

Hardware Review:

eDimensional Audio FX Headset

Force Feedback Headphones with Vibration and Lights

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Head Games

Just when you think you've seen it all, or in this case "heard it all," along comes a new fangled audio headset which promises not only superior audio quality and comfort, but pulsating force feedback to boot...with lights!

To be honest, when I glanced at my review pile of techno-goodness I picked up the pretty blister package and thought what's so different about these headphones?" Then I read the package—"Force Feedback PC Gaming Headset with Flash and Vibration." Count me in! Let's fire these puppies up and see what we have here.

Narrowly avoiding a trip to the local emergency room opening the blister pack with my pocket knife (don't you all hate opening those plastic packs?), I was impressed with the overall build quality. The eDimensional Audio FX Headset has some very nice attributes. I really liked the engraved numerical clicking indicators (size settings from 1 to 12) on each side of the adjustable frame—it expands large enough to fit the big headed folks like me. Speaking of big heads, I have to tell you what happened to me in the gym a few days ago. We were goofing around doing dumbbell bench presses and I said "does anybody know where the 200 pound dumbbells are?" Some older gentleman in the back shouted "between your ears!" Absolutely classic—you can't make this stuff up.

Back to the Audio FX attributes, which include an integrated control switch on the cable. This lets you adjust the vibration effects to be on or off, the amount of vibration you prefer, as well as the volume. I also appreciate the comfortable plush padded ear cushioning (albeit the headset is a bit on the heavy side—they are packing quite a bit of electronics). Other nice touches include gold plated jacks which are clearly labeled for speaker and microphone, built-in attached noise-canceling microphone with adjustable arm (great for speech recognition software or trash talk gaming), and flashing lights on each side of the speakers which respond to the current volume level.

Listening to music with Audio FX is a pleasurable experience. I'm not an audiophile, but my perception is they sounded darn good with MP3 tunes and CDs. Now let's talk about using the Audio FX with games—simply amazing! It really creates the sensation of being in the game with a 5.1 sound system. The directional sound makes you totally aware of your game environment and conditions...especially being blown up with Flak cannon in UT 2004! In case you haven't figured this out yet...the Audio FX Headset represents an absolutely amazing value at \$49.99! To learn more about the eDimensional Audio FX or any of eDimensional's other products, visit www.edimensional.com.