Frequently Asked Questions - FAQs

Why is PSB Speakers entering the Headphone product category?
Headphone usage has been on the rise and with the ability to store high-resolution music, personal hi-fi listeners are demanding more accurate sound reproduction. PSB has developed a unique transfer function for headphone listening. This recreates the frequency balance you would experience with full range loudspeakers in a room. This sensation is not common to headphone listening, resulting in a completely natural, open sound field.

What function does the 3-position switch perform?
- Active Noise Cancelling (ANC) with Room Feel™ – Switch illuminates Green.
- Active Mode with Room Feel™ – Switch illuminates Red.
- Passive Mode – No illumination, batteries not required.

Why are 2 different cords supplied?
One cord has 4 jack segments on both ends – this is for use with smartphones and includes control functions. The other cord has 3 segments on one end – this end should be plugged into aircraft or home sound systems. Both cords include the ‘listen through’ stereo monitor function.

What is the Stereo Monitor function?
This allows the microphones used for ANC to be activated for listening to the outside world by simply pressing the button on the signal cord. As an example, when the flight attendant is speaking to you, you can interrupt the music and hear what he/she is saying without having to remove the headset. These are stereo microphones so it is a completely natural sound. The M4U 2 must be in Active Noise Cancelling mode for this feature to work. In Active mode, the music will mute, but the stereo microphones will not be activated.

What is the function of the amplifier?
In addition to applying Room Feel™ EQ and Active Noise Cancelling, the amplifier provides an ‘easy load’ to your portable source device, reducing distortion and extending battery life. Technically, the impedance of the M4U 2 goes from 35 Ohms (passive) to 10,000 Ohms (active) and provides 5dB–15dB additional gain depending on the source impedance of the portable music player.

Is the Active Noise Cancelling digital?
No. We found that there was more accurate noise measurement data collection using four microphones instead of the usual two-microphone setup, which yielded better cancellation across a wider bandwidth when used with our low noise linear amplifier. Since the incoming signal is analogue, Digital Signal Processing introduces an additional A-to-D and D-to-A conversion process, a major source for distortion.

What is ‘Room Feel™’?
Room Feel™ is the name we have given to the unique transfer function developed by PSB that gives the same open dimensional sound to headphones that has previously only been experienced with high-end loudspeakers.