

Lab class 1 (individual assignment)

Television Controller

A television remote control is made for operating the television, which is often used during a person's relaxing or low-effort free time. This means that when people use a remote control, they don't want to think too much about how it works. Even when watching something like the news, turning the television on or off should not take much time or mental effort. The user's attention should stay on watching, not on controlling.

Only when setting up the television for the first time is it necessary to have more options than just turning it on/off or changing channels. However, most people (especially the biggest peer group: older users who are not experienced with technology) often cannot do this setup themselves and need professional help. This professional person can adjust the settings using another device or by using a simple remote together with on-screen options. Many modern televisions already have built-in menus, so users can control everything directly through the on-screen interface with the remote controller.

There are two types of design for television controller:

1) simple, minimalistic, aesthetic design

A simple, minimalistic, and aesthetic television controller is an example of good interface design. One example is the "Seki" controller (shown in picture 1).

It has two buttons for adjusting the volume, two buttons for changing channels, and one clearly labeled button for turning the TV on or off. These buttons are easy to understand and help prevent accidental setting changes.

This simple design perfectly matches its purpose: to let users relax and enjoy watching TV without confusion or effort.

2) technic, professional design

A technical, professional television controller is an example of poor interface design. One such example is shown in picture 2.

It has many buttons for different settings and menus. While these functions are useful, they are not relevant for everyday use. This kind of design can be confusing because it allows to change important settings by accident, and it is often hard to undo these changes. The most important buttons, like power, volume, and channel controls, are not easy to find or recognize.

As a result, basic actions such as turning the TV on/off or changing the channel/volume are not intuitive.

This design might have been created to give users full control over all settings or to simplify the on-screen interface by moving more functions to the remote. However, this approach makes the remote too complex.

I would improve this design by:

- Creating a well-structured on-screen settings menu by using all available design-rules (i.e. clear text, good color contrast, simple vocabulary on the screen to improve readability and accessibility).
- Adding an undo option and search function in the on-screen settings menu
- Including only the necessary buttons (power, volume, channel) on the controller, as shown in picture 1 and label them properly

picture 1



picture 2

