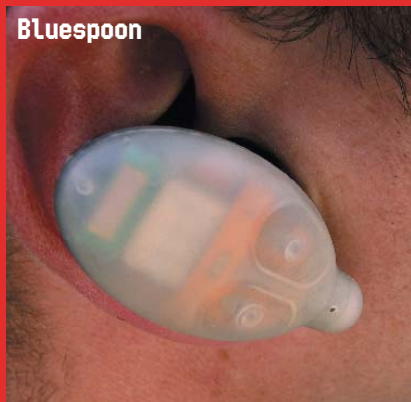




# ear-catching

As Sony Ericsson releases their fourth generation Bluetooth headset, other manufacturers are starting to catch up. We proudly present the most comprehensive European test of Bluetooth headsets including 8 models competing for points in 9 different categories.

## Bluespoon



Bluespoon fits directly into the ear taking up no space behind the user's ear. It takes a little while to get used to wearing a device in this manner, however.

## Plantronics M1000



Fitted with an ear-hanger this model has a button for volume adjustment on the flexible boom microphone.

## Sony Ericsson HBH-30



A fourth generation headset from Sony Ericsson. The entire battery section is located behind the wearer's ear while the volume adjustment buttons are fitted on the boom microphone.

**B**luetooth is gaining ground as never before. The technology invented by Ericsson has been available for a couple of years. Until now, however, neither wireless headsets nor mobile phones have made use of Bluetooth technology. A number of Bluetooth enabled phones manufactured by Sony Ericsson and Nokia have changed this. Moreover Bluetooth enabled phones from Siemens, Panasonic and Motorola are also in the pipeline. This super test introduces you to 8 different headsets. Bluespoon

BT100 and the Motorola headset which finds itself in the peculiar situation of no longer interacting with a Motorola phone. Sony Ericsson contributes to the test with two products: HBH-20 and HBH-30. While Bluetrek and AD-RFS922 are manufactured by AD Technology, the M1000 headset is Plantronics' candidate. The headsets were tested with the Sony Ericsson T68i and the Nokia 6310i mobile phones. Please note that the "Authorize connection" setting of the Nokia mobile phone must be set to "No". The default setting is "Yes", but this causes the hassle of synchronization every time either unit has been turned off. Sony Ericsson users need not change any settings.

## design

The design of the headsets was the first parameter of the 9 included in the test. Mobile phones are undergoing radical changes these years. The traditional look of a phone is no longer sufficient, painstaking attention to design has become indispensable. This is also the case with headsets. RF-5922 from AD Technology is a good example of excellent design. In fact, this model was awarded a prize for outstanding design. Conversely, HBH-20 performs poorly, simply because it looks like a traditional headset and even connects by wire to the Bluetooth adapter. Odd design, indeed. While the Jabra, Motorola, HBH-30, Bluetrek, RF5922 and M1000 headsets all have a flexible boom microphone, this is not the case with Bluespoon. The length of the boom varies considerably, however, impacting on the design accordingly. Except for Bluespoon the common feature is a rather "spacy design" which will surely provoke funny remarks if the headset is worn in less urbanized

>>People who wear spectacles actually have no choice but Bluespoon<<

areas. Nevertheless Bluespoon is the winner of this category. Bluespoon is not only very compact, it also fits directly and inconspicuously into the user's ear making its design unrivalled. [www.bluespoon.de](http://www.bluespoon.de)

■ Winner: Bluespoon

## weight

When headsets are fitted into the ear, weight becomes a crucial parameter. Not surprisingly no models exceed 30 g. In fact, all models range between 26 and 29 g. All except Bluespoon. A mere 9 g is the weight of this model another comfortable victory.

■ Winner: Bluespoon

## battery performance

Standby times and talk times are decisive parameters when acquiring a new mobile phone. Presently batteries are required to last about one week. However, frequent usage of a mobile phone means frequent recharging. With Bluetooth enabled wireless headsets battery performance is equally important. Hardly any of the models could last more than a day. Although standby battery performance is between 2 and 4 days, these figures only apply when the headset is not being used. For the test most models had to be recharged at night in order to be functional at day, which is not really a problem, though. The only headset which ran out of power during the test was the Bluetrek model. Jabra BT100 includes a car charger as an extra feature. This is very nifty but cannot stop Bluespoon from netting yet another victory. The standby battery performance of this model is 200 hours, allowing us to use the headset for more than 5 days without recharging it.

■ Winner: Bluespoon

## Overview

	Bluespoon	Jabra BT100	Motorola	Sony Ericsson HBH-20	Sony Ericsson HBH-30	Bluetrek	AD RF5922	Plantronics M1000
	9 gram	26 gram	26 gram	29 gram	28 gram	27 gram	29 gram	27 gram
Talk time	4.5 hours	2.5 hours	2.5 hours	2.5 hours	4 hours	2.5 hours	2.5 hours	2.5 hours
Standby time	200 hours	72 hours	72 hours	48 hours	100 hours	48 hours	48 hours	72 hours
Voice control								
Sony Ericsson/Nokia	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No
App. Price (DKK)	2,500	1,600	1,700	1,700	2,000	1,300	1,500	1,800

Motorola



## glasses compatibility

Do you wear glasses? I often wear sunglasses when driving. Wearing glasses and using a Bluetooth headset may be troublesome. Several of the headsets in the test take up a lot of space – especially behind the ear. Take the HBH-30 headset from Sony Ericsson for example. In this case the manufacturer has placed the battery section behind the ear. The same goes for RF-5922 and Bluetrek. The headsets from Jabra and Motorola are an option even for bespectacled users. And so is Bluespoon. The way Bluespoon is fitted directly into rather than onto the ear makes it eminently usable in conjunction with glasses. Plantronic M1000 can be used with glasses like Jabra and Motorola. If the frame of the glasses extend behind the ears, wearing the headset causes ear protrusion, however.

**Winner: Bluespoon**

## price

So how much is it? Normally price is a rather essential parameter when acquiring electronic gadgets. And in this test prices actually

differ. The cheapest headset can be yours for less than DKK 1300 (USD 170). Bluetrek is number one in this respect. RF5922 sets you back app. DKK 1500 (USD 197), while Jabra and Motorola sell at DKK 1600-1700 (USD 210-225). HBH-30 from Sony Ericsson costs around DKK 2000 (USD 263) and at the top of the list we find Bluespoon. The retail price of this headset is about 299 Euro (USD 330) [info@bluespoon.de](mailto:info@bluespoon.de) [www.bluespoon.de](http://www.bluespoon.de)

■ **Winner: Bluetrek**

## sound quality

This part of the test may well be the most important. How good is the sound of these headsets really? All headsets provide clear and crisp sound. Providing the phone is within one or two metres, that is. What differs is the volume. Generally speaking it would be nice if the volume could be turned up a bit more. Of course, volume isn't the decisive factor. You can easily tell the difference between the headsets. It's simply a matter of how much money and effort has been put into

The similarity between the Jabra and the Motorola headsets is no coincidence. Both were developed by Jabra.

Both headsets are a good fit



developing the speakers and the microphone. Without a doubt Bluespoon offers the highest sound quality. You can tell that its speakers and microphone are the result of great efforts. The microphone in particular is put to the test when using the headset in the car.

#### ■ Winner: Bluespoon

### range

The specifications provided by the manufacturers boast a range of 10 metres. Outdoor range was estimated to be around 10 metres, taxing the sound quality of the headsets tremendously, however. Indoor range did not exceed 3 metres. Penetrating walls reduces the range of the Bluetooth signal even further. In terms of signal transmission the headsets by and large performed equally well. We detected a slightly better range with Bluespoon than with the other headsets, but a range of 10 metres is really quite an exaggeration!

#### ■ Winner: Bluespoon

### usability

All test models proved fairly easy to operate. Users who at least skim the manual will encounter no

problems. All models are equipped with buttons for adjusting the volume. Answering a call is also done by pressing a button on the headset. No winner has been declared for this category since no one headset proved significantly superior to the others.

### voice-controlled dialing

One advantage of the wireless headset is that you can leave your mobile phone in your pocket or your bag. With Bluetooth being a standard all models should be able to handle voice-controlled dialing. According to the manuals all models have this feature and this also holds for Sony Ericsson's mobile phones. However, Nokia is an entirely different matter. This manufacturer has interpreted the Bluetooth standard in a slightly different way from Sony Ericsson and the headset manufacturers. Nevertheless and Jabra have managed to modify their software accordingly making voice-controlled dialing possible even with Nokia's phones. It is a basic requirement, though, that the mobile phone has this feature and that it is activated.

#### ■ Winner: Bluespoon and Jabra BT100



HBH-20 from Sony Ericsson is Bluetooth with wires. The setup is a regular headset which connects with a Bluetooth unit.

RF 5922

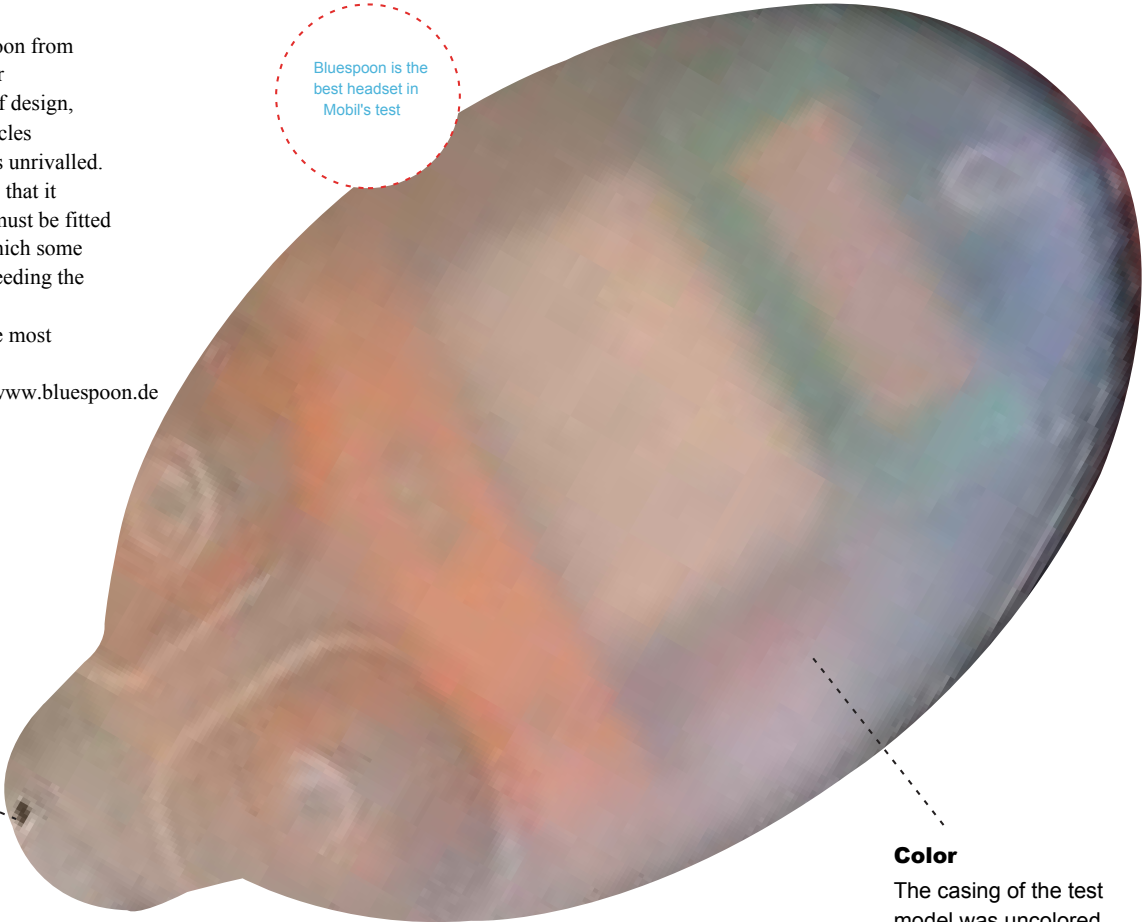


This headset was awarded a prize for its remarkable design. It remains useless to users with glasses, however.

# Bluespoon sweeps the board

**N** The superior Bluespoon from takes the prize in our super test. In terms of design, battery performance and spectacles compatibility Bluespoon proves unrivalled. Bluespoon's single weakness is that it cannot be worn externally but must be fitted directly into the wearer's ear which some might find uncomfortable. Exceeding the cost of Bluetrek by more than USD 130, Bluespoon is also the most expensive model in the test. Infos by [info@bluespoon.de](mailto:info@bluespoon.de) [www.bluespoon.de](http://www.bluespoon.de)

Bluespoon is the best headset in Mobil's test



**Microphone**  
This tiny microphone records the user's voice effectively

**Color**  
The casing of the test model was uncolored but the final model will be blue

**\*BEST!\*** **Best Value**

Score chart	Bluespoon	Jabra BT100	Motorola	Sony Ericsson HBH-20	Sony Ericsson HBH-30	Bluetrek	AD Tech RF5922	Plantronics M1000
Design	5	3	3	2	3	3	4	3
Weight	5	4	4	4	3	3	3	3
Battery Performance	5	3	3	3	4	2	3	3
Glasses compatibility	5	4	4	5	2	2	2	4
Price	2	4	4	3	3	5	4	4
Sound Quality	5	3	3	3	4	2	3	4
Range	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	4
Usability	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Voice controlled dialling	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>32</b>

Minimum score is 1, maximum is 5. Each headset is awarded one score in each category.