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Why is only one side of my wired headphones working

Some users report problems while using Apple earphones on their iDevices. More specifically, they complained that while one earphone works, the other doesn't make any sound. Here is what you can do to fix this problem. **The Cause of The Problem** Before jumping in the solution, make sure you test your earphones on other devices. Plug them into your iPad, computer, or any other device with a 3.5mm port and check if they are working properly. (If you have a lightning-port headphones, you can connect them to your iPad or another device with a lightning port. OR you can use a lightning-port-to-3.5mm dongle and connect them to your computer) Now, try bending the earphones cable on both ends (the connector's end and earphones' ends). If they are working just fine while you perform the bending, the earphones' hardware is likely functional, and your problem can be solved with the solution explained below. If you are experiencing occasional interruptions or no sound at all while bending, the problem is likely located in the hardware of your earphones. And, you may need to get a new pair of earphones. There is a little switch in the 3.5mm headphone port that disconnects the device's built-in speaker when the headphones are inserted. When it doesn't work properly, you may experience problems with your headphones. If the headphones are OK when connected to other devices, try the following: Clean out (by blowing or using compressed air blown) the headphones (or lightning) port on your iDevice. For more detailed instructions how to clean the lightning port of your iDevice, you can check this [iphone x charging issues](#) article. Insert and remove the plug a dozen times or so. Now connect your earphones and test them again. **Software Problem Fix** To rule out a software problem, try the following: Get your iDevice (the one which you are experiencing the problem on), and go to Settings. Navigate to General and tap on Accessibility. Now, scroll down to Phone Noise Cancellation. Right under this section, you can see a slider. It adjusts the audio volume balance between the left and right channels. Make sure it is set in the middle. Force Restart Your iDevice If you are still experiencing the same problem as before, perform the Force Restart procedure. If you are not familiar how to do it, check the Forced Restart section in this [iphone dead](#) article. There you can find how to force-restart your particular iDevice. Now, plug your headphones and check if this method fixed the problem for you. And, if it didn't, reset the iDevice. (Go to Settings > General > Reset > Reset All Settings) Note: This procedure will not delete your personal information (contacts, messages, and calendars) and media (pictures, songs, and videos). However, you will lose your device's remembered Wi-Fi passwords. If this doesn't help you, try restoring your iDevice to factory settings (choose Set Up as a New Device). Note: Setting up your iDevice as a new one will delete all the data from your device's memory. So, consider backing up first. **Final Words** If nothing helps, it seems like you have a bad headphone (or lightning) port on your iDevice. The next thing you can do is to make an appointment at the Genius Bar of an Apple store. They will examine the problem and give the possible solutions for it. I hope this article helped you in solving, or at least, locating the problem with your Apple earphones. So, what was the cause for your earphone's issue, and did you managed to fix it? Make sure you drop us a line in the comment section below. If you have problems with your headphones, earphones, or earbuds, in one device but then if you plug them into another device and it works perfectly then you may have a build up of debris, lint, fluff, dirt, or even a mixture of debris with stained coffee, soda, etc in your headphone jack. Click to see full answer **Consequently, why does one side of my earphones not work?** There can be many reasons that a pair of headphones only play audio out of one ear. The most common reason for sound to only come out of one side is the wires near the audio jack have gotten bent back and forth so many times that it has caused a short in the wiring. Additionally, how do you fix Apple headphones when only one side works? If you can't hear any sound or if only one side of your headphones works Adjust the volume with the volume buttons on your iOS device or use the Volume slider in Control Center. To see if you need a replacement, try a second pair of headphones. Similarly, you may ask, how do you fix one side of Bluetooth headphones not working? When one side of the earbud does not play sound Power off and restart both sides of the earphone. Wait for the transmitting device find your earphone and reconnect. You hear the announcement "Your Device Has Been Connected" when it's done. Wait both sides of the earphones find each other and reconnect. You hear the short beep when it's done. Can you fix an earbud? Cheap earbuds are disposable, but don't toss out an expensive pair. If the problem is a broken connection, you can fix them yourself with a soldering iron and electronics solder. First locate the problem as you begin a how to fix headphones project. Allow the soldered connection to cool and then test the earbud. To fix wireless headphones or Bluetooth Earbud whose one side only work simply start by booting your headphones, if it doesn't solve the issue then resetting its Bluetooth and re-pairing it is your next step. If that doesn't work, it's time to check your mobile/PC settings to make sure the headphone settings are not set to mono or else the issue from the audio itself or a connectivity issue. To start with a deeper solution, you need first to be sure whether the problem comes from the headphones or from the media device you are connecting the headphones. In order to do that try to disconnect the Bluetooth wireless headphone from this media device and connect it to another device and see whether the issue is from the headphone side or the media side. If this is the case, then we need to troubleshoot the issue further on your wireless Bluetooth headphones, please select your wireless headphone type experiencing the issue by clicking either on the title or the photo: [Wireless Headphones Styles](#) [Earbuds Bluetooth Headphones Styles](#) Here are simple 8 troubleshooting steps to fix any wireless headphones with only one side work issue: Check the side balance. [Check Your Track Mono Or Stereo](#). Power off/on your headphone. Reconnect Bluetooth. Insert the sound cable plug while playing audio. Pull out back the sound cable while playing audio. Reset your wireless headphone. Troubleshoot the audio jack. To break these troubleshooting steps down, willingly this could solve the issue before proceeding further into advanced solutions: Check the side balance - (If you are using your headphone with a computer, check the audio speaker sides balance setting it might be set to right or left only.) [Check Your Track Mono Or Stereo](#) - Check whether the track you are playing is mono (This also commonly happens that a user doesn't know a mono track he is playing and think there is an issue with the headphone speaker. mono tracks plays only one side in any speaker or headphone.) Power off/on your headphone. Reconnect Bluetooth - (Try now playing an audio file and see whether the issue resolved and you could hear the sound on both sides, if not proceed to the next step.) Insert the sound cable plug while playing audio (Will you hear both sides?) Pull out back the sound cable while playing audio (Will you hear both sides?) Reset your wireless headphone (Some wireless headphones have an option to be fully reset, you can check your headphone model manual on how to do that, does that solve the issue?) Basically what happens is upon plugging in the aux cable jack, there are small mechanical triggers (like small metal balls with springs) in the headphone jack port that will turn off the Bluetooth functionality. If only one speaker side works when connecting via Bluetooth (wireless), this means that one of the small mechanical triggers in the jack port is stuck in a position of halfway, this will tell your headphone speakers to function via the audio aux cable instead of the Bluetooth technology... this halfway point between the two functions will make one of the speakers not to work. So, how do you fix this? (Simply by taking your aux cable plug and attempt to knock the small mechanical trigger ball back to where it was before by pushing the cable plug into the jack port (in and out) at different angles. This should work for you otherwise you need to proceed to the advanced troubleshooting steps below.) Since the above basic steps did not solve your issue of (Why is only one side of my headphones working?), this could be a hardware defecton inside your side speaker which is not working. During the below troubleshooting steps you might be needing to have the following items (check its promotion prices from the links): Step 1: Checking whether it is a speaker issue. For this step, you should open the faulty speaker (that doesn't work) and this step basically is very easy if you know how to work well with a soldering tool, follow the below instructions step by step: Displace the Batteries from the headphone and the aux cable in case if it is connected to the socket. Remove your headphone speaker's foam pads by twisting them counterclockwise (or by using a flat type screwdriver to open the clips type foam pad for some models, those foam pads should be separated from the headphone speaker body). Most probably you will face screws (open those screws with the screwdriver so you can access the wires that connected to the speaker internally). Bring the additional aux cable that has a jack on one end (If you do not have such a cable you can either cut a similar cable from another old speaker or headphone from one end and leave the jack on the other end or bring an aux cable and manually fix the jack on it. If you do not know how you can check it in my tutorial [How To Replace The Headphone Jack](#)). Slice the other end of the cable using the slicer tool to have around 2 cm metal cable shown. Twist each cable end on one cable of the speaker tightly (temporarily without soldering it) Plug the other end of the cable (the jack plug) into a media device player socket. Turn the media device ON then play a song and see if the speaker works or not. If the speaker works fine then you should turn OFF the media player first, then remove the jack plug from it, then solder back the original cables in their places on the speaker, and fix its cover back. If your wireless headphone plays music in one speaker and you have already checked that the speaker with no sound has no technical issue or it wasn't the reason behind the issue then most probably the issue because of the socket port. The socket port is connected to a small electrical circuit board (as shown in the below image) that connected to the speakers either directly or indirectly so if this socket has a mechanical issue (just like I stated above on the triggers) or an electrical issue on its board you need to replace it. But of course, you need to check it first. Does it feel loose when you plug in an aux jack to this headphone socket? Will the voice works on the silent speaker while listening to music in one side speaker and pushing in and out an aux socket? Does an aux jack stuck and not been inserted completely inside the socket port and a portion of it remain outside? If you are experiencing one or more of the above symptoms most likely you need to replace the faulty jack socket of your wireless Bluetooth headphone. (Proceed to step 4) Step 3: (If step 1 is false) Replacing the faulty speaker. As shown in the below picture the speaker is connected by cables to the circuit board which we will remove and install the new speaker. Open the screws on the headphone base to see where the cables are going behind. Using the soldering tool we remove all 4 cables as shown in the below image in order to take off the faulty speaker. We solder back the new 4 cables using the same method above of the new speaker in the same exact locations as the old cables, then we fix back all parts together following the same process backward. Step 4: (If step 2 is true) Replacing the faulty jack socket. Replacing the headphone's jack socket you need to use the soldering tool to dismantle it from the board (check the below image of how the socket looks from the other side on the board fixed by solder). Soldering the new socket on the same exact locations on the board (you should priorly order the same exact socket or use an old one from the same headphone model) Fix back all headphone parts in reverse to have your headphones back as before. Here are very easy 8 simple fix steps for wireless Bluetooth earbuds or AirPods headsets whose one side doesn't work issue to check and follow to solve the issue: [Enable/Disable Bluetooth](#) - Enable and disable the Bluetooth function on your mobile. (does this fix the issue?) [Reconnect Your Bluetooth Earbuds](#) - Remove the Bluetooth connection from your mobile settings and add the headphone again. (does this fix the issue?) [Check Earbuds Base Door](#) - Wear both pieces (If your wireless headset is from Apple) while one of them is not working and keep on opening and closing the case door several times [Check Earbuds After Using It For a While](#) - Keep on wearing both pieces (If your wireless headset is from Apple) for around 5 minutes while listening to an audio or video on your iPhone. (after a while the silent piece will respond and play the sound) [Check Earbud Battery](#) - Check the not functioning piece battery charge, if it doesn't have a charge then it is off so simply charge that piece. [Check Your Mobile](#) - Connect your Bluetooth headphones to another mobile phone and see whether it is working fine or the same issue remains. (if both pieces work fine then the issue is in your mobile, you need to do some troubleshooting in your mobile like soft reset...etc) [Check Audio Mono or Stereo](#) - Check whether the track you are playing is mono (This also commonly happens that a user doesn't know a mono track he is playing and think there is an issue with the headphone speaker. mono tracks plays only one side in any speaker or headphone.) [Check Your Audio files](#) - Play different audio files or videos, maybe the issue is with the file that being played not with the headphones. **Conclusion** Headphones are electrical devices which sometimes we do not understand how or why they fluctuate in their performance especially when it comes to wireless (Bluetooth) headphones, so mostly the above basic troubleshooting steps should solve your headphone one side doesn't work issue but if it did not, then proceed to the advanced steps. 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