

by Alan J. Pierce, EdD

Yurbuds MSRP \$59.99

If you are a sports enthusiast you probably already have a number of headphones that didn't live up to the promise that their manufacturer made when you purchased them. They were supposed to be comfortable in your ears and not drop out when you exercise.



The weird looking earbuds in photo 1 proved reasonably comfortable to wear for extended periods of time and they didn't fall out of my ears when I exercised. The Yurbuds's box indicates that they were "developed by athletes for athletes" to

provide staying in power and comfort; and of course you know that such words from manufacturers usually turn out to be half truths at best. During my testing I found their claim of comfort and staying in power reasonably accurate.

Their shape is dramatically different from standard headphones because they have been designed to twist lock in place in your ears. You can see how they work online at:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yi_5mEm4ZAQ&feature=player_embedded

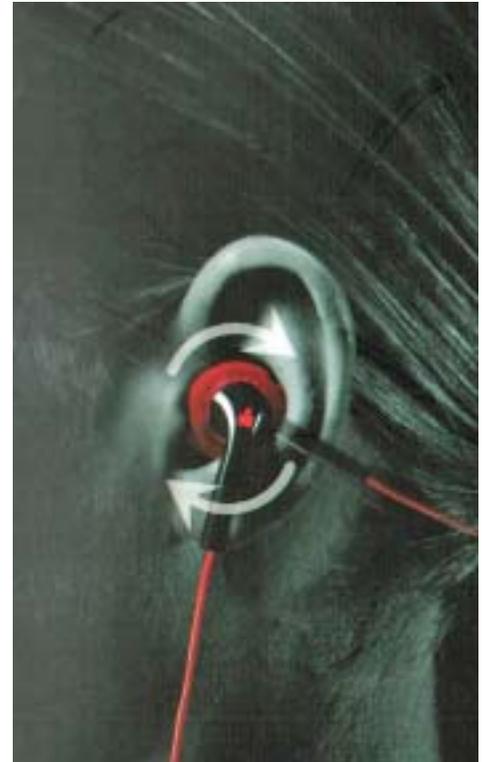
It does however take some time to get used to putting them into each ear. See photo 2. The way they lock in place in your ears does prevent them from falling out while you exercise. If a pull on the wire is out rather than down they will easily come out of your ear. A pull to a side would most likely happen if the earbud wire got caught on something.

The Ironman Inspire Yurbuds set includes two different size horns so you can select the one that best fits the size of your ears. This Yurbuds set also includes a 3 button microphone that can control your

iPod, iPad, and iPhone's volume, song selection, and let you answer or end your iPhone calls.

Reasons to Drool

The Yurbuds won't easily pull out when you exercise and they are reasonably comfortable for extended use. These earbuds did control music volume, skipping back to the start of a song, and jumping to the next song on my iPad, iPod, and iPhone test units.



Not So Cool

Yurbuds set includes two different size horns if both sizes are wrong for your ears you will need to contact the manufacturer for them to send you a set that fits your ears. The Ironman series that included a microphone and 3 button inline controller seems to only have full functionality when used with apple products. When I tried using a set with my Android phone they were fine for listening to music but the 3 button inline controller and microphone didn't work at all.

*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.*