

## Seat of calm or throne of action

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**HOME entertainment technology allows you to see and hear action in astounding detail, with surround-sound speakers and high-definition television sets delivering a new level of clarity.**

But what about feeling the action?

HoMedics' latest massage gadget aims to deliver that last piece of the puzzle.

The iCush looks a lot like a car seat cushion with ears. Those ears, however, are powerful, aluminium-cone speakers, while the moulded seat hides eight massage motors at varying heights.

These inclusions allow the seat to add sound and movement to your multimedia experience. The iCush can connect to MP3 players or any other audio device, as well as your television, for use with movies, TV shows and game consoles.

It then delivers the device's sound through the speakers behind your ears, ensuring even the most hearing-challenged listener can catch every audio nuance.

But the iCush's most innovative inclusion is its Audio Sync feature. After powering up the chair, users can select this feature from its remote control to synchronise the audio with the movement of the massage motors.

Simply put, the chair vibrates in time with the on-screen action or the beat of the music.

Connecting the iCush to a device is reasonably simple. Its audio cord can connect to a television's audio out sockets by RCA plugs, and the audio cord also fits into a standard headphone jack, so you can slip it straight into your iPod and hit play for instant results.

Those results are surprising, though. Even the calmest songs elicit a sizeable response from the iCush. The chair vibrated each time James Blunt strummed a guitar in *You're Beautiful* and Janet Jackson's *Rhythm Nation* was appropriately titled for all the movement it sparked. The iCush also seems a little too reactive when connected to the television – there's no need to feel the action of *Law & Order*, especially when this machine vibrates even during low-voiced conversations.

Where this massage chair comes into its own is in the games arena.

Connected to the TV while screening a hectic Xbox 360 World War II scene, the iCush added another sense of chaos to the action.

It allows you to feel the gunfire while the stereo speakers give you a feel for the position of enemy soldiers and the location of your teammates.

**Disconnected from all audio devices, the iCush also works well as a massage chair, giving users the choice of three combinations of massage at three levels of speed and intensity.**

**iCush Immersive Audio Sync Seat, Price: \$199**

HoMedics: (03) 8561 6666, [www.homedics.com.au](http://www.homedics.com.au)



The iCush has powerful, aluminium-cone speakers and a moulded seat hiding eight massage motors.