



KEEPING your hands on the steering wheel is a great idea.

Just look at the steering wheel in a modern racing car; it's like a NASA control panel. In a V8 Supercar, the driver only ever has to take his hand off the wheel to change gears, and make the odd sway bar change as the fuel burns down. In a Formula 1 car, there isn't a single button, switch or control that isn't steering wheel mounted.

Why? Because when things go pear shaped, having both hands already on the steering wheel is a great start to fixing the problem. It's all a matter of car control.

And that's why in all Australian states it is already illegal, or will soon be illegal, to be holding your mobile phone ... even if it is set on the speaker function and nowhere near your head. Yep, the Johnny Hoppers are on to that trick, so it's time to buy a car kit.

If you're lucky enough to own an iPhone like myself, then take a good look at the Parrot MKi9200. Summed up in two words, it is super cool. Basically, there is a small screen and small remote control, which are fitted wherever you want them to be in your car, and you can use all the phone and music functions of your iPhone without having to touch the unit yourself thanks to bluetooth connectivity. It is hardwired to your car stereo, and has its own amplifier, so your standard stereo system gets a nice little boost as well.

There are some real nice features about the product. For starters, it charges your iPhone while you're using it, which is good given



the short battery life the unit is handicapped with. It also means your mates can navigate through your music collection without having access to your text message inbox as well, reducing the chance of an embarrassing message being sent to someone on your behalf, and without your prior consent. I really don't have very nice mates. And then there is the voice recognition, which works without

having to record prompts in the first place place.

The MKi9200 is distributed by Strike (www.strike.com.au), and retails for \$479. Sounds steep, but it really is money well spent. And it only has to save you a couple of traffic infringements for using your phone and its paid for.

– ANDREW VAN LEEUWEN