs are designed to have back pressure on them. When you take them out of your ear, there is no back pressure and that could damage the driver.
- In-ear monitors that are molded to your ear make it more comfortable and easier to use them, so if it's in your budget, it's a nice option.
- Above all, if you can, listen to headphones or IEMs before you buy them.

Hear Technologies is a world leader in pro audio and monitoring equipment. Our U.S.-designed and -built knob-based cue systems make personal monitoring easy. Hear Technologies products can be found in studios, live productions, and houses of worship around the world.

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