

Braun + brains

In the wet razor market, it's all about blade count and pivotability. In the **luxury electric razor** market, anything is possible. This year we've already seen Philips squeezing lotion through its circular blades to soothe as they scythe. Now here comes **Braun's Series 7**, in two packages (790cc \$549, or 760cc \$469) that combine superflexible foils, an almost incomprehensibly-cunning cleaning analysis, and — top of the new tech list — **sonic shaving**.

The last first. Much as we hoped for a sonic beam that made all our beard-hair fall off, Braun's "**Pulsonic Technology**" simply refers to so-called "micro-vibrations" (by which they mean high frequency — see the strange X-ray

to the right), with the hope of raising and loosening "problem hairs" to achieve greater cutting efficiency. Coupled with cross-cutting blades that attack your face with a scissor action, Braun claims the Series 7 is "a revolution in shaving".

The **every-which-way pivoting** of the foils is certainly remarkable, covering the most creased of chins, and we can report none of the 'grabbing' that painfully characterise many lesser foil razors.

The curved edges to the Braun's multiple foils do mean it's a little hard to achieve a clean line along sculptured facial hair, though there's a handy pop-up trimmer on the front.

We found the **cleaning system** most intriguing of all. As with most razors the System 7 is water-sealed, so you can pop open the foils and give it a rinse. But when you replace it (head down and strangely askew) in its mains-connected charger unit (left), lights on the charger ripple and pronounce the Braun either clean, or in need of an 'eco/normal/intensive' clean.

But **how does it know?** Braun claims the unit collects information about the number of shaves, power peaks (related to actual hair cutting), the time of each shave, and the time since the last shave. Based on these criteria the appropriate cleaning program is selected — the 'intensive' clean adding a 'heat' cycle to **melt away any oiliness** gathered from the skin.

So we love the cleaning (if a little less thrilled about periodically purchasing \$19.95 Clean-and-Renew gunk refills for the base). As for effectiveness, while it still can't match the closeness and longevity of a skin-ripping wet shave, it feels marvellously gentle and takes a tenth of the time. For those looking to reduce the **140 days of our life that we blokes spend saving**, the Braun's brains will be a bit of a bonus.

More info: www.braun.com



Don't tangle with Jack

All cables are created with **curious self-tangling abilities**, and in-ear headphones most of all. At morning bus-stops when the iPods emerge, you can enjoy unknottng *en masse*.

Here to lend a hand — and legs too — is **Earbud Jack**, a neat little earbud storage device we first saw at this year's MacWorld in San Francisco. Now available in Australia through Rickrack Retro, Earbud Jack is made of durable plastic and retails for **\$9.90**.

More info: www.rickrack.com.au