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The Star Trek Communicator Exists â€“ And It's an USB Speakerphone

Complete with original sound effects

Star Trek USB communicator from Dream Cheeky Gizmodo

Star Trek fandom will never die. I mean, about four decades have passed since the original series took off and gadgets like this one are still being manufactured plus, apparently, bought with a vengeance. In fact, in the old days, people didn't even know how to truly be geeky fans; it took a lot of training and discipline to obtain the perfect technique of Star Trek geekiness, and we can indeed be proud of the geeks of today, for they are true masters of the art.

The speakerphone which prompted these musings on kirkophilia is brought to us by Dream Cheeky. It looks exactly like the Star Trek communicators of old fame, golden grille and all. When you connect it via USB, it allows you to - wonder of wonders! - talk to people; but they'd also have to be using Skype. Other than that, it works well with Windows XP, Vista, Tiger, Leopard and don't you be expecting me to say that it's compatible with Linux as well because that's for geeks of another nature - those who like their operating systems smooth-running and free.

This device also comes with velcro backing and, most importantly, the sound effects of the "real" Star Trek communicator. Unfortunately, it has volume control and even an indicator for when you set it on mute. Which is technologically more advanced than the Enterprise issue and thus a breach of geek-regulations.

Come to think of it, the communicators used by Captain James T. Kirk & Co. in the sixties do look technologically naive compared to our slim, compact mobile phones and devices; if Kirk would have seen one of our "communicators", with all its multi-functions and built-in cameras and LCD displays and touchscreens, he would have probably gone "Spock! Spock! Just look at this level of technology! The beings who built this must be... GODS!" (Well, it doesn't seem so Shatner-dramatic when one writes it down. But imagine how it would sound with all those tonality changes and masterful pauses.)

Anyway, in spite of all my sarcasm, I find myself in love with this speakerphone. It will become available in April, and no price has been announced yet.

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