Social Mobiles
We would like to invite you to come and experience the Social Mobiles for yourself. Please telephone 0207 713 2600 to arrange a convenient time for your visit.

We are interested in the frustration and anger caused by other people’s mobile phones. Here are five social mobiles - phones that in different ways modify their users’ behaviour to make it less disruptive. We have not designed these handsets as actual products, rather their function is to provoke discussion about the social impact of mobile phones. In order to share the experiences we have produced working phones.
This phone delivers a variable level of electric shock depending on how loudly the person on the other end is speaking. As a result the two parties are induced to speak more quietly. SoMo1 phones could be given to repeat offenders who persistently disturb others with their intrusive phone conversations.
SoMo2
the speaking mobile

This phone allows a user to converse silently: A person receiving a call in a quiet space can respond with simple but expressive vowel sounds which they produce and subtly intone manually. SoMo2 is the antithesis of text messaging in that it conveys rich emotional nuance at the expense of textual information.

Anton? Sorry I can’t make it tonight.

Oohhhhh?

We could meet up after ten.

Hmmm?

How about tomorrow instead?

Yaaaaaahhnn!
SoMo3
the musical mobile

This phone requires the user to play the tune of the phone number they wish to call. The public performance that dialling demands acts as a litmus test of when it is appropriate to make a call. Children would take phone lessons in order to learn to play their phone.

Hello?
Hello Matt, it's Graham
SoMo4

the knocking mobile

The users knocks on this phone to communicate the urgency of their call. The recipient hears this knock through their phone and can be discerning about which calls they answer. Given time people would learn to recognise each other’s knocking mannerisms.

KNOCK
KNOCK
KNOCKETY-KNOCK

Hello Crispin?
What's the matter?
SoMo5

the catapult mobile

This phone can be used to launch sounds into other people's phone conversations. Firing the catapult transmits a sound into the offender's phone. This provides a direct yet discreet way of invading their space. Businesses supply users with a choice of interrupts to launch from their phones.

... well, I'm not the only star. Charles made sooo much this month you know he sooo!
Hello? Hello? Alex?
Hello, who...