

TELEX STRATUS 30XT

'It soon became apparent that comfort is a big design driver'



THE 360° LOOK



FRONT

RIGHT

BACK

LEFT

TELEX STRATUS 30XT
PRICE: £349 APPROX

Comfort zone

Ultra sturdy mid-priced ANR headset

TELLEX has been a leading manufacturer of dependable, top-of-the-line communication equipment for 75 years. According to the company, more than 70% of commercial airline pilots use Telex headsets.

The Stratus 30XT is the latest offering featuring ANR, a built-in battery recharger, 50 hours of battery life, plus a thick foam headband and newly designed, more comfortable ear cushions.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

THERE'S no getting away from it, the Telex Stratus 30XT is a substantial headset – the biggest of all the ones we've tested.

It soon became apparent that comfort is a big design driver. The Stratus has quarter-inch thick ear cushions and a well padded headband. The padding does make it feel a lot lighter than its weight of 520 grams.

The materials are all high quality and it looks like a rugged, dependable headset that will withstand years of use.

The headset carrycase is different to other manufacturers – it isn't a bag in its own right; it's simply for keeping everything together so you can keep it in your flight case or flying bag.

The headset cord is very long. The battery box is unique as it has a built-in recharger but it isn't designed as well as the headset itself – the battery cover is awkward to remove and feels like it might break if you're too heavy-handed. The two grey control buttons don't sit very straight in the battery box which lets it down slightly.



Hard-wearing 30XT is built to last.

There is an LED light that flashes once when you turn the ANR on but it doesn't remain illuminated. This LED flashes green several times when you turn it off – I'd prefer to see a constant green when the ANR is on.

IN THE CIRRUS SR22

YOU can definitely feel the difference in size compared to other headsets but the Telex is also extremely comfortable.

After putting it on, cockpit noise reduced considerably and my voice was clear in the earcups. However, the first sentence I heard was pilot Russ joking that I looked like Mickey Mouse.

With the ANR turned on, the headset performed even better. The only worry was that because of its sideways size it felt like I could knock the headset off when turning my head left and right.

IN THE PA28

THE Stratus performed very well in the PA28 too and the radio hiss wasn't as pronounced as in other headsets. It felt like Telex had designed this headset with the PA28 in mind.

The ANR worked extremely well to cut out engine noise and this combined with the comfort would make a long flight, say a day trip to France, less fatiguing.

VERDICT

A RUGGED mid-priced ANR headset built to last with lots of padding and comfort with above-average audio quality.

The Telex performed well with and without the ANR turned on and I reckon this is the ANR headset you should go for if you have a noisy cockpit and don't want to spend a fortune.

The build quality is superb and a headset like this should last the course of many years of use.

Expect some mickey taking because of its size but if comfort is high on your list and you like well-padded gear then go for this.

FEATURES

Weight 520g

Passive Not published

Active Not published

Total 30dB

Batteries 2 AA, built in recharger

Battery life 50 hours

Auto shut-off Yes

Mic Noise-cancelling electret

Mobile phone jack Yes

Music interface Yes

Warranty 5 years

W: www.telex.com