

IPEVO ST4RT Handset

SDMUG Review by Pedro R Schaeffer

It's a simple handset to be used with any computer (Mac or PC) that has separate jacks for audio in and audio out.

No software installation is required, and it can be used for iChat, Skype, MSN or any phone software.

The design is trendy , slim and lightweight, but has a very good acoustical performance, either listening or talking.

The sample we received came in it's original box but there wasn't any further instructions besides the illustrations on the back panel of the box.

At first, we thought that the two audio plugs were attached to each other permanently, as they came out of the box, but then we found that they can be detach from each other. It's a clever design but we feel that further instructions about how to separate them and identify them is required.

They have a different color ring and a microscopic engraved depiction of a microphone and a headphone, for audio out and audio in respectively , but took us some time to identify them, although we knew that they're not interchangeable.

Here is where we believe that some clear explanation should be added to the box panel or an instruction sheet should be inside the box.

IPEVO FR-33.2 USB Phone for Skype

The FR-33.2 is a completely different product, although has a very similar aesthetic design.

It's a complete USB phone to be used exclusively with Skype, and requires the installation of a software, that will allow you also to record a call between two Skype phones or SkypeOut conversations.

This unit is also equipped with a LCD display that comes very handy, since you can view all your Skype contacts and simply select one and press the "YES" button to initiate the call. No need to open the Skype window on the desktop and navigate to the desire contact and click it, everything is done directly from the phone.

Here again, the audio quality is excellent and the various buttons are ergonomically arranged to be used with only one hand.

To record a conversation simply push the "RECORD" button, which will open a second window and display the recording time and will allow you to play it back later.

A rocker button on the left side of the unit is the "VOLUME" control that can be easily adjusted.

On the right side is located the "MUTE" button.

I used this unit hooked to my MacBook Air while sitting at a Starbucks store, and made overseas calls without a glitch, and very discreetly.

Many other functions are available, such as, customizing ringtones, calling a recent dialed contact, Speed Dial.

Final thoughts

Both units are a must if you use a lot of Skype calls, each one depending on your computer configurations and your needs.