Apple debuts $129 AirPods 5 with better noise cancellation and transparency mode

Apple has debuted the new AirPods 5 with improved active noise cancellation and sound quality—aiming to provide improved listening and user features at a lower launch price than the predecessor AirPods 4.

The newest AirPods will go on sale for $129 in stores starting on September 18, according to an Apple press release accompanying the company's "Surprise and Shine" event. Customers can also purchase AirPods 5 with a wireless charging case that provides longer battery life and on-stem volume control for $149. Preorders are already open.

This is looking like a solid deal compared to the predecessor AirPods 4. The older AirPods debuted in 2024 with a starting price of $129, but users had to pay $179 for the version with active noise cancellation.

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