

# Light and tight

## Jabra BT530 Bluetooth Headset and USB Adapter

\$190, from all authorised dealers, including Challenger and South Asia Computer

**OKAY**, no one is over the moon over Bluetooth headsets anymore.

For the most of us, they are simply one of those no-frills gadgets we use when we are speeding past 80km/h in an underground tunnel but forget about them the moment we take them off our ears.

However, Jabra has spiced things up with the BT530, particularly in the fit.

When the original Jabra headset hit the market, it was one of the best-sounding Bluetooth headsets in the world and its noise-cancellation technology made all our calls clearer and the caller's speech so much easier to make out.

Unfortunately, folks with small ears (like yours truly) could not get the obese gizmo to stay put, even when we used the array of ear pieces that came with the product to customise the fit.

This problem is not to be found in the BT530. The moment I wrapped it around my ear, it tethered nicely, nestling comfortably against my cheek. The gizmo did not fall off even when I was bobbing my head furiously. Very impressive.

One thing that I loved about the BT530 was that



PHOTO: JABRA

### Final say

People looking for a reliable noise-cancelling gizmo may find a snug soulmate in the BT530.

it was light. At about 10g, it was not a deadweight on my earlobes and I almost forgot about it after wearing it for some time.

Call quality was top-notch. My friend's voice sounded crisp and clear and there was not a single distortion. The gadget also effectively rid unwanted environmental sound and I could hear the caller's voice distinctly.

What impressed me most was its background noise elimination technology that blocks out background noise so that the other party can hear me just as well – even when I was walking along busy Orchard Road.

Too bad that there were some static glitches when I was travelling in a convertible. The wind blowing into the headset marred the audio quality and I could hardly pick out what my friend was saying.

What sets this headset apart from its rivals is its USB functionality. Users can plug the USB adapter into their computer, hook it up to their headset, and use it to make PC or VoIP calls.

When I tried to hold a conversation using Skype, the receiver's voice sounded bright and distinct, like she was in the same room.

The design of the gadget is a point of debate, though. On one hand, I loved how tiny and compact it was and that it did not protrude terribly out of my ear.

On the other hand, I found the silver metallic stripe in the centre of the headset rather cheesy looking.

**By Stephanie Gwee, a freelance writer**