

Dead ringers

It had to happen. Old mobiles are now cool and collectible. Why be like everyone else, when websites such as www.retrofone.com can let you own a piece of mobile history?

1 NOKIA 9000 COMMUNICATOR £40

020 7494 6466 | www.retrofone.com

Nokia's still plugging away at the Communicator concept, with the recent launch of the 9500. It looks like a submarine when shut and a sub notebook when open. This was the Symbian-powered bomb-buck in 1996, mind.

2 MOTOROLA STARtAC £35

020 7494 6466 | www.retrofone.com

Beloved of irritating city boys throughout the late '90s, the StarTAc had the distinction of managing to be in vogue for almost five years. The first flip phone ever (see p146), it stood astride the analogue to digital switch over like a towering cellular monarch.

3 BENEFOX Q £180

01425 485 188 | www.newforecommunications.co.uk

As retro phones go, few are more desirable than 2000's Q, the first phone to use Microsoft's browser software. You can still buy it in good old Woolworths, yep, we were a touch shocked, too. We've still only ever seen one. Our one.

4 MOTOROLA V100 £235

0161 868 9868 | www.expanys.com

Bi-lated messaging device, its premium price and young, penniless target audience failing to engage. It's been discontinued throughout Europe but you can still buy the Asian GSM version on Expanys.

5 ERICSSON R310 £60

020 7494 6466 | www.retrofone.com

The second of Ericsson's rugged range, the first being the tough-as-a-tank R250s. Purged at extreme sports dudes, the R310 enjoyed moderate success before the merger of Sony and Ericsson's mobile divisions. Now Nokia rules the rugged roost.

6 NOKIA 5110 £25

020 7494 6466 | www.retrofone.com

Stanley of middle-management corporate phone types around the mid to late '90s. Stab-like and roundly ineffective, interchangeable covers allowed you to add that personal touch to this basic but hardy handset.

7 ERICSSON T28 £30

020 7494 6466 | www.retrofone.com

Almost as thin as Motorola's V3, the T28 was a firm favourite throughout the futuristic sounding year 2000. Basic functionality was the order of the day, although you could program your own ring tones, albeit in a language that was the mobile equivalent of C++.

8 MOTOROLA MicroTAC £30

020 7494 6466 | www.retrofone.com

Since the average age of the Staff team is a mere 27, we're far too young to have been in the market for a mobile when this came. My dad had one. And paid £700 for the privilege. Useless now, since it's analogue only. But still aching cool.