Best Decibel Meter Apps for iPhone Without Ads (2026 Comparison)

Compare the top ad-free dB meter apps for iPhone. Find out which ones log readings over time and which only show live levels.

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Why Ads Ruin a Decibel Meter App

When you pull out your iPhone to measure sound levels, the last thing you want is a banner ad flickering across the screen or a pop-up interrupting your measurement. A noise level reading requires focus, steady positioning, and accurate timing. Ads destroy all three. Yet most free decibel meter apps in the App Store are riddled with them. In this comparison, we look at the best ad-free dB meter apps for iPhone in 2026, and explain what actually separates a useful app from a gimmick.

What to Look for in a Decibel Meter App

Before jumping into the comparison, it helps to understand what features actually matter. A basic decibel meter app shows you a live reading from your iPhone's microphone in dB or dBA. That's table stakes. The apps that genuinely help you are ones that go further:

- **Logging over time** — saving each reading with a timestamp so you can build a historical record
- **Offline functionality** — working without an internet connection, which matters if you're in a basement, a factory floor, or a rural location
- **No ads** — a clean interface without visual clutter or audio interruptions

- **Export or sharing** — the ability to share your noise data for documentation or complaints
- **Accuracy** — using the device microphone responsibly and showing A-weighted (dBA) measurements where relevant

App 1: NoiseLedger — The Best Choice for Logging

NoiseLedger: dB Meter Log stands apart from every other app in this list because it was designed from the ground up as a noise logger, not just a live meter. While other apps show you what the sound level is right now, NoiseLedger records each measurement with a timestamp and stores it in a local log on your device.

This makes it the ideal choice for anyone who needs to document noise over time — whether that's a construction site worker tracking daily exposure, a tenant building a case about noisy neighbors, or a parent monitoring sound levels near a baby's room. You open the app, tap to record, and every reading is saved with the exact date and time. No account required. No internet required. Everything stays on your phone.

The interface is clean, focused, and completely free of ads. There are no banners, no interstitials, no rewarded video prompts. You get a clear reading, a log list, and the ability to review your history at any time.

Download NoiseLedger for iPhone — Free on the App Store

App 2: Decibel X

Decibel X is one of the more polished live dB meter apps available for iPhone. It displays a professional-looking gauge with dBA and dBC readings, and it includes a peak hold feature. The UI is clean and the real-time reading is responsive.

However, Decibel X is primarily a live meter. It does not maintain a timestamped log of readings the way NoiseLedger does. You can see the current level and the peak, but there's no historical record you can reference later. It also has a paid tier for some features, and the free version includes ads.

Best for: checking current levels quickly when you don't need a record.

App 3: Sound Level Meter Pro

Sound Level Meter Pro offers a straightforward interface with a dial-style display showing live dB readings. It includes average and peak tracking during a session, which is useful for short measurements. The app is simple and functional.

The downside is that session data isn't persisted as a log. Once you close the app, your measurement history is gone. It also requires an internet connection for some features and includes occasional ads in the free version.

Best for: quick one-off readings in a quiet environment.

App 4: NIOSH SLM

The NIOSH Sound Level Meter app was developed by the U.S. National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. It's free, ad-free, and designed specifically for occupational noise measurement. It uses A-weighting (dBA) and shows time-weighted average (TWA), which is important for OSHA compliance.

NIOSH SLM is excellent for professional occupational health contexts. Its limitation is that it doesn't store a log of multiple sessions — it's built for single measurement sessions with manual note-taking. It also lacks a persistent historical log that you can scroll through and compare across days.

Best for: occupational health professionals who need TWA measurements.

App 5: Too Noisy Pro

Too Noisy Pro is designed for classroom environments, showing a visual meter that changes color based on noise level. It's fun and engaging for teachers, but it's not a serious measurement tool. Readings aren't logged, the dB display is simplified, and it's aimed at behavior management rather than accurate noise documentation.

Best for: teachers managing classroom noise, not for serious measurement or logging.

The Key Differentiator: Live Meter vs. Noise Logger

After comparing these five apps, the single biggest distinction is between apps that show you the current reading and apps that build a record. All five apps can display a live dB reading. Only NoiseLedger gives you a timestamped log that persists between sessions and works completely offline.

If you've ever tried to describe a noise problem — to a landlord, an HR department, a building manager, or even just to yourself — you know how hard it is to rely on memory. "It was loud last Tuesday evening" isn't evidence. A log showing 78 dB at 11:04 PM on a Tuesday, 81 dB at 11:47 PM on a Wednesday, and 85 dB at 10:58 PM on a Friday is a pattern. That's documentation.

Offline Access: Why It Matters

Many dB meter apps require an internet connection to display ads, sync data to the cloud, or load resources. This creates a real problem when you need to measure noise somewhere with poor connectivity — a basement apartment, a factory floor, an underground parking garage, or a rural area.

NoiseLedger works entirely offline. All data is stored locally on your iPhone. You can measure noise, review your log, and build your documentation without any network dependency. This is not a minor convenience — for some users, it's the only reason a particular app is actually usable in their situation.

Who Should Use NoiseLedger

NoiseLedger is the right choice if any of these apply to you:

- You're documenting noise from a neighbor, a nearby business, or a construction site
- You work in a noisy environment and want to track your daily exposure
- You want to monitor noise levels in a specific location over days or weeks
- You need an app that works offline, without ads, and without an account
- You want a clean, focused interface that doesn't get in the way of your measurement

The logging feature is what makes it genuinely useful rather than just another novelty dB meter. It transforms your iPhone from a live readout device into an actual measurement tool with a record.

Try NoiseLedger Free on iPhone — No Ads, No Account Needed

Final Verdict

Most dB meter apps for iPhone are interchangeable live meters with ads. NoiseLedger is in a different category because it logs your readings over time, works offline, and keeps your data private on your device. If you need more than a momentary reading — if you need a record — it's the only app in this list built for that purpose.

NIOSH SLM is a strong second choice for occupational health contexts, and Decibel X is fine for quick spot checks. But for anyone who needs to build a noise history on their iPhone without ads interrupting the process, NoiseLedger is the clear recommendation.

Download NoiseLedger for iPhone Now

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