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IASUS Concepts, Noise Terminator Throat Mic

written by [Jose](#) on 2003-09-23 13:11:26

I've had a chance to use the unit in two games now and I'm really quite impressed... on the field the throat mic set up is EXCELLENT. Because the microphone pick-up sits on your neck there is no boom to get in the way and after a while you forget that the pick-up is even there. The neckband is fully adjustable with a little bending here and there and can be adjusted to a comfortable fit. The pickup should be worn at a "sweet spot" on your neck where it will pick up the vocal chord vibration best; sometimes on the side of the neck and not necessarily in the front. The "sweet spot" can vary slightly per user but I've found that on the side of my neck directly perpendicular with my ear is a good spot.

The earpiece wire from the mic pick-up is a perfect length, allowing you to wear a high collar or a turtle-neck over the pick-up and still have plenty of wire for the earpiece-bud. The rep from IASUS advised me that facial hair can affect the clarity of the transmission because the mic needs to be in direct contact with the skin on your neck to pick up the vibrations from the vocal chords. The only other problem I've found as well - and this seems to be more of a personal thing as I have the same problem with the earbuds for my walkman - is that the earbud tends to jiggle itself loose sometimes, especially when running. I've solved the problem by using some Jabra Ear Gels over the earbud to make a better and more secure fit in the ear. A foam "aftermarket" cover from Radio Shack or Future Shop can probably help with personalizing the fit of the earbud.

Overall signal and transmission quality again is EXCELLENT. Because ambient noise is virtually eliminated when transmitting, speaking normally or even whispering can be picked up clearly by the mic. Teammates have advised me that the sound is crystal clear... although someone did mention that it sounded like I had a bit of a cold. I think that's a side-effect of the mic picking up directly from the vocal chords so some of the plosive sounds, "p" and "b"s tend to sound a little muffled.

[One problem I have noticed is that the volume of the mic is very loud, and even at the minimum setting, the sound transmitted from the ear piece is a little louder than I'd like. So I'd definitely add a foam cover which helped me out -Oates]

Because the Motorola-model throat mic doesn't come with a PTT switch on the wire you can set it up to PTT with the call button on the radio itself or in hands-free VOX. The pick-up in VOX is pretty good but I've found that during gameplay the throat mic picks up heavy breathing especially when running. Using the call button on the radio is easier and more convenient... and (haha) less annoying than VOX. I've reconfigured my kit so that I can still press the radio call button through a pouch on my LBV and even with gloves on, this seems to be an easy enough task; easier actually than looking for the small bud and talk button on a wire mounted PTT switch.

These mics are available for most FRS sets (although not for Motorola double pins yet), as well as cell phones and Chatterbox radios (GMRS I believe). For a table of compability, see the following link.

http://www.iasus-concepts.com/noise_terminator/table/frs.html

Overall, and as you can probably glean from my "review" I am very impressed and extremely pleased with the field performance of the unit. Because I wear glasses I haven't had much luck with "over the ear" headphone/boom mic setups, and the neckband mic is perfect for some of the gear I wear and definitely unobtrusive and secure. One of the best pieces of "airsoft gear" I've purchased in a while!

They are available through Hotnix of the BCAC for a mere \$CDN49.99. Email him colin@clearercom.com if you want to pick one up for yourself.

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