Multipurpose digital switching and flight control workload

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Résumé ou extrait : Four subjects were tested in a cockpit simulator using a secondary task to measure reserve information processing capacity under two levels of flight control and four levels of multifunction switching. Results suggest that flight control impacts both input-output and central processing stages whereas mere anticipation of switching tasks effects input-output only. Difficult flight control reduced the effective information processing reserve by 54 percent on the average. The corresponding losses attributable to anticipation of multifunction switching were 20 and 31 percent for simple and complex tasks respectively. The study has implications for design of effective digital processing aids and mental workload measurement.

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