IT WAS THE YEAR Apple introduced the Macintosh to the world and Careless Whisper became a smash hit for Wham and George Michael. Yes, it was 1984, the year the first mobile phone hit the market.

After years of research and development, Motorola launched the DynaTAC 8000X. It weighed a colossal 785g and was known affectionately as “The Brick” or “The Big Brother” in Hong Kong. The price tag? USD3,995 (HKD31,161). By the end of 1984 there were 300,000 mobile users worldwide, including many in Hong Kong who forked out USD2,949 (HKD23,000) to use the Motorola 8000SL, one of the first models on sale locally (pictured).

In 2006, there are more than a billion mobile phone users around the world. The original mobile phones may seem like dinosaurs now but they paved the way for the fashionable, lightweight, multimedia models of today.

Then: The 8000SL weighed 800g and offered just 70 minutes of talk time for every recharging. Never mind the lack of battery power, just imagine holding something that heavy up to your ear for more than a few minutes at a time!

Now: The Motorola V3X is today’s ultimate lightweight mobile accessory. With its cost and weight both six times less than the 8000SL, the handset includes video calling, a two mega-pixel camera and Bluetooth wireless technology.