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Finding Your Way Around the Hudl

In This Chapter

- ▶ Exploring what's in the Hudl box
 - ▶ Examining the controls
 - ▶ Charging and turning on the Hudl for the first time
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You're ready to dive in and start using your Hudl, but how to begin? In this chapter you take a look at its designs and controls so you know what to tap or press when.

Checking Out the Specs

The Hudl is a tablet computer that runs the Android mobile operating system. It has a high-resolution 7in touchscreen. Rather than using a keyboard to type what you want to do, you do most things on the Hudl by tapping its screen. Don't worry — the Hudl's screen is pretty resilient and made from scratch-resistant glass, so you won't damage it by tapping it. Because it doesn't have a separate keyboard, the Hudl is very light and small. It weighs just 320g and measures 194x128x11mm.

Hardware

The Hudl is powered by a quad-core processor and 1GB of RAM. You get 16GB of storage space, which is ample for storing photos, music, videos and books, but you can easily add more storage or copy items to your computer when you don't need them on the Hudl.

Although the Hudl doesn't have a keyboard in the traditional sense, it has an onscreen keyboard that pops up whenever it thinks you need to type something. You'll soon get the hang of using this keyboard, as it's pretty similar to any other keyboard, really, as you see in Chapter 3.

Software

The Android software includes tools known as *apps* that let you do many things that you might think you'd need a computer for. Accessing the Internet, sending email messages, watching videos, listening to music, having video chats with your nan — you can do all this on your Hudl without needing anything extra. The Hudl is so small and light that you can take it everywhere with you. And because the Hudl is Wi-Fi-enabled and knows where you are at all times, it can tell you things that are relevant to you and your current location.

Your Hudl can do lots of other clever things, too. For some of these things, you'll need to install an app. You discover more about apps in Chapter 3.



Whenever I recommend installing an app, I let you know whether it costs anything and explain how to use it.

Unboxing Your Hudl

Your Hudl comes in a neat cardboard box with a cable and charger in separate cardboard compartments. The box also contains several bits of paper, which you may be tempted to simply ignore or perhaps throw away.

Those leaflets aren't there to fill otherwise empty space, however. The '123' leaflet (see Figure 1-1), for example, contains useful setup information. It lists the precautions

you should take before sharing your Hudl with a child, and describes how to create a passcode to stop anyone else from using your device. It's important to apply a screen lock if you're going to share your Hudl with your children. I look at child-safety issues in detail in Chapter 3.



Figure 1-1: The leaflets inside the Hudl's box contain important setup information.

The white-and-blue brochure is a discount booklet that includes a voucher for a year's free broadband Internet access. You'll need Internet access to make full use of your Hudl, so this voucher could come in very useful. The booklet also includes discounts on shopping and entertainment, so it's well worth keeping hold of. You'll be able to take advantage of all these discounts as soon as you've set up your Hudl with a user account and, if you want to, added your Tesco Clubcard details (see Chapter 2).

Getting to Know the Hudl's Controls

When you first take your Hudl out the box, you'll notice a sheet of transparent plastic on the screen pointing out the locations of some of the most important elements. You won't

be able to consult this overlay when you start using the Hudl, however, as it'll get in the way of the touchscreen. The visual guide in Figure 1-2 should help.



Figure 1-2: Get to know the buttons and ports on your Hudl before you begin.

Most of the time, you'll probably use your Hudl in landscape view, as shown in Figure 1-2. Landscape view refers to the Hudl being orientated so that it's suitable for watching a film or TV programme, rather than scrolling up and down the pages of a book. Because the Hudl has a sensor inside, it knows which way is up, and the display rotates accordingly, so it doesn't really matter which way round you hold it.

Nonetheless, the Hudl does have a definite top and a bottom. You can tell which is the top when you're holding the Hudl in landscape view, because there's a small dot in the middle of the black bezel along one long edge. This dot is actually the lens of the Hudl's front camera, which also serves as a webcam for video calls.



If you hold the Hudl in both hands and bring it towards you, you'll see your face reflected in the screen. The dot for the camera should correspond with your forehead.

The next things to notice are the two skinny buttons on the Hudl's right edge (see Figure 1-3). These buttons are the only hardware buttons the Hudl has. Everything else is controlled

via its touchscreen, as you see in Chapter 3. The top button is the power button. Gently press and hold it for a moment to turn the device on and off — a deliberate feature that stops you accidentally switching the Hudl on or off while it's in your bag. If the Hudl is in standby mode, press the power button to make the screen switch on.



Figure 1-3: The only controls on the Hudl's case are the power and volume buttons.

The button below the power button is much longer; it's actually a rocker that adjusts the volume. Press the top portion of this button to make the volume louder, and press the bottom portion of this button to make it quieter. If you hold either part of this button down, the volume continues to increase or decrease, whereas pressing it once changes the volume by a fraction.



If you've got headphones plugged in and try to make the volume go all the way up to its maximum, a message appears onscreen, asking whether you really want it to be so loud. It's a thoughtful touch to be asked whether you want to do something that might harm your hearing.

Storing things on your Hudl

Below the volume button on the right edge of the Hudl is a sizable recess, which is the micro-SD card slot. Your Hudl has 16GB (gigabytes) of storage already, but you can use a micro-SD card like the one shown in Figure 1-4 to add even more. The device can accept micro-SD cards that hold up to 32GB of storage, so you can store a total 48GB of 'stuff' on your Hudl — enough to store thousands of photos or dozens of Hollywood movies.



Figure 1-4: You can insert a micro-SD card like this one into the slot on the right edge of the Hudl.



You'll probably want to use the micro-SD card slot if you've taken a set of photos on your digital camera or smartphone and want to transfer those photos to your Hudl quickly so you can view them on its beautiful screen.

Connecting and charging your Hudl

Moving to the bottom edge of the Hudl, you'll find another slot midway along its length. This slot is the charging point for the Hudl. The cable that comes with your Hudl has a USB connector at one end and a smaller micro-USB connector at the other end (see Figure 1-5). Plug the USB-connector end into the port of the mains adapter when you want to charge your Hudl, and slot the micro-USB end of the cable into the port at the bottom of the Hudl, keeping the ridged side of the silver connector uppermost.



Figure 1-5: Make sure that you have the ridged side of the micro-USB connector uppermost when plugging it into the Hudl.

You can also use the micro-USB port on your Hudl to connect the Hudl to a laptop or computer or to a digital camera or external speakers. When connected to a laptop or computer using the micro-USB connection, your Hudl will charge, but it won't draw as much power as when charging from the mains and will therefore charge very slowly.

Because your Hudl probably wasn't fully charged when you took it out of the box, I suggest you set it to charge now while you find out more about what your new device can do.

Your Hudl should last for about nine hours before its battery needs to be recharged. The battery lasts longer if the Hudl isn't being used intensively or if it spends time sitting in standby mode (see the nearby sidebar 'Putting your Hudl on hold'). Recharging the Hudl from scratch takes around 2.5 hours.



The Hudl's battery depletes faster if it's constantly using the Internet to show videos and play music. The Wi-Fi connection uses battery power to transfer information from the Internet to the Hudl, and playing music and video makes the Hudl's processor work hard. If you want to watch a high-definition film, it can be better to download it to your Hudl, rather than stream it over a Wi-Fi connection. I explain how to do this in Chapter 7.



It's best not to leave your Hudl charging all the time, as this will eventually make the battery last less long. You'll get an onscreen message when the Hudl's battery is getting a bit low. Unless you're going to use the Hudl all day without charging it, wait until you see the low-battery message before plugging it in.

Putting your Hudl on hold

Standby mode is useful because it allows the Hudl to come back to life almost instantly when you tap the power button. This means you don't have to wait while the Hudl powers up.

As long as the battery wasn't critically low when you last used it, you

can leave the Hudl in standby mode for a day or two, and it will still have enough power for you to use it again.

Standby mode uses a tiny amount of power. It does use *some* power, however, so make sure you fully power down the Hudl if you're not going to use it for a few days.

Making audio and video connections

Your Hudl has three more ports, each of which is related to entertainment:

- ✔ **Micro-HDMI port:** The micro-HDMI port is on the top edge of the device, slightly to the left of centre. You use this port when you want to attach your Hudl to a device that can play high-definition video (see Chapter 7).
- ✔ **Headphone jack:** The round slot on the top-right edge of your Hudl is one that you'll probably recognise from other gadgets you've used. It's the headphone jack (see Figure 1-6). Just plug in any headphones or earphones you like, and you'll be able to listen to music and play games or videos on your Hudl without anyone interrupting you.



Headphone jack

Figure 1-6: You'll find the Hudl's entertainment-related connections on its top edge.



As I note earlier in this chapter, the Hudl displays a warning if you try to crank up the volume while you've got your headphones plugged in. This screen warning is especially helpful if you'd like your child to be able to use the Hudl. You can plug in the child's headphones and know that the volume won't be too loud. If you've got really young children, I suggest getting them a pair of volume-limiting headphones. See Chapter 14 for recommendations.

- ✓ **Microphone:** The tiny hole next to the headphone jack is the microphone, which you use when chatting to friends online or in a video call. The microphone also picks up the sound of your voice when you're recording memos (see Chapter 11), dictating an email (see Chapter 3) and giving the Hudl verbal instructions. Yes, you can get your Hudl to help you with your homework by asking it to find facts for you online.

Exploring the Rear of the Hudl

The back of the Hudl is covered by a nonslip material that also prevents it from getting — or leaving — scratches. In the centre, you see the metallic *hudl* lettering, as shown in Figure 1-7. Below it is the Tesco logo, and farther down are reference codes relating to the Hudl's design.

At the top right (if you're viewing the Hudl's rear) is the main camera, which sits slightly proud of the rest of the case. The camera can capture 3mp (megapixels) of detail; it can also record 720p video. For best results, make sure there's plenty of light — and don't cover the lens! You look at taking photos and recording videos in Chapter 6.

Finally, you find metallic strips two thirds of the way down the case on either side. You may think that these strips are supposed to be grips, and you could certainly use them for this purpose. In fact, they're the grilles for the Hudl's stereo speakers. When you've got some music on your Hudl (see Chapter 8), you'll find out just how good the audio setup of your Hudl is.



Figure 1-7: The back of the Hudl lists important technical information about your Hudl, as well as housing the main camera.

Powering Up Your Hudl

After you've familiarised yourself with the Hudl's buttons, ports and switches and given it a chance to charge, it's time to switch it on for the first time. Press and hold the power button on the right until the star appears onscreen. Voila!

In Chapter 2, I go through everything you need to know about setting up the Hudl. You need a Wi-Fi connection in order to complete the setup process.



It's most comfortable to hold the Hudl in both hands so that the screen is in landscape mode (as though you're watching a video on it). Make sure that the front camera is pointing at your forehead rather than your chin.

