

THE SUNDAY SHOPPER

Just don't wear it at the table

By Andy Walker
Cyberwalker Media

Plantronics Cordless Headset Phone

I sidled up to the table for lunch the other day at the office and my business partner glared across the plates of nutritious asparagus and sun-dried tomato pasta salad. "Stop

what you're doing right now," she said in a matronly tone, "and take that off your head."

I was wearing the Plantron-

ics Cordless Headset Phone (model CT10), which was making me look like that smiley operator on American Airlines TV ads.

What's great about this gadget is you hardly know you have it on. The keypad unit is about the size of a pager. It clips on to a belt or pocket and then a wired cable plugs into a light headset that sits almost unnoticed across your head and against one ear. There's also a boom mike but you kind of forget about it after a while.

The 900 MHz phone can be used up to about 45 metres from the included base station, though the sound is not crystal clear beyond about 30 m. You get about six hours of talk time per charge.

The device also has a 10-number memory and volume control. Unlike with previous cordless phones I've tested, no one complained that the sound quality of my voice was diminished when I used it.

If you tend to be a pacer when you use the phone or get a crick in your neck from using a regular handset phone, this may just be the gadget for you.

Price: \$191 Cdn / \$129.99 US

More info: [www.plantronics.com]

Buy it: In Canada, it's available at Future Shop or Office

Depot. In the U.S. at Fry's Electronics or Best Buy. Online at [www.plantronics.com].

Electric Fuel Disposable Cellphone Charger

You have to make an important cellular phone call but the battery is low because you forgot your charger. You can't say to the very important person you're talking to: "If my phone cuts out, it's because I forgot to charge my battery." It makes you sound like a moron.

Admittedly, lugging the charger brick around is a pain and often there's nowhere convenient to plug it in when travelling. The ingenious folks at Electric Fuel have an answer. They've created a disposable cellphone battery charger.

The gadget's power adapter cable connects to the power socket on the bottom of your phone and then you unwrap a foiled battery about the size of a brownie.

When you attach it to the cable, it charges the battery. The charger, which contains a zinc compound, creates electricity when exposed to the air. It's good for about three charges on most cellular phones. When you're low on battery, you don't have to terminate a call. You continue to talk while the charger is attached. There also are charg-



ers that work with some handheld computers.

The only problem with it is that, once it's out of the foil-wrap, it's discharging and there's no way to stop it. So those three recharges better be all in a row.

For the mobile worker on the run, this product offers peace of mind. Better yet, it saves disorganized people from their forgetful selves.

Price: \$30 Cdn / \$19.95 US for cable and power cartridge

\$15 Cdn / \$9.95 US for power cartridge refill

More info: [www.electric-fuel.com]

Buy it: Online at [www.electric-fuel.com] or call Electric Fuel at (212) 529-9200 for retail information.

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