

Modified Playstation 4 Controllers

The Playstation 4 controller is fine. There are a lot of excellent features that make it easy to use and enjoy the games. But let's be real, fine doesn't always cut it. There are some simple changes to the PS4 controller that can give gamers a competitive edge and make a noticeable difference in their gaming experience. Adding an Interchangeable Analogue System, Spring Stop Triggers, a Dexi Disk, Splash Grip, or ClickSticks, is sometimes what separates a truly great player from a casual gamer. Let's look at what each of these mods is and how they affect the gaming experience on the PS4.

Spring Stop Triggers:

Pressing the R2 and L2 triggers once or twice isn't a big deal, but what happens when that zombie just won't die? Then, depressing those buttons faster and with less force becomes pretty important. Spring Stop Triggers (S.S.T.s) are small switches that are placed under the R2 and L2 triggers that you can adjust in height to suit a player's needs. These stops shorten the length of distance for the R2 and L2 triggers to register on the controller, allowing the player to use them much faster since it isn't necessary to fully press the triggers down to use them. This is great for those intense moments in shooter games when rapid gunfire is ideal. S.S.T.s can be set at different heights, allowing for a more customized feeling and approach to your game.

The Dexi Disk:

If you don't like the standard directional pad on the Playstation 4 controller, you are not alone! The buttons on the d-pad are separated, causing them to be inaccurate at times and just uncomfortable enough to want to change them up. A great fix is to add a Dexi Disk cover to the d-pad. The Dexi Disk is a removable plastic cover that gives the player more sense of control and precision by increasing the surface area for the thumb to rest on, providing them with smoother movement in gameplay. A simple, but effective mod, the Dexi Disk is there to give you a competitive edge with added control and a more comfortable feeling than the separated direction buttons on the standard controller. Gamers like the Dexi Disk because it cuts down on thumb fatigue, allowing them to play longer. It doesn't hurt that it looks a bit nicer as well!

The Interchangeable Analogue System:

Let's break down the Interchangeable Analogue System (I.A.S.). Adding this to the controller allows a person to customize the thumbstick height and grip to meet their individual needs. The I.A.S. really gives gamers a lead while gaming for a few different reasons. While playing first-person and third-person shooter, action/adventure, or close-quarters combat games, added thumbstick height increases the accuracy with weaponry and improves the player's control over

the movement within the game. The Interchangeable Analogue System includes standard, medium, and high heights, and people can change these depending on the type of game they are playing and their personal gaming style. When choosing an I.A.S. setup, it's important to consider what style you like; concave or convex thumbsticks, for example. A lot of gamers prefer a concave, mid-rise thumbstick for their left analogue stick because it allows them more seamless control of movement in gameplay with much less adjustment time and force exerted by the player. Generally, it's a good idea to use a high-rise, often convex, thumbstick on the right because it greatly improves accuracy, so you are on-target faster than the competition. Another important way the I.A.S. improves your game is overall comfortability. The rubber grip on the I.A.S. is much better for gamers' thumbs and wrists because they don't need to hold on to the controller as tightly since it eliminates the slip that occurs during serious gameplay. The custom grip on these thumbsticks helps with hand fatigue, making the controller more comfortable for longer periods of time because the grips allow players to use much less force to achieve their goals. Overall, integrating an Interchangeable Analogue System into one's gameplay will improve your accuracy, movement, and comfort, allowing them to play longer and more intensely. Who doesn't want that?

Splash Grip:

At the end of the day, a controller is just a tool for the gamer. It's a tool in the same sense that Pele's boots were just tools for him, or how Tony's Hawk's skateboard was just a tool. What both of these guys have in common is grip. Pele's football boot was a special design that added grips on the toes so that he could handle the ball like the champion that he was. Could Tony Hawk have completed the 900 without grip tape on his board? No, he could not. So why are gamers playing without grip on their controllers? There isn't any nice way to say this: our hands get sweaty when we are slaying dragons, killing zombies, and blowing up Death Stars! Sweaty hands and plastic don't tend to mix well. The smooth plastic on the standard-issue PS4 controllers just doesn't offer gamers the grip and moisture wicking that they need. Adding the Splash Grip to your controller is going to add comfort and control where you need it most. The Splash Grip is a rubberized, textured surface on the back of the controller that provides comfort and reduces the chances of the controller slipping from the player's hands as they sweat during intense gaming. If you get sweaty hands when things get tense during gameplay, Splash Grip is a must-have.

ClickSticks:

A lot of pro gamers are using ClickSticks to give them an advantage. These two switches are located on the back of the controller and correspond to either the x, square, triangle, and circle buttons on the front of the controller. ClickSticks are particularly helpful in first-person or third-

person shooter games when a few seconds is a matter of life and death because you can hit the buttons on the back noticeably faster without sacrificing the control you gain from the analogue sticks. You rest your middle fingers on them in gameplay and hit them at will. Other companies use paddles, which provide the same function as the ClickSticks do, but are not nearly as comfortable or ergonomic. The ClickSticks are textured and ridged on one side so that the player's fingers stay put during exciting moments in the game and are much smaller than the large paddles found on other pro-level controllers. Another awesome feature is the option to install remappable ClickSticks, so that you're not limited to only two mapped buttons. If you get remappable ClickSticks, you can program the ClickSticks to correspond to different buttons depending on the game. You might use the x and circle buttons more for *Call of Duty*, but then use the square and x buttons more in *Assassin's Creed*, for example. The option to have remappable ClickSticks is particularly useful if a gamer plays more than one type of game regularly.

Overall, adding these five modifications to the PS4 controller will give a gamer a real advantage in most games, especially in first- and third-person shooter, and adventure games. Most of these mods are fairly easy to get used to in a short period of time and instantly give a player a superior gaming experience.

1228 words