

COMMON TO NEARLY EVERY PERSON

- Handles used for controlling liquids are expected to turn clockwise for off and counter-clockwise for on
- Knobs on electrical equipment are expected to turn clockwise for on, to increase current, and counter-clockwise for off or to decrease current (Note this is opposite to the stereotype for liquid)
- Toggle switches are expected to turn "on" when flipped up, "off" when flipped down
- Certain colors are associated with traffic, operation of vehicles, and safety
- For control of vehicles in which the operator is riding, the operator expects a control motion to the right or clockwise to result in a similar motion of his vehicle, and vice versa
- Sky-earth impressions carry over into colors and shadings. Light shades and bluish colors are related to the sky or up, whereas dark shades and greenish or brownish colors are related to the ground or down
- Things which are further away are expected to look smaller
- Coolness is associated with blue and blue-green colors, warmth with yellows and reds
- Very loud sounds or sounds repeated in rapid succession, and visual displays that move rapidly or are very bright, imply urgency and excitement
- Very large objects or dark objects imply heaviness. Small objects or light-colored objects appear light in weight. Large, heavy objects are expected to be at the bottom. Small, light objects are expected at the top
- People expect normal speech sounds to be in front of them and approximately head height
- Seat heights are expected to be at a certain level when a person sits down

Source: Woodson and Conover, Human Engineering Guide for Equipment Design

10-13) The desirable features of shape-coded controls are

- 1 Useful where illumination is low or where device may be identified and operated by feel only
- 2 Supplement to visual identification
- 3 Useful in standardizing controls for identification purposes

Some undesirable features are

- 1 Limited number of controls that can be identified
 - 2 Use of glove reduces sensitivity of hand
- LOCATION Controls can be identified by