I ranked 415 budget IEMs by lab measurements, not marketing

Every wired IEM under ₹10,000 sold in India, ranked for beginners



Jiyan Bhatt

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01 WHY

A side project, done properly

I wanted my first pair of IEMs and found only marketing: "8 drivers", "Hi-Res", reviews that contradict each other. So over my Diwali break I treated it like a data problem.

415
wired IEMs ranked, under ₹10,000

9,012
lab measurements analysed

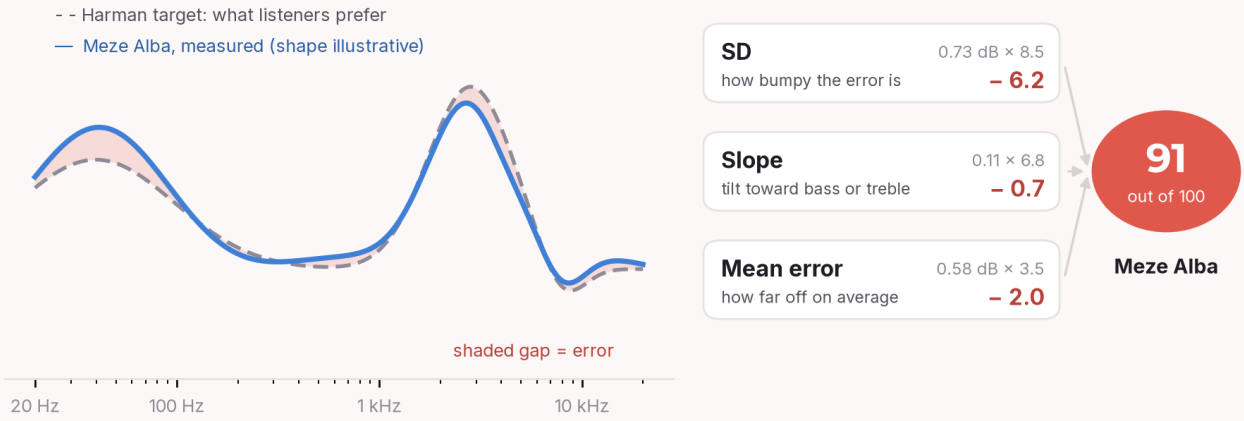
73
independent measurers

455
product pages read by AI agents

02 THE METHOD

Good sound is measurable

Harman's researchers had listeners rate IEMs blind and found that three numbers from a lab measurement predict those ratings very well (Olive, Welti and Khonsaripour, AES 2017; correlation 0.91). The further an IEM strays from the sound people prefer, the lower it scores. No opinions involved.



Harman score = 100.08 − 8.5 × SD − 6.80 × |slope| − 3.48 × mean error

Worked example: Meze Alba, ₹8,999. Its numbers come from two independent measurers (achoreviews and kazi on squig.link), whose scores agree within 0.3 points. 100.08 − 6.2 − 0.7 − 2.0 ≈ 91, the highest sound score in the list. The curve shape is illustrative; the numbers are real. The model judges tuning only, not fit or build.

How the final score is built, out of 100

60 Sound
Harman score, minus a margin of error when few people measured it

30 Hardware
Detachable cable, mic, easy to drive, DSP app (Type-C)

10
Eartips, case, extra cable

03

THE DATA

Three Indian stores, nine thousand measurements

Of 2,635 store products, 455 were in-budget IEMs. I read every one of those pages, split them by plug type, merged the same IEM sold by different stores, and removed discontinued models, leaving 415. Sound comes from public lab measurements made by independent hobbyist reviewers.

Headphone Zone
The Audio Store
Concept Kart

1,753 not IEMs
388 over ₹10,000
39 used or accessories

IEMs sold in 3.5 mm and Type-C count twice

135 duplicates across stores merged

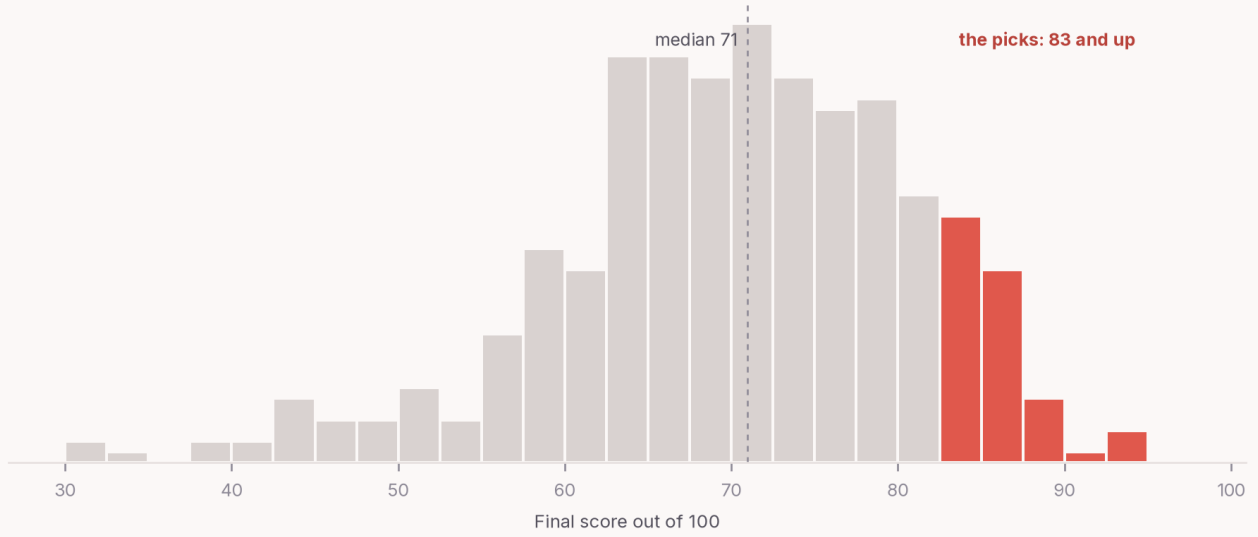
19 discontinued models removed

2,635 products in 3 stores → **455** IEM pages in budget, all read → **569** listings, split by plug → **434** distinct IEMs → **415** IEMs ranked

9,012 lab measurements
from 93 hobbyist squig.link databases

73 of them had measured IEMs on our list

How all 415 IEMs score



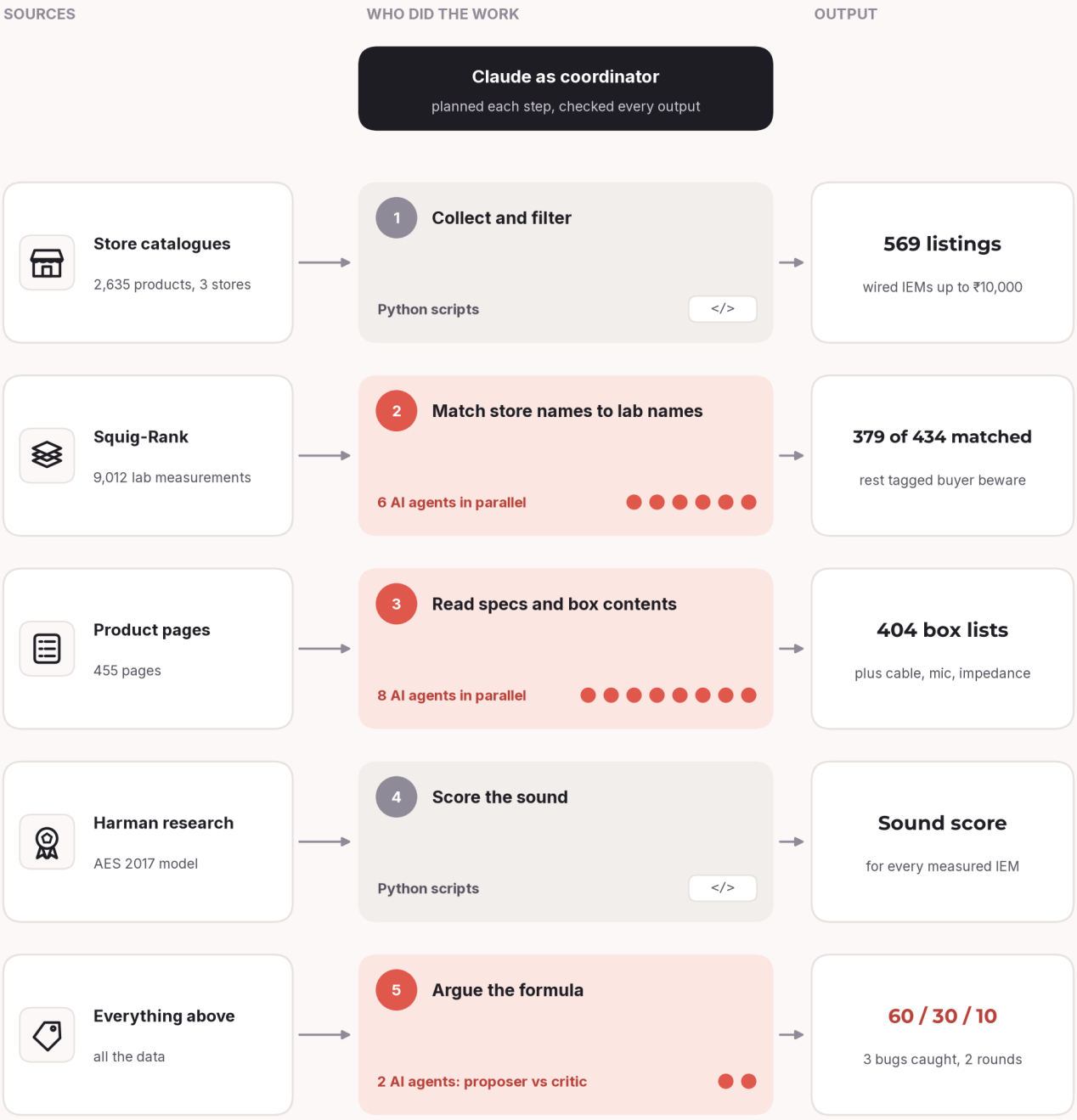
No measurement? Buyer beware.
55 IEMs have no public lab measurement. They get a low default score and a warning tag.

Sold out still counts.
Stock comes and goes. Sold-out IEMs are scored and ranked like the rest; only discontinued models were removed.

04 HOW I GOT THERE

Simple helpers, run side by side

Nothing fancy: Python did the fetching and the maths, and 16 small AI agents did the repetitive reading and matching, the same simple job run many times in parallel. Each dot below is one agent.



415 IEMs ranked · Excel sheet · website data · 6 beginner picks

Also tested and dropped: store reviews and forum opinions. They covered only about 10% of the IEMs, so they could not be scored fairly.

05 THE ANSWER

Which IEM should you buy?

Six beginner questions, each answered by the top-scoring IEM. Scores are out of 100.



Tightest budget, still good?

Cheapest IEM scoring 80+

KZ EDC Pro

₹709 · score **83** · 3.5 mm · 2 measurers

Runner-up: **KZ Eldar** ₹799 · 82



Best value?

Most score for the money: score rank minus price rank

KZ Gale

₹1,030 · score **85** · 3.5 mm (Type-C too) · 2 measurers

Runner-up: **ND Leo** ₹1,012 · 78, sold out now



Up to ₹5,000?

Top score in the whole list

Kefine Klean SV

₹4,290 · score **94** · 3.5 mm (Type-C too) · 2 measurers

Runner-up: **Kefine Loric** ₹2,560 · 94



Up to ₹10,000?

Top score from ₹5,000 to ₹10,000

Artti R2

₹5,390 · score **90** · 3.5 mm · 1 measurer · sold out now, usually restocks

Runner-up: **Simgot EG280** ₹7,790 · 90



Best for bass lovers?

Tuned warmer than the Harman target, with more bass, and still well tuned

Soratune BI02

₹7,390 · score **85** · 3.5 mm · 2 measurers

Runner-up: **KZ EDX Ultra** ₹1,190 · 83, sold out now



Prefer a brighter sound?

About 28% of listeners do. Top bright-tuned pick under ₹5,000

Moondrop Chu 2 DSP

₹2,790 · score **84** · Type-C · 3 measurers · sold out now, usually restocks

Runner-up: **Simgot EW200** ₹4,990 · 84

Tip: fit changes the sound more than most upgrades. If an IEM sounds thin, try a bigger eartip before blaming it.

06 · TRY IT YOURSELF

Explore all 415 IEMs yourself

Think my weights are wrong? Set your own budget, filters and weights, and watch 415 IEMs reshuffle into your own top 10.

iem-india.vercel.app

Filter by budget and plug | Compare IEMs side by side | Set your own weights

The top 10 at a glance

#	IEM	Plug	Price	Score
1	**Kefine Klean SV**	3.5 mm / Type-C	₹4,290	**94.1**
2	**Kefine Loric**	3.5 mm / Type-C	₹2,560	**93.6**
3	**Artti R2** sold out now	3.5 mm	₹5,390	**90.4**
4	**Simgot EG280**	3.5 mm / Type-C	₹7,790	**89.8**
5	**7Hz Zero 2**	3.5 mm / Type-C	₹2,449	**89.8**
6	**Kiwi Ears Singolo**	3.5 mm	₹7,490	**89.4**
7	**Tangzu Wan'er S.G 2 Red Lion** sold out now	3.5 mm / Type-C	₹2,299	**88.8**
8	**Meze Alba**	3.5 mm / Type-C	₹9,999	**87.6**
9	**ZiiGaat x Vivir Digital Rumba**	3.5 mm	₹4,499	**87.3**
10	**Moondrop Rays**	3.5 mm / Type-C	₹9,299	**87.3**

Sources

- Olive, Welti and Khonsaripour (2017). In-ear headphone preference model. AES Convention papers 9840 and 9878.
- Squig-Rank (github.com/PEQHUB/Squig-Rank): 9,012 public squig.link measurements. Credit to every measurer; raw curves are not redistributed.
- Headphone Zone, The Audio Store and Concept Kart: public listings and product photos, November 2026. Specs are store claims.
- Excluded on purpose: Amazon (its terms forbid scraping) and any site whose robots.txt blocks AI crawlers.

Made by **Jiyan Bhatt**. Built with Python and AI agents.