ModeDial Athletic Watch

The GARMIN Forerunner 405 is:

- A GPS enabled sports watch.
- An electronic personal trainer.
- A powerful tool for serious athletes.
- A colossal interaction design failure.





"But why? It looks so sexy!"

The original designers ignored the context of use and chose an interaction method—a touch sensitive bezel—that is difficult to use in common cases.

- 1) When the user is wearing gloves
- 2) When the user's hands are sweating
- 3) When it's raining and the user's hands are wet

High tech with less touch...

The redesign removes the touch bezel, replacing it with a physical ring that allows the user to switch between modes. Knurling on the ring, labels showing the different modes and a blue indicator of the current mode provide feedforward. The display would change as the user rotated the ring, providing immediate feedback.

Why a mechanical dial?

Quick access to important watch modes. Easy to manipulate while moving and in all use cases.



Mechanical mode dial, similar to function selector on oven, toaster or blender.