

## VoIP & Gadgets Blog

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### About Me (Full Bio)



VoIP & Gadgets Blog:

Tom Keating: CTO, VP, Founder TMC Labs; B.S. Computer Engineering, 14 yrs telecom experience, 28 yrs programming, tinkering with & breaking computers. Gadgets & VoIP are favorite topics on this blog

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## FREETALK Everyman Skype Headset Review



The FREETALK Everyman is a foldable super wideband audio "Skype certified" USB headset designed by [Skype](#) themselves. Why this isn't called the Skype Everyman headset is beyond me. I guess perhaps why want to market this headset as doing much more than Skype calls. They sent me one for review today so I thought I'd write up my impressions.

When I opened it out of the box I noticed the large speakers and the flexible rotation for additional comfort when wearing it. The foam on the speakers is pretty soft but not overly soft that it breaks down or tears in a year. Like most [headsets](#) you can adjust the length of the headset piece. I liked the thickness of the plastic which gave a sturdy feel to it. I've encountered too many headsets that try and über thin but break after extended usage. I think this headset will hold up to wear and tear, especially since it is designed to fold down and stick in your laptop bag. I don't know about you, but I stuff my laptop bag with 10lbs of gadget accessories, batteries, etc., so I need a headset than can hold up if the laptop bag is resting on its side.

Here's a snapshot of the headset folded down:

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The FREETALK Everyman supports Skype's super wideband SILK audio codec. What's unique about this headset is that it supports a 3.5mm jack, which you can connect to an MP3 player, iPhone?, etc. Though I wouldn't go sporting this large headset with a boom mic while going for a jog or working out at the gym. Course, I lost my iPod ear buds and had to resort to using a bulky headset with mic at the gym for a whole week until my replacement arrived in the mail. Only got a few stares, but it's all good.

The flexible boom mic is very adjustable as you can bend it at any point on the boom. It's pretty stiff, which is good, since some mic booms too easily move and have to be readjusted, especially if you took it off, put on your desk and then put it back on. This headset's mic boom is stiff enough so I didn't have to re-adjust everytime I put it back on.

I made some test Skype calls and the audio quality was excellent. I also connected my iPhone using the 3.5mm jack and was able to play music using the iPod application on the iPhone. Slightly better bass response than my iPhone ear buds due to the larger speakers. All in all, a pretty good Skype headset.



Notice the Y-cable (USB + 3.5mm jack) with the 3.5mm jack connected to iPhone

**Features**

- Developed in direct association with Skype for optimal performance
- Up to 60 minutes call time to phones and mobiles included
- Super wideband audio
- Unidirectional microphone helps eliminate background noise
- Neodymium speakers for rich full range stereo sound 20Hz-20KHz
- Innovative, light fold-flat design.
- Plug & Play instant use with excellent USB sound quality
- Handy optional 3.5mm jack allows MP3 connection when travelling
- Adjustable headband and microphone
- PC and Mac compatible
- Weighs only 124 g

**Requirements**



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**Friday**

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Tom Keating [queued](#) [Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time](#)

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- Windows 2000® / XP® / Vista™ Operating System
- MAC OS X 10.22 or newer
- Available USB port
- 256 MB RAM

Also it's supposed to come with 60 minutes SkypeOut calling, I didn't see a Skype credit voucher in the sealed box. Probably because it's a review unit, so I can't complain. You can buy it [here](#) for just \$22.88.

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August 6, 2009 5:06 PM | [16 Comments](#) | [0 TrackBacks](#)

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## 16 Comments

[Aage](#) | [August 10, 2009 5:08 PM](#) | [Reply](#)

Nice headset. It is now actually possible to get a 7.1 headset. It's the Megalodon from Razer which is a surround sound gaming headset, but I assume it can also be used with Skype. [Razer Megalodon](#)

[Sam](#) | [August 15, 2009 12:29 PM](#) | [Reply](#)

Thanks for the great review, I'm buying one right now.

[Paul Machlis](#) | [August 26, 2009 1:23 PM](#) | [Reply](#)

Is this a powered microphone? The plantronics headset I purchased does not seem to be recognized by Mac OS X in the settings for line-in port. I understand this has to do with the fact that it is not a powered mic. Will this headset work?

[YardSale](#) | [August 29, 2009 9:40 PM](#) | [Reply](#)

They sure have taken some shortcuts on this one. Feels very cheap and vital things are taken out of it. There is no volume control or mute button, for example. If someone screams in my ear I have to fiddle with the software in order to lower or mute the volume: I might get deaf in the process.

[Radar](#) | [September 26, 2009 3:40 PM](#) | [Reply](#)

I had a pain with these: My audio setting was too high when I was talking to granny and there is neither no audio control nor any mute button on the headset. Talk about cheap stuff!!! So while granny was screaming in my ears I was desperately searching in the software for a way to make her "shut up".

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**Tom Keating:** How does your friend like it? How's the voice quality? [read more](#)  
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**zolar0526:** Do you know if it works on iTouch? [read more](#)  
**Jake Howe:** For some reason I followed this tutorial to the (T)... [read more](#)  
**Tom Keating:** Ahhh, so it does support SIP according to the eBay [read more](#)  
**Robert W. Carter:** I had Vonage for about 8 years. I also had [read more](#)  
**Carlos Velez:** this guy selling it on ebay seems to be linking [read more](#)

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No, this is one shortcut that will end up in someone suing [Skype](#) for damaged hearing!!!

And it is "Certified"??? Does the Skype Certification stand for nothing??

Tari Akpodiete | [December 1, 2009 8:34 PM](#) | [Reply](#)

attn RADAR

- what's going on? everywhere i find this headset reviewed, i find you with the same whining word for word. your screaming 'granny' gets around as much as you it seems.

- anyway, learn to use your computer. if yours doesn't come with a hardware or function key volume control, then put the software volume control in the notification area, no fuss/muss access.

BOUNTY HUNTER | [December 8, 2009 7:44 PM](#) | [Reply](#)

COMW ON IDIOTS - WHO IN THE HELL BUILDS A HEADSET AND NOT PUT IN A MUTE OR VOLUME BUTTON - OMG IM SENDING MINE BACK

dicdoc | [December 17, 2009 12:01 PM](#) | [Reply](#)

This is a terrible headset. Sound is ok but it feels soooo cheap and plastic-like. It is the least elegant design ever with the most unwieldy cable and earcushions that will make your ears sweat within minutes.

Needless to say I do NOT recommend the FREETALK Everyman [Skype](#) Headset.

Paddy Doyle | [January 16, 2010 6:04 AM](#) | [Reply](#)

I bought one but it doesn't work. I plugged into a USB port and nothing happened. I tried it on three different computers. I can listen using the 3.5 mm jack.

Paddy

Solar Maxx | [January 20, 2010 11:18 AM](#) | [Reply](#)

Well I hope they are enjoying the 75 cents they saved by not putting in a mute button or volume control because it going to cost them any value they had in their brand name. It also reflects on [Skype](#) and shows how little they understand the needs of their own customers.

[Craig Reville](#) replied to [comment from Paddy Doyle](#) | [January 29, 2010 9:23 AM](#) | [Reply](#)

I am having the same issues here paddy,

Mine work for 30 seconds, start making a clicking noise and disconnect.

I have tried disabling and enabling everything, copy stuff over from laptops and pc's they work on, uninstalling and reinstalling drivers etc and still no go.

Instore and skype could not fix this issue and as a result i got to keep the shit headset and got a refund

Unreal, i would NOT recommend

randy | [March 2, 2010 12:13 AM](#) | [Reply](#)

For YardSale and the rest of your bogus review personalities, please stop peppering the internet with your stock complaints about this headset. They're getting old and quite identifiable. At least add a little variation or come up with more creative names - radar, bounty hunter, solar maxx, dicdoc - are you serious? Apparently [Skype](#) pissed you off. Life sucks. So take it up with them and spare us the three year-old temper tantrum. I tell you what. I'll give you the \$22.00 you lost if you'll just shut the @#\*& up already!

David Robbins | [March 30, 2010 9:26 PM](#) | [Reply](#)

got one of these no drivers or anything and plugged them into my base station no worries went through the detect and everything works ok. Now for the fun spent hours trying to get them to work on my toshiba satellite series notebook. went and made sure everything was up to date and even went and double checked my realtek drivers all to no avail. No setting up was asked for no detection that they were plugged in and other than partially working with sound setup(mic seems to work) no sound being fed to the headset speakers are stil active. So i went to a friend who is now reporting this fault after he replicated everything i had done and more. Really disalutined with these [headsets](#) and i cant even send the rotten things back.

Rafael O. Quezada | [April 11, 2010 5:30 PM](#) | [Reply](#)

Skype showed this in a video that also included mention of ear-bud type [headsets](#) it endorses, saying (approx.), "... you can even use ear-buds for really discreet appearance...". Yet, when you go looking for the ear-buds, nothing at all comes up... why is that?

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I'm trying to set up my wife's office so that all her fashion girls can use [Skype](#) instead of [AT&T](#) phones. It would save them a bundle. Problem is, they all hate messing up their gorgeousness-hairdos with the bulky earphones and crossover-the-head bridge.

Can anybody help with a referral for the ear-bud version of the phone set?

Thanks... roq@sbcglobal.net

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Michael | [May 17, 2010 11:40 AM](#) | [Reply](#)

Is there any fullband headset available nowadays?

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Cipriana | [June 26, 2010 8:06 PM](#) | [Reply](#)

Mine don't work on my new PC, but worked on the laptop. I think they are incompatible with realtek, as they worked for a few seconds when I disabled it. They stop working again everytime I turn the PC on again.

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