

by Alan J. Pierce, EdD

Kingston's HyperX Cloud Gaming Headset

To be a successful gamer you need to be able to fully focus and concentrate on the sights, sounds, and moment to moment action of the video game that you are playing. To increase your gaming reaction time you need to eliminate all extraneous noise that can break your concentration. The best way to eliminate noise from your local environment is to wear a good set of gaming headphones.

Not only can a good set of stereo headsets eliminate unwanted noise they also can give you a gaming edge. The audio from your action game often contains very low physical sounds created by your foe and a stereo headset can help you determine where that sound is coming from. Your ears and eyes working together could locate a hiding place in time to get the shot the moment your foe starts to move out from a hiding place. That hint of sound provided by a good set of earphones in combination with your peripheral vision could get you past difficult levels in the game that has stymied you in the past.

With the introduction of the HyperX Cloud, Kingston Technology broadened its product line to include audio headsets for gamers. They co-developed their HyperX Cloud Pro Gaming Headset with QPAD; a company known for high quality

expensive gaming headsets. See photo 1. In my opinion to guarantee that this product will be successfully Kingston created a gaming stereo headset that screams expensive and they priced it under a hundred dollars to beat the competition and announce they have seriously entered this

area of consumer electronics.

The HyperX Cloud headset is extremely comfortable to wear and delivers crystal clear stereo audio because they have 53mm Hi-Fi drivers that deliver a 15-25,000Hz frequency response. These drivers deliver a frequency range that produces an extremely clear sound when I tested the HyperX headset with different types of audio (from games to phone calls). The microphone is detachable so you

can easily remove it when you don't need it or placing it in its travel pouch to take with you on a trip. See photo 2.

The ear cups are constructed out of solid aluminum with memory foam to block out unwanted sounds. You have a personal comfort choice as far as what type of material touches your ears. The HyperX headset comes with 2 sets of ear cup covers. The soft leather ones are preinstalled and in the box you will find a second set that are covered with a velour fabric.

Accessories include a carry pouch, a Y adapter cable (for use with tablets, smartphones, and music players), in-line remote control, airplane adapter, and extension cord so you have enough wire to reach the back of your gaming Desktop computer. See photo 3.



Alan is co-author of *Introduction to Technology Glencoe McGraw-Hill 2010* and a *TechDirections Magazine* Columnist . Visit www.technologytoday.us for past columns, reviews, and resources.