

Battle of the Mobile Audio Formats (*Test Song: Kanye West's "Homecoming"*) 7/7/2013

Format	What I Heard	Test Environment Details
Audio CD	Most transparent & balanced. By far the smoothest low end.	Standard redbook audio CD from original manufacturer purchased on Amazon.com. Played through Sony MEXBT3100P car stereo and standard speakers in a 2009 Mazda 5 (Sport Edition).
YouTube (through Galaxy IIs)	30% more bass gain than audio CD. Really boomy. Overall mix is 5% less transparent than audio CD. Really muddy.	Samsung Galaxy IIS via 1/8" audio cable to Sony MEXBT3100P car stereo. Android version 4.1.2. Played through standard speakers in a 2009 Mazda 5 (Sport Edition). Official music video (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LQ488QrqGE4).
Standard MP3 downloaded to iPhone5 (through mini-to-mini cable)	15% crisper high end than audio CD. Low frequencies are 20% less present than CD.	iPhone5 connected via 1/8" audio cable to Sony MEXBT3100P car stereo and standard speakers in a 2009 Mazda 5 (Sport Edition). 256 kbps MP3.
Standard MP3 downloaded to iPhone5 (through Bluetooth)	Bluetooth adds audible distortion to the low end! 20% more than the same exact song played through a cable.	iPhone5 connected via Bluetooth to Sony MEXBT3100P car stereo. Played through standard speakers in a 2009 Mazda 5 (Sport Edition). 256 kbps MP3.
Rhapsody Stream (192k AAC, mini-to-mini cable)	Almost identical to standard MP3 downloaded to iPhone5, but not quite as wide in the stereo field. Left and right channels are more slightly panned towards the middle.	Samsung Galaxy IIS connected via 1/8" audio cable to Sony MEXBT3100P car stereo. Android version 4.1.2. Rhapsody version 4.1.3.45. Played through standard speakers in a 2009 Mazda 5 (Sport Edition). 192 kbps MP3.