

The Darn Cool New Telex Stratus 30XT

Active noise reduction at half the price

I remember when the first noise reduction headsets came out and someone tried to explain how they worked. "You see, they actually 'listen' to the sound waves in the cockpit," my friend said. He moved his finger through the air to draw a sound wave as you might see it on an oscilloscope. "Then the headset reacts by creating the exact opposite sound wave, and the two waves cancel each other out." This basic principle, commonly referred to as active noise reduction (ANR), absolutely, positively revolutionized headset technology. And like all new technology, this level of hearing protection is, at the moment, relatively expensive. As with the cost of computers and cell phones, however, the price is gradually becoming more affordable. Case in point: the new Telex Stratus 30XT.

The Stratus 30XT is a huge breakthrough in ANR technology. It's not so much that it does anything differently—it still listens to the sound wave, then cancels it. Telex simply accomplishes this for half the price of its competitors. Now that's cool.

Furthermore, the new 30XT comes with a gaggle of features that make it an even better deal. In addition to making your flight about 30 decibels quieter, Telex also includes the ComfortCam, a



Depress a simple button and the Telex ComfortCam headband adjusts to distribute the weight and pressure evenly across your head.

Ear Gear

patented headband design. A couple of quick, easy adjusts, and the headset's entire weight (about 18 ounces) is evenly distributed across your head. My comfort on long flights is typically the deal breaker. When I can't wait to land so I can rip my headset off, I'm loathe to ever use those things again. But I had several chances to play with and adjust the 30XT, and the new idea works beautifully

The new Stratus 30XT actually turns off automatically when the flight is over—great for guys like me who tend to leave the master switch on if we don't use a checklist. Additionally, you can expect the headset to deliver about 50 hours of service from two AA batteries.

Speaking of batteries, here's another stroke of brilliance. Put two rechargeable batteries in, and the headset automatically recharges them when plugged into the cockpit's 12V outlet! Should you ever have to switch over to regular AAs in a pinch, the headset automatically senses the change and doesn't miss a step.

On the corners of the battery compartment are two small ports that connect to both your cell phone and an MP3 player. A pilot can hit a switch to

instantly mute and, thereby, concentrate on a conversation with ATC.

The company's entire line of general aviation headsets has undergone a gradual, but impressive evolution over the past few years. Telex supplies ear gear for air traffic controllers, police departments and dispatchers, and the military. It manufactures the Stratus 50 Digital, which delivers an incredible 50 decibels of total noise reduction. The company is dedicated to developing more economical options, such as the Echelon series of headsets, which offer an impressive array of capabilities, all for a whole lot less than what we've been accustomed to paying. But the 30XT caught my attention with its huge value pack of combinations and features.

If you're shopping for headsets, check out Telex's Website, www.telex.com/aircraft. Telex doesn't sell directly to the public, but you can get lots of great information to make an informed purchase, then select the dealer of your choice. It's a real win for general aviation when we can get so much cluck for our buck. P&P

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The Telex Stratus 30XT allows you to plug an MP3 player or a cell phone directly into the headset. A flick of the switch mutes the input when communicating with ATC

TELEX

FOR CRITICAL HEADSET SOUND