

First Look: GlovesPlay Padded Controller Covers June, 2004

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The Company and the Product

Las Vegas based GlovesPlay recently launched an add-on accessory for both Xbox and PlayStation 2 controllers. The product, a padded controller cover, is designed to install over your existing Xbox or PS2 controller. Surprisingly, it does provide a nice solid ergonomic feel to the otherwise sterile plastic. These patented controller covers transform the dreary plastic original controller into a comfy padded suede sensation. According to GlovesPlay president Steinar Skipsnes, thousands of hard-core gamers were polled as market research to perfect the product's fit, select materials, and choose a design to help alleviate hand tension. Skipsnes says the company's mission is to "make superior comfort standard in the gaming world."

Fits Like A Glove

I had a chance to install a sample cover on my Xbox controller. The GlovesPlay cover was simple to install. After playing MTX: Mototrax (a fairly intense off-road racing game) for about 40 minutes I did enjoy the added comfort the padded controller cover offers. According to the press release, the covers are machine washable—this is a good thing considering they were designed to absorb sweat! The MSRP for both the Xbox and PS2 covers are \$9.99 each. Jourdon Coleman, GlovesPlay CEO, just announced plans to bring the covers to GameCube as well. GlovesPlay controller covers will initially be available in black. Different color releases, as well as custom monogramming options (NFL, NBA, MLB, etc.) will be available shortly. From what I've seen, GlovesPlay does accomplish its goal of enhancing user comfort as well as the gaming experience. To learn more about GlovesPlay Patented Controller Covers, or to place your pre-order online, visit glovesplay.com. The covers are expected to start shipping by end of summer. If you sign-up, there is no obligation to buy—people on the list will be the first ones notified to purchase when available.