

Sennheiser Momentum True Wireless 4 review: redemption never sounded so good

It only took a few days with Sennheiser's new Momentum True Wireless 4 earbuds for it to become plainly obvious that they're a class above the company's previous model in nearly every way. The design and overall sound signature haven't undergone major changes. But through a number of under-the-hood tweaks and other more subtle improvements, Sennheiser has taken aim at the connection issues, software bugs, and quality control concerns that hindered the potential of its third-gen buds – to the point where some buyers had said, "Never again."

At \$299.95, they're now \$50 pricier, but these remain among the best-sounding wireless earbuds you'll find. And they're packed with forward-looking features that will keep them relevant for several years to come. Intriguingly, the Momentum True Wireless 4 earbuds also buck a major trend in their category by shipping without any kind of spatial audio tricks.

8Verge Score

Sennheiser Momentum True Wireless 4

\$ 299.95

p]:mb-8 [>ul>li]:mb-6 [>ul>li]:leading-140 [>ul]:my-0
[>ul]:mb-16 [>ul]:py-0 md:[>ul]:mb-0 [&_*]:font-polysans-
mono [&_*]:text-14 [&a:hover]:shadow-highlight-franklin

[&_a]:shadow-underline-black [&_li]:marker:text-franklin
[&_p]:font-light [&_strong]:font-medium [&_ul]:font-light
md:w-1/2 md:border-t-0 md:first:border-r md:first:pr-16
md:last:pl-16">

The Bad

- Too pricey for some
- Noise cancellation does the job, but isn't anything special
- Long-term durability remains to be seen

How we rate and review products

This is Sennheiser, so let's just get right to the sound. If you're coming from the Momentum True Wireless 3, the listening experience of these earbuds will be familiar. The detail, warmth, and impressive soundstage that Sennheiser fans have come to expect are all accounted for. In "I Remember Everything" by Zach Bryan and Kacey Musgraves, the acoustic guitar has just the right amount of crunch and timbre, and the MTW4 bring out the strengths in each of their voices. Jumping over to the 2023 remix of the Beatles' red album, you'll find plenty of rumble in the bass during tracks like "I Saw Her Standing There" – without any treble harshness on the earliest recordings.

In a word, the sound profile is *precise*, and you'll rarely ever be left wanting for more (or less) of anything. I favor these over Sony's WF-1000XM5, Apple's AirPods Pro, and Samsung's Galaxy Buds 2 Pro. They're neck and neck with Technics' AZ80 earbuds, another favorite of mine. Sennheiser gives you full control over the EQ, and a "sound personalization" feature can create a custom audio profile that's tuned to your unique hearing characteristics. I largely kept the earbuds in their default mode and wasn't disappointed.

Sennheiser's adaptive noise cancellation analyzes your environment to apply the right level of ANC on the fly, and

while it can't match up with class leader Bose, it was more than enough to help me tune out a crowded subway car and enjoy my music. Similarly, the company's transparency mode isn't at the level of Apple, but it sounds pleasingly natural and serves its purpose just fine. Through the company's mobile app, you can also set location-specific "zone" preferences, so if you want regular ANC at your favorite coffee shop but need some transparency mixed in at the office, you can do that.

a: hover]: text- black [& > a: hover]: shadow- underline- black
dark: [& > a: hover]: text- gray- e9 dark: [& > a: hover]: shadow-
underline- gray- 63 [& > a]: shadow- underline- gray- 13
dark: [& > a]: shadow- underline- gray- 63">Sennheiser includes four
sizes of ear tips and three sets of silicone arcs.

The company has made a substantial effort to futureproof these \$300 buds for the next several years: they're Bluetooth 5.4-compliant, and a firmware update due in early spring will enable LE Audio and Auracast. More relevant for those hell-bent on the best audio quality is that the MTW4 feature Qualcomm's Snapdragon Sound technology. That'll prove beneficial if you own a recent flagship-level Android phone with a Qualcomm processor inside because you'll be able to stream what Sennheiser claims is "flawless bit-by-bit" lossless audio from your phone to the earbuds – as long as your chosen music service offers it.

a: hover]: text- black [& > a: hover]: shadow- underline- black
dark: [& > a: hover]: text- gray- e9 dark: [& > a: hover]: shadow-
underline- gray- 63 [& > a]: shadow- underline- gray- 13
dark: [& > a]: shadow- underline- gray- 63">These options are present
even in the iOS Smart Control app – despite iPhones being
unable to take advantage of them.

Practically none of this higher-fidelity listening applies to iPhone users since Apple continues to stick with its long-preferred AAC codec. But these earbuds sound fantastic no matter which device you link them with. I've come to believe that an earbud's tuning and the drivers inside can be more

important than supporting a grab bag of codecs, and Sennheiser's Momentum True Wireless 4 are a prime example of that. They also conveniently include multipoint support, so you can pair them with two devices at the same time if you need to multitask between your phone and laptop.

Sennheiser's Momentum True Wireless 4 earbuds (above) and the Technics AZ80 earbuds (below).

Sennheiser has also put work into making these earbuds better for voice calls. They include a six-microphone array that runs through the company's latest AI voice processing algorithms to help separate your voice from any background clatter. My instinct is always to grab a wired set of buds (or just use the earpiece) for any calls that really matter, but these definitely outperform the company's past efforts when it comes to voice isolation.

It's too early to definitively say that Sennheiser got it right this time, but that's what my gut's been telling me while testing the Momentum True Wireless 4 earbuds. Their sound remains exceptional, the glitches and defects from previous models are nowhere to be seen, and they're stuffed full of the very latest Bluetooth capabilities you'll find in 2024. I'll be keeping an eye on Reddit and other social channels to make sure nothing goes awry hardware-wise. But if you were left with a bad taste in your mouth by the MTW3, this feels like a redemption arc.

AGREE TO CONTINUE: SENNHEISER MOMENTUM TRUE WIRELESS 4
Every smart device now requires you to agree to a series of

terms and conditions before you can use it – contracts that no one actually reads. It's impossible for us to read and analyze every single one of these agreements. But we started counting exactly how many times you have to hit "agree" to use devices when we review them since these are agreements most people don't read and definitely can't negotiate.

You can use Sennheiser's Momentum True Wireless 4 earbuds without needing to agree to anything. However, if you want to install the companion Smart Control app and customize how they work, you'll need to agree to:

- Sennheiser's License Agreement
- Sennheiser's Smart Control app privacy policy

Sennheiser also asks you to share your usage data, but this is optional. If you want to use features including Smart Zones, you must register for a Sennheiser account and share your location data.

In total, there are two mandatory agreements to use the app and several optional agreements.

Photography by Chris Welch / The Verge

<https://www.theverge.com/24086715/sennheiser-momentum-true-wireless-4-earbuds-review>