

Toaster Controls

Old Controls:

The old control consists of three knobs. The top knob controls the temperature of the toaster, the second controls the method of heating to be used, and the bottom knob allows one to choose how dark they want their toast, and doubles as a timer.

There are many problems with this interface. First, the temperature knob only has any effect if the second knob is turned to anything except "Toast." Second, the bottom knob works as both a measure of how dark to toast bread and a timer for the other non-toast options on the second knob. There are a few exceptions out there, however, that use the temperature setting and the heating method setting to in conjunction with the timer, confounding matters further.

Also, it is not obvious which knob one must set first or which knob actually turns the oven on and starts cooking the food it contains.

New Design:

The new design addresses these problems by providing a simple, step-by-step process of selecting the method of heating food. The first screen [1] asks the user to select whether they want to make toast or use the timer function, eliminating the ambiguity present in the old design. If the user selects "Toast," they are asked to choose how dark they want the toast [2]. This can be easily set with the '+' and '-' buttons. If the user decides to use the timer function, they are asked to first choose a temperature [3] and then how long to set the timer for [4].

At every step, the green "Start" button allows the user to continue to the next step, and the red "Stop" button cancels any operation by shutting off the oven and returning to the first screen. There was no obvious way short of unplugging the device with the old method. There is also a constant indicator of which cooking method is currently selected.

Similar Controls:

