

Micro Mode

Taking out honours at this year's coveted Consumer Electronics Show award for innovation, design and engineering, Blueant's X3 Micro comes with a big package that has something for everyone.

Design

At a mere 13 grams, this thumb-shaped unit is surprisingly small for a Bluetooth headset and the contoured design lets it rest comfortably when in place. Wearing the X3 is like having one earphone on, added size not much of a differentiating factor.

Another advantage this thumb-design has over behind-the-ear models is that its buttons are situated where a fingernail usually would be. When in use, keys are parallel to, rather than behind the ear, making them easier to press. Surrounding these controls are flashing status lights which can be turned off to minimise distraction especially while driving at night.

Package

Bundled accessories make using this wireless headset even more practical. Block out traffic and other loud external surroundings with a noise cancelling tip which transmits sound directly into the ear canal. Also, a supplied lanyard means the X3 doesn't have to constantly be in-ear.

Unlike conventional headsets which require a

hook to hang in place, this model sits snugly without one, making it easier to put on. However, for those who prefer a more secure feel, the provided clip is effortlessly attached.

A flexible metal USB cable lets you recharge via computer or with the included car charger. Its unique spine can be moulded into any shape, similar to a paper clip. Should you receive a call while driving, this enables you to single-handedly unplug the floating Blueant while standard car chargers may take some fumbling around or even two hands to disconnect.

Performance

With the mobile pocketed we found reception difficulties rare. Placing your handset in a central part of the home or office is also an effective way to roam handsfree. Voice is dialling also possible and depends on your mobile's capabilities.

Although, when stepping outside the connection we often experienced that the connection was unceremoniously lost.

Nevertheless, should you encounter any hiccups, there's an extensive instructional manual included – it's also available to download from Blueant's site – revealing 1234 as the authorisation key as well as other nifty tips and tricks.

Impression

Let's face it, Bluetooth headsets have always been

somewhat niche product for business users. Having an earpiece and microphone hanging from one side just isn't an attractive look. Blueant's X3 solves that problem. Offering a cute yet professional model, further improved by an impressive bundled package, this product's design and practicality may even attract everyday consumers.



They say good things come in small packages.



The X3 can be charged via a USB socket from a Mac or PC.

It comes as an impressive list of extras. Included is a lanyard, noise-cancelling tip, ear clip, metal-folding USB cable, AC adaptor and car charger.