

Look, no hands



A Halo with Bluetooth solves the problem of phoning while driving, writes **Dave Bullard**

WE ALL know that it's not only illegal to talk holding your mobile phone while driving — it's also downright stupid.

The easiest way to get hands-free calling is via Bluetooth wireless networking, now standard on many mobiles.

There are a few ways to do this. You can have a Bluetooth handsfree kit hard-wired into your car; you can upgrade your in-dash CD player to one with Bluetooth (such as the Pioneer DEH-P7850BT); or you can just use an all-in-one stand-alone unit with built-in speaker and microphone.

The trouble with most of the latter is that they can be ordinary quality, difficult to use and more trouble than they're worth.

But that's not the case with Sudio's Halo speakerphone.

The Bluetooth v1.2 unit is easy to set up and use.

You need only to pair it with your mobile phone once — a two-minute process that involves the two devices identifying each other for future reference.

From then on, when you get into your car, all you need do is turn on Bluetooth on your phone and click on the Halo's name in the phone menu.

It can be paired with, and remember, eight phones.

The Halo, in silver or black, is the size of a small saucer. It clips to your sun visor and soon blends into the background... much as we don't notice the e-TAGs on our windscreens any more.



Clip-on: with the Halo on the sun visor you can answer calls just by pushing a button.

The sound on both ends of the phone calls is surprisingly clear and crisp, thanks to noise- and echo-cancellation technology.

When a call comes in, a simple push of a button on the Halo answers the call, and another ends it.

Making calls is really simple if your phone supports voice dialling. Hit the volume down button for three seconds and you will be asked for the name you'd like to call.

In our testing, this worked well with some phones, and badly with others. The fault is on the phone's side, so you won't know if you're able to use this feature properly until you try it.

A car USB charger comes in the box (an AC charger is available for \$29.95), and the Li-ion battery will give you up to 10 hours' talk time and 900 hours' standby time.

AT A GLANCE

SUDIO



Model: Halo Bluetooth speakerphone

Price: \$129

Force Technology: 1300 736 723
www.forcetechnology.com.au

Great price for a good little unit. And we like the two-year warranty. Remember to make sure your phone has Bluetooth before buying the Halo.