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The Motorola MOTOROKR S305 Wireless Stereo Headphones are behind the head, over the ear Bluetooth headphones (Motorola Mobility LLC, 2012). They connect to a Bluetooth enabled device wirelessly, enabling the user remote listening without any cables which classical headphones require. Additionally, the headphones come with a built in microphone which means the user can use the headset to talk on their Bluetooth enabled phone or computer. Controls embedded in the right hand speaker allow the user to control volume, playback, and power of the headset itself.

In regards to the controls, they are designed in such a way that the user does not need to look at them in order to understand them. This is a requirement as otherwise they would need to come off the head each time the controls must change. Each button has a slight bulge on its symbol/image which is easily recognized with the tip of the finger. Additionally, the buttons are placed in a way that they are intuitively understood. The front button moves tracks forward, the back button moves tracks back, the bottom button plays/pauses the track while the top button answers phone calls when paired with a mobile phone. Additionally, the top of the right headphone has volume controls which operate the same way, forward is volume up, and backward is volume down.

Pairing the headphones with a new mobile device, while not intuitive, is simple to accomplish (Motorola Mobility LLC., 2012). Essentially, any Bluetooth device it is already paired with must be turned off. Then turn on the Bluetooth device and enable its Bluetooth functionality for which the headphones are to be paired with. If the headphones are not off, turn them off, and then hold down the power button on the headphones until the power button’s light flashes red. The headphones can then be discovered by the required device.

As stated, while these instructions are not intuitive, they are easy to follow. Also, no further buttons are required on the device as it is all accomplished with the pre-existing, and required, power button. Further, since the instructions are so simple, when pairing is required with any future devices, the method to do so is easily remembered.

While the headphones are wireless when in use, they do require a wired adapter in order to charge. Fortunately, the adapter is connected to the headphones using a micro USB charger. This means that the headphones can be charged from either the adapter or a micro USB cable connected to a computer. Further, when the cable is plugged in, the power button turns red until it is charged, then it turns green to indicate it is finished. Additionally, as a power saving feature, if the headphones are left idle with no connection for five minutes, “they automatically turn off to conserve battery charge” (Motorolo Mobility LLC, 2012).

The headphones themselves are most definitely not waterproof. This means that their use in wet climates is prohibited. However, this is not to say that they cannot be worn out of doors. In fact, the lack of any wires means that their use is safer as they are not likely to become tangled in anything. That being said, the charge time of the headphones means that while they are good for casual use, long term use outdoors away from power means there is no way to use them once the charge runs out. Additionally, since the headphones do not fold up, traveling with them can become a hassle if the user is not able to wear them on their neck.

Primarily, the use of headphones is for sound. In the human computer interaction department, this means that the headphones must provide a reasonable level of audible functionality. From this author’s personal use of the headphones, they offer a reasonable quality of sound for a wireless device. While they do leave room for improvement, having some moderate distortions when listening to music, their use in phone and non-music sound is superb. With the lack of any other competing devices of this ergonomic design on the market, this sound quality is an acceptable compromise.

Overall the Motorola MOTOROKR S305 headphones are exactly as advertised. They are easy to use and operate with reasonable sound quality. In terms of HCI, the design and use of the controls is intuitive and straightforward. Since the headphones are designed to go behind the head, rather than over the head, and the speakers themselves do not go in the ears, the ergonomic design leaves no room for fault. Users should have no issues when using this device in their daily life.

Reference

Motorola Mobility LLC. (2012). *MOTOROKR S305*. Retrieved October 18, 2012, from Motorola: http://www.motorola.com/us/consumers/MOTOROKR-S305-Wireless-Stereo-Headphones/58741,en\_US,pd.html

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