



# More than just music

By Chandra Devi

**S**ONY Ericsson's mobile music range has been rather popular, but with the current challenging conditions for phone manufacturers, the company is looking beyond music to stay ahead of the competition. While the focus remains on music, it has ventured into providing a total mobile entertainment experience.

The Sony Ericsson W705 speaks loudly about this plan to give users a better experience in music, imaging, gaming and content services.

To start off, the slider phone has a large screen with 320 by 240 pixels resolution, which provides good Web browsing, gaming, and video and picture viewing. Its big, bright and clear display does stand out and even dominates the phone.

Its HSPA turbo 3G support ensures speedy access to the Web. The model also has the Access NetFront Web browser, which is a full browser with support for standard protocols, images and video.

Also included is Wi-Fi capability. Connection to hotspots is really fast. Once you have the Wi-Fi switched on, the phone automatically provides connections to hotspots within range. For quick access to Wi-Fi, users only need to click on the hotkey on the control panel, which will take them to the shortcut menu.

Living up to Sony Ericsson's Walkman Series, the W705 brings out clear bass and stereo sounds. This model is said to have similar features and sound quality as the W960, which by the way was rated the phone with "best audio experience" in a trial conducted in Germany by independent testing laboratory TESTfactory.

The phone provides direct access to the music player through a small Walkman key at the top of the phone.

Besides activating the music player, this key starts off the Shake Control function which allows the phone to be controlled through motion. It basically works on the built-in accelerometer.

By holding down the Walkman key in music player mode and flicking the wrist in a certain direction, you can control volume, rewind, fast forward and switch songs.

Additionally, with the Shake Control function you can auto-rotate the display – vertical or horizontal – to view pictures and for better view of Web pages.

This Shake Control feature is not as cool as what it is made out to be. Believe me, you will find it much easier to take control of entertainment – be it music, video or picture – via the control keys.

But if you are tired of using the control keys, the Share Control does provide some fun and that exercise for the wrist.

Another fun option on board the W705 is SensMe, which Sony Ericsson first introduced in 2007. It allows users to browse music according to their mood. Instead of the regular categories such as Artistes, Albums and Tracks, you can also create a playlist based on music tempo and matching it to your mood.

If you like watching YouTube videos or uploading videos to YouTube, the W705 has the link all ready for you. It only takes a couple



**Product:** W705  
**Manufacturer:** Sony Ericsson  
**Enquiries:** Sony Ericsson Call Centre (1-300-889-900)  
**Price:** RM1,499

**SPECIFICATIONS**

**Dimensions:** 95mm by 48mm by 14mm  
**Weight:** 98gram  
**Display size:** 2.4 inches  
**Resolution:** 240 by 320 pixels  
**Memory:** Up to 120MB Memory Stick Micro (M2) support  
**Connectivity:** Bluetooth, modem, synchronisation, USB mass storage, USB support, Wi-Fi, DLNA-certified  
**Talk time GSM/GPRS:** Up to 10 hrs  
**Standby time GSM/GPRS:** Up to 400 hrs  
**Networks:** GSM/GPRS/EDGE 850/900/1800/1900, UMTS/HSPA 900/2100  
**Music:** Walkman player, MP3/AAC  
**Camera:** 3.2 megapixels  
**Colours:** Luxury Silver, Passionate Red

**Our verdict** ★★★★★  
**Physical design** ★★★★★  
**Documentation** ★★★  
**User-friendliness** ★★★★★  
**Performance** ★★★★★  
**Value-for money** ★★★★★

of minutes after capturing a scene to have it uploaded to YouTube.

Another application is Google Maps for Mobile, which you will find under the Location Services feature. You can track your current location as well as locate places of interest with this service.

Not exactly top-notch camera capabilities, nonetheless, the on-board 3.2-megapixel camera works fine. It supports flash for taking pictures in the dark, as well as digital zoom up to three times.

The Photo Fix feature does help to optimise image quality as it allows you to adjust light balance and contrast after a picture is taken. As for video capturing, it allows standard capturing at 15 frames per second (fps).

For video calls, the phone has a second camera on the front.

The W705 comes packed with five games and they are Bowling, BubbleTown Guitar Rock Tour, NitroStreet Racing and Sudoku.

Bowling and NitroStreet Racing are motion sensing games supported by the phone's motion-sensor. Besides using the control keys, you can play the games by just shaking the phone accordingly.

While packing in a whole lot of stuff for entertainment purposes, Sony Ericsson has done a good job with the design as well. Elegant and classy describes the W705 well. The Passionate Red review unit with some metal finishing on the side and front did make an impression once out of the bag!

As for the control keys and navigational pads, it is the standard layout that you will

get with Sony Ericsson phones. The D-shaped navigational pads, the circular control keys below the screen and the neatly organised numerical keypad (which reveals once you push up the slider mechanism) has good tactile feel.

The keypad is nicely spaced out that you can even use your thumb to text without hitting on the next key.

The only disappointment is the slow response from the user interface which does not allow for speed texting.

By the way, the slider mechanism is quite sturdy and smooth. Pushing up to engage the phone or pushing down to lock can be done swiftly.

The W705 is ideal for those who want to keep themselves occupied with more than just music while on the go. The Wi-Fi support is a blessing especially when you are in hotspot areas.

When Sony Ericsson announced the W705, it also introduced its companion, the Wireless Home Audio System MBS-900. The 2.1 speaker system; however, has not made it to our shores yet.

For those who like Sony Ericsson phones, watch the space as the company plans to capture your hearts with a new proposition, called "Entertainment Unlimited" (EU). This announcement was made at the Mobile World Congress in February where it also announced the first EU phone with the concept name "Idou".

More announcement on this is expected at the end of the month.