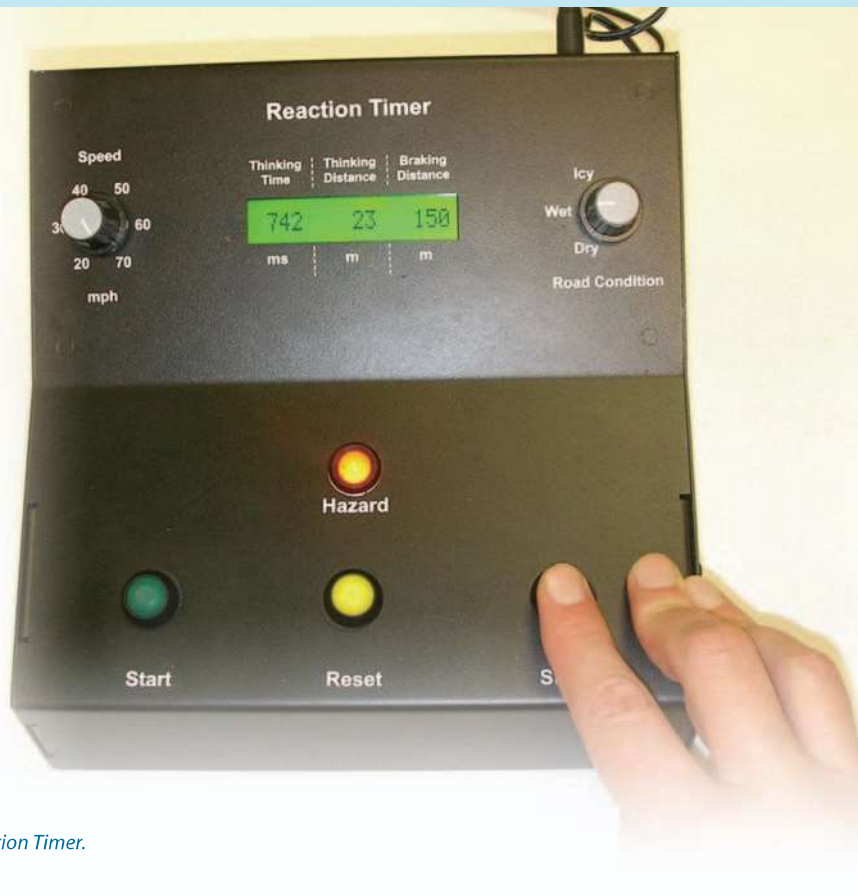


# Reaction timers

**Three years ago, SSERC teamed up with Elaine Lorimer from Renfrewshire Road Safety to look at ways of teaching forces in the context of road safety.**

The result was a reaction timer (figure 1), designed with the help of Fifex [1] and subsequently manufactured by that company. The reaction timer and associated lessons appealed to Road Safety Scotland who managed to secure funding to buy a class set of five for every local authority. SSERC has now trained local road safety officers in the use of the reaction timers.

The reaction timer displays the user's reaction time and calculates the thinking and braking distances for different speeds and road conditions. A number of the devices are already in use in schools, having been given away to participants on



*Figure 1 - Reaction Timer.*

SSERC residential courses. Feedback has been very good. The reaction timers are being used at CfE Levels 3/4, Standard Grade Physics and parents' open evenings. The suggested lessons include links to numeracy, literacy and health and wellbeing.

If you would like to learn more about lessons on forces in the context of road safety, or like the idea of borrowing a set of the devices, please contact SSERC. ◀

## Reference

[1] [www.fifex.co.uk](http://www.fifex.co.uk)