

by Alan J. Pierce, EdD

Kingston's HyperX Cloud II Gaming Headset

When it comes to tech products, successful companies know that they have to release new improved models before their competition has a chance to catch up. In my opinion that is exactly what Kingston has done when they brought their new HyperX Enhanced Cloud II Gaming Headset to market. See photo 1.

In simple terms they took their HyperX Gaming Headset, which they released about a year ago, and enhanced it by adding 7.1 surround sound and noise cancellation. The noise cancellation enhancement comes from its new digital microphone that cancels out echoes and provides gain control through the new USB sound card that also provides 7.1 surround sound.



Photo 1

This sound card is built into an LED audio box, see photo 2, which lets you turn on or off the 7.1 virtual surround sound and also controls the headset's microphone and speaker volumes.

When you turn on the surround sound emulation mode your ears will think you are surrounded by seven speakers that are positioned to enhance your gaming skills or music enjoyment. To enjoy the



Photo 2

enhanced sound you only need to plug in the USB sound box into a USB port on your computer and perform the following simple steps:

- **On your PC:** Control Panel > Mouse Click Hardware and Sound > Mouse Click Sound > select Headset Earphone HyperX 7.1 Audio and click Set Default See photo 3.
- **On Your Mac:** Apple Menu > System Preferences > Sound > and then set Default Output and Input to HyperX 7.1 Audio

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. This 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.

Reasons to Drool

The HyperX Cloud II headset's 7.1 emulation surround sound is fantastic and the noise cancellation feature of the new microphone does help to eliminate noise from your local environment. The headset is extremely comfortable to wear and the microphone is detachable so you can easily remove it when you don't need it or are placing it in its travel pouch to take with you on a trip. With a MSRP of \$149.99 and a street price of under \$100.00 you can get this great sounding headset at a reasonable price.

Not So Cool

To enjoy the enhanced sound and added noise cancellation feature of the built in sound card you need to plug in the USB sound box into a USB port. If your device doesn't have a USB port, the HyperX Cloud II can't deliver digital noise cancellation and 7.1 surround sound.

SPECIFICATIONS

Headset:

- > **Transducer type:** dynamic Ø 53mm with Neodymium Magnets
- > **Operating principle:** closed
- > **Frequency response:** 15Hz–25,000 Hz
- > **Nominal impedance:** 60 Ω per system
- > **Nominal SPL:** 98±3dB
- > **T.H.D.:** < 2%
- > **Power handling capacity:** 150mW
- > **Sound coupling to the ear:** circumaural
- > **Ambient noise attenuation:** approx. 20 dBA
- > **Headband pressure:** 5N
- > **Weight with microphone and cable:** 320g
- > **Cable length and type:** 1m + 2m extension
- > **Connection:** single mini stereo jack plug (3.5 mm)

Microphone:

- > **Transducer type:** condenser (back electret)
- > **Operating principle:** pressure gradient
- > **Polar pattern:** cardioid
- > **Power supply:** AB powering
- > **Supply voltage:** 2V
- > **Current consumption:** max 0.5 mA
- > **Nominal impedance:** ≤2.2 kΩ
- > **Open circuit voltage:** at f = 1 kHz: 20 mV / Pa
- > **Frequency response:** 50–18,000 Hz
- > **THD:** 2% at f = 1 kHz
- > **Max. SPL:** 105dB SPL (THD≤1.0% at 1 KHz)
- > **Microphone output:** -39±3dB
- > **Length mic boom:** 150mm (include gooseneck)
- > **Capsule diameter:** Ø6*5 mm
- > **Connection:** single mini stereo jack plug (3.5mm)

Alan is co-author of **Introduction to Technology Glencoe McGraw-Hill 2010**

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