

# REAL Torque

June 2020

Contact maintenance for any questions on 0800 80 80 69

## Bluetooth®

**This month's Real Torque is about the often overlooked, yet ever important subject of Bluetooth®.**

**Bluetooth® is not something we talk about on a daily basis, yet it is something that a lot of us rely on and use almost everyday.**



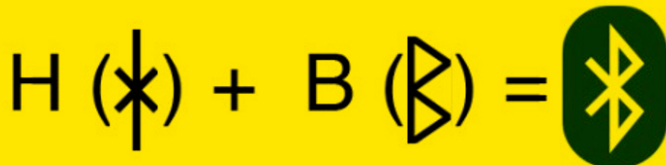
Bluetooth® is short wave wireless transmission of data between fixed and mobile devices.

It has a great operating distance, high speed data transfer rate, low power consumption and relatively low manufacturing costs. Being able to connect your phone to your vehicle is a must these days and doing it wirelessly is an added bonus.

Bluetooth®'s capability to connect a mobile device to the vehicle gives the driver the ability to make and receive calls while still being able to operate the vehicle in the safest manner possible.

## History

Bluetooth® technology is relatively young and was created in 1989 by Swedish communication company Ericsson Mobile. The name "Bluetooth®" is derived from the Danish Viking, King Harald "Bluetooth®" Blatand. It was his ability to unite warring rival tribes that was likened to the communication protocols ability to pair multiple devices. Also interesting was he had a penchant for snacking on Blueberries. The symbol in which Bluetooth® stands for is actually a combination of Harald's initials, H & B, written in Scandinavian runes.



## Common uses for Bluetooth®

In the transport industry handsfree is by far the most commonly used Bluetooth® function. Everyday thousands of people drive cars, trucks and other types of transportation all over our country. A large percentage of these drivers have mobile phones or need to use one while driving.

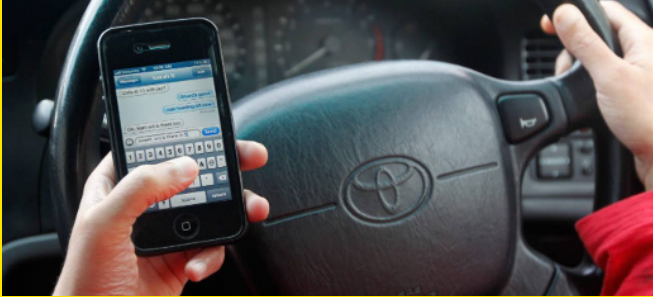
Using a wireless Bluetooth® headset is the most common choice if not connected through the vehicles' stereo.



## Legality

Under the Land Transport (Road User) Rule 2004, drivers can't use, while driving, a hand-held mobile phone to:

- make, receive or terminate a telephone call
- create, send or read a text message or email
- create, send or view a video message
- communicate in a similar or any other way.



To allow us to adhere to these rules, a number of different Bluetooth® solutions are available to use.

Products such as in-vehicle entertainment units, CD/radio head-decks and Bluetooth® headsets. These can be paired with most modern portable mobile phones and devices so phone calls can be made as safely as possible whilst not breaking the law.

The penalty for using a handheld phone while driving is an \$80 fine and 20 demerit points.

It is important to pair your phone to your car or headset because the authorities take a hard line on using your phone while driving. Distractions are dangerous.

**Driving needs your full attention. Driver distraction is a serious road safety issue. Essentially, anything that diverts a driver's attention for more than two seconds can significantly increase the likelihood of a crash or near-crash.**

**In 2019, driver distraction crashes were a contributing factor in 10 fatal crashes, 133 serious injury crashes, and 918 minor injury crashes.**



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## How to connect/pair your device



### Turn Bluetooth® on or off

- 1 Open your phone's Settings App.
- 2 Tap Connected devices—Connection preferences Bluetooth®. If you don't see "Connection preferences," go to the next step.
- 3 Turn Bluetooth® on or off.

### Connecting devices

- 1 Open your phone's Settings App.
- 2 Tap Connected devices—Connection preferences Bluetooth®. If you don't see "Connection preferences," go to the next step.
- 3 Make sure Bluetooth® is turned on.
- 4 In the list of paired devices, tap a paired but unconnected device.
- 5 When your phone and the Bluetooth® device are connected, the device shows as "Connected."

### Tips and Tricks

- ▶ To save battery life, turn off Bluetooth® when you are not using it.
- ▶ Pair your device before starting your journey – most devices only need to be set up once and will automatically connect the next time you start your journey.
- ▶ If you are having trouble pairing your phone to the vehicles' radio, confirm Bluetooth® is ON for both devices. If you are still having trouble, try resetting your phone.
- ▶ If you are still having connection issues, check how many paired devices are connected. Bluetooth® only allows up to 7 devices to be connected. By reducing this you can improve connection.
- ▶ Bluetooth® is not just for handsfree calling, you can also use it to play music through the vehicle stereo.
- ▶ At TR Group, we have a commitment to lead by example, therefore we never use phones when driving, we always use Bluetooth®.

### TR Tips

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