

SEEING IS BELIEVING

iWear is simple to connect, use with video iPod

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By Monique Curet THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

You like using an iPod to take digital videos on the go. But you don't relish peering at a pint-size screen. Enter iWear for iPod. When you don the space-age-looking eyewear, you see a projected virtual screen, the equivalent of a 44-inch screen viewed at nine feet. Remember the View-Master of old? Imagine that it was revamped for the digital age, and you have iWear.

Even though you might feel a little geeky wearing the contraption, it offers surprisingly good results. And it couldn't be simpler to use.

The eyewear doesn't use batteries or need recharging, doesn't involve software and doesn't require any modifications to an iPod. It comes with one cord that plugs into a video iPod. Then, you use the iPod's video settings to switch on the "TV out" option. That's it.

iWear comes with removable, bendable headphones, and their sound quality is good. But using your own headphones is a more comfortable option.

The viewer portion of the glasses pivots, although a slight halo-effect around the movie screen becomes more pronounced when the viewer is tilted downward. The device has focus adjustments for each eye, which the company says "allow people to use it without prescription eyeglasses." The nosepiece also is supposed to be adjustable, but I couldn't discern any difference after trying to manipulate it.

It's also possible to charge an iPod while using iWear, but it requires a cable that isn't included with the purchase.

The picture quality is decent, although the iPod's screen quality is undoubtedly crisper. The eyewear is reasonably comfortable, sans the headphones that come with it.

The main drawback, although not a major issue, is that your field of vision isn't completely covered. So as you're watching a movie, you can still see things happening around you in your peripheral vision.

Another small flaw is that menus appearing on the iPod screen do not show up on the iWear screen. If you need to scroll through your video collection, or switch videos, you have to do it without the eyewear.

For those who don't have video iPods, Icuiti Corp. also makes video eyewear for other products, including portable DVD players, laptops, cell phones and gaming consoles.

iWear is an expensive addition for the pricey video iPod, but if you want a comfortable and private viewing experience, it's worth consideration.

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ICUITI
People try out iWear at Icuiti's booth at the Consumer Electronics Show.



ICUITI CORP
A cable connects the iWear to your video iPod



ICUITI

People try out iWear at Icuiti's booth at the Consumer Electronics Show.



ICUITI

A cable connects the iWear to your video iPod at the Consumer Electronics Show.

TECH SPECS

- ▶ Twin high-resolution 320 x 240 LCD displays
- ▶ Equivalent to a 44-inch screen viewed at nine feet
- ▶ Weight: 4 ounces
- ▶ Viewer pivots up to 15 degrees
- ▶ Removable headphones
- ▶ Focus adjustment knobs
- ▶ 23-degree field of view
- ▶ iWear should not be used by children younger than 7, whose vision is immature

SUPPORTED MEDIA

- ▶ 2-D movies
- ▶ TV shows
- ▶ Podcasts
- ▶ Music videos
- ▶ Photo slideshows
- ▶ Audio

DETAILS

- ▶ Cost: \$249.95
- ▶ www.icuiti.com

Source: Icuiti Corp.