

The List

I was lucky to have both a Kanso 2 and Nucleus devices to trial for an extended period. I flip-flopped a lot on device type prior to the surgery and after activation, but nothing beats trying them for yourself.

At my initial consultation, I expressed a preference for an off-the-ear processor. I had used a hearing aid for about 7 months at that stage and was ready to go back to having nothing on my ear. In the meantime, I read up on the new Nucleus 8 and was a little disappointed seeing the Kanso 2 on activation day. This didn't last long and I loved having my ear free. When I returned for subsequent mapping visits I got the chance to trial a Nucleus 8 for a couple of weeks (in fetching grey) and, when they saw that I was sorry to see the nucleus processor go, they gave me an N7 until I decided on my final device.

This may not be an issue for everyone, but as I was attending a single processor clinic, I didn't have the luxury of getting one of each and I needed to be certain about my choice.

Kanso 2 For

Great battery life

Compact

Can't distinguish hearing quality- sounds as good as the Nucleus devices

Simple to put on

Kanso 2 Against

Knock it off with clothes/other mishaps

Retention lines are [gammy](#)

No integration with the third party remote mic that I'm interested in- the [Roger On](#). Not sure if I'll need this for meetings when I'm back at work. The Cochlear Minimic 2+ will still work though and could be used as an intermediary device, but this introduces too many potential points of failure

Is the Kanso 3 on the way? Will I be stuck with older technology for a good few years until I'm due for an upgrade?

Poorer public awareness of what it is

Nucleus 8 For

Stable- hard to knock off

Music with over ear headphones

Can lie on the couch with it by moving the behind the ear processor out of the way- the slim profile of the coil relative to the Kanso 2 which is a lot chunkier

More readily recognised by the general public

Latest technology, including Auracast functionality. I think Auracast will do a lot to make social and occupational situations more accessible in time and might let me get to that combined audio experience sharing a music signal between my left and right sides.

Nucleus 8 Against

Battery indicator goes from 90% to change your battery now. The battery level functionality doesn't seem to work with non-rechargeable batteries.

Longevity of wire?

Battery casing pressing behind the ear

There is a general feature of Bluetooth where it does not perform as well in open spaces as it does indoors where it has multiple surfaces for the signal to bounce off. In practical terms, this means that I need to have my phone reasonably near the processor (left breast pocket) so that it doesn't cut out. I noticed cutting out more with the Nucleus devices, but it probably happened with the Kanso 2 too.

Off the ear is definitely more comfortable from the start. While the Nucleus 8 is light, it is weighed down by two big disposable batteries. The battery casing edge is bevelled, but it still manages to press into the skin behind the ear, in the region of the surgical scar. There's competition for real estate around the ear. The Nucleus 8 and my sunglasses both get compressed by my hat on a long walk. This becomes less of an issue with time and eventually, it's part of you like any prosthesis. Likewise, over the ear headphones press the nucleus against the skin. Not an issue for shorter listening durations, but it does become uncomfortable with time. As I write this, I hand back the N8 tomorrow and I'm probably veering towards the Kanso 2 right now. I have it charging in preparation for our reunion tomorrow. My hair is longer now and it might not stick out from my head as much, but I wonder if that will be at the expense of easier detachment. Can I walk around forever with a retention string? How would I feel writing the blog post about the day I lost my only CI processor? As it turned out, the next day I was sad to see the behind the ear processor go back and the CI team offered me a loaner N7 while I made up my mind. I left wearing the N7 and didn't use the Kanso 2 again.

In the end, I ordered the N8 and, so far, I'm pretty happy with that choice.