

## Review: Steelseries Diablo III Headset

Written by Dexter K.

Wednesday, 30 November 2011 20:19

---

**Warning:** Invalid argument supplied for foreach() in `/usr/www/funkykit/httpdocs/plugins/system/ki_mootools_control.php` on line 5

6

**Warning:** reset() [ [function.reset](#) ]: Passed variable is not an array or object in `/usr/www/funkykit/httpdocs/plugins/system/ki_mootools_control.php`

on line

77

**Warning:** key() [ [function.key](#) ]: Passed variable is not an array or object in `/usr/www/funkykit/httpdocs/plugins/system/ki_mootools_control.php`

on line

78

```
{pgbox version=1.0b type=toc }      document.write("");  {/pgbox}
```

### Introduction

{wbadvert}

Steelseries has made a name for itself over the years for making great quality gaming peripherals. These items range from inexpensive entry level devices to top of the line professional grade items.

The nice part is that they are devices made by gamers for gamers which include all of the things you need yet cut out all the nonsense you don't.

Other Steelseries headsets I have looked at up to now have more or less been multi-platform. Sadly, that is not the case with this headset since it is USB-only.

Still this headset is looking to make a name for itself with the great looking Diablo 3 branding.

For more information on Steelseries and their other products ... here's a little something taken

## Review: Steelseries Diablo III Headset

Written by Dexter K.

Wednesday, 30 November 2011 20:19

---

from their [website](#) .



*"From day one, SteelSeries has been focused on making professional gaming gear that provide mean*

*What originally began as a small two-person operation in Copenhagen back in 2001 has become a glo*

*Fast-forward to today, and we've come a long way since our first glass mousepad. We have global off*

### The Box and Packaging

## Review: Steelseries Diablo III Headset

Written by Dexter K.

Wednesday, 30 November 2011 20:19

---

{vsig}reviews/steelseries/steelseries\_diablo3\_headset/photos1{/vsig}

With all of that out of the way, lets take a look at the super cool looking Steelseries Diablo 3 [headset](#)

Similar Products:

cobrand\_id = '1873';

product\_id = '905486078';

ra

Compare Expert Reviews @ 

---

□

### Features and Specifications

For more information please visit the [Steelseries website](#)

{vsig}reviews/steelseries/steelseries\_diablo3\_headset/photos2{/vsig}

### **INCREDIBLE SOUND**

Featuring 50mm driver units that reproduce crystal clear sounds in high, low, and mid-range tones is at the core of what is creating an incredible Diablo® III audio experience. Whether it's the ominously toned soundtrack, the approaching hiss of a Witch Doctor's firebomb or the bloody rage of a Barbarian whirlwind, users will clearly hear the gut wrenching hurls and exploding innards of your enemies.

### **EQUALIZE IT ALL**

Let's face it, the way you hear the game is unique to the tones your hearing can pick up, and probably completely different than the next gamer, which is why SteelSeries provides Diablo® III Headset users the ability to adjust, personalize and save all of their audio and equalizer settings. Save up to 8 settings for specific character profiles.

### **KEEP OUT THE NOISE**

The earcups feature a leather covered noise reducing foam, which helps you to focus on the important audio or voice communication, and not being disturbed or interrupted by outside noise.

## Review: Steelseries Diablo III Headset

Written by Dexter K.

Wednesday, 30 November 2011 20:19

---



### **LIGHTWEIGHT CHAMPION**

SteelSeries over-the-head suspension design keeps the Diablo® III Headset cans lightweight and adjustable for just about every head size. We believe in keeping the gameplay heavy, not the gear you're wearing to play it.

### **RETRACTABLE MICROPHONE**

The Diablo® III Headset features a retractable microphone system. Pull it out when you

### **GLOW BABY GLOW**

It's not the Burning Hells that power this bad boy, but a total of 18 LED lights to power the red illumination and 4 pulsation options.

### **DEMON RED ILLUMINATION**

Alert the world around you that you're in the game. - The matte black headset features "demon" red, LED illumination on the right and left side Diablo® III logo slashes and around each earcup. Choose your pulsating glow or if lights don't interest you, easily turn it OFF via the SteelSeries Diablo® III Headset software.

### **IN CONTROL**

The integrated volume controller on the cord offers also offers a mute button, all for instant control without having to navigate through software settings.

---

## **A Closer Look**

Steelseries own info is cool and all, but lets see what a real user has to say about it.

## Review: Steelseries Diablo III Headset

Written by Dexter K.

Wednesday, 30 November 2011 20:19

---

First looking at the package I am greeted to a pretty awesome box. The Diablo 3 logo is on the front along with a couple of demons and the actual headset itself. Opening up the front of the box there is a pretty cool picture of the angel Tyrael from the Diablo series. The headset also looks very good in the box. Opening it you get the standard manual, Steelseries sticker, and smaller guide. If you want to use the software control panel for the headset make sure to read the manual.

The headset itself is well built. I must say it looks very nice too, the Diablo styling looks great and it should appeal to all Diablo fans. The headset auto-adjusts to fit your head each time you put it on so there is no need to do it manually. Just like all other Steelseries headsets the microphone is somewhat hidden and only taken out when needed. For those of you who want to use their headset as a multi-purpose device look elsewhere. This headset is USB-only so you are stuck using it on your PC. With that being said, its good you cannot use it out and about. If moving your head around it will move around a bit since it has an auto-adjusting tightening system.

If you are like me and always end up running over headphone cables with your chair, this headset should be able to survive that easily. The nice black and red braided cord feels well made and should survive an animal biting on it, or a child trying to tear it much better than a cheap plastic cable.



Comfort-wise these are quite comfortable, I was able to wear them for hours without feeling

## Review: Steelseries Diablo III Headset

Written by Dexter K.

Wednesday, 30 November 2011 20:19

---

like they were bothering me. My ears did get a bit warm due to the leather ear pads. It would be nice if Steelseries made the ear cups removable like some of their other headsets, this would be awesome and add another level to comfort since not everyone likes one type of ear pads over the other.

{vsig}reviews/steelseries/steelseries\_diablo3\_headset/photos4{/vsig}

The microphone on this headset is of great quality, people had no problem hearing me over various voip programs. People could hear me better when the microphone is fully extended, but if you want to keep the microphone hidden be prepared for mediocre microphone performance.

One problem I have is that they have integrated the USB connector on the actual headset cable. Other Steelseries headsets have had 3.5mm jacks plug into a USB sound card but it appears that they have gone a different route. This is quite disappointing especially if you want to bring out the best sound performance through a dedicated sound card or amp. But on the plus side, Steelseries has included a 6-ft (3m) extension cable so you do not have to worry about the cable being too short.

---

### Testing Methodology

For testing we will be testing only on the PC platform since I feel that it gives better overall sound quality. We will be examining the headsets performance in Music, Movies, and PC

## Review: Steelseries Diablo III Headset

Written by Dexter K.

Wednesday, 30 November 2011 20:19

---

games.

Before running these tests, the headphones were properly burned-in, in order to bring out the full characteristics of the sound. This is done in order to allow the speakers in the headphones to burn-in since they often sound different out of the box, than when you burn them in for 20-50hrs. After the burn-in period, all tests were conducted.



### Music

Music testing is done with the Diablo 3 headset being driven its on-headset USB sound card, all music is formatted in FLAC at 256kbs bitrate. Different music albums were used in order to get a feel for how the set would perform on different music genres.

The first album I used was Aly & Fila - Rising sun which is a Trance/ Techno album. Pounding

## Review: Steelseries Diablo III Headset

Written by Dexter K.

Wednesday, 30 November 2011 20:19

---

beats is a good way to describe this headset, at high volumes the bass can be a bit overwhelming. Mids come in very good at all volumes. Highs are crisp and clear at all but the highest volumes. The soundscape is also better than previous Steelseries headsets, I'm not sure if its due to the more open nature of the headphones but it works well. If you are looking for headphones that rock your socks off these are definately it.

Next up is the Folk album Bring Me your Love by City & Colour. This album is used in order to give a good sense of the mids and highs, as well as some input on the finer details in guitar chords and other sounds. If I had one word to describe the combo of this album and headset is muddy. Mids have an oddly muddy sound, lows and highs come in clear but mids just sound off for some reason. Its not terrible, but it is something you will notice if you pay attention. Fine details and the soundscape are good, but again those mids really hurt the performance in this album.

I thought I would switch things up and move away from the Pennywise album and go for the A.F.I. Album Art of Drowning. Faster beats seem to be the demise of these cans. When bass is paired with mids and highs at the same time it causes everything to be slightly muddy but not that bad. Slower songs dont appear to have this issue, but with the type of music those moments come very rarely.

Finally we took a look at the Rap album K.O.D. by Tech N9ne. Everything was great on these cans through this album. Bass was pounding but not overwhelming, mids came through clear, and highs were also crisp. These headphones work great for rap music and surpass the performance of previously reviewed Steelseries headsets.



## Review: Steelseries Diablo III Headset

Written by Dexter K.

Wednesday, 30 November 2011 20:19

---

### Movies/ Video

Lots of people use their headphones when they watch movies or their favorite TV shows. Testing is done by watching Blue-Ray rips of the following series at 720p or 1080p on the VLC media player.

Life-

This BBC/ Discovery channel is simply stunning visually and audio-wise. These headphones do not limit the quality of Life at all. Small details such as crunching grass or swimming fish come in very clearly. There were instances while closing my eyes and listening where I thought something was behind me from the clarity of the cans. Not all is perfect though, there are times when listening with high volumes when sounds blend and become unclear. Generally though as long as you aren't at the highest volumes you should be fine.

Band of Brothers -

Being quite an amazing series, Band of Brothers was a perfect fit for a war experience. Small details stick out very well, footsteps, the crackling of a fire, distant gun shots are all very detailed. Larger sounds like exploding artillery and gunfire come in very crisp as well. When it comes to directional sound it is very easy to tell which direction explosions are in and where gunfire comes from which adds in another level to the already awesome experience. This headset will add another level of immersion to an already awesome viewing experience.

## Review: Steelseries Diablo III Headset

Written by Dexter K.

Wednesday, 30 November 2011 20:19

---

But lets move onto what these cans are marketed for, gaming.

---

Since these headphones are made for gamers lets see how good this unit actually is in games.



### PC Gaming

For this review I thought I would mix things up a bit compared to previous reviews and test a couple of games I have been playing quite a bit as of late.

## Review: Steelseries Diablo III Headset

Written by Dexter K.

Wednesday, 30 November 2011 20:19

---

### Red Orchestra 2: Heros of Stalingrad

RO2 is one of those games where hearing someone sneaking up behind you can be the difference between life and death. Let me tell you, this headset does directional audio very well. I never had any issues of sound coming from the wrong side, every time I played the audio was spot on. Sound quality was also very good as well. While not quite the same level as an audiophile headset the Steelseries offering still produced great effects throughout my playing experience.

### Elder Scrolls V: Skyrim

A big huge immersive world is a great way to describe skyrim, the sound in the game is quite immersive as well. The music while walking through the world comes in quite beautiful never at one point in time while playing did I find myself thinking that the music came in badly. When it comes to game effects this headset does so wonderfully. From exploding spells to the sound of a sword hitting a metal shield the wold expereicne was great. One thing I really loved was the directional audio, compared to playing with my speakers I was easily able to tell where an enemy was coming from especially when a dragon was flying toward me from behind.



## Review: Steelseries Diablo III Headset

Written by Dexter K.

Wednesday, 30 November 2011 20:19

---

### Verdict and Conclusion

{wbadvert}

Throughout my testing of the Diablo 3 headset I always found myself taking them off after a while to look at them since they are so cool. I'm sure any other Diablo fan will feel the same way when wearing this headset.

Comfort is great with these, you are never in a position where you must take them off due to your head hurting. If anything they are a pleasure to wear and feel better after you get used to the self-adjusting head bracket. The one thing I wish Steelseries implemented is the ability to change the ear pads since it is nice to have the ability to swap to cloth or leather depending on your preferences.

Steelseries seems to be increasing the sound quality of every unit I hear to date. You will not be disappointed with these headphones. All ranges come in crisp and clear in all but a few types of sound. Gaming is absolutely awesome with them, the feeling of directional sound is done with solid precision.

The one area where I wish they improved was in available connections, it would be nice if Steelseries went back to the 3.5mm jack and optional USB sound card setup. This allows people who have nice sound cards to get the most out of their headphones (which isn't to say that the USB connection sounds bad)

{vsig}reviews/steelseries/steelseries\_diablo3\_headset/photos3{/vsig}

## Review: Steelseries Diablo III Headset

Written by Dexter K.

Wednesday, 30 November 2011 20:19

---

**Final words.** While there are headphones that do one thing such as music or movies better, it is hard to find a do it all headset like the Steelseries Diablo III headset. It performs well at everything it does and looks very good while doing so. For fans of the Diablo series this headset is a must-buy to go with the much anticipated Diablo III game.

### Good:

- Comfortable
- Awesome visuals
- Good music performance
- Simple software
- Mic quality
- Ability to adjust lights

### Bad:

- Simple software
- USB only
- Ear pads aren't removable
- Lacking in certain types of music

### SCORE

## Review: Steelseries Diablo III Headset

Written by Dexter K.

Wednesday, 30 November 2011 20:19

---

**8.8/10**



Similar Products:

cobrand\_id = '1873';

product\_id = '905486078';

ra

Compare Expert Reviews @ **TEST FREAKS**

