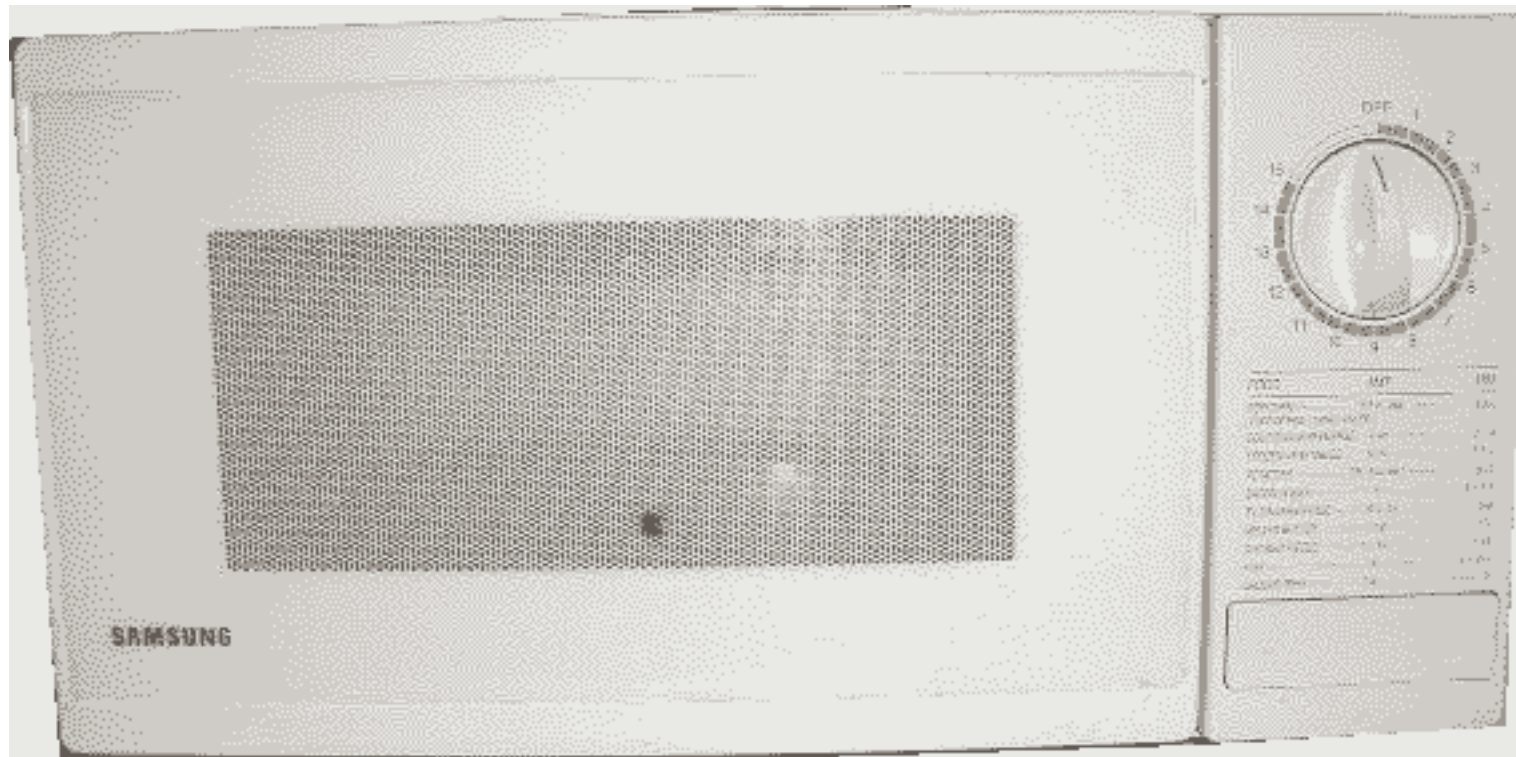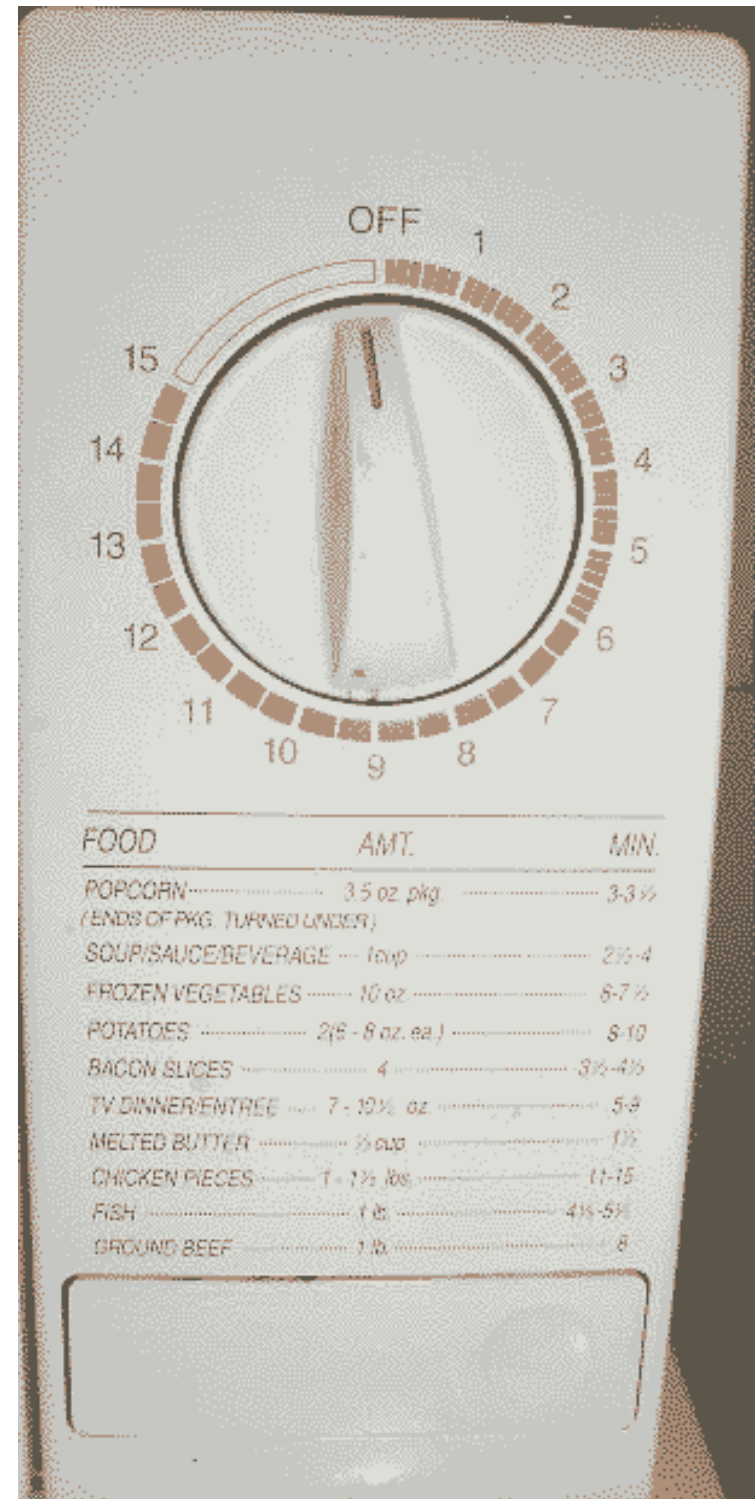# Simple Microwave

Hans Steiner
Designing Digital Products

Samsung Microwave
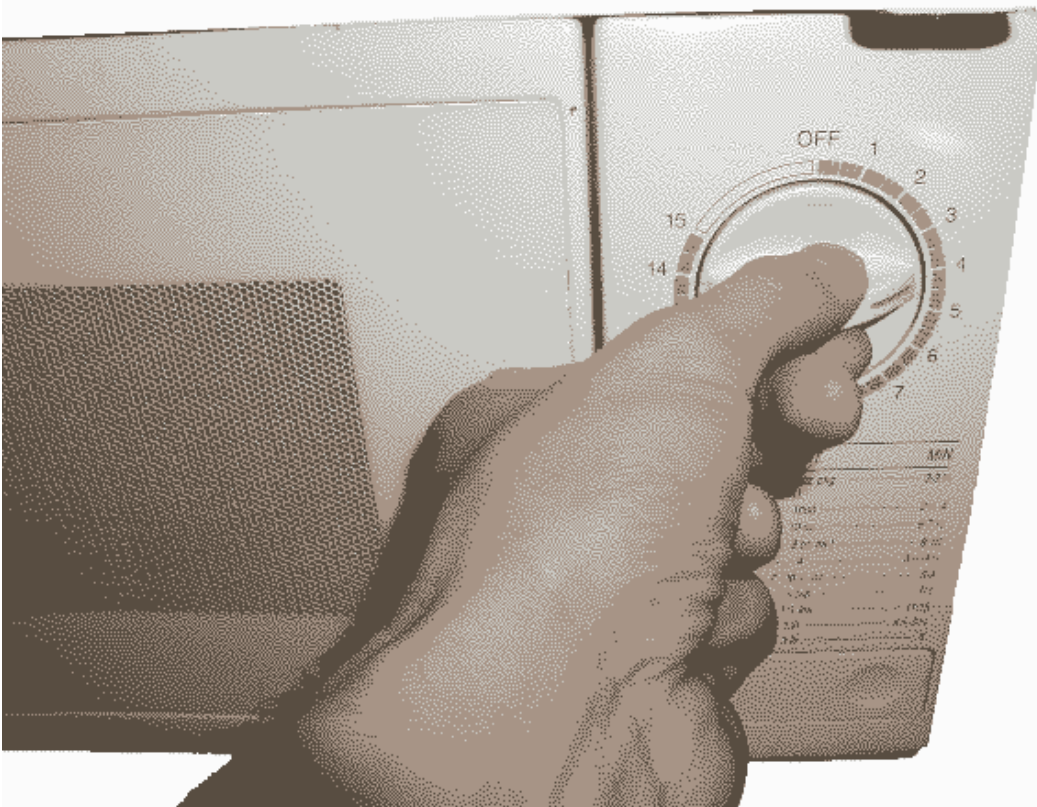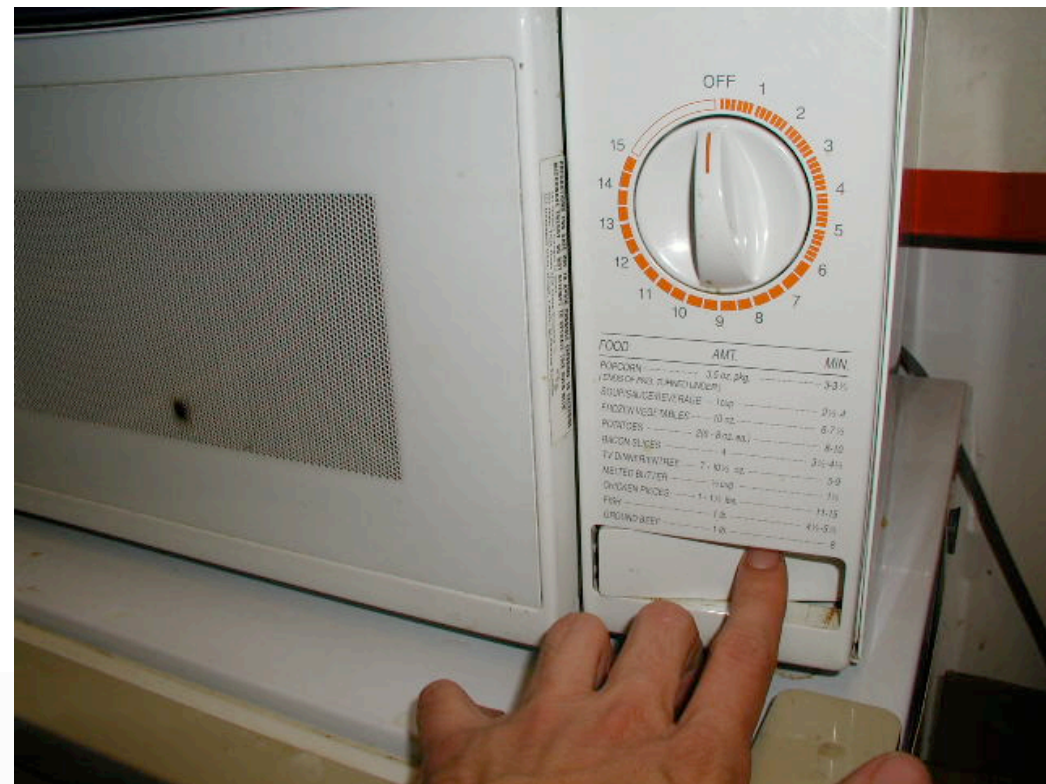
This microwave as two controls:

- time dial

- open button

opening the door --->

<-- setting the timer

Visibility

timer knob

- placed in a prominent location on top corner
- colored ring highlights the knob and its action
- numbers around the ring imply timer
- knob handle is prominent, turning it is very visible
- all white color makes knob hard to distinguish
- colored marker on handle to serve as time pointer

open button

- outline is the only thing that distinguishes the button from background
- all white color makes knob hard to distinguish
- small detent in button highlights spot to press, pointing to lever action
- button obviously goes in when pressed

Affordances

- knob looks like a classic egg timer
- button has small detent to mark area to be pressed

Mapping

- The knob is mapped to the power-on/power-off (light, microwave), the timer, and the finished bell.
- The button is mapped to power-off (light, microwave) and door opening.
- The light and microwave remain off when door is open.

Feedback

- timer knob physically turns
- bell rings when timer runs out
- when knob is turned, light and whirring sound turn on
- when button is pressed, light and whirring sound go off, and door opens

Core Interaction Problems

- open button's shape misrepresents its mechanism
- sloppy knob makes it tricky to tell the time left and when its done
- you cannot change the temp/power level
- you cannot set the time longer than 15 minutes