Hardware Review:

Saitek Cyborg Evo Wireless Joystick
Fully Adjustable & Programmable PC Flight Stick

By Bruce Pechman, The Muscleman of Technology®   November, 2004
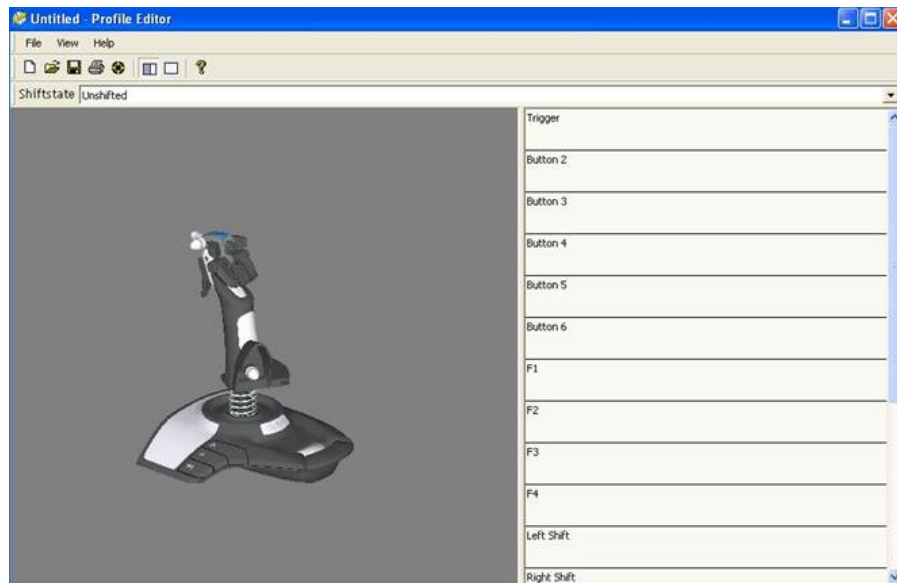www.mrbicep.com

A Stick with Tricks

Wireless technology is all the rage these days. There's one nice advantage wireless peripherals have as it relates to gaming: with each passing generation, the expertise of these device maker's matures. Such is the case with Saitek's brand new Cyborg Evo Wireless Joystick. How so you may ask? What if I told you can get 50 hours of game play on one single AA alkaline battery? After ten minutes of no activity, the stick will power down and the red battery indicator LED will switch off. If the LED is flashing red it means less than 10% of juice remains—get ready to pop a new battery in.

In fact the Cyborg Evo Wireless includes idle and standby modes which may give you up to 75 hours…and up to 12 months standby time on one single battery! Saitek includes two AA alkaline batteries in the box to get you jump-started right away (even though it only requires one).

Using the recently approved 2.4GHz spectrum, you'll get a whopping 30 foot range! Keep in mind this is also a fully customizable stick because you simply loosen the knurled industrial machine screws to adjust the hand/thumb rest height, angle of pitch for the programmable fire buttons, and tilt preference of the head assembly (left, center, or right). Saitek should have called the Evo Wireless the "Burger King Stick" because you can trick it out and have it anyway you like!

The Cyborg Evo Wireless is a four-axis, 11-button stick with lever throttle, eight-way Hat Switch, and a 3D Twist Rudder control lever on the handle. I will not bore you with the gory details, but this stick has it all. Here is a quick expanded rundown: Rapid fire trigger, 5 programmable fire buttons, 8-way POV (point of view) hat switch, 3D twist handle control, lever throttle, 2 shift buttons, as well as 4 programmable buttons on base (2 left, 2 right). The included advanced programming software called "Saitek Smart Technology" (SST) allows for quick and easy customization and programming of buttons

and sequences—the shift keys allow you to accomplish double programmable commands for maximum flexibility (see screen shot below).

Saitek SST Software Profile Editor

Another aspect I really appreciate about this stick is the easy set-up and intelligently designed USB wireless receiver. Just plug the receiver into any available USB port—install the software, and you're ready for take off. Speaking of taking off, I really need to take more flying lessons. The private instructor in MS Flight Simulator 2004 told me the only thing I'd be fit to fly is a hot-air balloon; and my plane had more body roll than Noah's Ark!

By the way, the base of the stick slickly stores the USB wireless receiver and the battery compartment is tooless for quick and easy battery replacement. This is the best wireless joystick I have had the pleasure to use and the design is simply spot on! This fully adjustable and programmable wireless Joystick retails for $59.99 and comes backed by a Saitek 2 year warranty. To learn more about the Saitek Cyborg Evo Wireless Joystick or any of Saitek's other quality products, visit www.saitekusa.com.
Reviewed on Alienware Area 51 Desktop.