Device squad

Whether you're travelling or stuck at home, these gadgets can help to enhance the durability and functionality of your mobile

ON THE ROAD

▲ Cel-Fi Smart Repeater

Connect this device to your network provider for extended range – useful if your home is in a coverage blackspot. The device connects to the network in a stronger signal spot (such as near a window or upstairs) and rebroadcasts it over an area of about 600sqm. The device is available for the Telstra and Optus networks, and will lock to the nearest signal tower. $822.80; powertec.com.au

▼ Jawbone Big Jambox

Link your gadgets for great wireless sound. We found connecting an iPhone or MacBook Pro easy. The sound is surprisingly good for a compact speaker, worked as background music to gatherings and gave decent sound quality when watching movies. Bonus: as it works over Bluetooth, you don't need to get up to change the music. Compatible with Bluetooth-enabled devices. $359; jawbone.com

AT HOME

▲ Otterbox Preserver Series

This case will make your phone waterproof (to a depth of 6ft) for 30 mins, drop-proof to 6ft, and dust-proof. We weren't game to test it too far, but our iPhone 5 proved resistant to splashes of water, wasn't damaged after short drops and stayed dust-free. Ensure the plugs to keep water out are in place if you plan to swim with your smartphone (still not recommended). Available for iPhone 5, 5C, 5S and Samsung Galaxy S4. $89.95; otterbox.com

▼ Mophie juice pack

You may not discover how useful this device is until you're meeting friends in an unknown destination with a flat phone battery. Mobiles are used for more and more these days, so extra power can be vital in a tight spot. We found that a Mophie Powerstation could charge an iPhone 5 twice: helpful when you're stranded in a new city or on a long-haul flight. Compatible with smartphones and tablets that charge via USB. $89.95; mophie.com

★ **Want to hire an iPad?**
Ask our friendly crew and they will help. To find out how to use your iPad or seatback entertainment, go to **page 200**