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*motoring.co.za* edited by  
**Les Stephenson**

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**HIGH-TECH FIRST:** Chrysler SA has introduced MyGIG, a multimedia infotainment system that can include satnav and a reversing camera, across three of its brands.

**Chrysler goes high-tech with MyGIG multimedia**

February 25, 2008

Chrysler, Jeep and Dodge are now offering a MyGIG multimedia infotainment system that, they say, "offers an industry-first combination of customer-friendly usability and premium features".

The head unit, with or without navigation, costs R14 000 and, Chrysler says, combines hands-free communication, multiple ways to save and play music and high-quality audio.

It includes an advanced voice dialogue system that recognises more than 100 000 words and touch-screen control.

"Customers can store their favourite music and images using Chrysler's first USB 2.0 port interface.

**The system recognises more than 100 000 words**

Guy Franken, Chrysler SA's brand manager, explained: "MyGIG will be available locally for new Chrysler, Dodge and Jeep vehicles, with the Chrysler Sebring convertible, Jeep Wrangler and Dodge Nitro the first."

The optional GPS navigation can use either touch-screen or voice-activated destination input. It has two and three-dimensional views of roads and multiple route calculation. Maps and guidance appear on a 6.5" thin-film-transistor (TFT) display that can be viewed from angles up to 180 degrees – "perfect for the centre of an instrument panel".

At 20 gigabytes, MyGIG enables hard drive-based navigation, storage of images and the ability to rip and store music downloaded from CD or a USB memory devices. There is, Chrysler says, space on the hard drive for 1600 songs – more than 100 hours of music.

A voice-memo recorder gives up to three minutes of

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**CHOICE IS YOURS:** Chrysler's new MyGIG infotainment system offers a number of touch screen facilities that can be run with voice commands.

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## My dawn raid on Toytown Traffic

I've had to make several visits to Toytown\* Traffic Department in recent weeks – motorcycle road licence, driving licence renewal, daughter's learner's test booking (twice) and, hey, there's a fun side to it all.

And there's a silly, bad, plain-bloody-stupid side made worse by the bloody-mindedness of some folk behind the (bulletproof?) glass.

Anyway, the secret is GET THERE EARLY. Toytown Traffic opens at 8.15am so I aimed to get there at 6.15am, made it, and was first in the queue apart from an elderly gent with a limp and a walking-stick who "was holding a place for my daughter".

Us journos work with laptops so I parked my backside in the shade by the security gate (no benches on the veranda at Toytown Traffic, not even second-hand deckchairs from the speed-trapping office), logged-on to the office and settled down to work - and wait.

Working proved difficult because people in queues and sharing a common goal tend to want to chat so chat we did – and if an ANC apparotchick had tuned in to what Toytown thought about the ANC she'da resigned on the spot. Or, of course, not...

### Let the fun begin...

Eventually about 80 rainbow souls were chatting, drinking takeaway koffee, reading the Toytown Tattletale and, well, waiting. Opening time came and in seconds I was clutching infilled forms and praying, first in line outside the door to the Place of Eye-Testing and Fingerprinting and there the fun began...

notes to be recorded . As well as music, JPEG photos can be downloaded through the USB port interface and viewed on the screen. These photos can be used to create a custom background for the radio display.

### Some models allow a reversing camera image to be displayed

Three simultaneous audio output sources and two simultaneous video output sources can be supported but with video only allowed when the gearshifter is in park.

Some models allow a reversing camera image to be displayed.

Chrysler says it is now the only company offering completely integrated audio, navigation, entertainment and hands-free communication in one system.

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I passed the Fingerprint Test by correctly identifying my left and right thumbs on the second of three permitted attempts then sat at the Eyesight Checker, my cheerful "good morning" ignored by the uniformed eyesight checker. The conversation went somewhat thusly:

EC: "What you see onna screen?"

LS: "Nuthin', jus' grey."

EC: "You mus' go see an optometerist."

LS: "But there's nothin' wrong with me eyes..." (Clicking noise, rather like a switch.)

LS: "...ah, big boxes with little chequered boxes innem." (Tells EC where each little box is, relative to big boxes.)

EC: "What you see now?"

LS: "Same as jus' before."

EC: "You mus' go see an optometerist."

LS: "But, my eyes're..." (Clicking noise, rather like a switch.) "... fine and now there are more big boxes and the chequered boxes are at...."

Twice more I was told to "see an optometerist" until EC ran out of very little boxes with very tiny little chequered boxes and gave me a sheet of paper with stuff on it that meant a lot to a nice lady behind the armoured glass who took a hundred bucks off me and promised my licence would be ready soon. All in all, 12 minutes from the going in from the sun to the going out into the sun and smiling encouragingly at the now even longer queue of citizens now broiling under said sun.

The "bloody stupid" side is that even the most useless "time-and-motion" person could speed things up and Toytown City should do its best to make it so. I did with my daughter's learners'-licence application...

### ...and the bloodymindedness

Her eyes were tested at Toytown SpecSavers (for free) and the required form filled, stamped and signed there and mom took her to the "pay 60 bucks" bulletproof window

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and five minutes later they were out, free and clear.

Here's the bloodymindedness: Friends down the road tried to do the same for their kids, including the SpecSavers trek, and were told at the 60-buck desk: "The eyesight test has to be verified – go stand in the queue like everybody else." No argument, just a stony stare and three very angry people who knew they were in the right.

A little power really does go a long way...

*\*Real name withheld to avoid intimidation by traffic cops and the fact that a number of really nice people work there, too.*

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