



Redcat IR



Evaluation/RecordEntry Date:

Jun/2015

Submitting suppliers:

Lightspeed Technologies

Vendor Copy: ERAC Review

SUPPLEMENTARY PRODUCTS INFORMATION

Redmike Share - handheld microphone that works in conjunction with the Redmike Redmike Volume Control - classroom microphone with volume control. All come with rechargeable NiMh battery
IR Media Connector - wireless infrared audio transmitter designed to integrate and amplify all classroom multi media sources with 3 audio inputs. Includes power supply 3.5mm Stereo Audio cable - audio patch cable.
3.5mm audio cable

DESCRIPTION

The Redcat IR (infrared) system allows educators to project their voices in order to be clearly heard and understood by all students, and at the same time reduce stress on their voices. The educator uses a portable microphone and the Redcat speaker allows students in all corners of the classroom hear the teacher as if the teacher is close by. The device also allows students who are hard of hearing to have the speaker's voice directly connected to their hearing aid, while the rest of the class also benefit from the enhanced sound. All features performed as expected and resulted in high quality audio throughout the classroom.

APPLICATION TO EDUCATION

Does this product contribute to the operations of education? Extensively

Describe how this product fits into the field of education:

This product aids in the dissemination of information, ensuring all students are able to hear clearly. It greatly reduces stress on teacher's voice and vocal fatigue.

Does the product perform as intended? Extensively

Are the features as expected for the intended purpose? Extensively

Is the performance as expected for the intended purpose? Extensively

Who is the intended user?

- Teacher Librarians
- Classroom / Subject Teachers
- Student Teachers on practicum

Describe how different types of users would interact with this product:

APPLICATION TO EDUCATION

Any person in the classroom could use this appliance to project her or his voice in order to be heard and understood well. Teachers, guest speakers, and presenters use the portable microphone and students are on the receiving end by way of the speaker.

What is the intended user proficiency level?:

- Entry
- Intermediate
- Advanced

Comments:

The system was simple to set up and use with minimum or no support.

USER SUPPORT

Product User Community Support

Are appropriate product user community resources available? Extensively

Does the user community have robust support? Extensively

Frequently Asked Questions and/or Knowledge Base

Is a comprehensive FAQ available for general product use? Extensively

Is a comprehensive FAQ available for troubleshooting? Extensively

How to Guides

Are appropriate sample guides available for general product use? Extensively
e.g. installation, creating reports and setting preferences.

Installation guide is available if the end user does the installation.

Short-cut or Quick Reference Guide

Are appropriate short-cut guides available for general product use? Extensively

Are appropriate short-cut guides available for frequent or repetitive actions? Extensively

User Manual

Does the user manual include instructions typical to the purpose of this product? e.g. installation, troubleshooting and accessing additional support. Extensively

Online Chat and Email Support

Is effective chat and/or email customer support available? Extensively

Phone Support

Is phone support available for customer service? Extensively

Does the phone support have added value for this product? Extensively

Onsite Support

Is effective onsite technical support available? Not at all or slightly

Is effective onsite installation support available? Not at all or slightly

User Support Overall

Is user support readily available? Extensively

Is user support easy to access? Extensively

Are language and terminology clear and easily understood, either clearly explained or naturally evident? Extensively

Is user support organized for easy reference? Extensively

Is user support cross linked to form an integrated resource across specific realms? Extensively

USER SUPPORT

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Is user support accessible through searching? | Extensively |
| Is user support available for entry, intermediate and advanced users? | Extensively |

How is user support accessed?

- PDF online
- Print

Comments:

Along with the unit came a detailed user manual and a quick setup sheet. The quick setup sheet is extremely useful in getting this unit installed in the classroom without having to read through a user manual. There is also a drill template for mounting the wireless speaker to a classroom wall and ensuring that the mounts are drilled in the correct spots. The company's website provides additional information and support for the end user, alongside email and phone support.

GENERAL TECHNICAL DESIGN & SUPPORT

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Is the benchmarking /review for education institution purposes appropriate? | Extensively |
| Do the technical specifications have all of the expected information? | Extensively |
| Do the technical specifications provide key information district technical support will need? | Extensively |

Technical Support

| | |
|--|-------------|
| If you accessed technical support during the evaluation, did the support provide a solution? | Extensively |
|--|-------------|

Comments:

Support had to be contacted regarding a missing charging cable for the handheld microphone. A prompt written response was sent with pictures indicating what the cable looks like and how it is to be connected in order to charge the handheld microphone.

Technical Design

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Is this product suited for usage in an educational setting? | Extensively |
| Is the physical design suited for the intended use? | Extensively |

Identify any ergonomics and safety concerns:

There were not ergonomic and safety concerns regarding this device. This can be used in an educational setting for daily use as the wireless speaker and microphones are made of durable plastic that can stand up to repeated uses day after day. The batteries are rechargeable, therefore by placing the microphones in the charger each night, they are fully charged for the next teaching day.

Comment on the specific features of this product:

This product includes a wireless microphone that can be used to project voice across a classroom. The system is also able to transmit audio from any source that has a 3.5 mm stereo output to the wireless speaker, removing the need for another additional speaker system in the classroom.

Installation

GENERAL TECHNICAL DESIGN & SUPPORT

Who are the installation instructions intended for?

- End user
- Advanced user
- Technician

Are the installation instructions clear and easily followed? Extensively

Are the options during installation clear to achieve the desired configuration? Extensively

Did the installation process proceed as expected? Extensively

Can any required video, animation and sound file formats be played on freely available and commonly used devices? Extensively

Accessibility Features

Are features available to adapt for people with disabilities? Extensively

Are accessibility features incorporated into the software? Extensively

Comments:

This system is able to assist students who are deaf and hard of hearing and use a personal FM transmitter. There is an ALD output on the side of the speaker to make a connection to an assistive listening device.

TRAINING

Was training provided during the evaluation? Not at all or slightly

Indicate the types of training you accessed:

- Online training modules

Were the training resources:

- Appropriate for entry level user?
- Appropriate for intermediate level user?
- Appropriate for advanced level user?

Was the training self-directed? Extensively

Did the training include multimedia? Moderately

Did the training directly relate to the version being evaluated? Extensively

Was the training presented in an engaging way? Extensively

Was the training paced appropriately? Extensively

Comments:

The online training modules were very well paced and easy to follow. The visuals were excellent and reference was made to the product, its use, and easy tips and tricks. Language was simple, short, and to the point.

EQUIPMENT/TOOLS/APPLIANCES

Is the function of every button explained or naturally evident? Extensively

Is non-text equivalent for text provided? Extensively

EQUIPMENT/TOOLS/APPLIANCES

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Are multiple ways to convey or differentiate information provided? (e.g. colour, text, symbol, location) | Extensively |
| Is device communication speed satisfactory? | Extensively |

Comments:

All of the inputs, volume, and power controls are easy to identify as they are clearly visible and labelled for the user. A detailed user manual accompanied the unit and a quick setup sheet was provided.

Input - General

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Is input performance satisfactory? | Extensively |
| Is the physical design functional and appropriate for intended use? | Extensively |
| Is the feature set complete? | Extensively |
| Are the configuration options adequate? | Extensively |
| Is input effective for intended application? | Extensively |

Input - Quality

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Is input quality accurate? | Extensively |
| Is input quality effective for intended application? | Extensively |
| Is input quality consistent? | Extensively |
| Does input have appropriate sensitivity? | Extensively |
| Is input quality satisfactory overall? | Extensively |

Comments:

The Redcat IR has two microphone input channels which is useful for two classes that are nearby using this setup. By having two channels, there would not be any sound interference between the two classes. The IR Media Connector was also able to take wired sound input from a variety of sources (DVD, VCR, iPad, laptop) and wirelessly transmit the sound to the Redcat speaker.

Audio - Input (microphone)

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Is the resulting audio quality satisfactory? | Extensively |
| Is the resulting audio quality effective for the intended application? | Extensively |

Comments:

The teacher's voice was not perceived as louder by the students. Students reported the teacher's voice was clear, and seemed to come from close by, even by students seated at opposite corners of the room.

Output – General

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Does output performance meet expectations? | Extensively |
| Does the physical design meet expectations? | Extensively |
| Does the feature set meet expectations? | Extensively |
| Do the configuration options meet expectations? | Extensively |
| Is the output effective for the intended application? | Extensively |
| Does the output accuracy meet expectations? | Extensively |
| Is the output consistent? | Extensively |

Comments:

All features performed as expected and resulted in high quality audio at all times, and in all spaces in the classroom.

Audio Output

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Does the audio output quality meet expectations? | Extensively |
| Does the clarity of music meet expectations? | Extensively |
| Does the clarity of voice meet expectations? | Extensively |
| Is the volume control appropriate for intended use? | Extensively |

EQUIPMENT/TOOLS/APPLIANCES

Is pass through audio available?

Extensively

Comments:

Showing video with the iPad and audio through the Redcat IR provided excellent sound quality.

Form Factor

Are the charging options suitable for the intended use?

Extensively

Are the storage options suitable for the intended use?

Extensively