

Just landed . . .

Jon Mamonski reviews the latest products to help you buy the best



ENGAGE WITH JABRA

Spend a lot of time on the phone working from home or at your business? Free your hands and multi task better with Jabra.

As you embrace mobile working, the freedom to move around is more important than ever.

And what about those workers who act as reception or helpdesk staff?

Danish firm Jabra has released its latest generation of workplace headsets available in mono (one earpiece), stereo (two earpieces) or convertible (single in-ear) form factor that Jabra says will address several major pain points.

Chief amongst these is the fact that phone calls are becoming more complex and you often need to access detailed information elsewhere to solve a customer issue.

The ability to solve complex problems over the phone can be essential to building a strong business relationship. But being packed into noisy, overcrowded offices can negatively effect on call quality, and it is also these problems that Jabra is now aiming to address.

You can now have many devices (calls

from mobiles and handsets) operational within an open-plan office with a great wireless range up to 100 metres.

The headsets now also offer battery life to last throughout the working day, with



Jabra promising 13 hours without needing a charge.

The new Engage hardware also contains a new two-way microphone set-up that the company says offers “unmatched” call quality, providing clearer, smoother audio with advanced noise-cancelling ability, using a microphone listening out for exterior noise and shutting that out.

Up to five external devices can be linked to the Engage 75 range, allowing devices such as phones or laptops to be connected via Bluetooth, with up to two devices on the Engage 65 line.

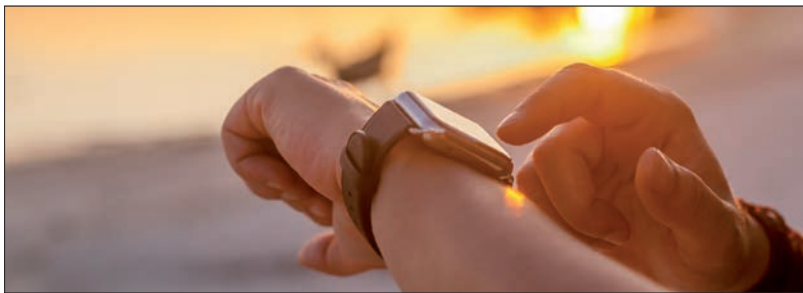
“This is a significant step for us... this is probably the biggest undertaking for our company in the last ten years,” said Bjorn Ekner, Jabra’s senior director, solutions and alliances.

The Jabra Engage 75 Convertible can connect simultaneously to a desk phone, softphone, mobile phone and two Bluetooth devices and enables 3x more users in the same office space – with no loss in connection quality.

There’s nine hours of talk time, depending on usage and has a fast charge option delivering 40 per cent battery in just 30 minutes and this convertible headset comes with an ear hook in the box, a neckband and headband are available as accessories and weighs in at just 18g, making the Jabra the lightest call centric headset on the market.

The Jabra Engage 75 features an integrated busy light and base with touch-screen, retailing for \$715.

Go to www.jabra.com.au for more info.



TESTED
SMARTWATCHES

What's important in smartwatches now? Design, battery life, ease of use and price do matter. Jon Mamonski travels the world and after exhaustive road testing, reviews nineteen leading smart watches for ladies, gents, the fitness focused and fashionistas.

Let's start with the winners of each category.

★ **Best Ladies Fashion Smartwatch**

Three established brands battled it out with **Fossil** and **Kate Spade** as runners up while **Michael Kors Access Bradshaw** takes the prize and has the best price from \$359 to boot.

★ **Best Fitness Smartwatch**

Fitbit owned this market, but the monster brands are knocking on the door. Runner up is the **Fitbit Ionic** – a great fitness watch except for the \$359 street price. The **Samsung Gear Fit2 Pro** is equal to the task, but you pay \$209.

★ **Best Gender Free Smartwatch**

This highly competitive group saw the three giants – Apple, Fitbit and Samsung, slogging it out. In third place, the ever-popular **Apple Watch 3** (let down by its battery life), and second, **Samsung's Gear 2** – its closest rival. First place goes to a new Fitbit entrant, the **Versa** with a street price of \$249. Clever design, a fitness coach, great battery life and good value.

★ **Best Gents Fashion Smartwatch**

Hotly contested and with the biggest market of players, there's five stand outs and a clear winner. (**Garmin Fenix 5+**, **Huawei Watch 2**, **Samsung Gear 3**, **Mobvoi Ticwatch Pro** and **ASUS Zenwatch 3** as the runner up), each have their qualities but the winner, for sheer design brilliance, battery life and bang for the buck is the **Amazfit Pace**.

★ **Best Battery Life**

A standout winner here – the **Matrix PowerWatch** series that require no charging – you heard me right. Just strap it to your wrist and your body heat provides all the energy it needs. You never have to take it off.

★ **Best budget and most expensive**

At \$99 the **S928** is hard to beat and in the upper stratosphere, the **Breitling Exospace B55** weighs in at a mere \$8,999. The Breitling is aimed specifically at yachties with cash to splash or if you simply want bragging rights.

ABOUT THE TEST

Design Look and feel, comfort on the wrist, access and navigation, watch face variety

Battery ★★ Up to 18 hours between charges. ★★★ Up to 2 days.

★★★★ Up to 4 days. ★★★★★ Up to 5 days

★★★★★ 6 stars means permanent charge on your wrist.

Water Resistance ███ Water spray, temp shower. ████ Swimming and up to 1 metre water immersion for less than 30 minutes. ████ Snorkelling is fine

Connect/Functions To your Android or iPhone, range of data from weather to news

Fitness Range and depth of fitness tracking, GPS, coaching, daily weekly summaries

Health/Heart Rate Heart rate monitor, cardio fitness, sleep tracking (rest, movt.)

Price Value for money



★ **AMAZFIT PACE**

Design ★★★★★ **Battery** ★★★★★

Water resistance ███

Connect/Functions ★★★★★

Fitness ★★★★★ **Health/Sleep** ★★★★★

Street price \$179

Link <https://us.amazfit.com>

Excellent design, great battery life.

Winner Best Gents Fashion



APPLE WATCH 3

Design ★★ **Battery** ★★

Water resistance ███

Connect/Functions ★★★★★

Fitness ★★★★★ **Health/Sleep** ★★★

Street price from \$459

Link apple.com/au/watch-series-3

Popular with matching iPhone owners and functionally sound. Poor battery life lets it down.



ASUS ZENWATCH 3

Design ★★★★★ **Battery** ★★★

Water resistance ███

Connect/Functions ★★★★★

Fitness ★★★★★ **Health/Sleep** ★★★★★

Street price from \$479

Link www.asus.com/au/ZenWatch

Love this watch with eye catching design elegance and a touch of steampunk. End of the model run but still available online.

Runner up Best Gents Fashion



CASIO PROTREK
 Design ★★★ Battery★★
 Water resistance 🚿
 Connect/Functions ★★★
 Fitness★★★★ Health/Sleep★★★
 Street price \$695
 Link <https://wsd.casio.com/us/en/>
 Rugged design for mountain climbers, average display, over-priced



FOSSIL GEN 3 Q VENTURE
 Design★★★★ Battery★★
 Water resistance 🚿
 Connect/Functions★★★★
 Fitness★★★★ Health/Sleep★★★★
 Street price from \$655
 Link: www.fossil.com
 Great range of styles and a good ladies smartwatch though quite pricey.



KATE SPADE SCALLOP KST2003
 Design★★★★ Battery★★
 Water resistance 🚿
 Connect/Functions★★★★
 Fitness★★★★ Health/Sleep★★
 Street price from \$574
 Link katespade.com
 Early contender in ladies smartwatches and gets most things right but pricey



FITBIT ICONIC
 Design★★★ Battery★★★★★
 Water resistance 🚿
 Connect/Functions★★★★
 Fitness★★★★ Health/Sleep★★★★★
 Street price \$359
 Link www.fitbit.com/au/iconic
 Fitbit's first serious (but square) smart Watch that has good battery life and Fitbit's excellent fitness coaching.



GARMIN FENIX 5+
 Design★★★★ Battery★★★★
 Water resistance 🚿
 Connect/Functions★★★★★
 Fitness★★★★ Health/Sleep★★★★★
 Street price \$1149
 Link www.buy.garmon.com
 Impressive smartwatch brand, big range and ticks many boxes, except value for money.



★ **MATRIX POWERWATCH**
 Design★★★ Battery★★★★★
 Water resistance 🚿
 Connect/Functions★★★
 Fitness★★★ Health/Sleep★★
 Street price from \$329
 Link powerwatch.com
 Just strap it on and your body heat will charge these watches permanently and you never have to take it off.



★ **FITBIT VERSA**
 Design★★★ Battery★★★★
 Water resistance 🚿
 Connect/Functions★★★★
 Fitness★★★★ Health/Sleep★★★★★
 Street price \$249
 Link www.fitbit.com/au/versa
 New from Fitbit, the versa is Winner of the Gender Free Smartwatch Award with good design, battery life and fitness coaching.



HUAWEI WATCH 2
 Design★★★ Battery★★
 Water resistance 🚿
 Connect/Functions★★★★
 Fitness★★★★
 Health/Sleep★★★
 Street price from \$449
 Link consumer.huawei.com
 Many features – none outstanding. A little sluggish and smaller screen.



MICHAEL KORS ACCESS BRADSHAW
 Design★★★★ Battery★★
 Water resistance 🚿
 Connect/Functions★★★
 Fitness★★★ Health/Sleep★★
 Street price from \$359
 Link michaelkors.com/women/watches
 Winner – Ladies Fashion Smartwatch. The pick of the ladies crop because of the value price along side the feature.



★ **SAMSUNG GEAR FIT2 PRO**
Design ★★★★★ **Battery** ★★★
Water resistance 🌊
Connect/Functions ★★★★★
Fitness ★★★★★ **Health/Sleep** ★★★★★
Street price: from \$209
Link samsung.com/au/wearables
 Winner – Best Fitness Smartwatch.
 Edged out Fitbit with a brighter screen and a better price point.



★ **BREITLING EXOSPACE B55**
Design ★★★★★ **Battery** ★★★★★
Water resistance 🌊
Connect/Functions ★★★★★
Fitness ★ **Health/Sleep** ★★★★★
Street price \$8999
Link breitling.com/au-en/watches
 From the sublime to the outrageous price. Aimed at rich yachties and pilots. Combines display under hands.



★ **S989 SPORTS SMARTWATCH**
Design ★★ **Battery** ★★★★★
Water resistance 🌊
Connect/Functions ★★★★★
Fitness ★★★ **Health/Sleep** ★★★
Street price \$99
Link eco.manufacturer.globalsource.com
 Winner of Best Budget Smartphone with a digital grey screen offering great battery life and a good set of features for the price.



SAMSUNG GEAR 2
Design ★★★★★ **Battery** ★★
Water resistance 🌊
Connect/Functions ★★★★★
Fitness ★★★★★ **Health/Sleep** ★★★★★
Street price \$322
Link Samsung.com/au/wearables
 Just love this watch now superseded by the Gear 3 yet it retains most of the Gear 3 features in a smaller case.



MOBVOI TICWATCH PRO
Design ★★★★★ **Battery** ★★★★★
Water resistance 🌊
Connect/Functions ★★★★★
Fitness ★★★ **Health/Sleep** ★★★
Street price from \$369
Link mobvoi.com/ticwatchpro
 New 2-layer display design improves battery life and uses Google's new Wear OS. Good value proposition. Like to see it get thinner.



JUST ARRIVED

At last – a smartwatch with models for everyone from the 42mm rose gold ladies, to the 46mm silver for guys. The all new Samsung Galaxy Watch goes to the next level by eliminating daily charging with 80 hours average battery life. Without your phone, you can stay connected with an LTE model and take advantage of deep knowledge about your health, fitness, stress and sleep patterns with it on your wrist, not sitting in the charger.

It is at once – beautiful yet super strong with certified military-level durability, Corning Gorilla glass DX+ watch lens and waterproof to 50 metres if underwater sports are your thing.

As always, Samsung offers an infinite number of watch faces to choose from and your watch links seamlessly to your iPhone or Android mobile. The Galaxy Smartwatch is due in Australia in a few weeks time, starting around \$475.



SAMSUNG GEAR 3
Design ★★★★★ **Battery** ★★
Water resistance 🌊
Connect/Functions ★★★★★
Fitness ★★★★★ **Health/Sleep** ★★★★★
Street price from \$399
Link Samsung.com/au/wearables
 A fine robust smartwatch for the money and popular with the guys. New model announced – see inset.



MOBVOI TICWATCH E
Design ★★★★★ **Battery** ★★★
Water resistance 🌊
Connect/Functions ★★★★★
Fitness ★★★ **Health/Sleep** ★★★
Street price from \$199
Link mobvoi.com/ticwatchpro
 Popular all-rounder with a great set of features and price point.

BEST 7 FREE APPS IN 2018

Aside from the essentials like Facebook, Messenger, Instagram, mail and photos, what are the best free iPhone and Android phone apps out there?



Google Drive

1 Google Drive has been one of the most advanced cloud storage services for years because it includes cloud computing. This means that if you need to make changes to a file live – in the cloud so each of your devices will always have access to the latest version of a file.



Google Photos

2 Regardless of the photo app in your phone, Google Photos is one of the best photo apps - period. The app will automatically back up your photos to the cloud, which means they can be accessed on any device. Factoring in the unlimited free storage and a powerful search feature that lets you find pictures that feature almost any subject, Google Photos is a must-have app.



Wunderlist

3 Wunderlist makes to-do lists incredibly simple with a beautiful interface. You can instantly access lists and notes on any phone, tablet, or computer and the progress is synced. Collaborating with family and friends is a seamless experience as lists can be shared.



4 Spotify is the World's most popular streaming music service and for good reason. Spotify's premium service removes ads for \$11.99 per month and comes with the ability to play any song. Free

users however, can still access thousands of curated playlists. When you combine Spotify's native Android and iOS apps with the web-based player, that means you can access all of this music from any internet connected device like Google Home.

Flipboard

5 Flipboard is a news reader that you can personalise to bring you the kind of information you like.

Functionally is similar to News Republic, but instead of using a paginated or scrolling view, Flipboard uses an intuitive vertical flipping motion similar to turning a page in a book. The end result is a joy to use on iOS or Android.

pocket

6 If you've ever come across an interesting article, but didn't have time to read it, then Pocket is the answer. Install the Pocket browser extension for Chrome, Safari, or Firefox, then simply click the Pocket icon when you come across an interesting website or article. From there, open Pocket on your mobile device and you'll find all of the websites that you saved for later.



7 If using Google Earth doesn't already make you want to pack your suitcase, its new update just might. The refreshed version of Google's virtual travel app, recently rolled, includes a new Voyager feature for exploring curated digital journeys. One such voyage, called Land Art from Above, offers a bird's eye view of large-scale outdoor art installations, while Amazing Urban Gardens takes you from greenhouses in Singapore to sprawling forests in Italy. Google Earth's new knowledge cards also divulge details about points of interest around the globe.



GALAXY STRIKES BACK

The Note series has long been recognised for including Samsung's latest groundbreaking innovations, and Galaxy Note9 builds on this legacy with a premium smartphone that delivers the ultimate in performance, well ahead of Apple. It has a new S Pen with connectivity for the first time ever and Samsung's most intelligent camera yet whether your shooting in sunlight or moonlight.

With an 'All Day – All Night' 4000mAh battery, storage up to 512GB, fastest available processor, water carbon cooling system and time saving AI (artificial intelligence) and the largest ever Note edge-to-edge display, you'll get the most out of work and play.

Pre-order now from your favourite telco or buy outright later this month for \$1499.