

MORE THAN 100 MOBILE DEVICES TRIED AND TESTED

WHAT MOBILE

THE TOP SMARTPHONE AND TABLET AUTHORITY

MAY 2016
WHATMOBILE.NET

GALAXY S7 EDGE
YES - IT'S A MASTERPIECE



WIN

iOS Game Control



**MICROSOFT
SURFACE BOOK**

GEAR VR
A VIRTUAL CERTAINTY
TO ENTERTAIN YOU



ANDROID
LATEST UPDATE
FOR ANDROID
HITS THE SPOT

BACK TO SCHOOL
APPS FOR EXAMS

IS YOUR PHONE WORTH IT?
BEST RECYCLING DEALS

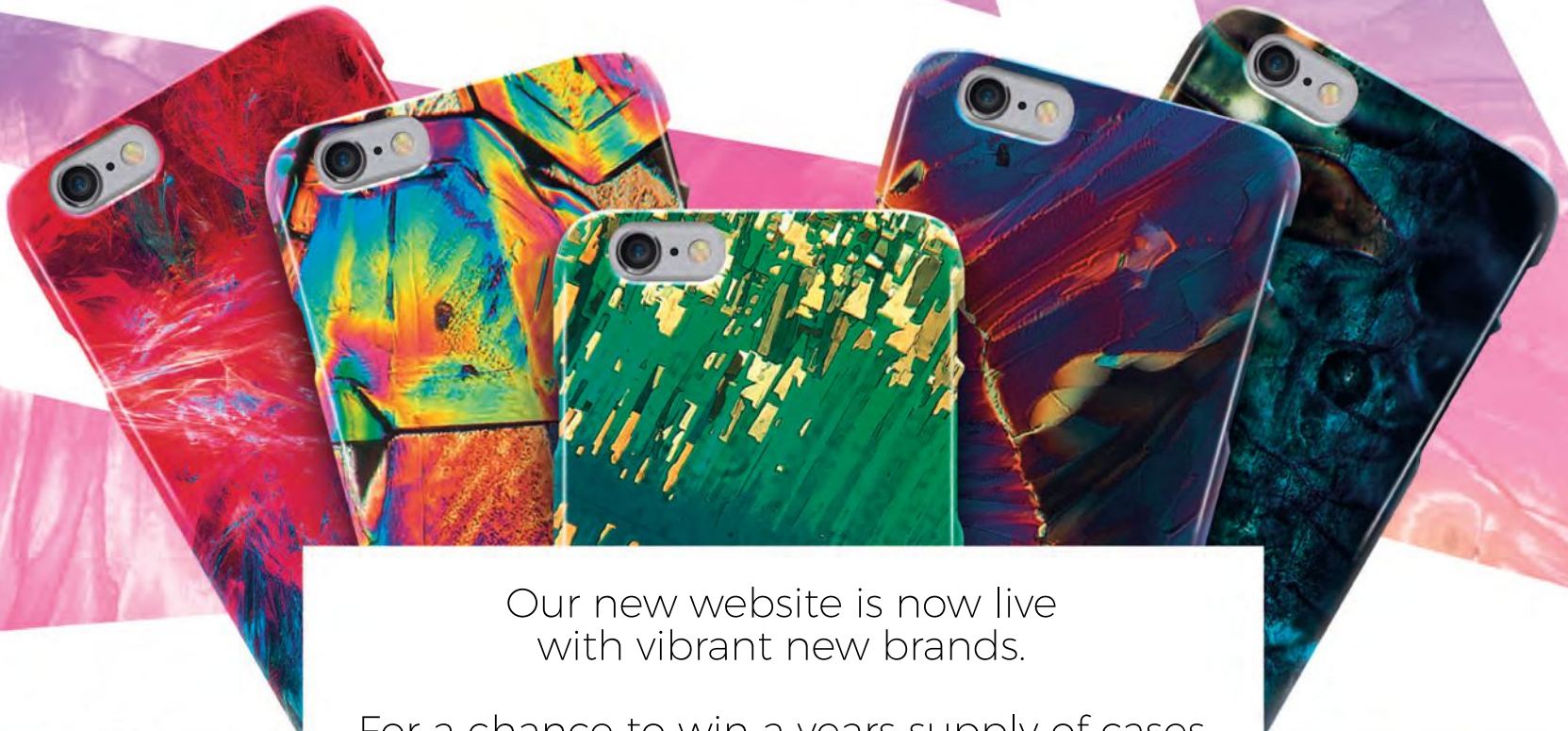
May 2016

£4.95



9 771466 065056

UP ROSA



Our new website is now live
with vibrant new brands.

For a chance to win a years supply of cases
for your phone visit us at*

CASEHUT.COM



ZERO GRAVITY™



WHAT MOBILE

May 2016

Onwards to online only

Clark White Publishing Ltd
8-10 Godson Street
Islington, London
N1 9GZ

Tel: 020 3122 0870
Email: editorial@whatmobile.net
Website: www.whatmobile.net
Twitter: @whatmobile
Facebook: What Mobile Magazine

EDITORIAL

Email: editorial@whatmobile.net
Telephone: 020 7324 3502

Staff writers: Thomas Wellburn
Email: thomas.wellburn@whatmobile.net
Telephone: 020 3122 0868

Manny Pham
Email: manny.pham@whatmobile.net
Telephone: 020 3122 0870

Editorial Director: Ian White

ART/PRODUCTION

Art Editor: Michael Hutchings
Email: michael.hutchings@mobilenewscwp.com

ADVERTISING

Advertising Sales Manager
Kimberley Glover
kimberleyg@mobilenewscwp.co.uk
020 3122 0871

PUBLISHING

Printed by PCP, Telford, TF7 4QQ
Telephone 01952 585 585
Distributed by Inter-Media

*What Mobile is published
12 times a year*

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Tel 01737 457 157
Email whatmobile@inter-media.co.uk
Post What Mobile Subscriptions,
Intermedia Brand Marketing Ltd,
Abbey House, Clarendon Road,
Redhill, Surrey, RH1 1QZ



You hold in your hand the last-ever print edition of *What Mobile*. We're making the transition entirely to digital and online. All publishers face a tough choice as print declines and magazine sales fall in a digital online world. *What Mobile* has come a long way since it first launched in 1993. Hard to believe but in those days there was no internet or Google, and Apple was a struggling computer company a step away from going bust. Then, *What Mobile* was practically the only resource for hard and fast information on cellular phones. Nowadays the internet is chock full of mobile phone news and every Apple launch is greeted as the Second Coming.

Beyond recognition

Thanks to the proliferation of smartphones and social media during the past 10 years journalism itself has changed beyond recognition. Nowadays there are millions of citizen journalists blogging, YouTube'ing, Tweeting, and Instagram'ing events the instant they happen. Regrettably such developments are not always used in a positive way. Who would have predicted that the connected mobile phone is almost the first weapon of choice for the average terrorist. The upshot of this is that *What Mobile* can now only serve its readership using the instant reach of the internet. The days of us being able to bring you scoops of new phones and tech equipment have passed. In days of yore we were able to run exclusive reviews simply because no other media was interested in covering mobile. Now, manufacturers livestream their major announcements in real time. The demise of the print edition certainly does not mean the end of *What Mobile*. We will now have the resources and time to devote what.mobile.net and populate it with multi-media rich content that will elevate our coverage to a new level. See you on the other side.

The What Mobile team

INSIDE STORY



- 06 Competition**
Win a SteelSeries Nimbus game controller
- 08 First Look**
LG G5 and X Series; Vivo Xplay5 Elite
- 12 Accessories**
The latest gadgets and gifts
- 18 Samsung Gear VR**
Headset balances quality and price
- 22 Samsung Galaxy S7 Edge**
A refined masterpiece that's ahead of the pack
- 26 Microsoft Surface Book**
Not just another laptop wannabe
- 30 Pebble Time Round**
Is new smartwatch more style than substance?
- 34 How to...**
A guide to installing Android N
- 36 Android N**
Google's new operating system previewed

- 40 Revision Apps**
Use your smartphone to improve your grades
- 42 Phone Recycling**
The best trade-in prices for your old handset
- 44 Steve Lord Column**
An expert view on security matters
- 46 Apps and Games**
The latest things to do on your device
- 50 Handheld Gaming**
Six new console games tried and tested

- 54 Buyer's Guide**
More than 100 phones, tablets and wearables
- 55 Smartphones**
- 85 Tablets**
- 94 Wearables**





Apple Watch protection that goes with you **everywhere.**



WatchStand Powered Charging Station

The **all-in-one charging station**
for Apple Watch & iPhone



Shop griffintechology.com for breakthrough Apple Watch protection and power, accessories for phones and tablets, and more.



YOUR CHANCE TO WIN STEELSERIES NIMBUS



The guys over at SteelSeries have been kind enough to gift us a brand new Bluetooth controller, which we reviewed in this month's accessories round-up and gave a very impressive four stars. To be in with a chance of winning, all you have to do is answer the simple question below:

Which console did Sony introduce the Dual Analog controller?

- A. PS1
- B. PS2
- C. PS3

Email your full name, address, contact number and answer to the address below:

competitions@whatmobile.net

Alternatively, head to:
www.whatmobile.net/competition
and fill in the online form.

The winner will be contacted via email on **10 May 2016**.

Sweating the small stuff: 1. The promoter of this competition is Clark White Publishing Ltd. 2. The competition is open to all UK residents aged 18 years or over, excluding employees of What Mobile, all participating companies, its agents or families and any company associated with this competition. 3. By entering, all entrants will be deemed to have accepted these rules. 4. All entry instructions form a part of the terms and conditions. 5. Closing date: 10 May 2016. 6. Only one entry per email/IP address will be accepted. 7. The correct winning entry will be selected randomly by the administrator of the What Mobile Facebook page. The winner, who must be a UK resident, will be sent a PNY PowerPack. 8. No cash alternative or other device will be offered. 9. No correspondence will be entered into except that the name of the winner will be available upon written request. 10. You accept that the competition prize may be an open box item that was previously reviewed in the magazine by one of our reporters.

For full terms and conditions, please refer to www.whatmobile.net/terms-and-conditions

SExy new features inside, SEnsible on the outside

**iPhone SE insurance
available at £5.49 p/m**

*Price without loss cover

- ✓ Unlimited repairs
- ✓ 30 Second quotes
- ✓ Same day cover
- ✓ Online claims submissions

Exclusions, limitations and excesses apply.



www.protectyourbubble.com

Protect Your Bubble is a trading name of Assurant Direct Limited, a company registered in England and Wales (registration company number 5399683). Registered address, Assurant House 6-12 Victoria Street Windsor Berkshire SL4 1EN. Assurant Direct Limited is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority under registration number 651412. You can check this on the Financial Services Register at <http://www.fca.org.uk/>

LG G5

LG came out of Mobile World Congress in a strong position, with its biggest launch event ever and plenty of positivity surrounding its latest flagship.

We featured the LG G5 briefly in our last issue of the magazine during an Mobile World Congress round-up piece, but we felt that the underdog handset deserved more attention this time around. With Samsung always destined to take a large chunk of praise for its incredible Unpacked event and the impressive Galaxy S7, it was left to the others in a frantic scramble for who could get the rest of the remaining attention. Arguably, you could say that LG was the likely winner here, with its biggest launch ever and a huge device redesign that incorporated various new and interesting features (which were sadly nearly all leaked before the event even began).

Let's start with the aesthetics of the LG G5. LG has thrown out the blueprints for this one. Gone are the rear volume buttons and the plastic finish. Instead we have a premium, metal unibody handset that can stand side by side with the likes of Samsung. The device appears very minimalistic on first impression, in part due to those covered antenna lines that help to give it a very flush appearance. The metal back is much easier to grip than what's found on the S7, while the newly rounded edges make it much more comfortable to hold than the last generation LG G4. At the bottom of the device is that ambitious modular bay that everyone has been talking about, which can accept a number of unique attachments. At the time of writing, LG has announced three so far: an additional battery tray; a camera grip; and a high-quality digital audio converter (DAC). Much like its predecessor, a microSD is also included for supporting up to 200GB external storage. There's also a USB-C port, something Samsung chose not to include.

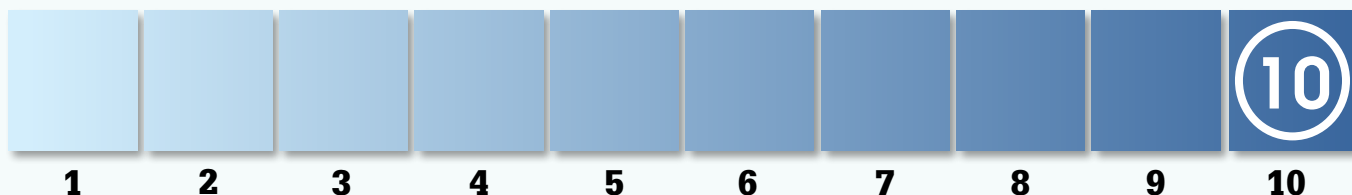


Inside, specifications are exactly what you would expect from a flagship. That means the newest snapdragon 820 and 4GB RAM, plus a powerful Adreno 530 GPU for pushing the latest graphically intensive games. It is identical to that found inside the Galaxy S7, so it will be interesting to see which company can get the most out of these components through internal tinkering and software optimisation. Possibly the most interesting thing besides the modular setup is the rear camera, which unexpectedly incorporates a dual-sensor. This wouldn't be as impressive on its own if it wasn't for the fact that one of said sensors has a 135-degree field-of-view. With a 16 megapixel main sensor and 8 megapixel wide angle sensor, this makes for some very interesting uses, as LG demonstrated on stage during the launch.

Internal storage sits at 32GB but is expandable, while the slightly small 2,800mAh may not sound much but has the obvious advantage of being completely removable and replaceable. The latest Quick Charge 3.0 standard is also supported, while it also runs on the latest version of Android 6.0.1 (with the obligatory LG UX 5.0 UI). LG has made quite a few improvements to the UI and during our hands-on impression it felt a lot better than previous versions. Certain features like the always-on display should also help it to stay competitive.

The LG G5 is available to pre-order now from Amazon with a listed retail price of £529 here in the UK.

WHAT MOBILE Excitement Meter



Our personal star of MWC 2016 is as ambitious as it is different. The Samsung Galaxy S7 may be the overall better product but we admire LG's ballsy, fresh approach.

LG X Series

LG also announced a bunch of other devices at Mobile World Congress under the radar as part of a new 'X Series' that are well worth taking a look at.

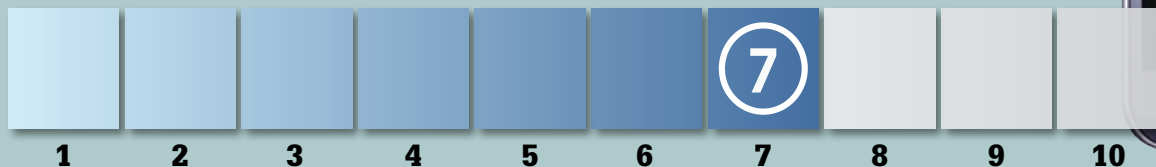
LG X Cam

The LG X Cam is new mid-range handset released by LG that aims to offer potent camera specifications at a more affordable price. LG is still reluctant to reveal pricing information at the time of writing but our guess would be anywhere between £250 and £350 in the UK. This puts it in the upper tier of the mid-range. However, you are still getting a lot of bang for buck.

To start with, it is very aesthetically pleasing to look at, even if the outer body is mostly plastic. The design is backed up by a 5.2-inch 1080p panel, which incorporates a dual camera on the rear. The 13 megapixel rear shooter incorporates an additional 5 megapixel camera for enhanced photos and what LG is calling the "most advanced camera experience in a mass-tier smartphone". This should mean the ability to dual focus and

be a little more creative.

Inside, there's also plenty of power, with an octa-core processor clocked at 1.1GHz and 2GB RAM; a fairly generic but nonetheless suitable package for a device of this calibre. Meanwhile on the front, there's an 8 megapixel shooter which should be more than enough for most users. The newest Android 6.0.1 comes as standard, though the 16GB internal storage is pretty low.



A good set of hardware components and a dual-camera. The device could carve a niche among the mid-range.

LG X Screen



At the other end of the spectrum is the LG X Screen, which features a smaller 4.93-inch HD display that carries a secondary 1.76-inch panel. Imagine it as a lesser, more affordable V10 and you are on the right track.

The additional screen is used much in the same way as on the V10, meaning you can

access notifications quicker and see a ticker of all the outstanding messages.

It is similar in appearance to the more expensive X Cam, meaning you are getting a fairly premium looking device wrapped in a plastic shell. The rear camera is a high 13 megapixels, while the front snapper is once again 8 megapixels. Also included is 2GB RAM, which should help it to perform fairly well. Inside is a quad-core CPU clocked at 1.2GHz, though once again LG has not revealed which processor will be included. That said, we would hazard a guess that it will be one of the 400 series, since the other ranges are now specifically reserved for octa-core chips only. Battery life is 2,300mAh, only slightly less than the X Cam. The LG X Screen will ship once again with the latest version of Android Marshmallow, version 6.0.1.



A cheap, dual-screen phone that everyone has been waiting for. LG could potentially be onto something.

Vivo Xplay5 Elite

Vivo is on a mission to conquer the flagship market with what could be the most powerful mobile device ever released.

Vivo is still a relatively unknown Chinese company here in the UK but its devices have caused quite a stir recently for being obscenely powerful. Its newest device, the Xplay Elite, carries on this tradition of insane specifications.

In terms of design, you are basically looking at an amalgamation of the Samsung Galaxy S7 edge, Honor 7 and Apple iPhone 6. It takes the best bits from all these devices and it definitely looks the part. You've got a metal unibody with curved edges on both the front and back that go in tandem with the screen, giving it a very premium appearance. A square



fingerprint scanner resides on the back, where you could argue the placement is more natural compared with the home button on other handsets. The choice of buttons on the front could perhaps be considered a bit retro, as the Vivo Xplay5 Elite has those that were found back in the early days of Android 3! We are not sure exactly why it has gone for this old-school visual touch but we like it.

Then you get to the hardware, which is where the Vivo Xplay5 Elite is quite possibly the most powerful handset we have ever encountered. A snapdragon 820 is backed up by an insane 6GB RAM, which is more than some desktop-level computers have at their disposal! This is backed up by the powerful Adreno 530 graphics card and 128GB internal memory; enough to satisfy even the most demanding users.

Moving to the rear camera and we once again find another Chinese device using that same Sony IMX298 sensor. We know that the 16 megapixel shooter is capable of some very pretty images, so long as the image processing is up to scratch. The front camera does not skimp on quality either, with an 8 megapixel sensor that should be more than enough for high resolution video calling and selfies. Not to be outdone on battery life either, the Vivo Xplay5 Elite is backed up by a high-quality 3,600mAh sensor, which puts it in the upper tier of the capacity ladder. Fast charging will also be included, just to make sure you have got everything you need.

The Vivo Xplay5 Elite is slated for a March release date, meaning it should be available by the time you read this. While pricing information and availability is yet to be confirmed, we are pretty sure that you will only be able to get this through very select online retailers and it won't be cheap either. Rumoured prices currently range from anywhere between £450-£500, which is undercutting the Galaxy S7 but nonetheless a significant purchase.

WHAT MOBILE Excitement Meter



Has all the potential to be the most powerful device you can currently buy, though how long it will hold that moniker is another question. There is also the lingering question of if we will ever see it, which is always a problem for smaller Chinese brands such as Vivo.



Say hello to the incredible Samsung Galaxy S7.

Get yours now.



Phone & tariff from **£34** a month

SAMSUNG Galaxy S7 edge | S7

Say yes to a new phone, say no to upfront costs.

virginmedia.com | 0800 052 1231 | Virgin Media store

Representative cost for Samsung Galaxy S7 32GB and tariff. You must pay off your loan in full in order to upgrade your handset.

Duration of credit agreement: 24 months	Upfront fee: £0	Monthly device/s payment: £29	Total credit amount: £696	Representative APR: 0%	Device/s cash price: £696	Monthly tariff cost: £5
---	-----------------	-------------------------------	---------------------------	------------------------	---------------------------	-------------------------

Monthly tariff price may change at any time during the contract. General: Price shown is for eBill. For paper bill add £1.50. Stock is limited. 24-month contract. Early disconnection fees apply. The charge for your tariff will increase with your July bill each year. Any increase will be in line with the retail Price Index (RPI) rate of inflation at the time and we'll always give you 30 days' notice of the exact increase each year. **Freestyle Legal Stuff:** You must pay off your loan in full in order to upgrade your handset. 0% APR Representative. Based on a 24-month consumer credit agreement with Virgin Media Mobile Finance Limited for the phone and a 30-day rolling Pay Monthly Airtime Contract with Virgin Mobile Telecoms Limited. Credit subject to status, credit check and payment by Direct Debit. 18+. Allowance brings 250 minutes, 250MB data and unlimited texts. Terms and conditions apply. Visit virginmedia.com/freestyle for full details. Virgin Media Mobile Finance Limited is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority under register no. 626215. Registered office: Media House, Bartley Wood Business Park, Hook, Hampshire RG27 9UP. Registered in England and Wales no. 9058868. All details are correct at time of publication and subject to change without notice.

Monster SuperStar Blaster speaker

Cost: £349.99

Reviewer: Thomas Wellburn

Available from: Spring via Monsterproducts.com

One of the standout accessory products that we saw at this year's Mobile World Congress was the gargantuan Monster SuperStar Blaster speaker. We were pretty impressed by its demo over at the booth so naturally, we asked for a sample of our own.

When it arrived in the office, we actually forgot how big the thing was. Monster modelled the speaker on the Boombox systems that were popular in the 1980s and there's definitely a bit of familiarity here. Despite its overall size, we wouldn't call it ugly. In fact, we'd compare it to a small briefcase nuke or something straight out of Fallout. At 17.5" x 6.5" by our estimate, you won't be able to throw it in a rucksack and forget about it. It's also pretty damn heavy, meaning you probably won't want to be carrying it for long-haul trips either. Constructed in a durable metal finish, it

feels like an absolute tank to hold. Still, for the amount of speaker it has managed to cram into this unit, it is no surprise that it had to make it so bulky.

No official speaker dimensions were given but we managed to work out that it

has two pairs of 2" cones that supply treble and mids, with a 5" subwoofer on the bottom. The sub is also flanked by a pair of passive radiators that allow the bass to extend a bit further.

Trying it out with some bass heavy music, it became clear that the Monster SuperStar Blaster was designed with one thing in mind. This thing hits hard and even though it can't quite emphasise the really deep bass tones, it is still the most beefy sound we have ever heard from a Bluetooth speaker so far. Clarity is top notch and each element shines through in the mix, though a disco smile is very evident in the EQ tuning. Mids can feel a little scooped in some tracks but it is hardly relevant when this is a bass orientated speaker. Equally, the max volume on this thing is absurd, filling our entire office and then some.

Connectivity is vast on the Monster SuperStar Blaster, with Bluetooth, NFC and various specialist ports usually reserved for more professional equipment. You'll get a 3.5

AUX jack for directly hooking up an audio source plus an additional 3.5 microphone-in socket for using the Blaster as a dedicated public address system (PA). There's also a charging port for your phone and dedicated equaliser settings for indoor and outdoor, though in testing it was hard to tell if the latter made much of a real-world difference.

If you're after a true boombox speaker with serious power and plenty of connectivity, the SuperStar Blaster is well worth a look. At £349.99, it is admittedly a lot to cough up and eclipses even the most expensive offerings from superstars such as Libratone. That said, if you want something that's made for dance and hip-hop tracks, you'll be very pleased here.

- + Huge, room filling sound
- + Massive bass
- + Can be used as a PA

- Heavy
- Battery doesn't last long at loud volumes
- Bass-centric sound may not appeal to all



Focal Sphear in-ear headphones

Cost: £99.99

Reviewer: Thomas Wellburn

Available from: focal.com

If you are not invested in the world of high-end audio, Focal probably doesn't sound like a company you are likely to remember. For audiophiles such as us though, its professional monitoring solutions such as the CMS line have gotten quite a following.

Firstly, it is worth mentioning that Focal controls everything in the audio production cycle. Design, manufacturing and testing is all performed in-house back at its France HQ, which makes for some very perfected products.

The Sphear headphones are the company's first attempt at a pair of in-ears and on paper at least, they have a lot going for them. A full-bodied frequency spectrum of 20HZ-20KHZ and impressively low harmonic distortion rating of under 0.3% puts them on a par with the competition, though the comparatively priced Sennheiser Momentum can get a little lower on those bass notes. They also come with an in-line microphone which is compatible with all three major mobile operating systems including Windows Phone, a big plus in our books.

The decision to go with dynamic drivers at this point makes a

lot of sense, as the armature setup really only lends itself to the most premium costing headphones. At this price point, the armature drivers on offer rarely stand up to a quality dynamic pair of in-ears. The Focal Sphears have some pretty beefy 10.8mm drivers, which is on the larger side for sure. They're also quite big to look at, with a much larger footprint than other in-ears that we have seen in the past. It is not necessarily a problem though, since they really look the part with premium metals on the rear and that machine cut Focal logo standing proud. We were also pretty impressed by the fit and comfort, with the Sphear's having no problem sitting snug in our rather awkward earlobes. They ship with a variety of ear buds out of the box, including some tailored memory foam versions that work especially well.

Moving onto the sound and this is an area where the Sphear headphones really manage to excel, with an extremely natural sound that doesn't particularly exaggerate in any area. Bass is controlled yet weighty, while the treble is smooth

and easy on the ears for long periods. Those used to the 'disco smile' may feel underwhelmed by a lack of over-enthusiastic thumping at the low end but for everyone else, you'll be hearing new sounds that went previously unnoticed. Dynamics are also suitably punchy, with transients hitting through the mix with power and force. In a well mixed track, you'll literally feel the snap of each snare hit like a shot to the gut.

At £99.99, the Focal Sphears are in a tough place with regards to pricing. The sub £100 category is littered with excellent bargain in-ears such as the Beyerdynamic DTX 101ie and Sennheiser Momentum M2, but the Sphears definitely deserve consideration due to their honesty and clarity. If you like turning up the music

loud and want to be wowed by a natural sound curve that fits most types of material, paying the extra premium for these suddenly seems quite sensible.

- + Smooth listening experience
- + Incredibly natural sound
- + Comfortable fit

- A touch laid back in the presentation
- Bigger than other IEMs



Quick Mobile Fix

Cost: £19.99 - £49.99

Reviewer: Manny Pham

Available from: www.quickmobilefix.com

Our trusty little iPhone 5s is back for another round of abuse, and this time we didn't go for the money maker. No physical exertion was needed to get our iPhone ready for another round of repairs when our charging port decided to off itself. Fair play, we wouldn't want to be our phone either. Luckily Quick Mobile Fix was ready to take on our battered and abused 5s.

It is always a jar to get your smartphone repaired, not just because of the damages but the thought of being without a smartphone in this day and age is a bit unfathomable. Might as well start making fire with sticks and get a pet dinosaur. Quick Mobile Fix can get your phone working and to back into your hands in 48 hours (depending on damage extent). Not exactly ideal as the anxiety and hyperventilation would start pretty soon after, but Quick Mobile Fix does well to calm your anxiety and keep your Tinder matches satisfied by offering a courtesy phone for as little as £9.99 a week. There is a security deposit. How much it is depends on what kind of phone you want. But for minor repairs it is almost unnecessary as you will have your phone back in the amount of time it takes to get your daily driver repaired. We had the charging port replaced, which is considered a minor repair, in league with a cracked screen.

It is an internal repair so we obviously couldn't get a look at the fix. It is fixed though, with no hint of stutter when plugging the lightning cable into the charging point. Charging times are normal, with a full charge taking just over an hour, as the 5s usually did. We can't describe the joy we felt not having to wiggle the charger around to get our iPhone to actually charge.

- + Competitively priced
- + Excellent customer service
- + Delivery insurance

- Not official parts for iOS devices
- There are quicker repair services



Marketing manager Sean Barber says "Grade A" parts are used to repair all smartphones. While parts used may not be official Apple parts, there aren't any differences that we can see (with the charging port).

The service operates on a postage system. Once you order your repair on the website or app, you are given a postage label to send in your device. It is incredibly easy with the only worry being whether your device makes it to the other side. That is something to not be worried about as

Quick Mobile Fix insures each postage for £500, whereas the Royal Mail standard is £50. A one-year warranty is included for all repairs, a nice touch to add more peace of mind.

There are quicker repair services, for example iMend, which claim, 99.9% of repairs are made on the same day of the request. But with excellent customer service and a host of other redeeming qualities, Quick Mobile Fix just does it for us. Especially the fact that it's a lot cheaper than iMend and of course Apple.

Riva S Bluetooth Speaker

Cost: £199

Reviewer: Thomas Wellburn

Available from: www.hifisound.co.uk

You may remember a few issues back when we reviewed the excellent Riva Turbo X bluetooth speaker. We praised it for the relatively small footprint and natural sound. Now, the company has revealed an even smaller, lighter version.

At just 19cm wide and 6.8cm tall, the Riva S is much smaller than its bigger brother, yet it manages to cram in the same level of connectivity. You get a USB data port, USB charging port for juicing external devices such as a smartphone, a 19V DC power port for using the additional wall wart and the obligatory AUX connector for running the speaker directly from a sound source. This can all be protected by a handy I/O cover located on the bottom of the speaker, which can be removed and stuck over the ports. The placement of the cover is a bit odd... But it works.

The design is identical to the Riva X Turbo aside from dimensions, so if you enjoyed the design of that, you'll likely be impressed by this too. Quality plastics and a solid metal grille mean that it should be

able to take plenty of abuse, while the touch buttons on the top illuminate and have a satisfyingly premium feel to them. IPX4 water resistance is a nice touch, meaning it should be good against a few accidental splashes.

Sound quality is good for a speaker of this size, with a surprising amount of weight to the mid-bass. Sub frequencies are absent but this is an expected issue that

- + Natural response
- + Free carry pouch included
- + Very portable

- Less bass than its bigger brother
- Cheaper options available



effects every small Bluetooth speaker. The fact you can sync two of these together wirelessly for a multi-room setup is even better. The sound from the Riva S continues what its bigger brother started, suitable for most material.



SteelSeries Nimbus

Cost: £39.95

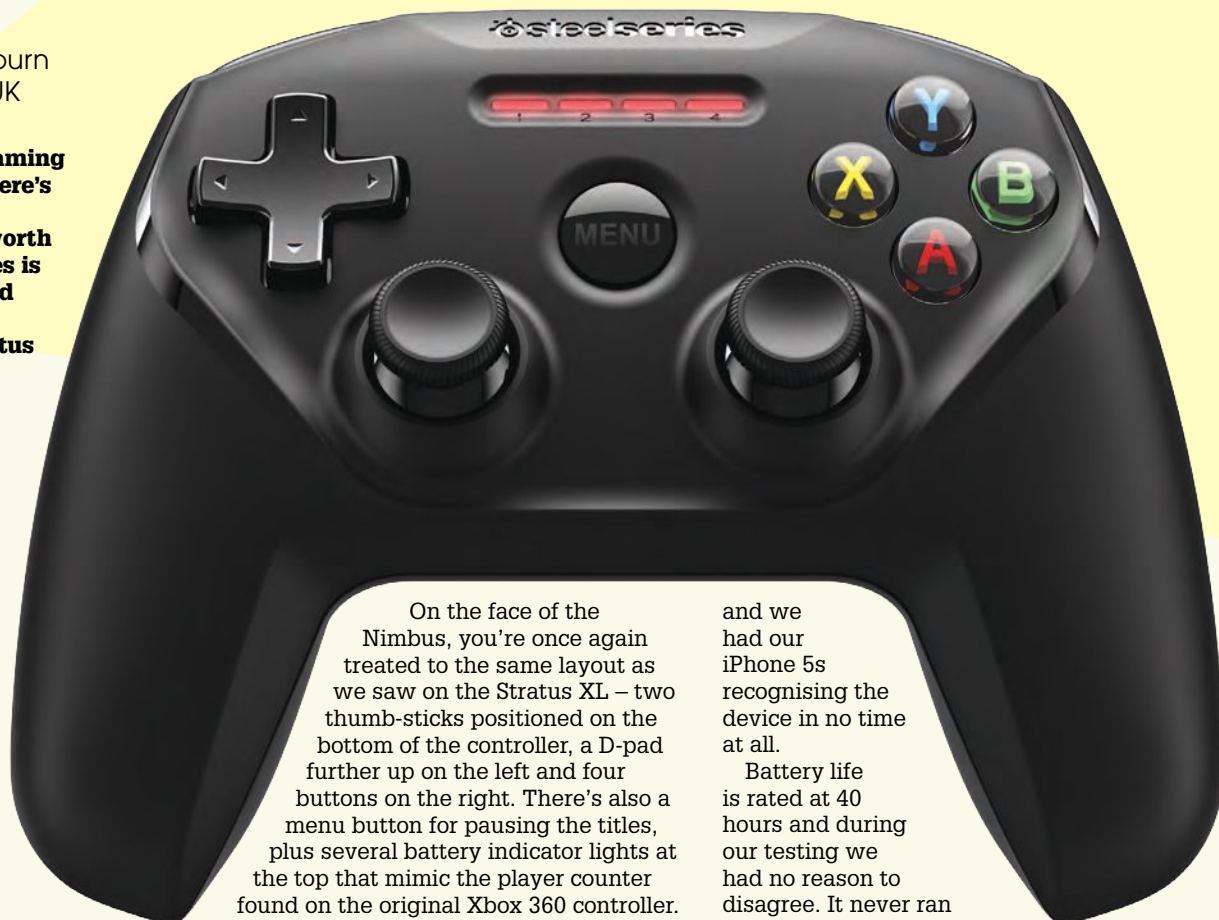
Reviewer: Thomas Wellburn

Available from: Apple UK

As far as mobile gaming controllers go, there's really only a few names that are worth taking a look at. SteelSeries is one such brand with a solid reputation behind it. We recently reviewed the Stratus XL and gave it a glowing four-star review; now we have an Apple version to complement it.

The Nimbus is SteelSeries' answer to a quality Apple controller, be it for Apple TV or even the iPad. Available at the Apple Store, it has already got certification from the big shots themselves. The geniuses will probably even tell you to buy one.

In terms of design, it looks much the like the Stratus XL, which also looked pretty much identical to an Xbox One controller. That's not to say it's a bad thing, as the Xbox controllers have long been some of the most comfortable around. They fit snug in the hand and have a pretty natural grip. Build quality is OK and while the plastics are not quite as premium as something found on a console, it is still a level above the typical mobile gamepad.



On the face of the Nimbus, you're once again treated to the same layout as we saw on the Stratus XL – two thumb-sticks positioned on the bottom of the controller, a D-pad further up on the left and four buttons on the right. There's also a menu button for pausing the titles, plus several battery indicator lights at the top that mimic the player counter found on the original Xbox 360 controller.

In terms of responsiveness, the Nimbus is on the positive side of the spectrum. The main buttons have a satisfying click and we'd argue that the shoulder buttons feel better in quality than those found on the Stratus XL. The thumb-sticks have a good overall weight to them, meaning they spring back pretty easily and don't feel limp when frantically throwing them in a particular direction.

Then we get to the bad part – button mapping. You just never know what each button is going to do. We understand this is not a direct problem with the Nimbus but it is still worth mentioning to the average user. It can be pretty frustrating and hampers an otherwise decent experience.

Thankfully, pairing wasn't much of an issue

and we had our iPhone 5s recognising the device in no time at all.

Battery life is rated at 40 hours and during our testing we had no reason to disagree. It never ran out the entire time... and that included some pretty long gaming sessions on *Asphalt 8* and *Final Fantasy IX*.

Overall, it's an impressive piece of kit, as long as you accept the shortcomings of certain applications that fail to map things correctly.

- + Solid buttons
- + Long battery life
- + Comfortable

- A bit plastic feeling
- Mapping issues



Kito+

Cost: \$99.00

Reviewer: Thomas Wellburn

Available from: Azoi.com

H health trackers always seem to come in a pretty predicable package; it's either a wearable or something along the lines of a tool that attaches to your skin in some way. Kito+ represents something a little different, as it resides in a case and measures your health through the fingers.

Setup is a breeze with the Kito+, simply pop the reader into the case and then attach it to your smartphone. Currently, the only versions supported are iPhone 6/6s and 6/6s plus models. Build quality is fairly standard for what is essentially a rubberised case and we wouldn't exactly call it protective. The Kito device slots into a cut-out in the middle, where it will stay pretty comfortably once the iPhone is in place.

Then it's a simple case of hitting the button on the back to turn it on and downloading the Kito application. After connecting them both together, you place your fingers (not thumbs) on the metal conductive pads on the rear of the case. From there, Kito+ will begin measuring various vitals and relaying the information back to the application. We were pleasantly surprised by the amount of information it captured, showing everything from blood oxygen to skin temperature and even ECG readings. It's then possible to store this data and share it with other people, so you can compete with friends or just let the family know how your health is.

In terms of the application, things are incredibly simple. You've got a breakdown of your readings on a very minimal

background and very little else, but it helps to make it feel intuitive and easy to use. Battery life is also excellent, with the Kito+ lasting a long time in testing. The only problem is the charging method, which feels a little flimsy with the included attachment. All in all, a useful and quirky fitness tool that is pretty unique in the market.

- + Unique design
- + Good battery life

- Not the most protective case
- Awkward charging method



Samsung Gear VR

The most accessible VR headset available, with the best balance between quality and price.

Price: £79.99 Reviewer: Manny Pham



AT A GLANCE

Speed



3⁷/₅

Comfort



4⁷/₅

Immersion



4⁷/₅

SPEC SHEET

Compatibility: Samsung Galaxy S6, S6 Edge, S6 Edge+, Note 5, S7 and S7 Edge

Weight: 307g

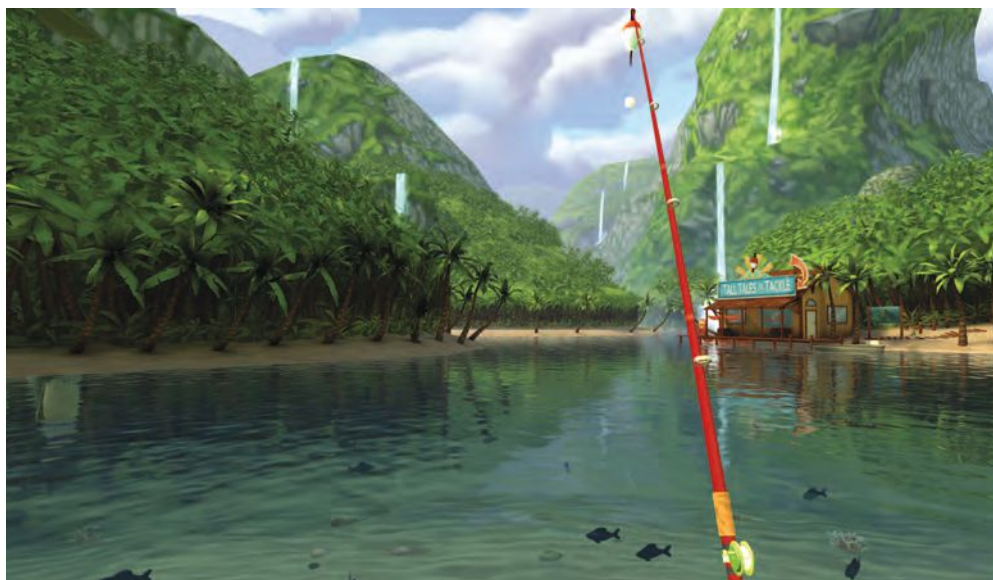
Dimensions: 202 x 116 x 93 mm

Field of view: 96 degrees

Controls: touchpad, back key, volume control, focus adjust wheel

Sensors: gyro, accelerometer, proximity

Ports: micro USB



Graphically, the VR experience on games such as *BAIT* isn't that impressive

Our first sort of experience with virtual reality (VR) dated back to the ill-fated Virtual Boy. Legendary Gameboy creator Gunpei Yokoi left Nintendo in 1996 in the wake of Virtual Boy's commercial failure. That ended interest in VR in the 1990s, with many stung by it and not wanting to hear about it ever again. Exactly 20 years later, 2016 sees the rebirth of VR, rising from the ashes of the Virtual Boy.

Guess what, it is actually impressive now. Nintendo was too ahead of its time and now Oculus is here to champion VR. The Samsung Gear VR is one of the very few options in terms of

commercially available VR headset. Samsung saw the potential of VR, hence sewing up a deal with arguably the leader of VR, Oculus. It is also the reason why we saw Mark Zuckerberg at Samsung's Mobile World Congress event.

The Gear VR is in competition with LG's 'Friends'. They are both add-ons to help sell more handsets, giving them a unique selling point to sway your decision. So the question needs to be asked, is VR the future? Should you buy a Samsung Galaxy S7 for it?

DESIGN

When we first got our hands on the Gear VR we weren't really impressed with the build

quality. It feels quite tacky for something that's meant to be future technology. But what needs to be realised is this device is going to be strapped to your head for long periods at a time. We don't exactly have neck muscles that are used to wearing gold chains big enough to anchor a ship, like Mr T or former Aston Villa striker John Carew.

Samsung gets it right in the comfort area with great cushioning on your face and a strap that doesn't feel like it is going to shape your head into one of a *Sesame Street* character. It could use more padding though as it feels a bit hard on your face after a while, but that's manageable and you won't notice it after playing around on a piece of software you enjoy. Exterior light is blocked out brilliantly, adding to the feel of being in another place. For children Samsung does include a smaller head strap, or if you just have a little head.

The Gear VR weighs only 307g, which feels like the perfect weight, not too heavy. Attach an S7 and the weight jumps up to 462g, which is noticeable but still manageable. Moving your head around and looking at every angle with ease is the point of VR and Samsung gets this vital fundamental right.

VR is quite taxing on your device. The Galaxy S7 may have a bigger and better battery but it can't shake off the succubus that is the





The immersive experience of games such as *Gunjack* make them fun to play but tiring

Gear VR. Roughly the Gear VR drained 1% per minute, which varies depending on whether you are watching a video or playing a game. With so much power needed for the VR experience, our S7 heated up quite a bit, but don't worry. It won't burn your face off.

We recommend plugging in your device to an outlet while using it, or if you're planning on using it on the go, carry a power bank. Don't worry about the weird looks; you'll be too immersed to care.

EXPERIENCE AND SOFTWARE

Oculus is arguably the leader in VR. With the Oculus chipset inside the Gear VR movement tracking is supremely accurate. Samsung devices with 2560 x 1440 AMOLED displays support the Gear VR, the list includes: Samsung Galaxy S6, S6 Edge, S6 Edge+, Note 5, S7 and S7 Edge. With the awesome AMOLED display you won't be seeing any ghosting when turning your head at speed. We found blurring to occur around the edges when we weren't focusing on a game or video.

After using the headset for 20-30 minutes our eyes started to hurt a little, prompting a little break. It is something that differs with each person, tolerance depends on whether you are used to looking at a screen up close for an extended period of time. It tired us out quite quickly.

Graphically the VR experience isn't really that impressive. You have to bear in mind this is a headset that's under £100. Games are stretched out on the screen, showing a lot of pixels. Textures that would look normal, probably comparable to a PlayStation 3 title, look tired and not optimised for the Gear VR. Given that, games are actually quite fun. We had a go with *Gunjack*, a futuristic first-person shooter with a 180-degree field of vision. It is great fun with the immersion making it a unique experience. You will get tired, as you have to keep your arm up on the touchpad to shoot. A dedicated controller should really be included; the Gear VR's gamer base will be quite small without one. So far no game that solely uses the Gear VR impressed us enough to carry on

playing. Games like *BAIT* and *INVASION* are comparable to empty boring Wii party games.

Gaming is not the sole focus on the Gear VR. There's also 360 video and photos to consider. The verdict? It really isn't up to scratch. Watching a gig from different angles is cool and all that but it isn't really something we would think to do again. Good quality videos require a long download to enjoy them in full 360-degree. It all sounds a bit negative but we need to bear in mind VR is still in an infancy and once developers get used to the hardware, quality software will come through before we know it. You can view YouTube but it isn't really optimised. A dedicated YouTube app is needed. If YouTube can provide that, endless original VR content would be at the ready for consumers. If not you can just create your own 360 VR content with the Gear 360 camera, which was also unveiled at Mobile World Congress.

Compared with the big boys of VR – Oculus Rift, HTC Vive and PlayStation VR – the Gear VR falls short in terms of viewing angles. You can definitely tell the difference in quality with the Gear VR and the aforementioned. Then again, they are worth a few hundred pounds each.

CONCLUSION

The Gear VR is slap bang in the mid-range of the VR world. There are plenty below and above it. If you are really interested in VR and want to stay ahead of the tech curve, you can't go wrong with the Gear VR. It works so much better than Google's Cardboard but it also feels quite lacklustre in the actual experience. It is more for non-interactive experiences, perfect to show off at parties and family engagements. Whether you'll still be using it months down the line remains to be seen. We are not entirely convinced but there is potential to build on.

VERDICT

If you're upgrading your smartphone to the S7 and want to know what the hullabaloo is all about with VR then the Gear VR is good choice. It is a mid-range VR device that will make parties and family engagements more interesting. VR is still in its infancy, so the content isn't of a great quality yet. But that's the case with all new hardware, particularly video games consoles.

- + Not expensive
- + Comfortable
- + Unique experience
- Battery drainer
- Awkward to use in public
- Content isn't always a hit

OVERALL ★★★★★

PERFORMANCE

★★★★★

USABILITY

★★★★★

DESIGN

★★★★★

FEATURES

★★★★★

INNOVATION

★★★★★

VALUE

★★★★★



EXTREME PROTECTION SINCE 1976

WEATHERPROOF, CHILDPROOF, CITYPROOF, ADVENTUREPROOF!



NEW!
For Samsung
Galaxy S7

Guardian for iPhone® & Samsung®
Slim design • Military Drop Tested



Voyager for iPhone® & Samsung®
Ultimate Protection • Military Drop & Crush Tested



Voyager for
iPad mini™ & Air™
Built-in Kickstand
Military Drop Tested

Discover our innovative mobile protective covers

LIFETIME GUARANTEE*

*Where applicable by law

www.pelimobileprotection.com



Available from

MobileFun.co.uk
Everything First

Samsung Galaxy S7 Edge

Samsung remains ahead of the pack with its successor to the class-leading S6 that's a refined masterpiece.

Price: £639.99 Reviewer: Manny Pham



SPEC SHEET

OS Android Marshmallow 6.0 (TouchWiz)
Processor Exynos 8890
Screen 5.5 inches
Resolution 1440 x 2560
Memory 4GB RAM
Storage 32GB
MicroSD compatible? Yes, up to 200GB
Rear camera 12 megapixels

Front camera 5 megapixels
Video 4K
Connectivity 3G, 4G
Dimensions 150.9 x 72.6 x 7.7 mm
Weight 157g
Battery 3600 mAh

AT A GLANCE

Speed



5/5

Camera



5/5

Battery



5/5



The S7's camera adapts and takes glorious pictures and videos

The Samsung Galaxy S7 Edge is a bit of an awkward phone for Samsung. Nothing in reference to its actual shape or wizzy personality, but more in reference to the legacy the S6 left behind. Basically what we are saying is the S7 has some pretty big shoes to fill. The S6 was class leading, with an innovative curved screen design that had even Apple looking over its shoulder (albeit not so much, it is still selling a ton of iPhones).



DLSSR technology is incorporated into the 12-megapixel rear snapper

We weren't expecting a mega evolution like the S6 again this year. But is the S7 more deserving of a 6.5 name upgrade rather than a full round up to 7? Well that's what we will find out.

Samsung has refined a winning formula, improved on weaknesses and brought back old features that had people doing seal impressions at Mobile World Congress. It was a safe bet that whatever Samsung did with the S7, we weren't going to hate it. The S6 impressed so much that Samsung stuck close to what works. This is evident with how the S7 range looks identical to the S6. Luckily for Samsung everyone still loves that curved screen, so it can get away with not being original this time.

We can't get over how premium the S7 is. Ever since Samsung went for a different direction with the S6, the Korean manufacturer has massively upped its game. The S6 was the first Android device to truly compare against Apple's iPhone in terms of design quality.

Premium brings with it a premium price tag. You are looking at £569.99 for the S7 and £639.99 for the S7 Edge. This year Samsung has taken the Edge variant up to phablet territory, meaning both the S7 and S7 Edge won't be competing directly with each other.

DESIGN

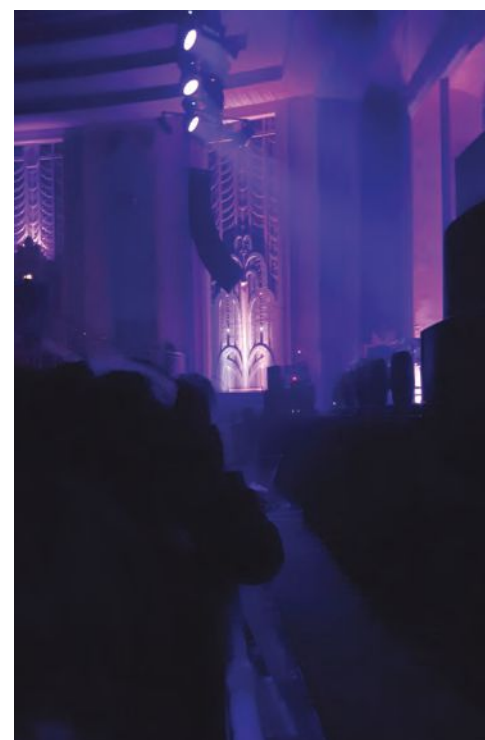
Yes it is almost the spitting image of the S6. The S7 looks pretty much like its predecessor. Samsung is also using the same material seen on the S6 for the S7.

We see that familiar glass back, metal chamfered frame and symmetrical antenna bands on top and bottom. In the familiar materials we felt a difference with the glass panel; it has more grip than the S6. It is still quite slippery though; on occasions it slipped out of our pocket on car journeys. The glass back is still a fingerprint magnet. We really recommend onyx black to make it less noticeable.

We should focus on what Samsung has improved and included new this time around. The standout would be the water resistance. That's right, it is water resistant, not waterproof as previously rumoured. A mix of engineering and adhesive, the S7 has no dangly flaps required to keep water out for a shower selfie. It was quite nice being able to take a phone into the shower for some tunes without having to worry about condensation damage. It is rated IP68 so it can survive 1.5 metres of watery depth (up to 30 minutes).

Another returning feature from the S5 is the microSD slot. It is upgradeable to 200GB of expandable memory, which makes it acceptable that the standard S7 only comes in 32GB.

Let's talk about the expandable memory more. Yes it was wrong of Samsung to get rid of it on the S6 but



Samsung boasts the S7 is able to take the best low-light snaps of any camera

the benefit of it was the increased performance speed. Now it is back and yes, it does slow down the S7. Do not let this deter you. The drop in speed is negligible and through general use you won't even notice it. Accessing Facebook was a millisecond slower with an SD card inserted. To ensure maximum performance with an SD card, grab a class 10 microSD card.

CAMERA

The camera piqued the most interest for us, as Samsung has downsized the megapixels and promised better quality. The S6 had 16 megapixels whereas this year's S7 is rocking with 12 megapixels, Samsung boasts the new snapper is able to take the best low-light snaps of any camera.

How is Samsung doing this? The pixels are physically larger and so is the lens, going from f/1.7 to f/1.9. The result is excellent quality pictures, particularly in low-light settings. The S7 retains the ability to record in 4K with optical image stabilisation (OIS). We never hesitated to take a picture with the S7, it adapts and takes some glorious pictures and videos.



Samsung has downsized the megapixels on the S7 while promising better quality images

So what else is new about the camera? Samsung has incorporated DLSR technology into the 12-megapixel snapper; it is called dual-pixel autofocus technology. As you'd assume, it helps autofocus speeds. We saw its usefulness particularly with video recording, panning across the room required different focusing spots and results looked incredibly smooth.

Selfie lovers are going to love the S7. Why? Well if Ellen Degeneres was using the S7 instead of the S5, Jared Leto's forehead would have been joined by the rest of his face. The wide selfie option is done by moving the S7 left and right to shoot a wider shot. It doesn't compromise quality; selfies are crystal clear, more so than the iPhone 6s.

SCREEN

The S7 has that 2,560 x 1,440 resolution, QHD display just like the S6. It is a mesmerising display with excellent colour contrast and clarity fit for royalty. The S7 uses Super AMOLED, which contributes to colour saturation and popping bright colours. Blacks and dark colours are deep; you can particularly see this when locking the screen, to be welcomed by the always-on display.

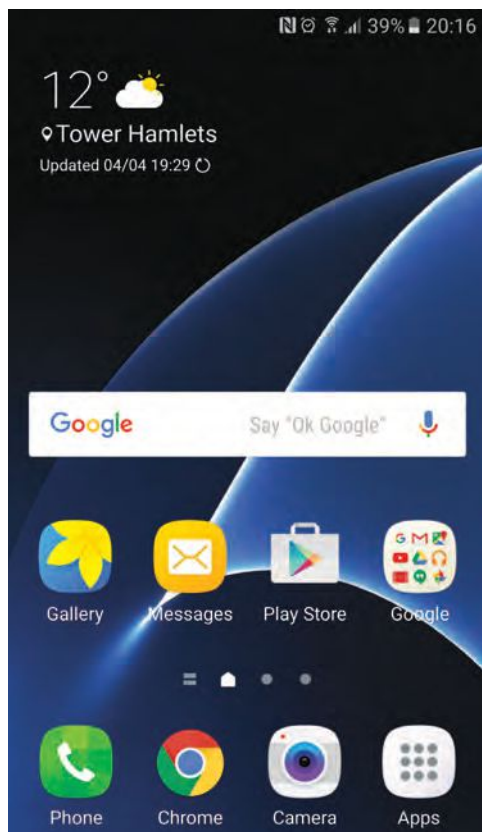
The defining feature is the new always-on screen. At the moment it is pretty basic, with the time, date, battery level and some notifications (call and text) making use of it. It is fantastic for its purpose, and that is to stop you from unlocking your phone as much as you use to. According to Samsung we unlock our phones 150 times a day, which sounds about right. By not unlocking your phone so much you are not waking up the CPU and not turning on that bright screen, saving you more battery in the long run. It justifies the always-on screen draining just about 1% of battery, every hour it is on.

Our biggest complaint is how basic the always-on screen is. Third party apps need to support it, or we will be unlocking our phone close to 150 times a day.

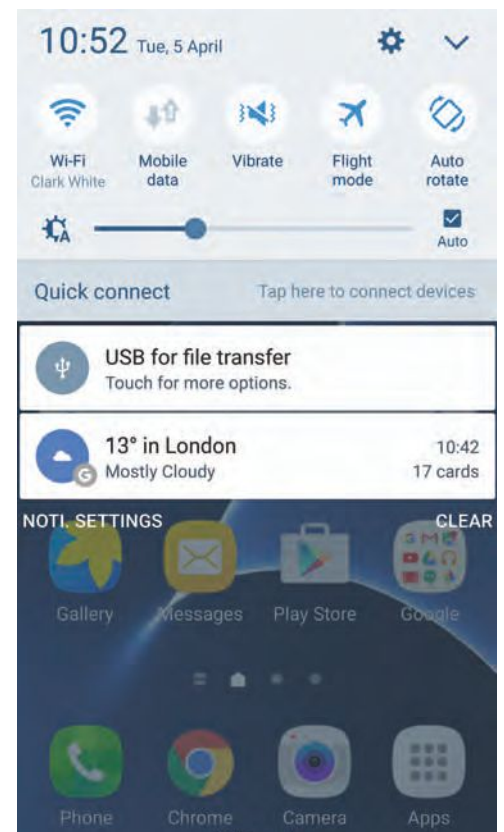
PERFORMANCE

There are two processors for the S7; Samsung's very own octa-core Exynos 8890 and Qualcomm's quad-core Snapdragon 820. Samsung is using the Snapdragon 820 in North America, as the Exynos 8890 cannot run certain networks. Being in Europe we got the Exynos 8890 S7 Edge to test.

The Exynos 8890 is accompanied by 4GB



The UI has been improved



The S7 has the advantage of Quick Settings



The S7 retains the ability to record in 4K

of RAM, compared with the 3GB we had on the S6.

We can honestly say the Samsung Galaxy S7 (and the Edge) is the fastest Android phone on the market at the moment. Notice how we said Android here. It is quite interesting how the iPhone 6s can still beat the brand new S7. In our “victory lap of apps” test, in which we opened 10 apps and took a photo at the end, the 6s beat the S7 by two seconds.

Just like using a microSD card, the difference in speed is negligible. In Geekbench tests the S7 scored 2085 in single-core and 6359 in the multi-core category. The iPhone 6s wins in the single-core category with a score of 2490. In the multi-core category the S7 wins by a

considerable margin, with a score of 4331, making the S7 more suited for heavy loads of activity.

The S7 has also shown it can dig deep. A manipulation test with our Wi-Fi router was designed to test how great the Exynos 8890 is at downloading data. Every device in proximity of our router was unable to get a Wi-Fi signal, except for the S7. The download speed was capable of playing Netflix in full HD, which was impressive.

SOFTWARE

TouchWiz has a really bad rep and a lot of people would not buy a Samsung device because of Samsung’s Android skin. Which is incredibly stupid if that’s the reason why you are avoiding Samsung devices. With the specs the S7 is running TouchWiz feels just as smooth as a stock Android device.

TouchWiz is much smoother with flatter icons and a more mature feel to the UI. It is a bit rubbish that TouchWiz still isn’t able to uninstall apps from the home screen. A lot of Android skins offer this so it is very surprising to not see it included. TouchWiz replaced Flipboard on non-US versions of the S7; now to the left of your homescreen is Upday. Upday doesn’t feel like a big upgrade from Flipboard but it does the job in providing curated news. For those that hate the news intrusion on your homescreen, Upday can be switched off.

Edge screen was a bit basic on the S6. Now Samsung has improved it to cut down on the number of taps to the touchscreen and make it easier to call your best friend. Edge shortcuts are now double the width with much more options and shortcuts for you to access. The S7 Edge may be 0.4 inches bigger than its predecessor but it is still easy to access Edge screen with a flick of the thumb. In short we now use it quite often, but more needs to be done to make Edge screen a defining software feature.

BATTERY

We are in awe s to how good the battery is. The S7 is 3,600mAh and it lasted us an age. At no point did we fear for the battery life during our time with the S7. It is incredible how we can get to the end of the day with more than 40% left in the tank on average. It is a far cry from battery issues the S6 had; if you managed to get home with a slither of battery left, it was a good day.

From 100% charge and general use, the battery lasted just about 24 hours. Waking up next to it, still going strong really warmed our heart. Watching YouTube for an hour at 1080p drained a measly 10%, and intense 30-minute sessions of gaming drained only 18%. The paranoia of using your phone heavily is gone; Samsung has done what not many can do, and that’s provide a powerful phone with a battery to keep up with it.

From 0% and switched off, the fast charging fully charges the device in an hour and 34 minutes. With the S7 turned on, 30 minutes of charging gives it 37%, which seems about right.

CONCLUSION

An iteration that is the definition of refinement, Samsung has released what is definitely the best smartphone at the moment. The LG G5 and its “Friends” have a fight on their hands. It has one of the best cameras we have used and continues the Galaxy trend of having class-leading specs. The battery was a major issue last year and now it is bigger and better than ever. Water-resistance, an upgradeable microSD card slot, gorgeous design, there is so much to love about the S7.

The price might deter some but there is the cheaper standard S7, which is more practical with rounded edges. If you want a class-leading phone with an eye-catching looks, by all means go for the S7 Edge. It is worthy of that whole number upgrade.

VERDICT

Currently the best smartphone on the market. There is not a lot to fault Samsung on here because it has improved nearly all the weaknesses seen on the S6. With water resistance and the microSD card returning, it really is a device to consider, or the only one to consider. We may be using the Edge screen software more but it still hasn’t convinced us as a strong piece of software. It is pretty damn pricey; the standard S7 is not a bad shout with a more practical shape and the same specs as the Edge.

- + Quality build
- + BATTERY smooth performance
- + Battery is significantly improved
- Fingerprint magnet
- Always-on screen is basic
- Expensive

OVERALL ★★★★★

PERFORMANCE
★★★★★

USABILITY
★★★★★

DESIGN
★★★★★

FEATURES
★★★★★

INNOVATION
★★★★★

VALUE
★★★★★

Microsoft Surface Book

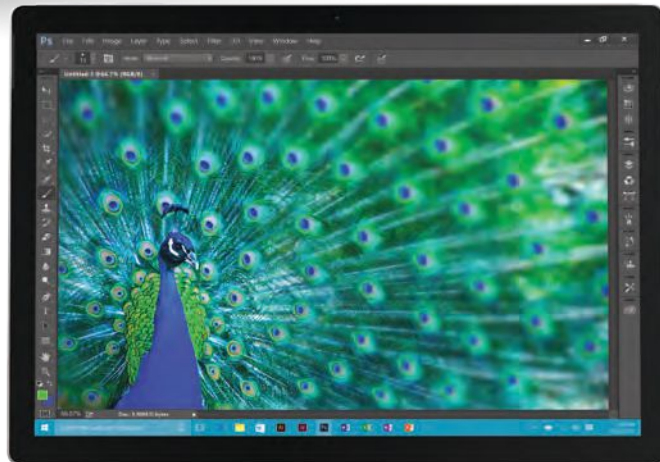
Microsoft's Surface line goes full laptop with the Surface Book but is it anything more than just a glorified tablet?

Price: £1,299.00 - £2,249.00 Reviewer: Thomas Wellburn

Here it is, the toils of Microsoft's Surface team in sleek, finished form. Nobody expected it coming... But is it actually necessary? A fully-fledged laptop complete with a discrete GPU that also doubles as a tablet with a detachable screen. It is everything great about the Surface Pro 4 and more,

silver in appearance and aside from the chrome Microsoft logo on the rear, branding is nowhere to be seen. It has an insanely clean appearance that lets the

solve the problem of uneven weight distribution. When you initially hold the Surface Book in an open position, it is obvious that the screen carries more weight than the base. This could create some very troublesome issues were it not for the hinge implementation. Folding out like a snake, it elongates the bottom of the device, giving more surface



though it has an astronomical price-tag to boot. Will all of that money justify such a niche, premium-level product?

DESIGN

The Surface Book is pretty incredible to look at, coming in at a cross between the now conventional MacBook design that so many others try to emulate and something more authoritarian and monolithic. It is hard to get more minimal than Apple's offerings and yet here, somehow, it has pulled it off with a device that has even less to see on the front panel. Everything on this laptop is brushed

engineering do the talking, and boy, does the engineering talk.

Possibly the coolest thing about the Surface Book is its fulcrum hinge, a patent-pending innovation created by the Surface team in-house to

area that makes it less prone to being knocked over. While it won't always work if the device is being used on your lap, it appears to solve

SPEC SHEET

OS Windows 10
Processor: Intel Skylake core i3/i5/i7 (reviewed)
Screen 13.5 inches
Resolution 3000 x 2000 pixels (267 ppi)
Memory 4 / 8/ 16GB (reviewed)
Storage 128GB/256GB/512GB (reviewed)/ 1TB

MicroSD compatible? Yes
Rear camera 8MP
Front camera 5MP
Video 1080p 30FPS
Connectivity Bluetooth, WIFI
Dimensions 232 x 312 x 13 mm
Weight 1516g
Battery 9,187mAh

AT A GLANCE

Speed



4/5

Camera



4/5

Battery



4/5



The Surface Book ships with Windows 10, with less niggles to detract from the overall experience

the issue quite nicely on a desk, making the Surface Book feel altogether a little bit sturdier on its feet.

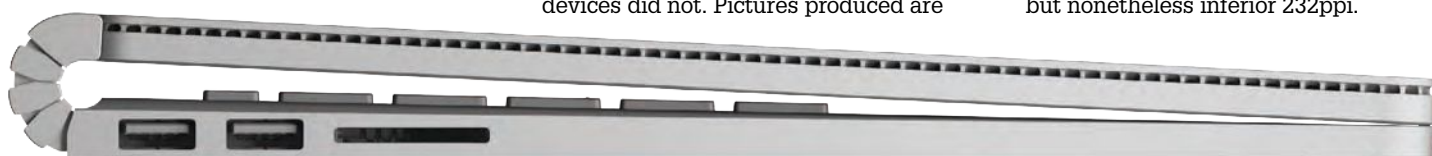
perks as its little brother. At 8 megapixels, the rear sensor ships with autofocus, something that last-generation Surface devices did not. Pictures produced are

completely failing in our darkest test. This is hardly surprising however, considering most others do the same.

The 5 megapixel front camera is more interesting, incorporating Windows Hello for some very cool instant login capability. Next to the physical camera sensor itself is a second infrared imaging sensor that is used for scanning the room. During the initial setup of Hello, Windows will ask to take a profile of your face and from there it's all pretty straightforward. Simply look into the camera when you see the login screen and if all goes well it should recognise you.

SCREEN

The Surface Book takes the already excellent screen found on the Pro 4 and pushes it to new heights, with a whopping resolution of 3000 x 2000 pixels. It is a little bigger at 13.5-inches diagonally across but with the increased resolution, pixel density still comes out the same as the Pro 4; a huge 267 pixels per inch. This blazes the comparatively sized MacBook Pro, which achieves an impressive but nonetheless inferior 232ppi.



Connectivity has moved onto the base for the Book, a logical move considering that you will spend most of the time using said ports when it is docked and on your desk. As standard, you get 2 USB 3.0 ports, an SD card reader and a Mini Display Port for connecting to a second screen, though this can all be expanded with the optional Surface Dock connector. Plug this into the charging port and your USB and Mini Display Port connections will double, plus you'll get a very handy Ethernet port. That said, at £164.99 for the dock, we can hardly call it a cheap investment.

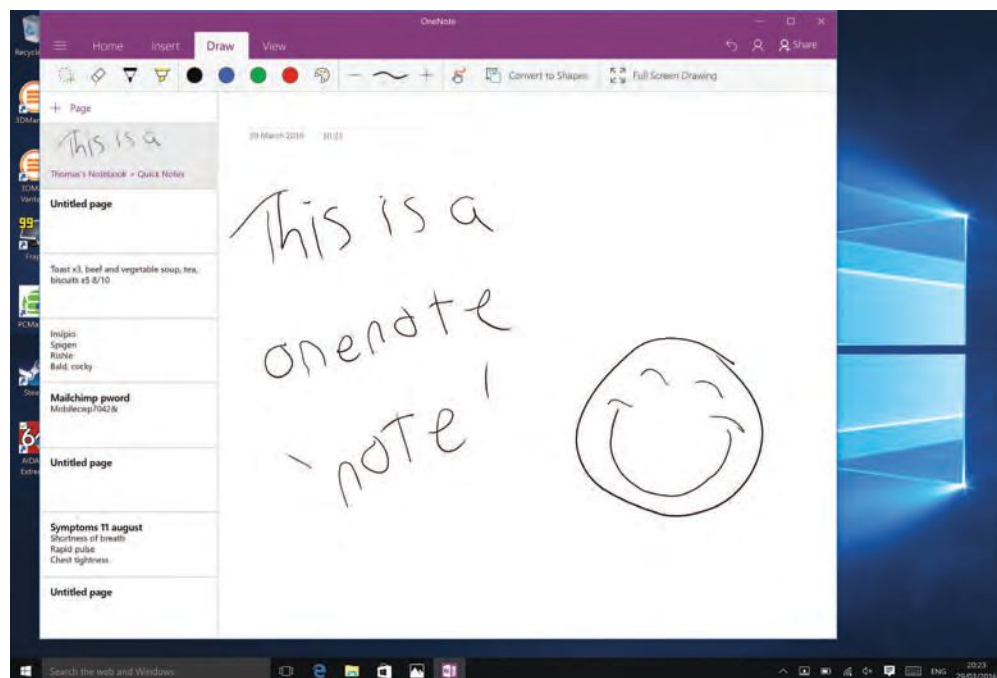
Move onto the keyboard and you have quite possibly the best typing experience on a Windows laptop to date, backed up by that glass trackpad found on the Surface Pro 4. It's every bit as smooth and responsive as you'll remember, with plenty of space for multi-touch gestures.

CAMERA

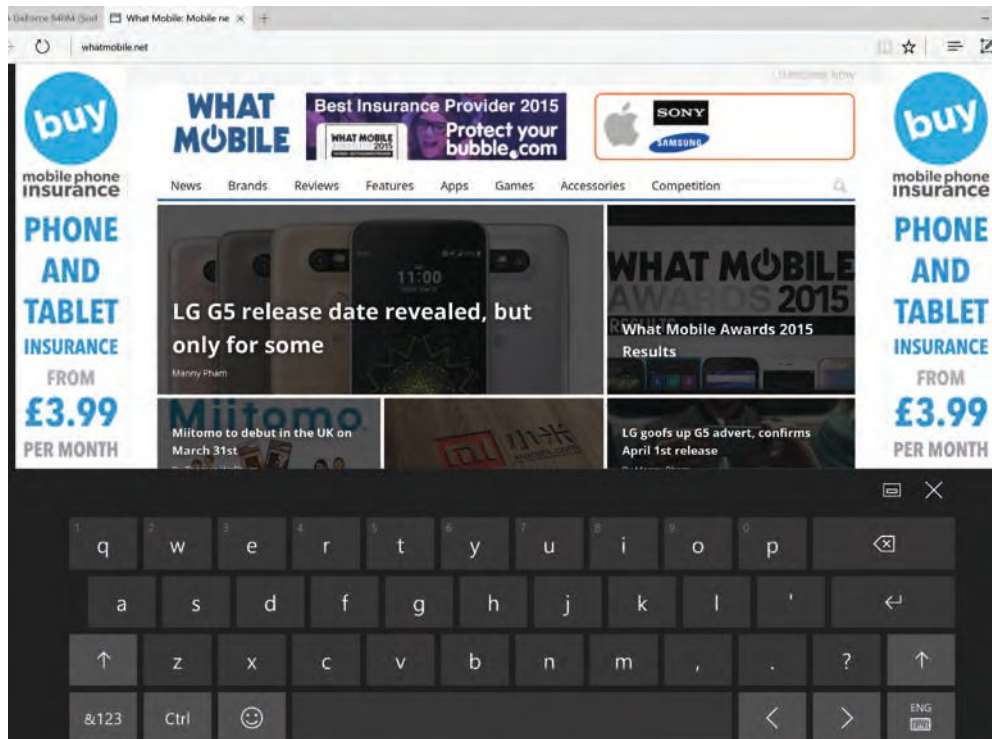
The cameras on the Surface Book are actually the same as what can be found on the new Surface Pro 4, meaning you get the same

near enough identical to the Pro 4, with usable daytime images on the whole. Low-light is still a write off, with the laptop

Resolution is only a small part of what makes a panel excellent however, and Microsoft didn't just stop at sheer pixel



The notefaking app can be launched with one click of the included Surface pen



The touch keyboard offers the best typing experience on a Windows laptop to date

count. Panos Panay proudly touted this as the best laptop panel on the market during the announcement back in October last year and there's plenty of home truths behind that claim. A claimed 100% Adobe sRGB coverage means it should be good for professional design work within the digital domain, though we recorded closer to 95% in real-world tests. A score of roughly 75% for Adobe RGB coverage isn't exactly stellar for print-based work but still way above most of the competition. We recorded an excellent 1750:1 contrast ratio, meaning that the panel was capable of displaying some of the deepest blacks we'd ever seen, while the white colours didn't have that dull grey hue about them. Colour accuracy ratings are practically off the chart, with an average Delta E rating of 0.59. To put this into perspective, anything around 1.0 is pretty spectacular. Anything below this rating and you're getting into

impeccable levels of accuracy.

This, when combined with the other innovations found on the Pro 4 such as reducing the optical stack to just 0.4mm, mean that it actually manages to eclipse that product even further. You probably won't notice the differences that much in the real world but trust us when we say, this is a fabulous panel.

PERFORMANCE

METRO LAST LIGHT:

3000X2000 HIGH UNPLAYABLE
3000X2000 LOW 24FPS

1920X1080 HIGH 17FPS
1920X1080 LOW 39FPS

1280X720 HIGH 31FPS
1280X720 LOW 77FPS

ROCKET LEAGUE:

3000X2000 HIGH 13FPS
3000X2000 LOW 36FPS

1920X1080 HIGH 24FPS
1920X1080 LOW 54FPS

1280X720 HIGH 35FPS
1280X720 LOW 87FPS

PCMARK08 WORK: 3848
PCMARK08 HOME: 2894
PCMARK08 CREATIVE: 3735

3DMARK11: 2842
3DMARK VANTAGE: 8426

Much like the Surface Pro 4, this is a fully-fledged desktop with regards to performance. We received the top-end i7-6600U model, a brand new Skylake dual core processor with hyperthreading support for an additional two virtual cores. Pair this with 16GB RAM (which Aida tells us is actually closer to 19GB) and you have got a ridiculously strong package. One of the trump cards up the sleeve of the Surface Book is a dedicated graphics card residing in the base which can be dynamically used when the tablet is docked. Trying to remove the tablet portion while the GPU is in use will issue a warning on screen; this only really occurs during more intensive software utilisation. While Microsoft has been unusually coy about what GPU it chose to use, it doesn't take much effort to find out. Aida lists it as a GM108 chip though doesn't clarify the model, while 3DMark identified it as a lowly Nvidia GTX 940M. This is classified as a mid-range card, though you could argue it barely slots into the line-up and is definitely more of a budget card.

Doing a round of PCMark 8 tests and gaming benchmarks showed a strong result, with the Surface Book comfortably leapfrogging the Pro 4 with regards to performance. It scored significantly higher across all tests; 3848 in the work benchmark, 3735 in the creative test and 2894 in the home trial. 3DMark 8 scores are understandably much higher thanks to that dedicated GPU, an addition that made a big difference while gaming. We managed to run all of our test titles at 1080p on low settings and get playable frame-rates, while a bit of tweaking to resolution would allow medium settings at a slightly reduced 1680 x 1050 on some games. Our flatmate comfortably played *Counter Strike: Global Offensive* well into the night on high settings at the latter resolution with smooth 60FPS for the most part.



SOFTWARE

After the Surface Pro 4 shipped with Windows 10, it only makes sense that the Surface Book should follow suit. As the OS drifts ever closer to maturity, there's less and less niggles to detract from the overall experience. Yes, the start screen still isn't what you'll remember from Windows 7 but the navigation is close enough that long-time users shouldn't struggle too much with the transition. The opinion dividing Metro Start screen from Windows 8 is still there, now residing in the start menu itself, though you're never forced to use it should you want the old-fashioned desktop experience.

Virtual assistant and Siri competitor Cortana has been carried across from Windows 10 Mobile in largely the same form as before. You'll get everything the mobile version has and it's all neatly crammed into the little search bar on the bottom left. You'll be able to use her for quick searches and speech communication, while also managing your calendar, making appointments and getting a daily overview of your schedule. Continuum is also on full show and acts as Microsoft's answer to a one-size-fits-all operating system. With the ability to dynamically change the interface depending on what device you're using, it's an impressive accomplishment that mostly works effortlessly.

We never encountered many issues with the docking station while in use. Removing the tablet will incur a small delay as the device adjusts, though it is only a matter of milliseconds. There were no catastrophic driver crashes during our extended time with the Surface Book, which is reassuring considering the dynamic hot-swapping between dedicated and integrated GPU's that happens on the fly.

BATTERY

The battery in the Surface Book is an interesting idea from Microsoft, since it is



The cameras are the same as on the Surface Pro 4, providing adequate if unspectacular results

actually divided into two separate partitions. The larger of the two cells resides in the base and will power the device when the tablet portion is docked. When you're using the top part on its lonesome, you'll actually only have 2,387mAh of a possible 9,187mAh. Microsoft claims it should be good for four hours of tablet-only use and we found that to be mostly true, so long as you are not sapping it with lots of power-hungry HD content.

With the full power of both batteries, you can expect a very large 12 hours of use from the Surface Book. While it does not always live up to this claim, especially when under strenuous use, you can make it to that number with some level of frugality. Microsoft has openly struggled with issues surrounding the battery life since launch, with earlier models suffering driver and sleep mode issues that would severely impact the

overall life. Thankfully, our model didn't seem to be one of those units. In a nice bonus, a full charge only takes around two hours from dead, meaning you can juice it up pretty quickly and be on the move with minimal fuss.

CONCLUSION

An even better screen than what can be found on the Surface Pro 4, the most incredible, over-engineered hinge we've ever seen and the addition of that all-important dedicated GPU make this more than just a fancy premium edition. If you're serious about creative work but need the portability, the Surface Book should be able to handle moderate tasks with little difficulty. That said, it is only a low-end graphics card so do not expect the performance of a gaming notebook, despite it costing a small fortune.

VERDICT

It is not the most powerful machine ever made but the sheer portability and impeccable design makes this a force to be reckoned with. If you're after a productivity beast, Microsoft may have nailed it with the Surface Book. This is not just another laptop wannabe.

- + Dedicated GPU
- + Best-in-class-screen
- + That hinge
- So expensive it hurts
- Battery life in tablet mode is short
- Connectivity low without dock

OVERALL ★★★★★

PERFORMANCE

★★★★★

DESIGN

★★★★★

INNOVATION

★★★★★

USABILITY

★★★★★

FEATURES

★★★★★

VALUE

★★★★★

Pebble Time Round

A change of strategy sees Pebble design its best-looking smartwatch yet. But is it style over substance?

Price: £169.99 Reviewer: James Pearce



SPEC SHEET

OS Compatibility Android 4.0+, iOS 7+
Processor N/A
Screen 0.73-inches e-ink display
Resolution N/A
Memory N/A
Sensors Sleep, Pedometer, Running,
Storage N/A
MicroSD Compatible? No

AT A GLANCE

Speed



3/5

Comfort



5/5

Battery



3/5

Rewind back a few years ago and smartwatches were the stuff of James Bond movies and pipe dreams. Then along came a record-breaking Kickstarter project by a little known US start-up called Pebble. A few years later, almost every manufacturer, from Apple and Samsung right through to Alcatel, has launched a smartwatch, but the design and functionalities of wearables has come on leaps and bounds. No longer are they big, lumpy square behemoths that feel like you've strapped anchor to your wrist – now smartwatches are beginning to actually look like watches. It is this idea, a watch that does smart things, that serves as a starting point for the Pebble Time Round.

DESIGN

Unlike previous Pebble smartwatches such as the Classic and Time Steel, the Time Round is the US manufacturer's first circular device. That seems to be the direction most smartwatches are taking – Samsung, Motorola and LG have all brought out round timepieces – and it is a direction we really like.

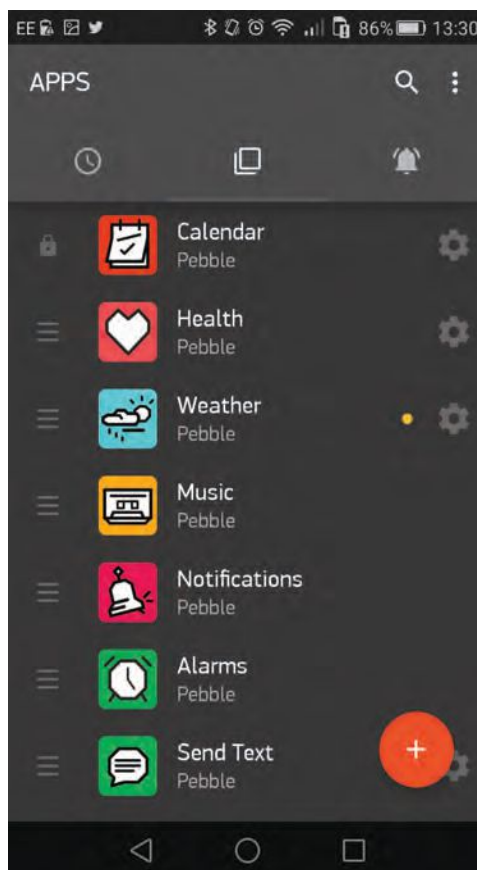
The Time Round is no different – it is one of the most comfortable smartwatches we have tried, in part because it is one of the most lightweight devices on the market at just 28g. It also comes in at just 7.5mm thickness. To put that in perspective Samsung's Gear S2 is 11.4mm – and you can definitely feel the difference.

At times, the watch is so light, you'll forget that you're wearing it, which is a real compliment to Pebble's designers.

The strap also helps with that. If you look at pictures of the Time Round, you could easily mistake the basic strap for a plastic one, but it is actually a very lightweight leather and is surprisingly comfortable.

The size and design, plus the leather strap, makes the Time Round feel like a truly gender-neutral smartwatch. Unlike rival devices such as the Moto 360 or Gear S2, the Pebble doesn't look out of place on smaller wrists.

One of our few criticisms of the Time Round's design is to do with the screen. Rather than having a full circular screen, there is a large bezel around the e-ink display, which makes the screen appear a lot smaller. Kind of like a porthole. This is



The selection of apps is limited

fine when the device is just on a normal watch face but switch over to something that needs more display, such as mapping or messaging, and it becomes a bit of a pain.

SCREEN

Inside the stainless steel casing, we have circular e-paper display with a 180 x 180 resolution. To get an impression of what this looks like in person, think of an Amazon Kindle display – the colours are slightly dull but text is clear. It lacks the vibrancy of an LED screen but doesn't sap the power in the same way either.

If you compare this screen to smartwatches, the Pebble is going to come off worse. The display is far too

blocky and simplistic to compete with the Apple Watch or Gear S2, and the colour palette – 64 colours – is extremely limited. But that comparison is not entirely fair. For one thing, you get an always-on display you are unlikely to find on rival devices. If you had a normal watch, it would always be on and Pebble has achieved that here. Also, it is a lot clearer in sunlight than an LED display would be.

If it's dark and you flick your wrist, a backing light comes on. Well, it is supposed to and works about 80 per cent of the time but the sensor is not particularly responsive, meaning you have to flick your wrist quite violently.

The lovely circular design does come with one major downside though. Anyone who has previously used a Pebble Watch will be used to a device that lasts you for almost a week on a single charge. By reducing the size of the watch and, subsequently, the battery so dramatically, this falls to two days at most, Pebble claims.

We found that claim a bit



generous. For the most part we saw about a day and a half worth of average usage before the battery ran out entirely, and even less if we used battery-intensive apps such as Runkeeper.

The reason for this is obvious. The Pebble Time has a 150mAh battery, while the one found on the Pebble Steel is

even larger. But on the Time Round? Just 56mAh. While this does allow the device to be much slimmer and more lightweight, the battery life can be frustrating when compared with other Pebble products.

Also, Pebble is positioning this product as a watch that does smart things, as opposed to a smartwatch, but watch batteries last years.

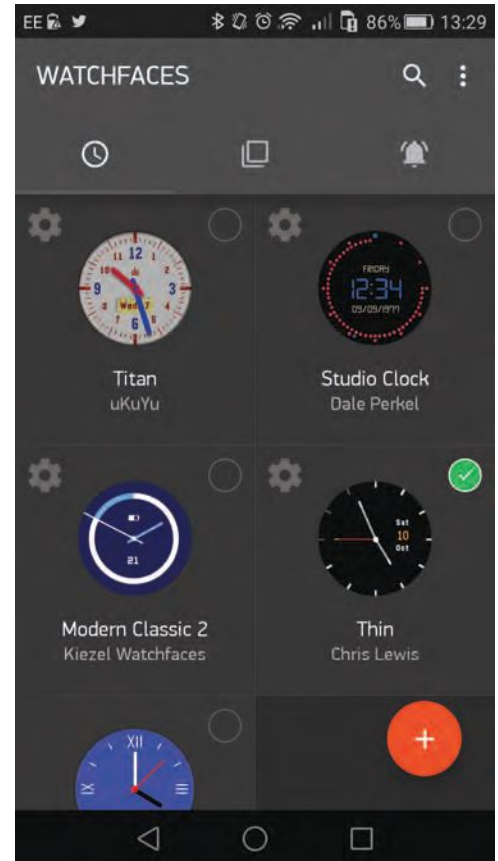
To counter this, Pebble has included a quick charge function and that is superb. Attach the Time Round to the magnetised charger and it will charge three quarters of the battery within 15 minutes. Perfect for when you take it off to go for a shower (it's splash proof but not fully waterproof).

PERFORMANCE

One of the key things to remember with the Pebble Time Round is that it is meant to be a low-tech alternative to smartwatches. That means it comes with some fairly basic functionality and is missing a lot of other sensors and tech you'd find on rival smartwatches.

It has Bluetooth, which seemed to work perfectly, a step counter and a microphone for note-taking and sending texts.

The step counter was one of the most useful functions but wasn't entirely free of problems. For one thing, it didn't seem to recognise the difference between walking and running. The step



The Time Round offers a choice of faces

counter estimates what distance you've covered but when we used in on a run, and had the Runkeeper app going in the background, it seemed to detect a different distance to that app, even though Runkeeper was paired with the Time Round. It also failed to take information from Runkeeper about calories burned – a simple thing, sure, but one which would make it feel a lot more interactive.

The Time Round doesn't have GPS or a heart rate monitor, although Pebble assured us that it would be bringing out bands that could be bought which offer both types of functionality. It also doesn't have a touchscreen – those unfamiliar with Pebble may find it odd that the screen is just a screen – instead using soft buttons on the sides of the watch.

These buttons may at first feel a bit strange to tech users used to touchscreens but actually become fairly intuitive within hours of use.

The three buttons on the right of the Time Round navigate the menus (up, enter, down) while the button on the left serves as a back/cancel button.

The up and down



The Time Round is Pebble's first circular device, and one of the most comfortable to wear

buttons can also be assigned as quick buttons to access certain apps – we had one set as the Google Health app and the other to control our music player.

SOFTWARE

The interface itself is fairly basic – an up and down menu with some simple animations and all of your apps lined up, including ones you have downloaded. IT also has an in-built notifications/calendar called “Timeline” which lets you look back through all your past notifications for the day, or through your appointments for the rest of it. This can be brilliant, but only if you're an avid user of the

calendar app on your phone.

Though Pebble recommends you install Android Wear on your smartphone to use the Time Round, most apps are downloaded through the Pebble Time app.

The selection of apps is limited but there are a few very basic games plus a selection of notification apps for sports or weather, health tracking apps from Misfit and Runkeeper and a few that use the in-built mic.

The Time Round works with both

iOS and Android but has no support for Windows 10. The main function, and arguably its best performing feature, is notifications. You get notifications from almost anything – texts, Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp, emails and your calendar. One of the nice features is that the watch vibrates gently to let you know something has come through to your phone but then keeps the alert on the screen until you cancel it. This means that, if you are too busy, you can revisit it later with ease.

CONCLUSION

It is difficult to compare the Pebble Time Round to any other smartwatches on the market. In terms of functionality, it does not come near the Gear S2 or Apple Watch but then that is not what Pebble is aiming for. Design wise, it is as nice as either of those, barring the far-too-large bezel around the slightly too small screen.

But it can't be compared to other Pebble's, either, because it feels almost like an experiment – a move away from what Pebble has always done best (long battery life, solid performance, slightly childish design) to a more elegant, adult product that eschews those benefits in favour of an elegant form.

It isn't the cheapest smartwatch on the market, either, but then it is still a very pretty watch and seemed to catch a lot of people's eye when we were testing it out.



VERDICT

A change of strategy sees Pebble design its best-looking smartwatch yet, but at the expense of battery life and performance. It feels great on the wrist, to the point where you'll almost forget it is there, and handles notifications flawlessly. If you can get over the fact that you'll need to charge it every other day, and you're not too bothered about having all the whirring gadgets like a heart rate monitor or GPS, then it is a nice smartwatch to have.

- + Dedicated GPU
- + Best-in-class-screen
- + That hinge
- So expensive it hurts
- Battery life in tablet mode is short
- Connectivity low without dock

OVERALL ★★★★★

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★	USABILITY ★★★★★
DESIGN ★★★★★	FEATURES ★★★★★
INNOVATION ★★★★★	VALUE ★★★★★

HOW TO

Install Android N

If you're a curious cat like us with a spare Nexus device hanging around, have a play around with Android N. It's the next step for the Google-developed operating system, with new features that will make scrolling through the future Android UI like a dream. It is a developer's preview so it's really not designed to be used on a day-to-day basis. There's the risk of it wiping out your entire device and the expected odd crashing. Poor battery life could also be a problem as the build isn't optimised yet and some apps are just not compatible. Install at your own risk and have fun. If you don't want to take the risk then head onto our feature on Android N, as we highlight all the best bits, along with all the risks.



1

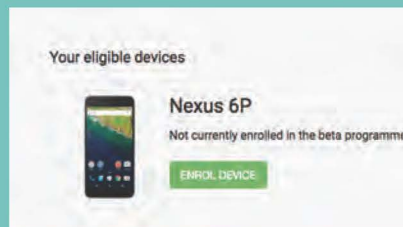


Get the right device

Only Nexus devices can run the developer's preview, as it always has been. It makes sense seeing as Nexus and Android are Google's babies. There seems to be an emphasis on bigger screens with Android N, as a lot of the updates take advantage of the extra space. The following devices are eligible for enrolment to Android N: Nexus 6, Nexus 9, Nexus 5X, Nexus 6P, Nexus Player, Google Pixel C and Android One.

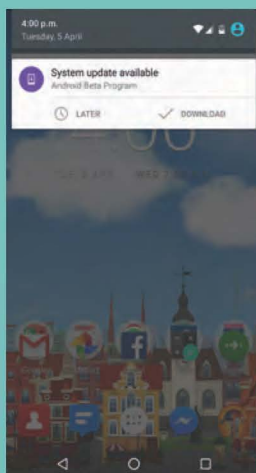
2

Enrolment



It used to be a complete headache to download and install Google's developer previews. This time around Google has made it so accessible we wept with joy, as we wouldn't have to stay later in the office. There's some exaggeration there, but the dinner reservation was met. Once you sign into your Google account on your Google device, go to the following link: www.google.com/android/beta. You should see your device ready for enrolling.

3

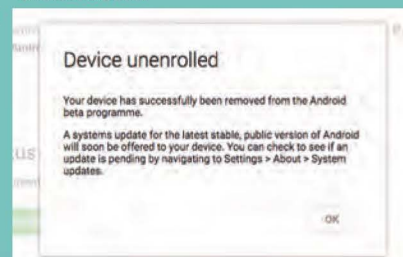


Install and enjoy

Once you log in you'll see all eligible devices that you own. Click 'Enroll Device' on the device you wish to be your sacrificial lamb. Read the terms and conditions and tick that box after doing so, then simply tap 'Join Beta'. It can take up to 24 hours for the over-the-air update to come through. You'll be prompted in your notification when the OTA update comes through. Make sure your Wi-Fi is connected to avoid a massive phone bill.

4

Uninstall



If you didn't have a spare Google device lying around and you were too much of a curious cat, don't worry. You can easily reverse the process. Go back to the beta page: www.google.com/android/beta. Click 'Unenrol Device' to receive another OTA update, which will then install the latest Android update available to the public. Be warned though, this will wipe your entire device. Photos, music, messages, all of it. Backing up everything is advisable, cloud or hard drive, it's up to you.



All iPhone models covered for loss, theft & damage
at only £6.99 a month/ £74.99 a year.



 **insurance2go**



Insurance2go is a trading name of Loyal Insurance Services Ltd. Registered in the UK number: 5350177.
Registered address: 9 Quay Court, Colliers Lane, Stow-cum-Quy, Cambridge, CB25 9AU. Loyal Insurance
Services Ltd is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority - Firm number 430316.

ANDROID PREVIEW

Let's all be honest here, Android was pretty rubbish when it first came out in 2008. Android 1.0 was in a very infant state; it wasn't really fair to compare it to iOS at the time, which had a massive headstart as it was Apple's innovation baby at the time. But now iOS and Android have improved so much, at times both operating systems intertwine to a point where they seem almost identical. Google got us by surprise with the announcement of Android N. It was announced even before Google's I/O event in May.

Marshmallow 6.0 (Android M) only started rolling out properly a little

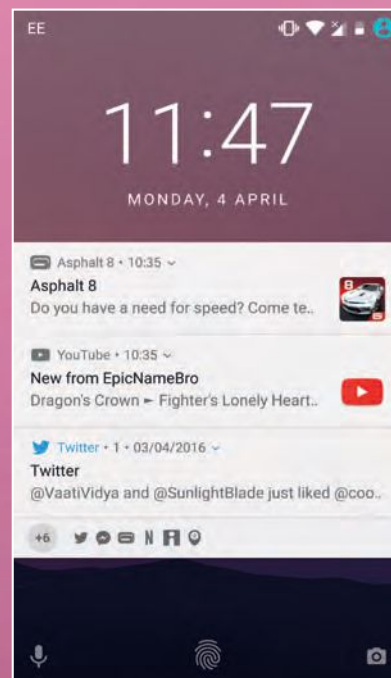
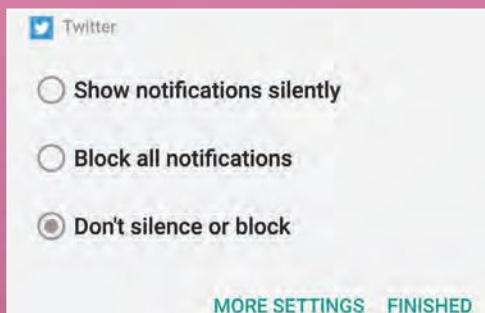
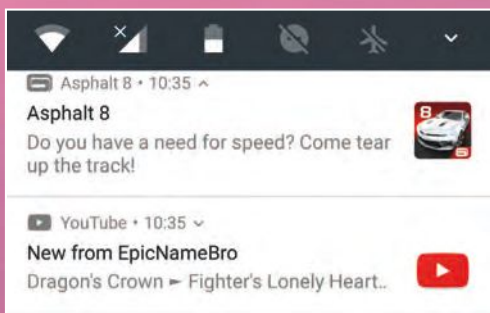
while ago. Google is now more than halfway through the alphabet (maybe it will move to the Klingon alphabet?). You can try Android N yourself; the developer's preview is available for all (have a look at our How To guide).

Android N has been dubbed by some as the next upgrade. It is but this is the first preview with only a handful of new features on showcase. It is more Android 6.1, with mostly aesthetic upgrades and some cool features we immediately fell in love with. It is a great sign of what's to come for Android. Expect more previews in the run up to summer.



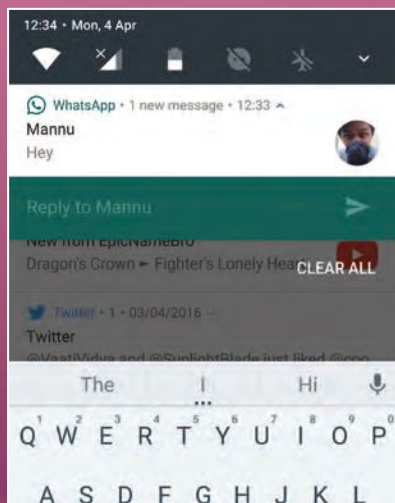
NOTIFICATIONS

Notifications get a huge revamp in the aesthetics department with a fresh look and making use of huge screens. Notifications are now wider, taking up more of the screen to reveal more information without having to tap in. Notifications are also bundled to avoid a massive list sprawling down your phone. Tapping into your notifications reveal options, so you can archive emails or even silence your Twitter feed, without having to enter the native apps.



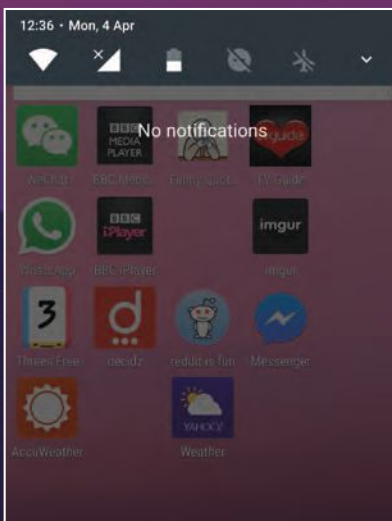
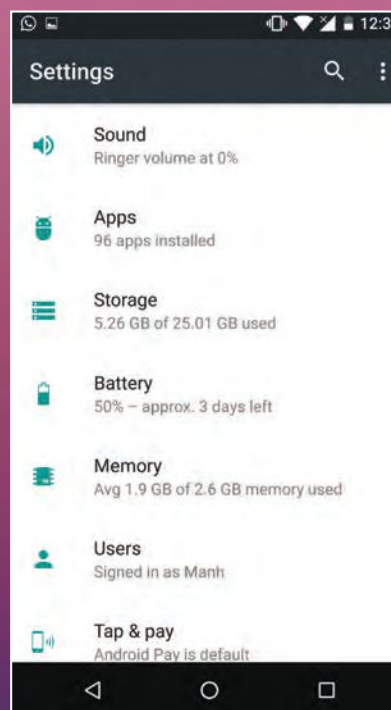
DIRECT REPLY

Google has listened to the feedback and it has delivered. Direct replying from notifications is now a native Android feature. This should be in the top two of features that survives the eventual cull, before Android N's official unveiling and rebranding. Third-party apps worked very well with direct replying. WhatsApp suffered no lag or crashing, nor did messages fail to get through. iOS users know this luxury fully well. We want to see it applied to social media, replying directly to Snapchat messages would save a lot of time.



SETTINGS

Google is embracing the big phones with Android N, as more people are buying devices with more screen real estate. Android N settings reveal more information on screen to cut down screen tapping. The benefit here is pretty obvious. Underneath each option is the information you would desire. Storage shows how many gigabytes you have got left, apps reveal how many have been installed and battery reveals the lifespan in percentage (not on the home screen weirdly) and timespan. There's also a swipe-out side menu when you are in settings. We don't think it really saves steps but it is pretty handy, not having to reach down to the back button.



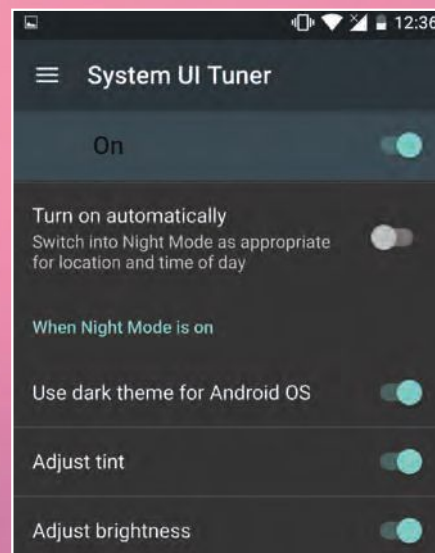
QUICK SETTINGS

Google has taken a note out of Samsung's book here with the quick settings up top. TouchWiz and HTC Sense proved even though it is a small feature, it is one that is extremely useful. You can turn on your flashlight, turn on mobile data and switch off Wi-Fi with ease. Drag down the quick settings opens up more setting options, which is now paginated to accommodate more options. The options can be edited and swapped around so that your most used ones can be a quick setting. Customisation is what the Android experience is all about and it is now even more so, much to our delight.



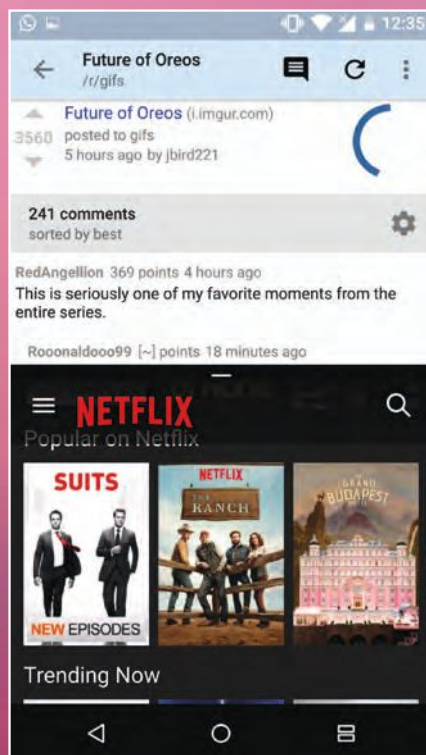
NIGHT MODE

Night Mode is sneakily hidden in the system UI. You can find it by swiping down the quick settings menu and long pressing the settings button on the top right. Your phone will congratulate you, saying you have unlocked the system UI tuner. Tap into system UI tuner and you will find a feature Google omitted from the Android M preview, and that was even more sneakily hidden. Night Mode is a feature we hope won't get curved to the side this time. It most likely won't, seeing as it appeared last year, but more so because iOS 9.3 introduced Night Mode just recently. Turning on Night Mode applies a brownish tint, much like a pair of sunglasses, on your screen to save you from that bright and powerful QHD display. It can also be set to turn on automatically, depending on the time zone you are in. We are assuming it is supposed to be on at sunset but it is quite finicky and forgot its cue. Night Mode was by far the buggiest feature out of the bunch. At the time of writing we can't seem to get out of it...



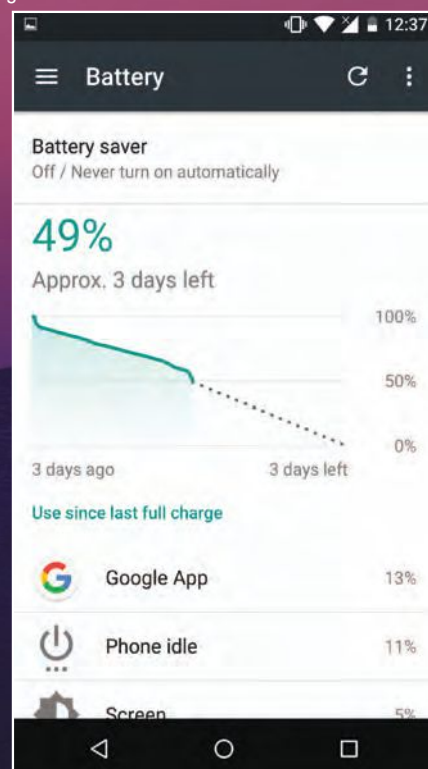
MULTI WINDOW

This was the first Android N feature to be confirmed. Via a Reddit AMA, the Pixel C team confirmed it was working on the feature three months ago. Samsung and LG already enjoy multi-window in their Android skins; it's probably the showiest feature in Android N. By simply holding down the multitasking button, you'll be treated to two windows to play with. It is not refined as expected being a preview. You can't watch videos while browsing Facebook. Videos pause as soon as you touch the other window. Samsung's TouchWiz can do this no problem, even playing two videos at the same time (which is obviously futile). Hopefully Google fixes this. Watching a video while looking at Facebook is a very common practice. Multi-window will be a lot more useful for tablets and would definitely help shift a lot more Nexus tablets.



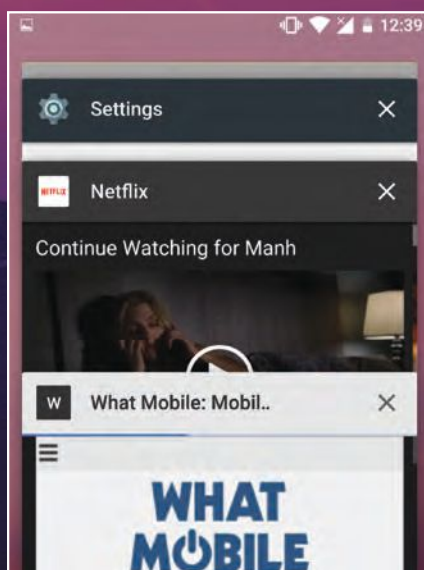
DOZE MODE

A sleeper hit from Android Marshmallow, Google's sneaky way to make your device save a lot more energy. The best way to describe it is a deep standby mode. Android N evolves Doze Mode by enabling it to thoroughly limit background tasks when on standby. Doze Mode had some criticism, with some users complaining it doesn't really work. This is due to deteriorating battery life as a device ages, so the average person wouldn't really notice Doze Mode in action. We found Doze Mode to be a lot more effective in Android N, extended battery life is always a winner and you can be sure to expect this revamp to make it into the final version of Android N. Doze Mode 2.0 is basically Batman, always in the dark, rescuing you without you realising. Doze Mode 2.0 is the hero you deserve but not the one you get right now.



MULTI TASKING

Last but definitely not the least, probably our favourite Android N feature. With Android N you are able to switch between apps with a double tap of the multi-tasking button. It made it a lot easier to copy and paste something with no delay before you forget what you were about to do! Opening up the multi-tasking menu has been optimised with your most recent app being dragged all the way to the bottom of the screen, making it a more streamlined experience when you want to scroll through previous apps. Strangely jumping through different apps did not crash our 6P at all. Google seemed to have really worked out the kink before it unleashed this developer's preview. Android N, Android Nougat or whatever it is going to call it, will be a welcomed upgrade.



If, like Charlie, you have splashed out on a brand spanking new mobile phone and promptly dropped it in the street where it was run over by a passing mobility scooter, don't despair. Just follow these **5 easy steps** to mobile salvation...



01

Stop crying.

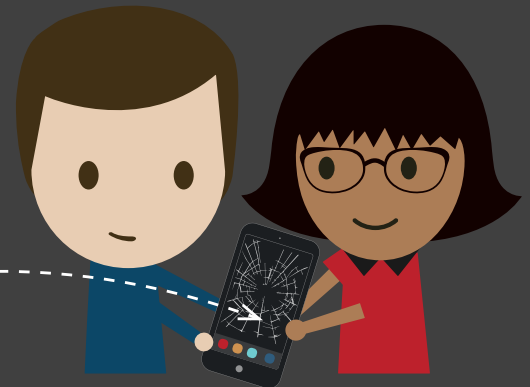
It's OK. Really. These things happen and can easily be fixed...



02

Head for the Phone Service Centre.

Check online at phoneservicecentre.co.uk for details.



03

Hand over the phone...

Just pass it over to one of our expert technicians who will assess the damage.



05

Take back your shiny repaired phone

and resume your digital life...



04

Relax

Sit down, relax, have a cup of coffee and enjoy the peace and quiet for 40 minutes whilst your screen is fixed.

Visit our London store: 68 Welbeck Street W1G 0AS **Nearest tubes:** Bond St or Oxford Circus

New Stores are popping up all the time, please check our website for further details phoneservicecentre.co.uk

If you'd like to join our franchise please get in touch on franchise@phoneservicecentre.co.uk

or call us on **0333 999 7927**

LOOK AND LEARN

With exam season fast approaching, we know that it can be tough to manage, keep track and revise for all the tests hiding around the corner. Naturally, you'll be neck deep in a bunch of reading material while you try to frantically understand everything that needs to be learned but it doesn't all have to be stone-age technology. Your smartphone is an excellent tool for this and can give you a subtle hand during those busy evening hours. We've scoured the various app stores to find the best revision apps currently available, so you can schedule, learn and hopefully improve those grades.

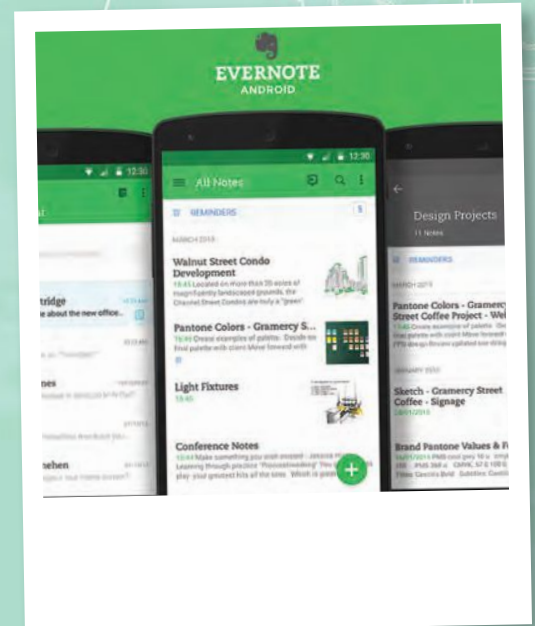
📌 EVERNOTE PENULTIMATE (IOS)

Billed as the ultimate handwriting application for iOS devices, *Penultimate* focuses on combining the natural experience of pen and paper with Evernote's sync and search features. Featuring deep integration with the Evernote partner app, it is a solid note-taker that has a good array of organisational features and, more importantly, a natural writing experience with smooth ink movements and easy page navigation.



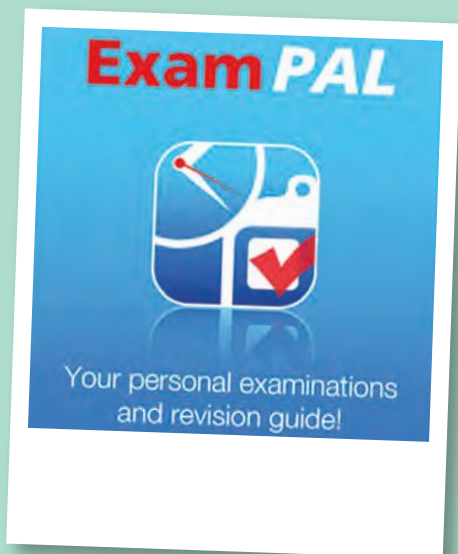
📌 EVERNOTE (ANDROID, IOS AND WINDOWS)

How could we create a revision list without including this widely popular notetaking application? *Evernote* has pretty much all the tools you could need for syncing important notes between devices and computers. With utilities for text, sketching, photos, audio, video and more, there's limitless ways to create and organise those all-important post-its. Oh and did we mention that it's also on Windows Phone too?



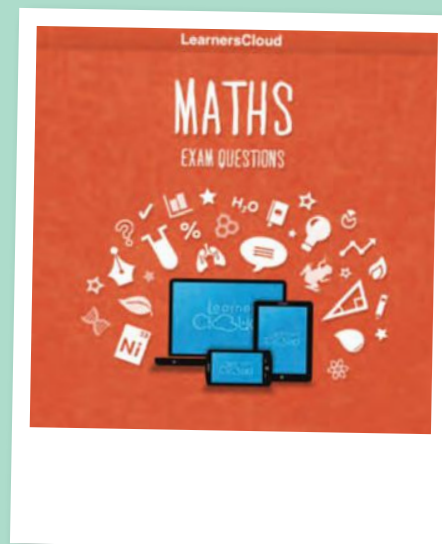
EXAM PAL

As featured on BBC News Click, *Exam Pal* allows you to create a personalised exam table complete with calendars and alerts to keep you on target. You'll get all the information in a personalised feed, showing when and where each exam will be taking place. Full personalisation controls are in place, allowing customisation of your name, college and more. You'll also be able to add specific details for each exam and colour code them according to subject.



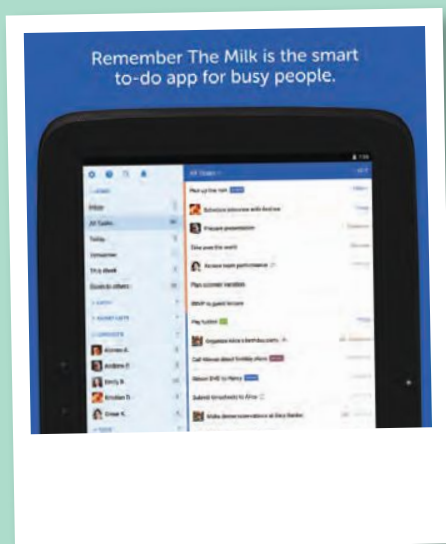
GCSE MATHS: REVISION QUESTIONS (IOS)

As one in a number of applications that gives you real curriculum level questions, *GCSE Maths: Revision Questions* offers over 43 possible topics with specific themes such as multiple choice and filling in the blanks. Each topic has over 1000 possible questions, meaning there's plenty to get stuck into. Whether it's a spare five minutes during lunch or a few minutes on public transport, you'll always have something to hand to help with memorising those pesky questions.



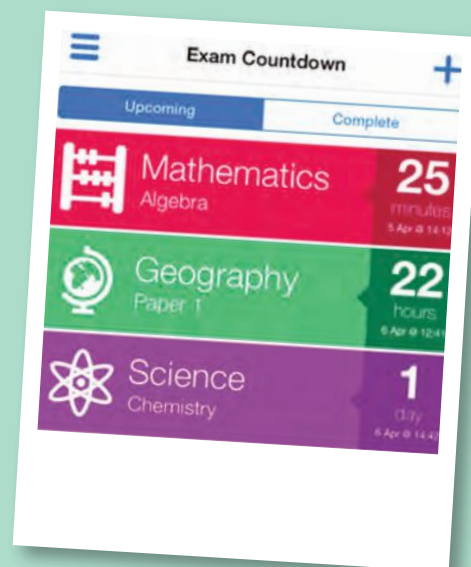
REMEMBER THE MILK

A note-taking application which is on the same level of features as *Evernote*, *Remember the Milk* integrates with lots of the major apps for complete synchronisation of tasks, lists and notes. You'll have full control of subtasks and sorting, plus the ability to colour tags and set reminders. Much like *Evernote*, a pro version is also available, which includes a massive list of premium features including subtasks and more advanced sorting.



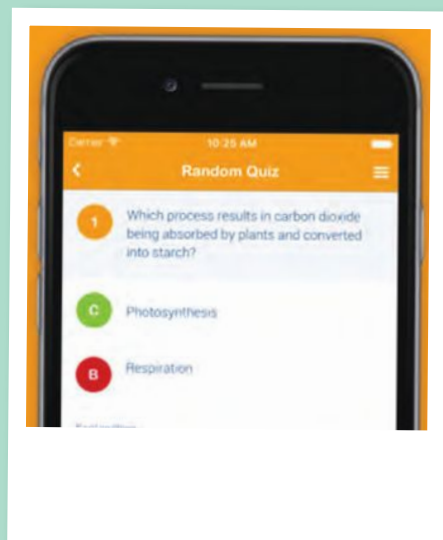
EXAM COUNTDOWN

When exam dates start to get a little bit too much and it becomes overwhelming, you'll probably need an application to keep track of everything that's going on. *Exam Countdown* is a free application with one primary function in mind, helping students keep track of their upcoming exams and giving you a visual countdown of how long until each one takes place. Everything is well laid out and easy to see, plus you'll get a handy reminder when there's one coming up.



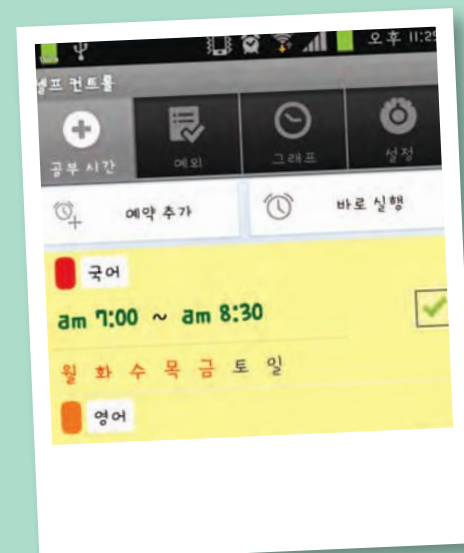
GOJIMO

As the UK's leading revision app, *Gojimo* has quite a lot of expectations on its shoulders. Thankfully it doesn't disappoint, with an incredibly simple and intuitive interface that has plenty of things to get stuck into. With more than 150,000 quiz questions covering everything from GCSE to A Level on every possible subject, it should keep you busy for quite a while. With content mapped to specific UK syllabuses including AQA and Edexcel, you'll also know that you're getting the correct information for the impending test.



SELF-CONTROL FOR STUDY

Ever been in that awkward position where everything feels like a distraction? With all the modern technology around, it comes as no surprise that there's much more potential for being thrown off topic. *Self-Control for Study* is something that attempts to remedy this by blocking access to specific applications for a pre-determined set of time. You'll get a nice study time display reminding you to work and it's even possible to schedule these study periods, giving all the potential for creating a solid revision plan.



A stylized illustration of a hand holding a smartphone. The phone's screen displays a white recycling symbol (three chasing arrows forming a triangle) on a green background. The hand is rendered in shades of orange and peach. The background is a solid teal color.

TRADE-IN PLACES

Each month, millions of people recycle their handsets in the hope of making some spare cash before the inevitable upgrade. Unfortunately, there's still some £13 billion in unaccounted handsets, according to SellMyMobile.com. An estimated two unused handsets can be found in every UK household and you've probably got one stowed away somewhere that you have forgotten about right now. Whether they are stuck behind a sofa or thrown in the back of some random cupboard, people are sitting on a literal goldmine of potential cash should they get hold of their old handsets. With Londoners trading in more handsets than anywhere else in the UK, we thought that we'd lend a helping hand for the country. With help from SellMyMobile, we've compiled a list of the top handsets currently available for trade-in. Prepare to raid your cupboards, as there's some hefty money to be made here.

DEVICE	HIGHEST TRADE-IN PRICE	HIGH-PRICE RECYCLER	TOP RATED RECYCLER	LOWEST TRADE-IN PRICE	LOW PRICE RECYCLER	DIFFERENCE IN PRICE
 IPHONE 5S 16GB	£118.55	RPC RECYCLING	IGADGETS RECYCLED	£30.89	TOPDOLLARMOBILE	£87.66
 IPHONE 5 16GB	£102.10	PHONE RECYCLER	IGADGETS RECYCLED	£15.00	TOPDOLLARMOBILE	£87.10
 SAMSUNG GALAXY S5	£125.00	RPC RECYCLING	MUSICMAGPIE. CO.UK	£49.66	TOPDOLLARMOBILE	£75.34
 IPHONE 5C 16GB	£97.00	PHONE RECYCLERS	MUSICMAGPIE. CO.UK	£17.23	TOPDOLLARMOBILE	£79.77
 IPHONE 6 16GB	£265.08	ENVIROFONE	ENVIROFONE	£80.00	TOPDOLLARMOBILE	£185.08
 IPHONE 4S 16GB	£42.80	PHONE RECYCLERS	RAPID RECYCLE	£8.00	TOPDOLLARMOBILE	£34.80
 HTC ONE M8	£95.00	PHONE RECYCLERS	RAPID RECYCLE	£67.50	GEEK SQUAD	£27.50
 BLACKBERRY Z30	£82.00	PHONE RECYCLERS	FONEBANK	£37.50	GEEK SQUAD	£44.50
 HTC ONE M9	£174.10	IGADGETS RECYCLED	IGADGETS RECYCLED	£102.75	RAPID RECYCLE	£71.35
 SAMSUNG GALAXY S7 EDGE 64GB	£280.00	FONEBANK	FONEBANK	£280.00	FONEBANK	£0.00
 LG G4	£141.00	SELLYOURMOBILE.COM	FONEBANK	£101.50	MOBILE CASH MATE	£39.50



LORD OF THE SPIES...

Steve Lord is a White Hat hacker and runs his own company, Mandalorian Security Services Ltd. With over a decade of experience on information security, he works for good and would choose to destroy the Sith, not join them. Join us every month as he gives his view on the world of privacy.

Geolocation, location

This month's column is all about geolocation. Or rather, making things happen based on where you are. Our phones are incredible devices, but our location is being constantly tracked by them by both the government and the private sector. There are many ways that we're tracked from onboard GPS through to the mobile cell towers themselves. Thankfully this also provides the functionality we need for apps like Google Maps, but that's only scratching the surface of what you can do.

Tasker force

Tasker is an application for Android that performs actions based on user-defined criteria in profiles or widgets. Put simply, Tasker is a tool to automate your phone without having to go through the trouble of rooting your device. At £2.99, it is an absolute steal.

Lets take a look at how we can use Tasker to automatically switch on your Wi-Fi whenever you arrive at home.

First install Tasker, then when you open it accept the terms and conditions. Hit the + symbol to add a new profile and you'll see the category menu. Select phone, then cell near and click on scan. You should see your nearest mobile cell tower appear. Once you see it, click stop and delete the text up to and including the forward slash. Tap the back button in the top left, then the app will tell you what task to run. Tap new task and give it a name, like 'Wi-F On'. Click on the tick and you'll hit the action screen. Use the + to add a new action, tap 'Net', then Wi-Fi and change the value of Set to On. Go back a couple of taps and you should see a rule not entirely like this.

If you want to have Tasker kill the Wi-Fi when you leave, create an identical profile but tick the invert box when you're adding the cell tower, and make sure the action is set to turn the Wi-Fi off.

Once you've done this, remember to feel particularly smug when you show it to iPhone users. There's no public API to change Wi-Fi status on iOS, so without a Jailbreak tweak, iPhone users are left behind.



Go with the flow



It's not all bad for iOS users. Workflow is an iOS-only app that does much of the work that Tasker does for £1.99. It's limited by the access that Apple is prepared to permit on iPhones but it's still pretty powerful. Workflow uses a combination of actions and workflows to do its stuff, but there's a ton of examples to get your started. One of the interesting things you can do with workflow is use the widget to get actions onto your lock screen. I'll walk through adding a button to send your estimated time of arrival home.

After installing the app, open workflow and go to the gallery. Slide through the options at the top until you find Today Widget, then tap it. Select Home ETA and tap get workflow. You'll then be taken to the My Workflows screen, where if you tap Home ETA, you'll be able to fill in your details. Add your address, preferred transportation mode and recipients, along with whomever you want to send the message to and tap the play button to test it. Providing it all works, hit done to finish editing the workflow. Tap settings at the bottom of the screen and go to the Today Widget options to add the Home ETA button to your widget area.

Now when you want to send a loved one your ETA, you can use the widget area to have your iPhone work out where you are, how far away from home you are and to prepare a message for you to send. There are plenty of other workflows to choose from, from a tip calculator to being able to make PDFs from web pages on your phone.

School's out? Get an alert whenever your kids leave...

If This, Then That (otherwise known as IFTTT) is the equivalent of Tasker for all of your online life and is available for both iOS and Android. Windows Mobile users can use third-party tools like IFTTT for Cortana but the experience isn't as good. IFTTT uses the concept of recipes, which is simply a way of storing conditions and actions to say something like, if the weather looks like rain today, send you a reminder to take an umbrella to work at 8am. IFTTT is free, and there are countless recipes that already exist. The only downside in all of this is that recipes are often specific to Android or iOS.

After setting up an account at ifttt.com, go to <https://ifttt.com/recipes/194477-send-sms-to-your-phone-when-the-kids-enter-or-exit-a-school-zone> and enter your school's location. You can adjust the size of the zone with the plus and minus buttons, then add your phone number and modify the message if you like. Finally, click add and the recipe will now run. Install the app on your child's phone and you should receive an alert whenever they leave the school area. It's probably best to set up a separate IFTTT account for your child. You don't want your child getting notifications of your workouts, or reminders when you haven't done any exercise for a few days.

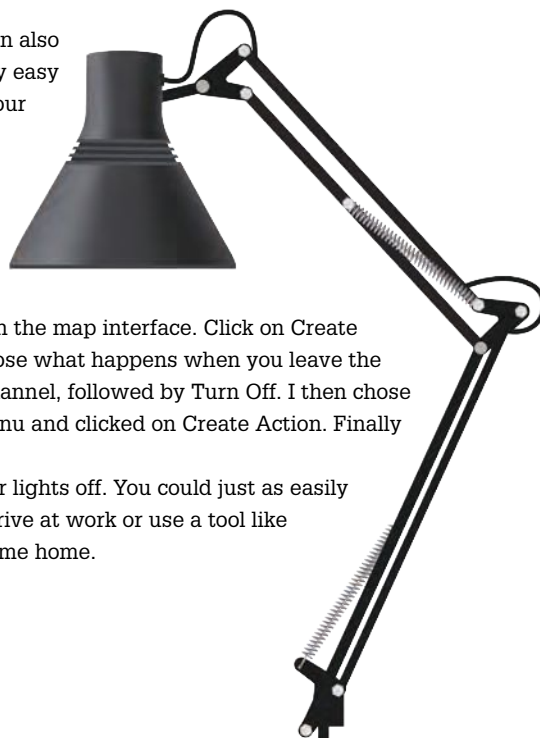


... and you can turn me on and off remotely

As well as other peoples' recipes, you can also create your own with IFTTT. It is pretty easy to use it to create a recipe to turn off your lights when you leave home.

Go to the My Recipes section of the IFTTT website and click on create a recipe. Click on the word 'this' and type location in the search box. Select the channel for your device – I'm using iOS location in this example. Then select 'You exit an area' and set your location on the map interface. Click on Create Trigger, then the word 'that'. Now you can choose what happens when you leave the area. I selected a Wemo Switch as the action channel, followed by Turn Off. I then chose my downstairs lamp from the Which Switch menu and clicked on Create Action. Finally I clicked on Create Recipe.

Of course, you don't have to make it turn your lights off. You could just as easily have a recipe to record the time you leave or arrive at work or use a tool like Launch Center Pro to start Spotify when you come home.



The geo-game's on

Geolocation isn't just for serious business and lifehacks. There's also heaps of fun to be had with geolocation-based games.

Turf Wars puts you in the thick of the criminal underworld, leaving you to try to take control of areas by visiting them, then running criminal missions for cash and experience to level up so you can start fighting other mobsters for turf and joining up with others to create your own mob.

There's a decent community to keep the game entertaining and there's plenty of missions to keep you going. Best of all, the game is free to play (sadly with in-app purchases, but you don't really need to spend money).



Zombies, Run! is the insane cross between augmented reality game and a horror-based fitness app. It features a story mode with 200 missions. Put your headphones on and start your run, but you'll need to up the pace when the zombies start to come.

It's an interesting concept and very well done, but for people who aren't quite as accomplished at running, Zombies, Run! 5k Training is a special £1.49 edition of the app with an eight-week course to take you from couch to 5k runner, or join the undead trying.



Classic Fantasy

A round-up of the latest games we've been playing on our iOS and Android devices this month.

Reviewer: Thomas Wellburn – for full reviews, check out WhatMobile.net

Final Fantasy IX

(Android and iOS) £15.99

It's *Final Fantasy IX*... on your mobile device! Square Enix's faithful port of this classic title arrives fully intact with everything we remember, including some seriously revamped graphics and a full touchscreen UI that feels perfectly at home on your smartphone. It's not perfect, with some of the backgrounds being horrifically low resolution and very blurry, but aside from completely redesigning the game, we fail to see how Square Enix could have solved this. Still an absolute classic.



Assassin's Creed Identity

(iOS only) £3.99

Assassin's Creed Identity has been around for quite a while in a form of limbo. An unfinished launch that wasn't really an indication of the full thing. Now, we have finally got the full package to try and it is actually quite good. Taking bite-sized scenario chunks of the console game, there's plenty of gameplay to be had in this decent mobile adaptation.



The Walking Dead: Michonne – Episode 1

(Android and iOS) £4.27

TellTale games has now expanded its *Walking Dead* franchise into a set of miniseries. With Michonne being such an interesting character, this is a good place to start. Filling in the gaps between the comics, it tell the story of what happened between issues #126 and #139.



Futurama: Game of Drones

(Android and iOS) Free (in-app purchases)

Futurama has to be one of the most underrated cartoons, so imagine our glee to see a new game based on the franchise... until we realised it was another match-three puzzler. While the gameplay leaves a lot to be desired, the show references make this a must-have.



Toca Dance

(iOS) £2.49 (free version available)

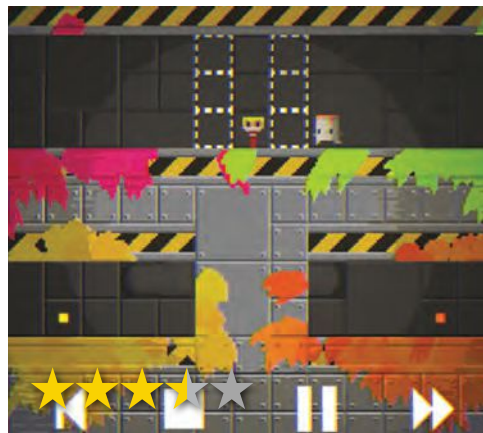
Toca Dance is all about being creative. Choreograph your own dance routine with thumping dubstep beats and even Kraftwerk. While the music is enjoyable, creating your own dance routine can be a bit confusing as there is no tutorial. The experience is what you make of it. The kids will have tons of fun with this though.



Telepaint

(Android and iOS) £2.29

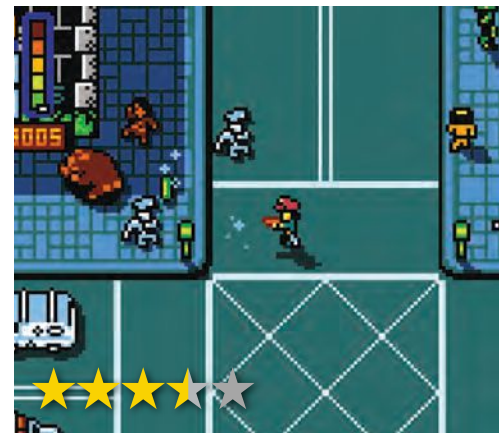
Another strange side-scroller where you control a pot of paint that wants to be reunited with its brush, *Telepaint* finds it gimmick through a series of warp portals that must be used to get to specific places. With no direct control of the paint pot, it is up to you to guide him towards the brush using the environment as your friend.



Retro City Rampage DX

(iOS only) £3.99

Retro City Rampage is a nostalgic throwback to those old *Grand Theft Auto* titles we all used to play on the original PlayStation. With its 8-bit graphics and top-down view, you'll be evading cops for hours and having a blast while you do so. Sure, it's not the most advanced mobile game on the market... but who cares when it's this much fun?



I Keep Having This Dream

(Android and iOS) £1.49

A fairly abstract title where you're actively constructing a labyrinth that needs to be escaped from. *I Keep Having This Dream* tasks the player with escaping a nemesis, which we can only assume is all happening in their head. Careful placement of tiles is necessary to secure a way out of the dungeon. Otherwise your nemesis will eat the tiles... and then you.



The Swords

(iOS only) £2.29

Heavily stylistic in nature and rendered fully in a watercolour art style, *The Swords* is definitely a looker in the world of identical mobile games. If you've played *Fruit Ninja*, you will largely know what to expect here. Swiping to stop the oncoming assault of enemy blades, it's a pretty challenging title that is devilishly simplistic in its execution.



Clash Royale

(Android and iOS only) Free (in-app purchases)

Building on the already popular *Clash* name, *Royale* combines the usual MOBA-style battling with an additional card collecting element. If that sounds a little complicated on paper, you'll be surprised just how well the team has managed to make things work so simple and seamlessly.



Pull a funny face

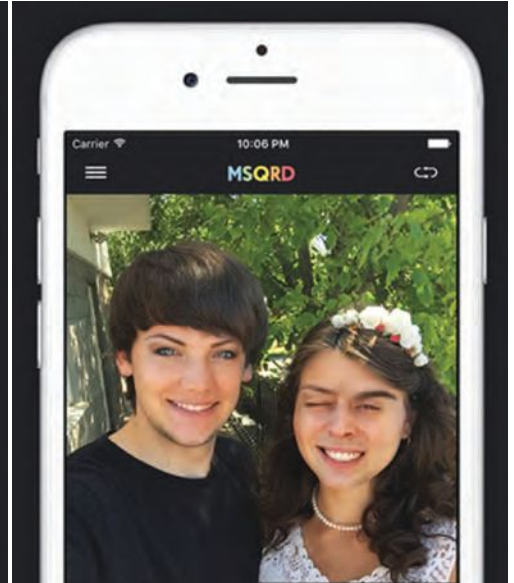
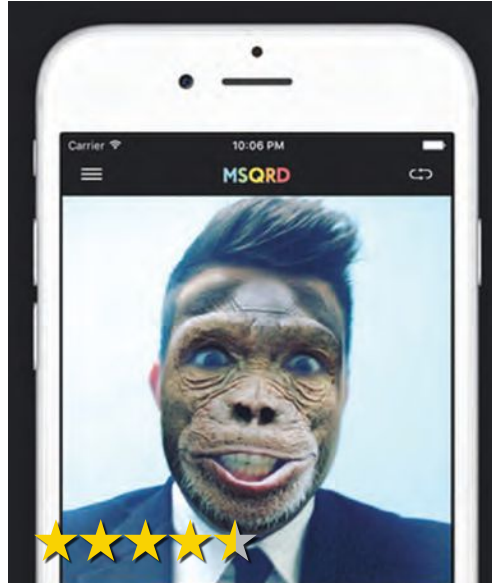
This month's pick of the iOS and Android apps includes a photo app to bring out your silly side.

Reviewer: Manny Pham – for full reviews, check out WhatMobile.net

MSQRD

(Android and iOS) Free

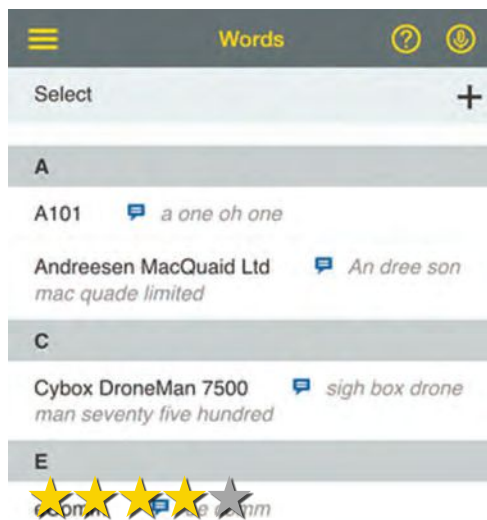
Snapchat's face-swapping filter is eating up everyone's newsfeed at the moment. Mark Zuckerberg saw this and bought Masquerade for a princely sum, to play a little catch up. *MSQRD* is a dedicated photo filter app, overlaying faces with hilarious animals and caricatures. You'll have some proper laughs with this app. Putting a mask on really does bring out your silly side. We just had to create a persona for every mask filter available – from Solomon the wise chimp who's seen it all, to Jimmy the over-enthusiastic polar bear.



Dragon Anywhere

(Android and iOS) Free (£14.99 per month thereafter)

The popular dictation app finally makes its way to iOS. *Dragon Anywhere* is a powerful speech-to-text app with incredible accuracy. It feels like a personal voice coach following you everywhere you go. You won't need to look any further as a serious dictator.



SportSetter

(iOS) Free

There are plenty of fitness apps out there forcing you to do press ups. *SportSetter* tells you where to do it with an abundance of free classes within your area. If you live in a busy city there are plenty of activities and classes to choose from. Find your perfect physical activity with *SportSetter*.



Blocs Wave

(iOS) £3.99

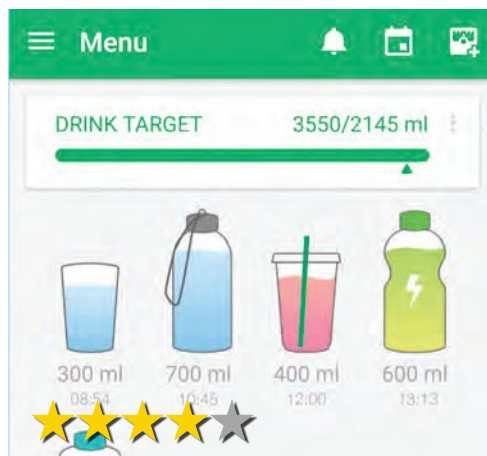
Making beautiful music on the go is what *Blocs Wave* is all about. The app allows you to combine eight sounds simultaneously, tweak waveform and change the tempo to make some awesome new tunes. The app is well-built, with a lot on offer for you to start your music production career.



Water Drink Reminder

(Android) £0.10 (on sale)

We're all guilty for not drinking enough water and the health benefits of drinking your fill everyday are astronomical. *Water Drink Reminder* calculates how much water you need and when you need it depending on your weight and when you go to bed. Water winner.



Decidz

(Android) Free (in-app purchases)

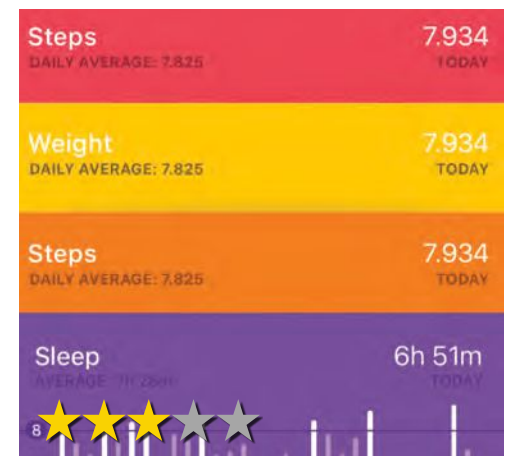
Facebook events does a great job already in organising and arranging things through 'events'. So *Decidz* is a bit unnecessary as it requires everyone to have the app to see an event, message each other and decide on a place. What already does all that? Facebook. Still a decent app, one for those who swear off Facebook.



Today

(iOS) Free (in-app purchases)

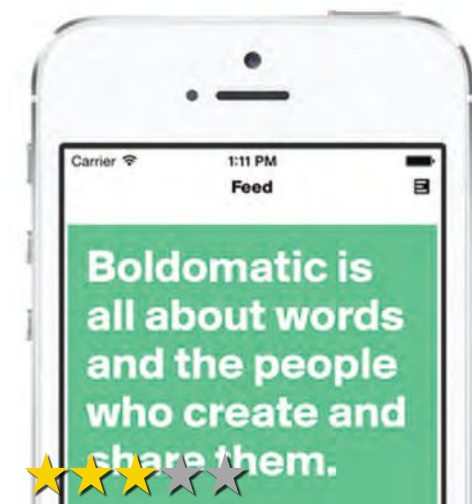
Good habits are as hard to kill as bad ones, so start some good ones today. *Today* will remind and track your habits; you can get into the habit of exercising or eating your recommended five a day. It collates the data of your habit and shows it all off in a fancy graph.



Boldomatic

(Android and iOS) Free

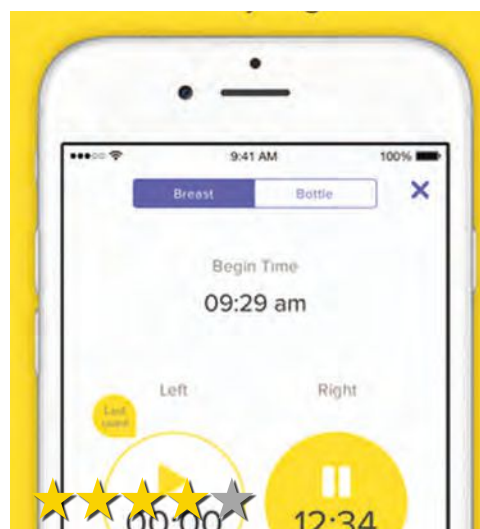
The most accurate way to describe *Boldomatic* is *Instagram* for words. While *Instagram* users garner attention for jealousy inducing sunsets and golden beaches, *Boldomatic* rates you on your wit. It's quite clever, with a lot of entertainment value. Although a lot of reposts do get in from time to time.



Glow Baby

(Android and iOS) Free

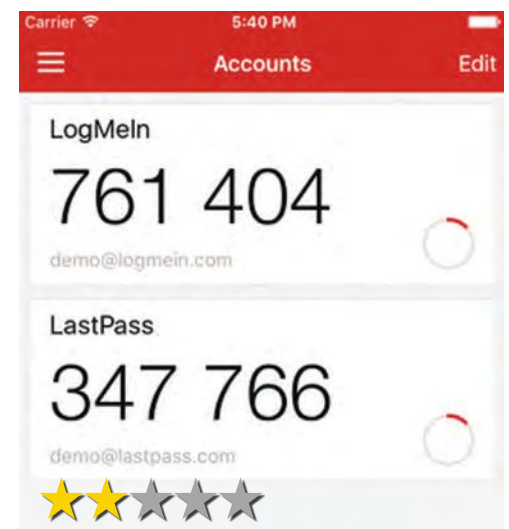
A nanny is a bit expensive and even if you do find your Mary Poppins, you'll be missing out on those bonding years. Ever hear someone cry to their baby "what do you want?" Well that can be avoided as you track your child's feeding habits. Now you'll know exactly what to do.



LastPass Authenticator

(Android, iOS and Windows Phone) Free

You can't be too safe nowadays, even the tight security of Apple was compromised in that massive celebrity nudes leak. *LastPass Authenticator* requires two-factor authentication when signing in. It does the job nicely but it does get a bit tiresome to use. Back to the standard lock screen after a day.



Nintendo 3DS

Pay homage to classic RPG games with a sequel that's every bit, if not better, than its predecessor.

Reviewer: **Manny Pham** – for full reviews, check out WhatMobile.net

Bravely Second: End Layer

Publisher: Nintendo/Square Enix **Developer:** Silicon Studio and Square Enix **Where to buy:** In-Store
Cost: £39.99

The best *Final Fantasy* game is back. Those that have played *Bravely Default* will know what we are talking about. In recent years *Final Fantasy* games just haven't lived up to the pre-release hype. Quality started to drop after *X-2* was released, main series *Final Fantasy* games were never the same. Then came *Bravely Default*, a game that reminds us what *Final Fantasy* used to be like. Now we are treated to a refined sequel to satiate our thirst for Japanese role-playing games.

Before you start *Bravely Second* it is recommended to play the free prelude demo – *The Ballad of Three Cavaliers* – available in the Nintendo eShop. This introduces the new characters better and offers unlockables that carry onto the main game. It is not imperative but advised. You won't be getting lost with the story, as a matter of fact even not playing *Bravely Default* will not render you lost thanks to the recap (but please do, it is amazing).

Bravely Second is set two-and-a-half years after its predecessor. Agnés Oblige has been kidnapped after peace talks between the Crystal Orthodoxy and Ducky of Eternia have broken down in a surprise attack. In typical RPG fashion, your duty is to rescue the survivors and save the world from total carnage. Oh, and there are crystals involved, always crystals, always Squenix. What else... a boy who is quite obviously the chosen one, a moody girl who can

rip you in half when she wants and oh so many more Japanese role-playing game clichés.

Developer Silicon Studio tries to please fans of traditional Japanese role-playing games by keeping core values together while implementing new ideas. Recent *Final Fantasy* titles went full revamp and it did not bode well. But we digress and are obviously still bitter about it. What you won't hear everyday is "oh my God, I love the combat" to describe a JRPG title. The *Bravely* series breaks this with its engaging and rapid combat. The turn-based battles give you the choice to default, doing nothing but raising your defence and earning you a brave point. The alternative is to spend a brave point and perform an extra move for the turn. It makes repetitive random encounters quicker, as you will steamroll through weak monsters with ease.

The job system in place is reminiscent of classic *Final Fantasy*. You are able to switch your character's job yet retain abilities from the previous job, making your party more versatile and able to deal with almost every problem thrown at you. The classes range from the usual thieves, rangers and mages. Charming graphics and artwork keep the eyes satisfied but it is the corny jokes that will have you coming back for more. Granted they are not everyone's cup of tea but we do love an out of place corny *Star Wars* reference.

An excellent JRPG feels like a rare treat nowadays and that is exactly what *Bravely Second* is. It is a beautiful homage to the classic RPG trope while employing mechanics that work well enough to iron out the annoyances we are so used to with RPG games.



Stella Glow

Publisher: NIS America **Developer:** Imageepoch
Where to buy: In-Store **Cost:** £39.99

Stella Glow is, sadly, Imageepoch's swansong as the Japanese developer went bankrupt in 2015. It has made some memorable titles. People will particularly remember it for the *Luminous Arc* series on the Nintendo DS. *Stella Glow* is a spiritual successor to *Luminous Arc*, with a JRPG theme and that isometric tactics gameplay we know Imageepoch for. For those who have not touched Imageepoch's library before, throw your minds back to *Tactics Ogre* or *Final Fantasy Tactics*... yup it's that kind of game.

Big eyes, crazy hair and a whole lot of colour are what you get with *Stella Glow*, not so surprising, though, coming from a JRPG tactics game. The story follows the same theme, with the world in danger (surprise surprise). Protagonist Alto hears a melody resonating from a witch – the only beings able to still sing – who is trying to bring about the world's destruction. The world of Mirthra had song taken away from it by the Gods, due to human arrogance.

Isometric tactics games work well with the 3DS touchscreen and *Stella Glow* is no different, with responsive controls and mechanics that are obviously borrowed from *Luminous Arc*. When attacking an enemy to their side you are more likely to land a critical blow and do more damage. This feature is also seen a host of other isometric strategy games because it works so well.

Stella Glow is one for tactics fan who crave the isometric style or are already done with *Fire Emblem*.



Hyrule Warriors Legends

Publisher: Nintendo **Developer:** Omega Force, Team Ninja, Nintendo **Where to buy:** In-Store **Cost:** £29.99

Dynasty Warriors and *Zelda*, a match we never thought of when thinking of series mash-ups. The original Wii U version obliterated our expectations and turned out to be a great game but does it translate well onto the small screen? In short, the answer is yes. Nintendo's quality control is evident here but it does not hit the heights of a mainline *Zelda* title. There is plenty of new content for returning players and so much more for newcomers.

Do you have a "New" 3DS? If so you will be able to experience this title with no problems. The older 3DS suffers from horrible lag, to the point where Nintendo should have proclaimed this title as a "New" 3DS exclusive. On the new 3DS the experience is sublime, with tight controls and performance with almost no issues. Turn off the 3D completely and you will be in awe at how smooth the frame rate is, considering how much arse you're kicking on screen. It's been scaled back from the Wii U, of course, with lowered textures and enemies. But it still challenges you. You can feel *Ninja Theory's* influence here.

Apart from the "New" revelation, what else is new, you may ask? Five new characters have been added to the roster. Linkle is our pick of the bunch, an extremely satisfying crossbow. Shooting down enemies just feels so so right. A new adventure mode map is also present, making the previous downloadable content available earlier.

An excellent game, just not recommended for the older 3DS.

PlayStation Vita

Conquer feudal Japan as hack and slash franchise adds more forward-thinking tactical elements.

Reviewer: Thomas Wellburn – for full reviews, check out WhatMobile.net

Samurai Warriors 4: Empires

Developer: Omega Force **Publisher:** Koei

Where to buy: In-Store **Price:** £29.99

The *Warriors* franchise has mostly been about hacking and slashing your way through hordes of enemies, usually with a lot of magic and fantasy stuff thrown in for good measure. *Empires* makes a bit of a departure from this and instead throws in tactical elements that add a bit more forward thinking to the formula. You may have remembered when we reviewed *Dynasty Warriors 8: Empires* back in the January issue of *What Mobile*; this is largely the same game but set in a different time period to the *Dynasty* franchise. *Samurai Warriors* has always played somewhat second fiddle to the former franchise and, especially here in the west, is largely unheard of by most people. Despite this, it could be seen in some ways as the better game overall. Playing at a slower pace, which requires more tactical thinking and focusing far more on the overall interaction between characters, it adds a few elements that the *Samurai* series does not necessarily have.

Set during the Sengoku period of Japanese history, it does not really follow any true-to-life storylines and instead focuses on conquering feudal Japan. Much like any of the *Empires* titles, you will be given a heavy amount of customisation when the game initially begins. Character creation is the order of the day, as is creating a clan and preparing for that elusive takeover. Each clan

will have its own set of ambitions – be it the need to unite land and regions or seize control of a capital city.

Combat itself is a lot more streamlined in the *Empires* franchise, with less crazy fantasy elements and attack combos. The battles favour a slower pace that focuses much more on hitting key targets within the enemy clan. Where the *Empires* franchise does succeed is in tactics, with a much greater focus on providing resources to your troops and methodically starving your opponents. You will need to capture supply lines and do various chores to enhance your own cause before attacking the enemy commander and claiming their land as your own. There is also a big focus on building alliances within the clan; appointing advisors for each battle and listening to their advice will build loyalty and offer certain perks during combat.

Graphically, the game has been toned down a lot when compared with its PS4 and even PS3 counterparts. It is not an ugly game by any means but it does have a tendency to look somewhat bland, with environments feeling like empty arenas with no real character. The lack of any high-resolution textures only cements this, with everything bar the warriors looking blurry and stretched out. There is also occasional slowdown when the action gets heavy but this is a hardware limitation issue much like the hordes of identically dressed characters.

Samurai Warriors 4: Empires is essentially a slightly more tactical version of *Warriors II* but it does not really have enough new additions to warrant a purchase. If you already own the former title, it will feel like you are playing the same game again.



Day of the Tentacle Remastered

Developer: Double Fine Productions **Publisher:** Double Fine Productions **Where to buy:** PlayStation Store **Price:** £10.50

You may remember *Day of the Tentacle* as the sequel to the classic *Maniac Mansion*, a title widely considered one of the best point-and-click games of its generation. Originally released on the Apple II and Commodore 64, it spawned numerous versions. *Day of the Tentacle* was the follow-up to this, releasing on CD-ROM for Microsoft-DOS and Mac OS back in 1993.

The game follows original cast members back to Dr Edison's mansion, after the mysterious Purple Tentacle threatens to take over the world. With its visual overhaul, the remastered version takes us even closer to the developer's original vision of a cheesy 1990s cartoon. It is now possible to see every little nuance in the art style and it helps to make the game prettier than ever. The gameplay is very much old-school point-and-click but you have to remember this is a title that originally debuted way back in '93. It is a case of clicking where you want to go and carefully inspecting the environment for possible plot clues. Discovering the correct interactions and matching up the correct items is all part of uncovering the intricate puzzles, which often turn out to be infuriating. Oh, and talking to NPCs... lots of talking to NPCs.

One of the best things about these titles has always been the scriptwriting and it is good to see that the remake arrives completely unaltered in that sense. Tim Schafer's humour shines through here and even if you have played it before, there is still plenty to conjure a chuckle over.



Blast 'Em Bunnies

Developer: Nnooo **Publisher:** Nnooo **Where to buy:** PlayStation Store **Price:** £3.99

You'd think that for such a simplistic game there is little for *Blast 'Em Bunnies* to really get wrong. Alas, they've somehow managed to muck this one up with endless repetition and a complete lack of any real progression. In the game you play as Big Bang Bunny, who has a problem with other rabbits infringing on his turf. Naturally, the only way to take them down is by force, several vegetables of force. You will spend the game sat behind a cannon as you frantically try to hold them off. A glorified survival game at heart, you have got two modes to keep you entertained. Survival is fairly self-explanatory, with an unlimited amount of enemies that keep attacking until you run out of health. Slaughter on the other hand makes you invincible and gives two minutes to rack up the biggest score possible.

Since both really offer nothing different in the gameplay department, it is likely to feel as though you are playing through the same monotonous modes in a time loop. When you kill a bunny it will drop coins for you spend in the store but there isn't even anything of interest here either. Power-ups and abilities can be bought to enhance your character's abilities but it all feels a bit fruitless, especially as the end result is the same every time.

Take into account the extortionate downloadable content prices for nonsensical upgrades that offer nothing to the overall experience and it makes us wonder why anyone would pick up this poor, boring title.

WHAT MOBILE

BUYER'S GUIDE

Buying a new device can be a difficult decision. Our comprehensive buyer's guide is here to help you.



55 Phone reviews

85 Tablet reviews

94 Wearables reviews



Acer Liquid Jade

Reviewed: April 2015, price: £199

www.acer.co.uk

A decent handset from a smaller brand, the Liquid Jade has all the components in place to be a much better handset than it actually is. What holds it back is Acer's lack of polish when compared with bigger brands such as Motorola. The end result is a handset that you could settle for, but probably shouldn't.

OS Android 4.4 KitKat
Processor 1.3GHz quad-core
Screen 5 inches
Resolution 720 x 1280 pixels
Memory 1GB RAM
Storage 8/16GB
MicroSD compatible? No
Camera 13MP rear-facing, 2MP front-facing
Video 1080p
Connectivity 3G
Dimensions 140.5 x 69 x 7.5mm
Weight 110g
Battery 2,100 mAh

VERDICT: A decent low-end handset, but there are too many better alternatives.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
 FEATURES ★★★★★
 USABILITY ★★★★★
 DESIGN ★★★★★



Acer Z220

Reviewed: November 2015, price: £50

www.acer.co.uk

The Acer Z220 performs solidly as a communications device but anything extra-curricular is asking too much. Should you decide to purchase one, there are too many add-ons you have to buy externally, which defeats the purpose of a budget phone. If you're looking for a basic device that can connect to the internet, make calls and text, this could be for you.

OS Android Lollipop v5.0
Processor 1.2 GHz Qualcomm MSM8210 Dual-core
Screen 4.0-inches
Resolution 480 x 800 pixels
Memory 1GB RAM (8GB), 2GB RAM (16GB)
Storage 8GB
MicroSD compatible? Yes,
 up to 32GB
Camera 5MP rear-facing, 2MP front-facing
Video 720p
Connectivity 3G
Dimensions 125.3 x 64 x 9.6 mm
Weight 120g
Battery 1300mAh

VERDICT: A solid budget phone for calls and texts, but that's all it's really good for.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
 FEATURES ★★★★★
 USABILITY ★★★★★
 DESIGN ★★★★★



Alcatel One Touch Pop S3

Reviewed: September 2014, price: £80

www.alcatelonetouch.com/uk

The Alcatel One Touch POP S3 has its merits, especially taking into account the sub-£100 price of the device. The problem here is that by making room for 4G capability Alcatel has been forced to make cutbacks in crucial areas. However, if you are simply after the option to access faster web browsing and app speeds on the go, then the POP S3 offers you that at the cheapest price possible.

OS Android 4.3 Jelly Bean
Processor 1.2GHz quad-core
Screen 4 inches
Resolution 480 x 800 pixels
Memory 1GB RAM
Storage 4GB
MicroSD compatible? Yes
Camera 5MP rear-facing, VGA front-facing
Video 1080p
Connectivity 4G
Dimensions 123 x 64.4 x 9.9mm
Weight 130g
Battery 2,000 mAh

VERDICT: Cheap, sure, but its poor quality renders its 4G capability near pointless.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
 FEATURES ★★★★★
 USABILITY ★★★★★
 DESIGN ★★★★★





Alcatel One Touch Idol Alpha

Reviewed: February 2015, price: £319
www.alcatelonetouch.com/uk

While it's good to see manufacturers branching out from the traditional black slab design, the Idol Alpha is a reminder of why the slab works. There are just too many compromises here, and the hardware does not make amends for them. Aside from the fact that Android itself is a powerful operating system that you can tailor to your heart's content, there's very little to redeem this phone.

OS Android 4.2 Jelly Bean
Processor 1.2GHz quad-core
Screen 4.7 inches
Resolution 720 x 1280 pixels
Memory 1GB RAM
Storage 16GB
MicroSD compatible? No
Camera 13MP rear-facing, 1.3MP front-facing
Video 1080p

Connectivity 3G
Dimensions 138 x 66.6 x 7.5mm
Weight 117.4 g
Battery 2,000 mAh

VERDICT: A decent camera is the only redeeming feature on this overpriced handset.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
 FEATURES ★★★★★
 USABILITY ★★★★★
 DESIGN ★★★★★



Alcatel One Touch Idol X+

Reviewed: June 2014, price: £TBC
www.alcatelonetouch.com/uk

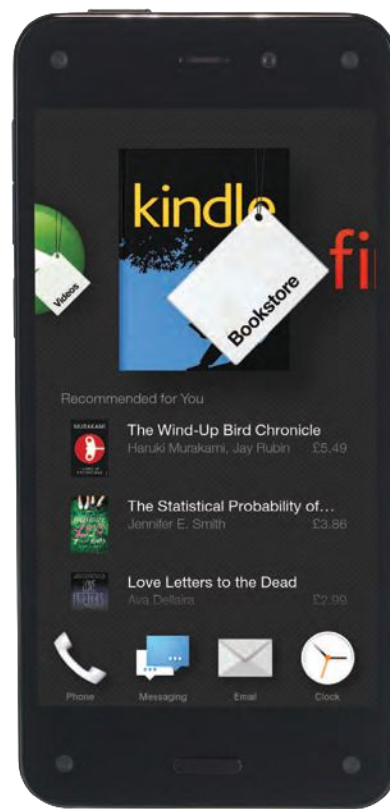
We usually greet lesser-known brands with open arms, but never has one disappointed as much as Alcatel with its One Touch Idol X+. Despite decent specs, it's the handset's flaws that hog the limelight. It's outperformed by other handsets in its price bracket in just about every respect. It's hard to envisage anyone patient enough to waste their time with it.

OS Android 4.2 Jelly Bean
Processor Octa-core 2GHz
Screen 5 inches
Resolution 1080 x 1920 pixels
Memory 2GB RAM
Storage 16GB or 32GB
MicroSD compatible? Yes
Camera 13MP rear-facing, 2MP front-facing
Video 1080p

Connectivity 3G
Dimensions 140.4 x 69.1 x 7.9mm
Weight 130g
Battery 2,500 mAh

VERDICT: With such great competition the One Touch Idol X+ simply looks irrelevant.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
 FEATURES ★★★★★
 USABILITY ★★★★★
 DESIGN ★★★★★



Amazon Fire Phone

Reviewed: December 2014, price: £400

When we first learned of the 3D capabilities of the Amazon Fire Phone we thought it might be a gimmick. Instead, it turned out to be the feature we love the most. Its other interface aspects are riddled with hiccups which can add to some severe usability issues. Its design has some questionable choices, too. It has a lot of potential though, and we're eagerly looking forward to a sequel.

OS Android KitKat 4.4
Processor 2.2GHz quad-core
Screen 4.7-inches
Resolution 1280 x 720 pixels
Memory 2GB
Storage 32GB
MicroSD compatible? Yes, up to 64GB
Camera 13MP front-facing,

2.1MP rear-facing
Video 1080p
Connectivity 4G
Dimensions 139.2 x 66.5 x 8.9mm
Weight 160g
Battery 2,400 mAh

VERDICT: A promising yet flawed debut effort, recommendable only to the curious.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
 FEATURES ★★★★★
 USABILITY ★★★★★
 DESIGN ★★★★★





Apple iPhone 5c

Reviewed: December 2013, price: £469 (16GB) £549 (32GB)

If you need a splash of colour in your life and you're already a massive fan of the iOS operating system, then the iPhone 5c is much the same as the previous iPhone 5. There's a slightly upgraded front-facing camera and 4G will work on any UK network, but other than that you're getting the exact same thing. The iPhone 5c is simply around for those of you who love great design without breaking the bank.

OS iOS 7
Processor Dual-core 1.3GHz
Screen 4 inches
Resolution 640 x 1136 pixels
Memory 1GB RAM
Storage 16/32GB
MicroSD compatible? No
Camera 8MP rear-facing, 1.2MP front-facing

Video 1080
Connectivity 4G
Size 12.4 x 59.2 x 9mm
Weight 132g
Battery 1,510 mAh

VERDICT: It's the most colourful iPhone to date, but it's identical to the iPhone 5.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
 FEATURES ★★★★★
 USABILITY ★★★★★
 DESIGN ★★★★★



Apple iPhone 5s

Reviewed: December 2013, price: £549 (16GB) £629 (32GB) £709 (64GB)

With fingerprint identity, a 64-bit A7 chip and delivering up to twice the performance of the iPhone 4 and 5c, many people will opt to pay the extra £80 or so over the 5c. They'll also get an improved camera with 15 per cent larger sensor and improved low-light capabilities. The True Tone flash incorporates two flashes each matched to different light temperatures so flesh tones are more natural with flash pictures.

OS iOS 7
Processor Dual-core 1.3GHz ARM v8
Screen 4 inches
Resolution 1136 x 640 pixels
Memory 1GB RAM
Storage 16/32/64GB
MicroSD compatible? No
Camera 8MP rear-facing,

1.2MP front-facing
Video 1080p
Connectivity 4G
Dimensions 123.8 x 58.6 x 7.6mm
Weight 112g
Battery 1,560 mAh

VERDICT: The gold standard in user-friendly smartphones, with a ton of power to boot.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
 FEATURES ★★★★★
 USABILITY ★★★★★
 DESIGN ★★★★★



Apple iPhone 6

Reviewed: November 2014, price: £539
www.apple.com/uk/iphone

Calling it 'the best iPhone ever' almost seems a little redundant. Of course it's better – it's more powerful, has a better camera, and NFC could soon become a huge deal. We're not quite as keen on the aesthetics of it versus older iPhone designs, but it's still got a wonderful premium build and a beautifully sharp display. The option for greatly expanded storage sizes shouldn't be undervalued, either.

OS iOS8
Processor Apple A8 1.4GHz
Screen 4.7 inches
Resolution 1334 x 750 pixels
Memory 1GB RAM
Storage 16/64/128GB
MicroSD compatible? No
Camera 8MP iSight rear-facing, 1.2MP front-facing

Video 1080p
Connectivity 4G
Dimensions 138.1 x 67 x 6.9mm
Weight 129g
Battery 1,810 mAh

VERDICT: Bigger and better than ever, just as you'd expect. The definitive iPhone.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
 FEATURES ★★★★★
 USABILITY ★★★★★
 DESIGN ★★★★★





Apple iPhone 6 Plus

Reviewed: November 2014, price: £619
www.apple.com/uk/iphone

It's the iPhone 6, but bigger. That's the only difference, and it comes with all of the ups and downs that you would expect from a phablet. You'll either love or hate the larger screen which, while still beautiful, is slightly less sharp than its little brother's. Similarly it might be tough for smaller hands to hold. But then you do get to see more things on screen at once. It's still a remarkable phone though, make no mistake.

OS iOS8
Processor Apple A8 1.4GHz
Screen 5.5 inches
Resolution 1920 x 1080 pixels
Memory 1GB RAM
Storage 16GB/64GB/128GB
MicroSD compatible? No
Camera 8MP iSight rear-facing, 1.2MP front-facing
Video 1080p

Connectivity 4G
Dimensions 158.1 x 77.8 x 7.1mm
Weight 172g
Battery 1,810 mAh

VERDICT: A bigger iPhone 6 – it's really that simple. Prefer it or not, it's great regardless.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
 FEATURES ★★★★★
 USABILITY ★★★★★
 DESIGN ★★★★★



Apple iPhone 6s

Reviewed: November 2015, price: £539
www.apple.com/uk/iphone

The iPhone 6s may not offer that much to warrant an immediate upgrade but it still has enough new features to welcome new adopters to the platform. Force Touch genuinely works well and has plenty of future potential, while the hardware and low-light camera improvements make this more than just a simple cash cow.

OS iOS 9
Processor 1.84 GHz Dual Core Apple A9
Screen 4.7-inches
Resolution 1334 x 750 pixels
Memory 2GB RAM
Storage 16/64/128GB
MicroSD compatible? No
Camera 12MP rear-facing, 5MP front-facing

Video 4K at 30FPS
Connectivity 4G
Dimensions 138 x 67 x 7.1 mm
Weight 143g
Battery 1,712 mAh

VERDICT: Plenty of new features make this another sure-fire hit for Apple.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
 FEATURES ★★★★★
 USABILITY ★★★★★
 DESIGN ★★★★★



Archos 50 Helium

Reviewed: July 2014, price: £199
archos.com

If the Moto G and Moto E are the gold standard of entry-level and low-cost smartphones, then the 50 Helium is certainly worthy of silver. It's got a nice big screen as well as invaluable 4G capability. It won't set the world alight, but it's a standout in a market awash with cheap, limited handsets.

OS Android 4.3 Jelly Bean
Processor 1.2GHz quad-core
Screen 5 inches
Resolution 1280 x 720 pixels
Memory 1GB RAM
Storage 8GB
MicroSD compatible? Yes
Camera 8MP
Video 1080p
Connectivity 4G LTE

Dimensions 145 x 71.5 x 8.95mm
Weight 160g
Battery 2,000 mAh

VERDICT: A capable alternative to the market-leading Moto G.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
 FEATURES ★★★★★
 USABILITY ★★★★★
 DESIGN ★★★★★





BlackBerry Classic

Reviewed: April 2015, price: £330
uk.blackberry.com

BlackBerry diehards will love the modern touchscreen and keyboard – and even some actual apps, just like a proper smartphone. There are certainly worse handsets you could be issued at work. But there's nothing here to tempt an iPhone, Android or Windows user. For almost everyone other than BlackBerry fans, this phone is just a reminder of how far we've moved on in recent years.

OS BlackBerry OS 10.3.1
Processor Dual-core 1.5GHz Krait
Screen 3.5 inches
Resolution 720 x 720 pixels
Memory 2GB RAM
Storage 16GB
MicroSD compatible? Yes
Camera 8MP rear-facing, 2MP front-facing

Video 1080p @ 30fps
Connectivity 4G
Dimensions 131 x 72.4 x 10.2mm
Weight 177g
Battery 2,515 mAh

VERDICT: Difficult to recommend to all but the most ardent of BlackBerry fans.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
 FEATURES ★★★★★
 USABILITY ★★★★★
 DESIGN ★★★★★



BlackBerry Passport

Reviewed: November 2014, price: £530
uk.blackberry.com

A premium device by anyone's standards – if you can look past the thoroughly odd design. Undeniably BlackBerry's most advanced device ever, it's still clearly angled towards the business crowd with a focus on productivity. The same old BlackBerry problems persist though, with an inferior OS and app store. It's just too impractical and limited for personal use.

OS BlackBerry 10.3
Processor 2.2GHz quad-core
Screen 4.5 inches
Resolution 1440 x 1440 pixels
Memory 3GB RAM
Storage 32GB
MicroSD compatible? Yes, up to 128GB
Camera 13MP rear-facing,

2MP front-facing
Video 1080p
Connectivity 4G
Dimensions 128 x 90.3 x 9.3mm
Weight 194g
Battery 3,450 mAh

VERDICT: Premium build and top specs are betrayed by off-putting, strange design.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
 FEATURES ★★★★★
 USABILITY ★★★★★
 DESIGN ★★★★★



BlackBerry Z30

Reviewed: June 2014, price: £500
uk.blackberry.com

Perhaps if BlackBerry had focused on its efforts on making a phone like this five years ago we would be looking at a very different picture now. As it stands, a barren app store, odd features and a monster price tag may kill what could have been a competitive device. It's still surprisingly easy on the eye though, and its display doesn't look too bad either.

OS BlackBerry 10
Processor 1.7GHz dual-core
Screen 5 inches
Resolution 1280 x 720 pixels
Memory 2GB RAM
Storage 16GB
MicroSD compatible? Yes
Camera 8MP rear-facing, 2MP front-facing
Video 1080p

Connectivity 4G
Dimensions 140.7 x 72 x 9.4
Weight 170g
Battery 2,880 mAh

VERDICT: Possibly the best BlackBerry yet, but that's not saying an awful lot.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
 FEATURES ★★★★★
 USABILITY ★★★★★
 DESIGN ★★★★★





BWC Stealth V2

Reviewed: August 2014, price: £300

www.bwcdevices.com

With good specs available at low prices there's never been a better time to pick up a rugged smartphone (if that's what you need). The Stealth V2 lives up to both the 'rugged' and 'smart' tags, with surprisingly capable insides. It also passed all of our stress tests, with countless drops, bashes and drownings failing to leave so much as a mark.

OS Android 4.2 Jelly Bean
Processor 1.2GHz quad-core
Screen 4 inches
Resolution 854 x 480 pixels
Memory 1GB RAM
Storage 1GB
MicroSD compatible? Yes
Camera 8MP rear-facing, 1.3MP front-facing
Video 720p

Connectivity 3G
Dimensions 133 x 69 x 20mm
Weight 230g
Battery 2,800 mAh

VERDICT: As smart and tough as it promises.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
 FEATURES ★★★★★
 USABILITY ★★★★★
 DESIGN ★★★★★



CAT B100

Reviewed: March 2014, price: £380

www.catphones.com

The CAT B100 withstands harsh conditions and jarring blows with a tough outer shell that absorbs the impact of falls, and impressive waterproofing. Beyond that, the phone lacks features games and apps – but chances are that's not why you're buying this phone. If you need a rugged handset to take adventuring, though, it's more than tough enough.

OS Nucleus 2.1
Processor 1GHz dual-core
Screen 2.2 inches
Resolution 240 x 320 pixels
Memory 512MB RAM
Storage 50MB
MicroSD compatible? Yes
Camera 3MP rear-facing, QVGA front-facing
Video QVGA

Connectivity 3G
Dimensions 122.94 x 55.88 x 7.6mm
Weight 136g
Battery 1,150 mAh

VERDICT: Tough enough to take into a warzone, if a little light on actual function.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
 FEATURES ★★★★★
 USABILITY ★★★★★
 DESIGN ★★★★★



Doro 820 Mini

Reviewed: May 2015, price: £169

www.doro.co.uk

The Doro 820 Mini's software is simple to use; first-time smartphone users and the elderly won't get confused by any cumbersome on-screen options. Unfortunately, this usability has been hampered by hardware problems. A slow processor creates annoying delays when navigating through the phone, while a poor build quality ruins what could have otherwise been a decent budget phone.

OS Android 4.1 Jelly Bean
Processor 1GHz dual-core
Screen 4 inches
Resolution 480 x 800 pixels
Memory 512MB RAM
Storage 4GB
MicroSD compatible? Yes
Camera 5MP rear-facing, QVGA front-facing
Video 720p

Connectivity 3G
Size 125 x 69.5 x 14.95mm
Weight 170g
Battery 2,000 mAh

VERDICT: A rugged phone for those who need to rely on it in any environment.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
 FEATURES ★★★★★
 USABILITY ★★★★★
 DESIGN ★★★★★





Doro Liberto 820

Reviewed: February 2015, price: £186
www.doro.co.uk

It's easy to dismiss Doro phones as obsolete. This is to ignore that Doro isn't interested in attracting phone geeks and techno-fashionistas. These phones are for those value simplicity above processing power. Doro targets the 'senior' market. But with its SOS button and useful short cuts the Liberto 820 will appeal to those are not slaves to trends in consumer electronics.

OS Android 4.4 Kit Kat with Doro Wizard
Processor 1.3Ghz quad-core
Screen 5.5 inches
Resolution 940 x 560
Memory 1GB
Storage 4GB
MicroSD compatible? Yes
Camera 8MP
Video 720p

Connectivity 3G
Dimensions 13mm x 71mm
Weight 132g
Battery 1,900 mAh

VERDICT: A surprisingly well-featured phone for the more tech-savvy of seniors.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
 FEATURES ★★★★★
 USABILITY ★★★★★
 DESIGN ★★★★★



Doro PhoneEasy 624

Reviewed: February 2015, price: £100
www.doro.co.uk

The PhoneEasy 624 is Doro's best feature phone offering for those who want to keep things as simple, while making sure important contacts are only a button push away. It's got a 3G antenna, lengthy battery life, but a needlessly dire camera.

OS Custom
Processor N/A
Screen 2.4 inches
Resolution 320 x 240 pixels
Memory N/A
Storage N/A
MicroSD compatible? Yes
Camera 2MP
Video 720p
Connectivity 3G

Dimensions 102 x 52 x 19mm
Weight 104g
Battery 800 mAh

VERDICT: A well featured phone for the price if you're in the market for that sort of thing.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
 FEATURES ★★★★★
 USABILITY ★★★★★
 DESIGN ★★★★★



EE Kestrel

Reviewed: September 2014, price: £99
www.doro.co.uk

The EE Kestrel is the best entry-level 4G handset on the market and this is in no small part due to Huawei. The manufacturer has built a solid handset that consumers will use beyond its 4G-LTE capability. Although, its weak resolution is a major flaw, it has plenty of other positive attributes including a smooth UI, the ability to handle a vast range of games and decent web and app browsing speeds.

OS Android 4.3 (Jelly Bean)
Processor 1.2Ghz quad-core
Screen 4.5 inches
Resolution 540 x 960 pixels
Memory 1GB RAM
Storage 8GB
MicroSD compatible? Yes
Camera 5MP rear-facing, 1MP front-facing
Video 1080p

Connectivity 4G, 3G
Dimensions 131 x 65.3 x 7.85mm
Weight 145g
Battery 2,000 mAh

VERDICT: A reliable handset that boasts good usability, if underwhelming specs.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
 FEATURES ★★★★★
 USABILITY ★★★★★
 DESIGN ★★★★★





Google Nexus 6

Reviewed: March 2015, price: £499
www.google.com/nexus/6/

The Nexus 6 is a reminder of exactly what so many manufacturers are doing wrong by overly modifying Android. Google's flagship is a tremendous powerhouse – more of a media hub than a mere smartphone, and one of the best phablets on the market. Whether you'd rather it had a stylus is a matter of preference, though.

OS Android 5.0 Lollipop
Processor 2.7 GHz quad-core
Screen 5.96 inches
Resolution 2560 x 1440 pixels
Memory 3GB RAM
Storage 32/64GB
MicroSD compatible? No
Camera 13MP rear-facing, 2MP front-facing
Video 4K

Connectivity 4G
Dimensions 82.98mm x 159.26mm x 10.06mm
Weight 184g
Battery 3,220 mAh

VERDICT: Fast, fresh and tremendously powerful. A dream for Android purists.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
 FEATURES ★★★★★
 USABILITY ★★★★★
 DESIGN ★★★★★



Honor 7

Reviewed: November 2015, price: £250
www.hihonor.com/en/pages/products/honor7

The Honor 7 is a solid handset that has the looks and appeal to captivate many buyers. It's got a great screen and impressive camera that has a few unique features up its sleeve. Unfortunately, it also suffers from mixed performance that seems to be a result of the Kirin chipset. If you're a keen mobile gamer, this could be an issue.

OS Android Lollipop v5.0
Processor Kirin 935 (8 cores: 2.2 GHz quad core + 1.5 GHz quad-core)
Screen 5.2-inches
Resolution 1920 x 1080 pixels
Memory 3GB
Storage 16GB/ 64GB
MicroSD compatible? Yes, up to 128GB

Camera 20MP rear-facing, 8MP front-facing
Video 1080p
Connectivity 4G
Dimensions 143 x 72 x 8.5 mm
Weight 157g
Battery 3,100mAh

VERDICT: Great looks and impressive camera but performance could be an issue.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
 FEATURES ★★★★★
 USABILITY ★★★★★
 DESIGN ★★★★★



HTC Desire 626

Reviewed: October 2015, price: £150
www.htc.com/uk

The HTC Desire 626 is a solid handset that performs fine in most areas. Should you decide to purchase one, it will likely serve you very well under most conditions. The only problem arises from the £150 retail price, which puts it squarely in the firing line of budget superstars such as the Vodafone Smart Ultra 6. Had HTC priced it slightly cheaper, it may well have been worth more serious consideration.

OS Android 5.1
Processor 1.2 GHz quad-core Snapdragon 410
Screen 5.0-inches
Resolution 1280 x 720 pixels
Memory 2GB RAM
Storage 16GB
MicroSD compatible? Yes, up to 512GB
Camera 13MP rear-facing,

5MP front-facing
Video 1,080p
Connectivity 4G
Dimensions 147 x 71 x 8.2 mm
Weight 135g
Battery 2,000 mAh

VERDICT: There are better deals out there. Still, this is a perfectly capable phone.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
 FEATURES ★★★★★
 USABILITY ★★★★★
 DESIGN ★★★★★





HTC Desire 816

Reviewed: October 2014, price: £300
www.htc.com/uk

In a market lacking a viable midrange phablet the HTC Desire 816 stands out. It might have its flaws, but for the price you can certainly look past them. If you can't, then a midrange device probably isn't for you. For the rest of us, there's no better option for getting your hands on a jumbo screen on the cheap.

OS Android 4.4 KitKat
Processor 1.6GHz quad-core
Screen 5.5 inches
Resolution 1280 x 720 pixels
Memory 1.5GB RAM
Storage 8GB
MicroSD compatible? Yes
Camera 13MP rear-facing, 5MP front-facing
Video 1080p
Connectivity 4G
Dimensions 156.6 x 78.7 x 7.9mm
Weight 165g
Battery 2,600 mAh

VERDICT: A triumphant, large addition to a fantastic 2014 product line for HTC.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
 FEATURES ★★★★★
 USABILITY ★★★★★
 DESIGN ★★★★★



HTC Desire 820

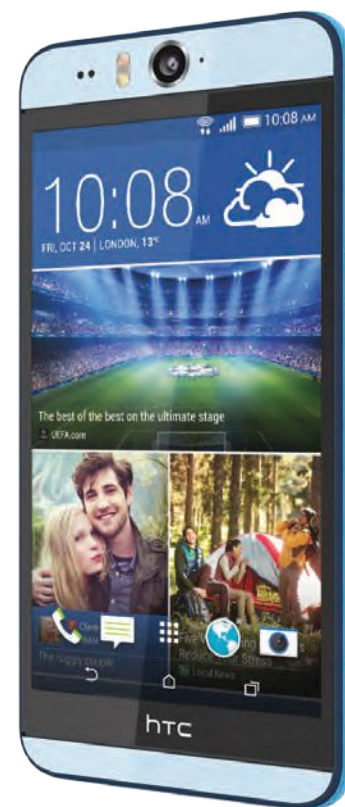
Reviewed: June 2015, price: £299
www.htc.com/uk

A large display, fantastic cameras and attractive design makes the HTC Desire 820 an ideal choice if you're after an affordable phone with plenty of features. It's only been let down by the fact that it doesn't pack an HD screen and that it doesn't run the latest Android software. It's also quite pricey compared to the OnePlus One; a phone that is a serious rival.

OS Android 4.4.2 KitKat
Processor Quad-core 1.5 GHz Cortex-A53
Screen 5.5-inches
Resolution 720 x 1280 pixels
Memory 2GB RAM
Storage 16GB
MicroSD compatible? Yes
Camera 13MP rear-facing, 8MP front-facing
Video 1080p at 30fps
Connectivity 4G
Dimensions 157.7 x 78.7 x 7.7mm
Weight 155g
Battery 2600 mAh

VERDICT: Cheap, attractive and packed full of features.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
 FEATURES ★★★★★
 USABILITY ★★★★★
 DESIGN ★★★★★



HTC Desire Eye

Reviewed: March 2015, price: £365
www.htc.com/uk

While we love the cameras (having a front-facer as highly powered as the rear-facer is a huge boon, particularly for selfie-lovers) the Desire Eye's build quality and price make it a tougher sell than you might think. It does look nice though, and is an interesting concept. Just not a 100% successful one.

OS Android 4.4 KitKat
Processor 2.3 GHz quad-core
Screen 5.2 inches
Resolution 1080 x 1920 pixels
Memory 2GB RAM
Storage 16GB
MicroSD compatible? Yes
Camera 13MP rear-facing, 13MP front-facing
Video 1080p
Connectivity 4G
Dimensions 151.7 x 73.8 x 8.5mm
Weight 154g
Battery 2,400 mAh

VERDICT: A hard sell when the superior One M8 can now be bought for the same price.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
 FEATURES ★★★★★
 USABILITY ★★★★★
 DESIGN ★★★★★





HTC One M8

Reviewed: May 2014, price: £530
www.htc.com/uk

The HTC One M8 is, in all probability, the best smartphone ever made. It both looks and performs better than almost everything else out there. Features like Blinkfeed and knock-to-wake are a joy to use. If Apple, Sony and Samsung weren't paying attention before, they certainly are now.

OS Android 4.4 KitKat	Connectivity 4G
Processor 2.3GHz quad-core	Dimensions 146.36 x 70.6 x 9.35mm
Screen 5 inches	Weight 160g
Resolution 1920 x 1080 pixels	Battery 2,600 mAh
Memory 2GB RAM	
Storage 16GB or 32GB	
MicroSD compatible? Yes	
Camera 4MP UltraPixel rear-facing, 5MP front-facing	
Video 1080p	

VERDICT: If you can afford it, buy it. There's no better Android handset on the market.

PERFORMANCE	★★★★★
FEATURES	★★★★★
USABILITY	★★★★★
DESIGN	★★★★★



HTC One M9

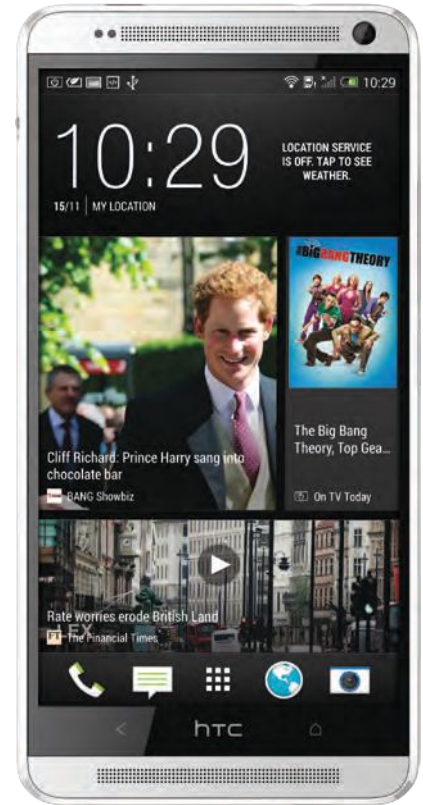
Reviewed: May 2015, price: £580
www.htc.com/uk

The One M9 is HTC's first major release of 2015 and its top-notch build quality, powerful processor and phenomenal battery life makes it one of our favourite phones of this year. However, it doesn't really provide anything different to what flagship rivals like the iPhone 6 already offers. Despite that, the HTC One M9 is still one of the best looking and most powerful phones on the market.

OS Android 5.0 Lollipop	Video 4k
Processor 4 x 2GHz + 4 x 1.5GHz octa-core	Connectivity 4G
Screen 5 inches	Dimensions 144.6 x 69.7 x 9.61mm
Resolution 1920 x 1080 pixels	Weight 157g
Memory 3GB RAM	Battery 2,840 mAh
Storage 32GB	
MicroSD compatible? Yes	
Camera 20.7MP rear-facing, 4MP UltraPixel front-facing	

VERDICT: It has no unique selling point but it's still one of the best devices out there.

PERFORMANCE	★★★★★
FEATURES	★★★★★
USABILITY	★★★★★
DESIGN	★★★★★



HTC One Max

Reviewed: January 2014, price: £599
www.htc.com/uk

The HTC One Max piggybacks the reputation of the HTC One, although nothing much has improved. The high-quality display is present but HTC has failed to add processing power and the fingerprint sensor implementation is very disappointing.

OS Android 4.3 Jelly Bean	Video 1080p
Processor 1.7GHz quad-core	Connectivity 4G
Screen 5.9 inches	Dimensions 164.5 x 82.5 x 10.3mm
Resolution 1920 x 1080 pixels	Weight 217g
Memory 2GB	Battery 3,300 mAh
Storage 16GB or 32GB	
MicroSD compatible? Yes	
Camera 4MP UltraPixel rear-facing, 2.1MP front-facing	

VERDICT: The HTC One's design is still a standout but there's nothing new here.

PERFORMANCE	★★★★★
FEATURES	★★★★★
USABILITY	★★★★★
DESIGN	★★★★★





HTC One Mini 2

Reviewed: August 2014, price: £360
www.htc.com/uk

Your opinion of the One Mini 2 will come down to what you mostly use your phone for. If you don't put too much strain on its struggling processor then you should be fine. It's got a magnificent pair of cameras, and that trademark HTC metal unibody build can't be beat. Day-to-day users will be more than satisfied – hardcore tech-heads should stick with the One M8.

OS Android 4.4 KitKat
Processor 1.2GHz quad-core
Screen 4.5 inches
Resolution 720 x 1,280 pixels
Memory 1GB RAM
Storage 16GB
MicroSD compatible? Yes
Camera 13MP rear-facing, 5MP front-facing
Video 1080p
Connectivity 4G
Dimensions 137.4 x 64 x 10.6mm
Weight 137g
Battery 2,110 mAh

VERDICT: Powered to match its stature, but still a very polished, attractive device.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
 FEATURES ★★★★★
 USABILITY ★★★★★
 DESIGN ★★★★★



Huawei Ascend G7

Reviewed: May 2015, price: £205
www.huaweidevice.co.uk

With a large screen and the gorgeous looks that remind us of the iPhone 6; the Huawei Ascend G7 might look good on the outside but the software is another story. Huawei has redesigned Google's vanilla Android operating system and reskinned it as something that looks both cheap and ugly. Despite that, the Ascend G7 is a decent choice if you want an iPhone 6-lookalike that runs Android software.

OS Android 4.4.2 KitKat
Processor 1.2 GHz quad-core
Screen 5.5 inches
Resolution 720 x 1280 pixels
Memory 2GB RAM
Storage 16GB
MicroSD compatible? Yes
Camera 13MP rear-facing, 5MP front-facing
Video 1080p
Connectivity 4G
Dimensions 153.5 x 77.3 x 7.6mm
Weight 165g
Battery 3,000 mAh

VERDICT: Its great performance is ruined by a cheap and ugly looking operating system.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
 FEATURES ★★★★★
 USABILITY ★★★★★
 DESIGN ★★★★★



Huawei Ascend P7

Reviewed: July 2014, price: £365
www.huaweidevice.co.uk

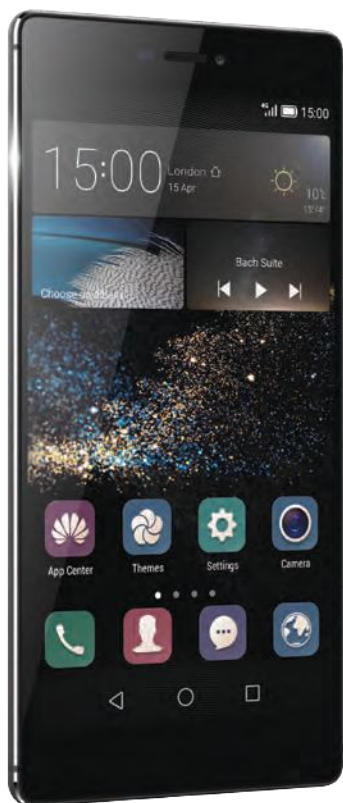
The Ascend P7 feels like a missed opportunity. Huawei should have put its full weight into creating a top-level flagship handset. However, its underpowered processor is its only real flaw. It looks premium and its front-facing camera is the best on the market. Its price could be a sticking point, but it's by no means a bad device.

OS Android 4.4 KitKat
Processor 1.8GHz quad-core
Screen 5 inches
Resolution 1920 x 1080 pixels
Memory 2GB RAM
Storage 16GB
MicroSD compatible? Yes
Camera 13MP rear-facing, 8MP front-facing
Video 1080p
Connectivity 4G LTE
Dimensions 139.8 x 68.8 x 6.5mm
Weight 124g
Battery 2,500 mAh

VERDICT: It's not quite a market-leading flagship but at least it looks the part.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
 FEATURES ★★★★★
 USABILITY ★★★★★
 DESIGN ★★★★★





Huawei P8

Reviewed: August 2015, price: £395
www.huaweidevice.co.uk

An attractive device that gives you top-of-the-range specs and a fantastic camera for half the price of the Samsung Galaxy S6 or iPhone. The performance isn't as slick as its major rivals, but that isn't a deal breaker. Especially when the phone costs half the price of the iPhone 6 and Samsung Galaxy S6.

OS Android 5.0 Lollipop
Processor 2 GHz quad-core
Screen 5.2 inches
Resolution 1920 x 1080 pixels
Memory 3GB RAM
Storage 16/64GB
Camera 13MP rear-facing, 8MP front-facing
Video 1080p
Connectivity 4G

Dimensions 144x72x6.4mm
Weight 144g
Battery 2,680 mAh

VERDICT: Flagship specs for half the price of a Galaxy S6 or iPhone.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
 FEATURES ★★★★★
 USABILITY ★★★★★
 DESIGN ★★★★★



Huawei Honor 4x

Reviewed: August 2015, price: £144.99
www.huaweidevice.co.uk

An affordable phone that offers solid battery life and plenty of features. The build quality even feels better than the LG G4, a smartphone that costs double its recommended retail price. Honor isn't a big name over in the West, but phones like the 4X are helping it head in that direction. It's just a shame that the processor is a little on the weak side.

OS Android 4.4 KitKat
Processor HiSilicon Kirin 620
Screen 4 inches
Resolution 1280 x 720 pixels
Memory 2GB RAM
Storage 8GB
Camera 13MP rear-facing, 5MP front-facing
Video 1080p
Connectivity 4G

Dimensions 153x77x8.7mm
Weight 165g
Battery 3,000 mAh

VERDICT: A solid phone at a bargain price, you'll be surprised at how good it looks.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
 FEATURES ★★★★★
 USABILITY ★★★★★
 DESIGN ★★★★★



Huawei Honor 6+

Reviewed: July 2015, price: £299.99
www.huaweidevice.co.uk

If you're after an affordable device with plenty of top-notch features, you can't really go wrong with the Huawei Honor 6+. The camera is unique, the performance is fantastic and battery life is better than more expensive phones. Its slow camera and inability to handle certain apps are only minor negatives – the Honor 6+ is well worth the money.

OS Android KitKat 4.4.2
Processor Kirin octo-core 925
Screen 5.5 inches
Resolution 1920 x 1080 pixels
Memory 3GB RAM
Storage 32GB
Camera Dual 8MP rear-facing, 8MP front-facing
Video 1080p
Connectivity 4G

Dimensions 151x76x7.5mm
Weight 165g
Battery 3,600 mAh

VERDICT: A flagship phone with excellent battery life that doesn't break the bank.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
 FEATURES ★★★★★
 USABILITY ★★★★★
 DESIGN ★★★★★





Kazam Tornado 348

Reviewed: March 2015, price: £247
www.kazam.mobi

Despite great looks and smooth performance, lack of 4G connectivity and storage makes the Tornado 348 something of a non-starter for serious users. The casual market will be plenty content with what's on offer here – particularly those eye-catching physical dimensions.

OS Android KitKat 4.4	Connectivity 3G
Processor 1.7Ghz octa-core	Dimensions 139.8 x 67.5 x 5.15mm
Screen 4.8 inches	Weight 95.5g
Resolution 1280 x 720 pixels	Battery 2,050 mAh
Memory 1GB RAM	
Storage 16GB	
MicroSD compatible? No	
Camera 8MP rear-facing, 5MP front-facing	
Video 720p	

VERDICT: Standout design and performance at an attractive price.

PERFORMANCE	★★★★★
FEATURES	★★★★★
USABILITY	★★★★★
DESIGN	★★★★★



Kazam Thunder Q4.5

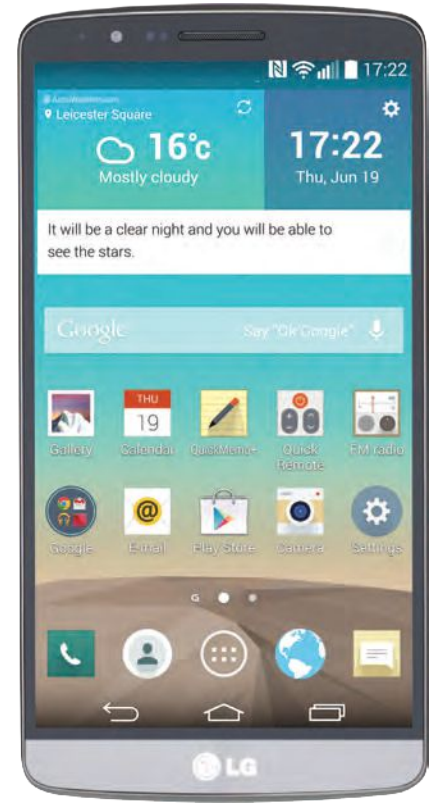
Reviewed: April 2014, price: £TBC
www.kazam.mobi

The Thunder Q4.5 is a sure case of style over substance, but in the lower-cost end of the market you'd usually be lucky to get either. While the phone lacks standout features it won't let you down when it comes to everyday smartphone functionality. If you're in the market and want to try something new, you could certainly do an awful lot worse.

OS Android 4.2 Jelly Bean	Connectivity 3G
Processor 1.3GHz quad-core	Dimensions 136 x 64.6 x 8.9mm
Screen 4.5 inches	Weight 137g
Resolution 854 x 480 pixels	Battery 1,800 mAh
Memory 1GB RAM	
Storage 1.74GB	
MicroSD compatible? Yes	
Camera 8MP rear-facing, 2MP front-facing	
Video 720p	

VERDICT: It may be flawed, but at this price point you'd be hard pushed to beat it.

PERFORMANCE	★★★★★
FEATURES	★★★★★
USABILITY	★★★★★
DESIGN	★★★★★



LG G3

Reviewed: August 2014, price: £499
www.lg.com/uk

Only minor detractions stop the LG G3 from being the perfect smartphone. That said, there's no such thing as the perfect smartphone just yet, so the G3 is still a wonderful piece of kit. It has outstanding features, hardware, and form to boot. The best display around, a monstrous processor and a variety of little touches all make the G3 a special smartphone.

OS Android 4.4 (KitKat)	Connectivity 4G
Processor 2.5GHz quad-core	Dimensions 146.3 x 74.6 x 8.9mm
Screen 5.5 inches	Resolution 1440 x 2560 pixels
Memory 2GB RAM	Weight 149g
Storage 16GB or 32GB	Battery 3,000 mAh
MicroSD compatible? Yes	
Camera 13MP rear-facing, 2.1MP front-facing	
Video 2160p	

VERDICT: Want the best? The G3 is absolutely deserving of your consideration.

PERFORMANCE	★★★★★
FEATURES	★★★★★
USABILITY	★★★★★
DESIGN	★★★★★





LG G4

Reviewed: July 2015, price: £500
www.lg.com/uk

The unique leather design and incredible camera certainly helps the LG G4 stand out against rivals like the iPhone 6. However, the fact it doesn't have the strongest processor on the market, alongside an average battery and awkward button placement, means it doesn't really stand up as a true iPhone and Galaxy smasher.

OS Android 5.1 Lollipop
Processor 1.4GHz quad core
Screen 5.5 inches
Resolution 2560 x 1440 pixels
Memory 3GB RAM
Storage 32GB
Camera 16MP rear-facing, 8MP front-facing
Video 1080p
Connectivity 4G

Dimensions 149 x 76 x 9.8mm
Weight 155g
Battery 3,000 mAh

VERDICT: A monster device let down by a weak processor. Not a Galaxy S6 killer.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
 FEATURES ★★★★★
 USABILITY ★★★★★
 DESIGN ★★★★★



LG G4c

Reviewed: October 2015, price: £229
www.lg.com/uk

The LG G4c is solidly average, with a few fun gimmicks that don't quite make up for the photo quality. For those who simply want a day-to-day workhorse, it is not a bad option, but it's not for those who are looking for something heavy-duty.

OS Android
Processor Quad-core 1.3 GHz Qualcomm Snapdragon
Screen 5.0 inches
Resolution 720 x 1280-pixels
Memory 1GB RAM
Storage 8GB
MicroSD compatible? Yes, up to 128GB
Camera 8MP rear-facing, 5MP front-facing
Video 1,080p
Connectivity 4G
Dimensions 139.7 x 69.9 x 10.2 mm
Weight 139g
Battery 2,540 mAh

VERDICT: Solidly average for everyday use, but not for heavy-duty users.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
 FEATURES ★★★★★
 USABILITY ★★★★★
 DESIGN ★★★★★



LG G Flex

Reviewed: April 2014, price: £570
www.lg.com/uk

The curved display may add very little, but with a state-of-the-art spec sheet and a fantastic display, the LG G Flex nails the basics of a high-end smartphone. However the £570 price and so-so camera make it difficult to recommend – at least when compared to its cheaper, better rivals. The Flex just isn't the innovation LG believes it to be.

OS Android 4.2 Jelly Bean
Processor 2.2GHz quad-core
Screen 6 inches
Resolution 1280 x 720 pixels
Memory 2GB RAM
Storage 32GB
MicroSD compatible? No
Camera 13MP rear-facing, 2.1MP front-facing
Video 1080p

Connectivity 4G
Dimensions 160.5 x 81.6 x 7.9mm
Weight 177g
Battery 3,500 mAh

VERDICT: A powerful phone held back by a steep price for an unnecessary gimmick.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
 FEATURES ★★★★★
 USABILITY ★★★★★
 DESIGN ★★★★★





LG Spirit 4G

Reviewed: August 2015, price: £129.99
www.lg.com/uk

At only £129.99, there's little to criticise in this budget mid-range device that looks a lot like a shrunken down LG G4. It has enough performance for most users and comes with Android 5.0 right out of the box. The only problem is the weak front and rear cameras, which distract from an otherwise competent package.

OS Android 5.1 Lollipop
Processor 1.3 Ghz quad-core
Screen 4.7 inches
Resolution 1280 x 720
Memory 1GB RAM
Storage 8GB
Camera 8MP rear-facing, 1MP front-facing
Video 1080p
Connectivity 4G

Dimensions 133x66x10mm
Weight 124g
Battery 2,100 mAh

VERDICT: A competent mid-range device with Android Lollipop and good specs.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
 FEATURES ★★★★★
 USABILITY ★★★★★
 DESIGN ★★★★★



Motorola Moto E (2015)

Reviewed: May 2015, price: £109
www.motorola.co.uk

Paying £109 for a full-blown, powerful 4G smartphone is seriously good value for money. This value is only increased by a high-quality camera, powerful processor and excellent battery life. The only major faults we found when testing the phone included no LED camera flash, a plastic body that easily picks up marks and a fiddly SIM-card slot.

OS Android 5.0.2 Lollipop
Processor Qualcomm Snapdragon 410, 1.2 GHz quad-core
Screen 4.5 inches
 Resolution 540 X 960 pixels
Memory 1GB RAM
Storage 8GB
MicroSD compatible? Yes
Camera 5MP rear-facing,

640 x 480 front-facing
Connectivity 4G
Dimensions 129.9 x 66.8mm, 146g
Weight 145g
Battery 2,390 mAh

VERDICT: After a smartphone that's seriously good value? This is for you.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
 FEATURES ★★★★★
 USABILITY ★★★★★
 DESIGN ★★★★★



Motorola Moto G (1st Gen)

Reviewed: January 2014, price: £135
www.motorola.co.uk

The Moto G is a budget smartphone done right. It makes smart and sensible sacrifices to slash its price to a point that puts its rivals to shame. For people who don't demand the highest specs and best camera from a phone, the Moto G's easy-to-use system and fast speeds make it an ideal choice.

OS Android 4.3 Jelly Bean
Processor 1.2GHz quad-core
Screen 4.5 inches
Resolution 720 x 1280 pixels
Memory 1GB RAM
Storage 8GB/16GB
MicroSD compatible? No
Camera 5MP rear-facing, 1.3MP front-facing
Video 720p

Connectivity 3G
Dimensions 129.9 x 65.9 x 11.6mm
Weight 143g
Battery 2,070 mAh

VERDICT: The best option for customers on a budget.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
 FEATURES ★★★★★
 USABILITY ★★★★★
 DESIGN ★★★★★





Motorola Moto G (2nd Gen)

Reviewed: November 2014, price: £150
www.motorola.co.uk

It's an updated version of the Moto G – nothing more, nothing less. The lack of 4G is extremely disappointing, and a processor upgrade would have been nice. Still, a bigger screen, a better camera and MicroSD compatibility is extremely welcome. When it comes to affordable phones that can actually perform, the Moto G is still untouchable.

OS Android 4.4 KitKat
Processor 1.2GHz quad-core
Screen 5 inches
Resolution 1280 x 720 pixels
Memory 1GB RAM
Storage 8GB/16GB
MicroSD compatible? Yes, up to 32GB
Camera 8MP rear-facing, 2MP front-facing
Video 720p
Connectivity 3G
Dimensions 141.5 x 70.7 x 11mm
Weight 149g
Battery 2,070 mAh

VERDICT: A solid improvement on the best, but no 4G gives it a limited shelf life.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
 FEATURES ★★★★★
 USABILITY ★★★★★
 DESIGN ★★★★★



Motorola Moto G 4G (2nd Gen)

Reviewed: June 2015, price: £150
www.motorola.co.uk

One of the best value smartphones on the market, the large display, 4G connectivity and latest Android operating software makes it well worth the price. Combine all of this with the phone's fantastic build quality and the Motorola Moto G 4G is well worth keeping after your contract expires.

OS Android 5.0 Lollipop
Processor Quad-core 1.2 GHz Cortex-A53
Screen 5.0-inches
Resolution 720 x 1280 pixels
Memory 1GB RAM
Storage 8/16GB
MicroSD compatible? Yes
Camera 8MP rear-facing, 2MP front-facing
Video 720p at 30fps
Connectivity 4G
Dimensions 141.5 x 70.7 x 11mm
Weight 155g
Battery 2390 mAh

VERDICT: Priced between £200-£400, this smartphone undermines the competition.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
 FEATURES ★★★★★
 USABILITY ★★★★★
 DESIGN ★★★★★



Motorola Moto G (3rd Gen)

Reviewed: November 2015, price: £159
www.motorola.co.uk

Motorola has done it again with another device that punches above its weight and mostly improves on its predecessor. Every area is catered for here, offering impressive battery life, a brilliant camera and adequate performance. If you're looking for a solid Android device that won't break the bank, the Moto G is worth consideration.

OS Android Lollipop v5.1.1
Processor 1.4 GHz Snapdragon 410
Screen 5.0-inches
Resolution 1280 x 720 pixels
Memory 1GB RAM (8GB), 2GB RAM (16GB)
Storage 8/16GB
MicroSD compatible?
 Yes, up to 128GB
Camera 13MP rear-facing, 5MP front-facing
Video 1080p
Connectivity 4G
Dimensions 142 x 72 x 11.6 mm
Weight 155g
Battery 2,470mAh

VERDICT: Solid device that offers perfectly fine performance across the board.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
 FEATURES ★★★★★
 USABILITY ★★★★★
 DESIGN ★★★★★





Motorola Moto X (2nd Gen)

Reviewed: March 2014, price: £380
www.motorola.co.uk

A rock-solid handset with helpful features. This is the best place to experience Google Now, making voice operation genuinely useful. Mix in a sleek design, great camera and long battery life and the £380 price tag is justified. If you can afford the extra £150 then it makes for a sterling upper-mid tier upgrade to the Motorola Moto G.

OS Android 4.4 KitKat	Connectivity 4G
Processor 1.7GHz dual-core	Dimensions 129.3 x 65.3 x 10.4mm
Screen 4.7 inches	Weight 130g
Resolution 720 x 1280 pixels	Battery 2,200 mAh
Memory 2GB RAM	
Storage 16/32GB	
MicroSD compatible? No	
Camera 10MP rear-facing, 2MP front-facing	
Video 1080p	

VERDICT: For those looking to step up from the budget tier: your search is over.

PERFORMANCE	★★★★★
FEATURES	★★★★★
USABILITY	★★★★★
DESIGN	★★★★★



Motorola Moto X (2014) (1st Gen)

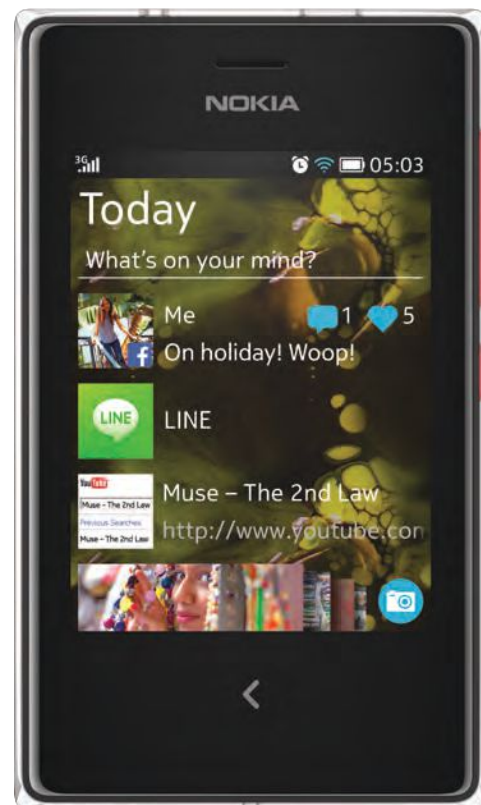
Reviewed: January 2015, price: £420
www.motorola.co.uk

Motorola's original Moto X was a nice idea executed a little too late. Competition from superior phones from manufacturers with a stronger recent track record was too great to overcome. But this latest version makes a much stronger case for your cash. It's got some excellent features and will surely be beloved by fans of stock Android.

OS Android 4.4 KitKat	Connectivity 4G
Processor 2.5GHz quad-core	Dimensions 140.8 x 72.4 x 10mm
Screen 5.2 inches	Weight 144g
Resolution 1,080 x 1,920 pixels	Battery 2,300 mAh
Memory 2GB RAM	
Storage 16/32GB	
MicroSD compatible? No	
Camera 13MP rear-facing, 2MP front-facing	
Video 2160p	

VERDICT: The best Motorola ever, and arguably the best Android handset of 2014.

PERFORMANCE	★★★★★
FEATURES	★★★★★
USABILITY	★★★★★
DESIGN	★★★★★



Nokia Asha 503

Reviewed: February 2014, price: £70
www.microsoft.com/en-gb/mobile/

Nokia's Asha 503 is a brilliantly tiny handset that stays usable despite the smaller screen. If you want a dirt-cheap phone then you might be better off with a sub-£50 handset and its design is a little spiky. But anyone looking for a phone to keep them busy for five minutes on a bus will find plenty to love here.

OS Nokia Asha platform 1.2	Dimensions 102.6 x 60.6 x 12.7mm
Processor N/A	Weight 110.2g
Screen 3 inches	Battery 1,200 mAh
Resolution 240 x 320 pixels	
Memory 128MB RAM	
Storage 4GB	
MicroSD compatible? Yes	
Camera 5MP rear-facing	
Video QVGA	
Connectivity 3G	

VERDICT: A good entry into the budget market that offers more than the basics.

PERFORMANCE	★★★★★
FEATURES	★★★★★
USABILITY	★★★★★
DESIGN	★★★★★





Nokia Lumia 435

Reviewed: September 2015, price: £40
www.microsoft.com/en-gb/mobile/

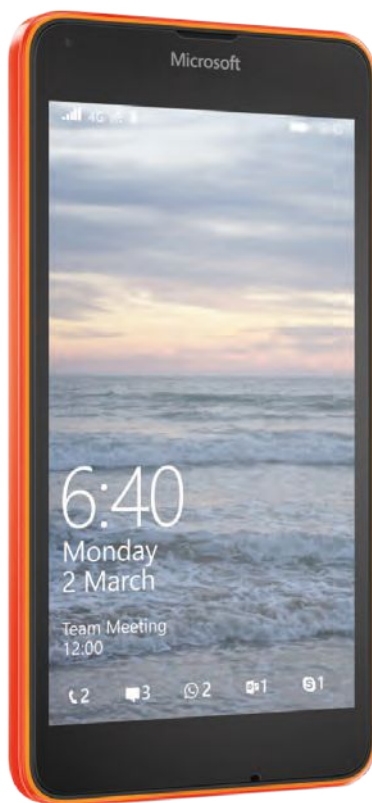
It won't shake the world but for 40 quid you can hardly expect it to. This is a very cheap phone that has all the features you would expect from more expensive handsets. While it doesn't excel in any particular area and the camera is pretty terrible, you'll be lucky if you find anything that performs this well for the price. A genuine bargain.

OS Windows Phone 8.1
Processor 1.2GHz dual-core
Screen 4 inches
Resolution 800 x 480
Memory 1GB RAM
Storage 8GB
MicroSD compatible? Yes
Cameras 2MP rear-facing, VGA front-facing
Video 480p

Connectivity 4G
Dimensions 118 x 65 x 11.7mm
Weight 131g
Battery 1,560 mAh

VERDICT: A bargain-bin handset that still manages to run Windows Phone very well.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
 FEATURES ★★★★★
 USABILITY ★★★★★
 DESIGN ★★★★★



Nokia Lumia 640

Reviewed: August 2015, price: £109.99
www.microsoft.com/en-gb/mobile/

It's incredible what Microsoft has managed to cram into such a cheap, inconspicuous phone. It has nailed all the major points internally, with a great camera, excellent battery and an adequate processor for the well-optimised Windows Phone OS. The only problem is Windows Phone itself, which still struggles to convince the sceptics.

OS Windows Phone 8.1 GDR2
Processor 1.2GHz quad-core
Screen 5 inches
Resolution 1280 x 720
Memory 1GB RAM
Storage 8GB
Camera 8MP rear-facing, 1MP front-facing
Video 1080p
Connectivity 4G

Dimensions 141 x 72 x 8.8mm
Weight 145g
Battery 2,500 mAh

VERDICT: A brilliant battery and solid performance make this a bargain device.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
 FEATURES ★★★★★
 USABILITY ★★★★★
 DESIGN ★★★★★



Nokia Lumia 640 XL

Reviewed: September 2015, price: £180
www.microsoft.com/en-gb/mobile/

Although it is more expensive than the 640, you get the advantage of a much bigger screen and some seriously good battery life. The camera has also gotten a bump too, producing some excellent images for this price-point. It's just a shame that the processor hasn't been improved to complement them.

OS Windows Phone 8.1 GDR2
Processor 1.2GHz quad-core
Screen 5.7 inches
Resolution 1280 x 720 pixels
Memory 1GB RAM
Storage 8GB
MicroSD compatible? Yes
Camera 13MP rear-facing, 5MP front-facing
Video 1080p

Connectivity 4G
Dimensions 157.9 x 81.5 x 9mm
Weight 171g
Battery 3,000 mAh

VERDICT: Not a huge leap up but the camera and battery are worth the money.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
 FEATURES ★★★★★
 USABILITY ★★★★★
 DESIGN ★★★★★





Nokia Lumia 735

Reviewed: December 2014, price: £299
www.microsoft.com/en-gb/mobile/

Microsoft has produced a genuine rival to the bestselling Motorola Moto G in the form of the Lumia 735. With the introduction of an HD display and 4G LTE this is much more than just another selfie phone. But if selfies are what you're after the Lumia 735 offers plenty of fun ways to snap images of you and your friends with its 5-megapixel front camera.

OS Windows Phone 8.1
Processor 1.2GHz quad-core
Screen 4.7 inches
Resolution 1,280 x 720 pixels
Memory 1GB RAM
Storage 8GB
MicroSD compatible? Yes
Camera 6.7MP rear-facing, 5MP front-facing
Video 1080p
Connectivity 4G
Dimensions 134.7 x 68.5 x 8.9mm
Weight 134g
Battery 2,200 mAh

VERDICT: A Windows Phone to match the Moto G, the 735 is a selfie star.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
 FEATURES ★★★★★
 USABILITY ★★★★★
 DESIGN ★★★★★



Nokia Lumia 830

Reviewed: March 2015, price: £267
www.microsoft.com/en-gb/mobile/

The Nokia Lumia 830 is not quite the swansong we were hoping for. It's not hugely affordable, and nor does the phone's hardware make full use of that 4G connectivity. Mid-range mobiles seldom convince us of their reason to exist and this final Nokia is no exception. It does look the part, and Cortana is improving, but there are simply better options out there.

OS Windows Phone 8.1
Processor 1.2GHz quad-core
Screen 5 inches
Resolution 720 x 1280 pixels
Memory 1GB RAM
Storage 16GB
MicroSD compatible? Yes, up to 128GB
Camera 10MP rear-facing, 0.9MP front-facing
Video 1080p
Connectivity 4G
Dimensions 139.4 x 70.7 x 8.5mm
Weight 150g
Battery 2,200 mAh

VERDICT: Underpowered and overpriced, the Lumia 830 is average and forgettable.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
 FEATURES ★★★★★
 USABILITY ★★★★★
 DESIGN ★★★★★



Nokia Lumia 925

Reviewed: August 2013, price: £479
www.microsoft.com/en-gb/mobile/

With the Lumia 925 Nokia hasn't set out to reinvent the wheel, it has just built on its past achievements to put together a brilliant phone. A gorgeous slimmed-down design, high performance camera and responsive user interface all set this handset apart from the rest of the Lumia range and make it a top level device in the high-end smartphone market. One of the best out there.

OS Windows Phone 8
Processor 1.5GHz dual-core
Screen 4.5 inches
Resolution 1280 x 760
Memory 1GB RAM
Storage 16/32GB
MicroSD compatible? Yes
Camera 8MP rear-facing, 1.3MP front-facing
Video 1080p
Connectivity 4G
Dimensions 129 x 70.6 x 8.5mm
Weight 139g
Battery 2,000 mAh

VERDICT: A fantastic camera, slick design and great user interface make this top dog.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
 FEATURES ★★★★★
 USABILITY ★★★★★
 DESIGN ★★★★★





Nokia Lumia 930

Reviewed: September 2014, price: £420
www.microsoft.com/en-gb/mobile/

The plus side for those looking for something different is that Windows Phone has come along enough now that its mere presence on a handset isn't enough to relegate it completely. The Lumia 930 is the flagship that the range has been crying out for for far too long now, and if you don't mind having a relatively restricted ecosystem then you should have very few issues with it.

OS Windows Phone 8.1
Processor 2.2GHz quad-core
Screen 5 inches
Resolution 1920 x 1080 pixels
Memory 2GB RAM
Storage 32GB
MicroSD compatible? No
Camera 20MP rear-facing, 1.2MP front-facing
Video 1080p
Connectivity 4G LTE
Dimensions 137 x 71 x 9.8mm
Weight 167g
Battery 2,420 mAh

VERDICT: The closest to rivalling Android and iOS that Windows Phone has ever come.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
 FEATURES ★★★★★
 USABILITY ★★★★★
 DESIGN ★★★★★



Nokia Lumia 1020

Reviewed: November 2013, price: £639.99
www.microsoft.com/en-gb/mobile/

The Lumia 1020 is an ideal smartphone for those of you who don't care about apps and it's perfect if you love to take great pictures. It might not be the slimmest device you can get your hands on but the 1020's powerful camera is well worth the extra bulk.

OS Windows Phone 8
Processor 1.5GHz dual-core
Screen 4.5 inches
Resolution 1280 x 760
Memory 2GB RAM
Storage 32GB
MicroSD compatible? Yes
Camera 41MP rear-facing, 1.2MP front-facing
Video: 1080p
Connectivity 4G
Dimensions 130.4 x 71.4 x 10.4mm
Weight: 158g
Battery 2,000 mAh

VERDICT: A top smartphone with an astounding camera – one of the best.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
 FEATURES ★★★★★
 USABILITY ★★★★★
 DESIGN ★★★★★



Nokia Lumia 1320

Reviewed: April 2014, price: £280
www.microsoft.com/en-gb/mobile/

The Lumia 925 and 1020 were large enough, and the lack of software taking advantage of the big display, unlike with the Samsung Galaxy Note, means those extra inches just leave you looking faintly ridiculous when answering a call. You're better off spending your money on an Android phablet or Google's Nexus 5.

OS Windows Phone 8
Processor 1.7GHz dual-core
Screen 6 inches
Resolution 1280 x 720 pixels
Memory 1GB
Storage 8GB
MicroSD compatible? Yes
Camera 5MP rear-facing, VGA front-facing
Video 1080p
Connectivity 4G-LTE
Dimensions 164.2 x 85.9 x 9.8mm
Weight 220g
Battery 3,400 mAh

VERDICT: A good phone but the Nexus 5 simply undercuts the competition too well.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
 FEATURES ★★★★★
 USABILITY ★★★★★
 DESIGN ★★★★★





Nokia Lumia 1520

Reviewed: February 2014, price: £550
www.microsoft.com/en-gb/mobile/

Although the Nokia Lumia 1520 weighs in at a whopping £550 (SIM-free), it could cost you considerably more to purchase a standalone camera, camcorder, satnav, tablet and a laptop computer that can run Microsoft Office.

OS Windows Phone 8
Processor 2.2GHz quad-core
Screen 6 inches
Resolution 1920 x 1080 pixels
Memory 2GB RAM
Storage 32GB
MicroSD compatible? Yes
Camera 20MP rear-facing, 1.2MP front-facing
Video 1080p

Connectivity 4G-LTE
Dimensions 162.8 x 85.4 x 8.7mm
Weight 209g
Battery 3,200 mAh

VERDICT: A great all-in-one device that mashes the best of Nokia together.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
 FEATURES ★★★★★
 USABILITY ★★★★★
 DESIGN ★★★★★



OnePlus One

Reviewed: June 2015, price: £269
www.oneplus.net

If you're not bothered about Samsung, Apple or any of the other big brand names, then we highly recommend the OnePlus One. It offers class-leading specs for half the price of an iPhone 6 or Samsung Galaxy S6. That attractive price is topped off by excellent build quality and unlimited customisation options.

OS Cyanogenmod version of Android 4.4
Processor 2.5GHz quad-core Qualcomm Snapdragon 801
Screen 5.5 inches Gorilla Glass 3
Resolution 1920 x 1080
Memory 3GB RAM
Storage 64GB
MicroSD compatible? Yes

Camera 13MP rear-facing, 5MP front-facing
Connectivity 4G, dual-band wi-fi, Bluetooth 4.0, NFC, GOS antenna
Video 1080 HD
Dimensions 152.9 x 75.9 x 8.9mm
Weight 162g
Battery 3100 mAh

VERDICT: A top-spec smartphone for half the price of the iPhone 6? Yes please!

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
 FEATURES ★★★★★
 USABILITY ★★★★★
 DESIGN ★★★★★



OnePlus Two

Reviewed: November 2015, price: £289
www.oneplus.net

With only its second device ever, OnePlus has knocked it out of the park with the OnePlus 2. It has improved a lot on the OnePlus One with the seemingly endless battery life, souped-up specs and, of course, the incredible price.

OS Lollipop v5.1
Processor Quad-core 1.56 GHz and 1.82, Snapdragon 810
Screen 5.5 inches
Resolution 1080 x 1920 pixels (401 ppi pixel density)
Memory 4GB RAM
Storage 64GB
MicroSD compatible? No
Camera 13MP rear-facing, 5MP front-facing

Video 2160p@30fps, 720p@120fps
Connectivity 3G & 4G
Dimensions 151.8 x 74.9 x 9.9 mm
Weight 175 g
Battery Non-removable 3300 mAh

VERDICT: A phone so affordable for the specs on offer it would be foolish to pass up.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
 FEATURES ★★★★★
 USABILITY ★★★★★
 DESIGN ★★★★★





Panasonic Lumix DMC-CM1

Reviewed: October 2015, price: £799
www.panasonic.com/uk/consumer

This is by no means a cheap device but you most definitely get what you pay for. Considering when it first released, the Panasonic DMC-CM1 had flagship specifications and a true camera sensor to match even the best compact/bridge cameras. Fast forward to now and little has changed; this is still the best camera phone you can get and by quite some distance

OS Android KitKat 4.4.2 (upgradable to 5.0)
Processor 2.3 GHz Snapdragon 801
Screen 4.7-inches
Resolution 1,920 x 1,080 pixels
Memory 2GB RAM
Storage 16GB
MicroSD compatible? Yes,
 up to 128GB
Camera 20MP rear-facing, 1.1MP front-facing
Video 2160p (15fps only)
Connectivity 4G
Dimensions 135.4 x 68 x 21.1 mm
Weight 204g
Battery 2,600mAh

VERDICT: If you've got the wallet and pocket space for it, you'll be blown away.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
 FEATURES ★★★★★
 USABILITY ★★★★★
 DESIGN ★★★★★



Prestigio MultiPhone 5430

Reviewed: November 2013, price: £190
www.prestigio.com

The Prestigio MultiPhone 5430 is a bland piece of kit that lacks any real highlights, but is undoubtedly a capable and efficient smartphone. Perhaps its best feature is that it gets the core experience right, if not groundbreakingly so. The very basics of what you expect from a smartphone in 2013 are here but there isn't much else.

OS Android 4.0 Ice Cream Sandwich
Processor Intel Atom 1.2GHz
Screen 4.3 inches
Resolution 1920 x 1080 pixels
Memory 1GB RAM
Storage 4GB
MicroSD compatible? Yes
Camera 8MP rear-facing, 0.3MP front-facing
Video 1080p
Connectivity 3G
Dimensions 126 x 64.7 x 10mm
Weight 140g
Battery 2,000 mAh

VERDICT: Perfectly ordinary – but it's positioned as an everyday smartphone.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
 FEATURES ★★★★★
 USABILITY ★★★★★
 DESIGN ★★★★★



Samsung Galaxy A7

Reviewed: July 2015, price: £319.99
www.samsung.com/uk

The Samsung Galaxy A7 is an attractive proposition. But looks aren't everything. The cheaper £269 OnePlus One offers more power, a similar screen size and up-to-date software. And the £129 Vodafone Smart 4 Max with a bigger screen is less than half the price. If it's about power, not just looking powerful, perhaps look elsewhere.

OS Android 4.4 KitKat
Processor 1.5GHz Quad-core
Screen 5.5-inches
Resolution 1080 x 1920 pixels
Memory 2GB RAM
Storage 16GB
Camera 13MP
Video Yes
Connectivity 3G
Dimensions 151 x 76.2 x 6.3mm
Weight 141g
Battery 2,600 mAh

VERDICT: An attractive device but it has less power than similar devices.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
 FEATURES ★★★★★
 USABILITY ★★★★★
 DESIGN ★★★★★





Samsung Galaxy Ace 3

Reviewed: March 2014, price: £180
www.samsung.com/uk

The Samsung Galaxy Ace 3 is a good handset that's been made irrelevant by cheaper competition. While it packs a vibrant display and solid specs, similar phones sit well below the £180 benchmark set here. Samsung will have to rethink its pricing. If it weren't for the Moto G's release this would be an emphatic recommendation – unfortunately Samsung will have to settle for the silver medal.

OS Android 4.2 Jelly Bean	Connectivity 4G LTE
Processor 1.2GHz dual-core	Dimensions 121.2 x 62.7 x 9.8mm
Screen 4 inches	Weight 115g
Resolution 480 x 800 pixels	Battery 1,500 mAh
Memory 1GB RAM	
Storage 8GB/16GB	
MicroSD compatible? Yes	
Camera 5MP rear-facing, VGA front-facing	
Video 720p	

VERDICT: Premium build quality and visuals at a good price – just not a great one.

PERFORMANCE	★★★★★
FEATURES	★★★★★
USABILITY	★★★★★
DESIGN	★★★★★



Samsung Galaxy K Zoom

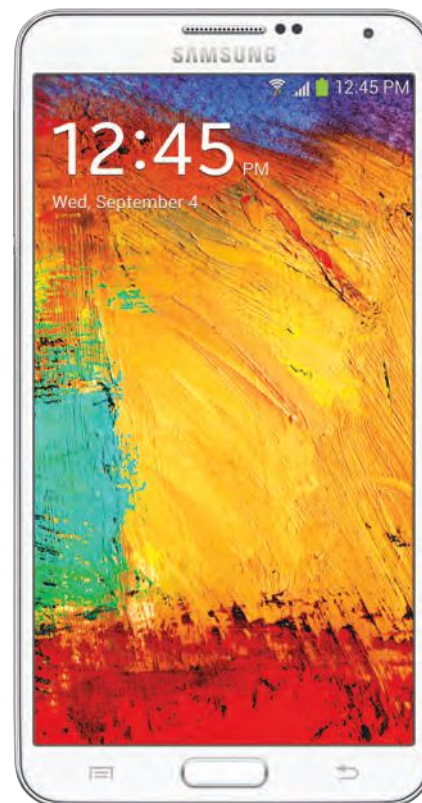
Reviewed: October 2014, price: £400
www.samsung.com/uk

We can see what Samsung set out to achieve with the Galaxy K zoom, and creating a solid Android smartphone with an optical zoom is no small feat. However, it looks like a dated digital camera at best – newer devices are much more compact. If you're after a smartphone with a solid snapper, we'd advise you to seek out the LG G3 or Sony Xperia Z2 instead.

OS Android 4.4 (KitKat)	Video 1080p
Processor Hexa-core: 1.3GHz quad-core + 1.7GHz dual-core	Connectivity 4G
Screen 4.8 inches	Dimensions 137.5 x 70.8 x 16.6mm
Resolution 1,280 x 720 pixels	Weight 200g
Memory 2GB RAM	Battery 2,430 mAh
Storage 8GB	
MicroSD compatible? Yes	
Camera 20.7MP rear-facing, 2MP front-facing	

VERDICT: A decent smartphone and an excellent camera in a hideous body.

PERFORMANCE	★★★★★
FEATURES	★★★★★
USABILITY	★★★★★
DESIGN	★★★★★



Samsung Galaxy Note 3

Reviewed: December 2013, price: £649
www.samsung.com/uk

The Note 3 steps over the competition with its large, engulfing display and great battery life, but it's the stylus that's the star of the show here, with great integration that makes it an ideal note-keeping device. This makes it ideal for business people on the move, although they'll have to make sure they keep an eye on the easy-to-lose pen at all times.

OS Android 4.3 Jelly Bean	Dimensions 151.2 x 79.2 x 8.3mm
Processor 2.3GHz quad-core	Weight 168g
Screen 5.7 inches	Battery 3,200 mAh
Resolution 1080 x 1920 pixels	
Memory 3GB RAM	
Storage 16/32/64GB	
MicroSD compatible? Yes	
Camera 13MP front-facing, 2MP rear-facing	
Video 4K	

VERDICT: A fantastic portable business device with helpful, unique features.

PERFORMANCE	★★★★★
FEATURES	★★★★★
USABILITY	★★★★★
DESIGN	★★★★★





Samsung Galaxy Note 4

Reviewed: December 2013, price: £498
www.samsung.com/uk

This year's effort ensures the Note remains top of the phablet pile, but unless you're particularly taken with the stylus and split-screen app combo, you shouldn't discount the latest flagship phones. The LG G3 and new Motorola Moto X are stunning devices, only slightly smaller in size and power. Unless you've got a thing for faux leather, that is, in which case the Note 4 is the best gadget ever made.

OS Android 4.4 KitKat
Processor 2.7GHz quad-core
Screen 5.7 inches
Resolution 1,440 x 2,560-pixels
Memory 3GB RAM
Storage 32GB
MicroSD compatible? Yes
Camera 16MP rear-facing, 3.7MP front-facing
Video 2160p at 30fps
Connectivity 4G
Dimensions 153.5 x 78.6 x 8.5mm
Weight 176g
Battery 3,220 mAh

VERDICT: Still king of the phablets, but not by such a distance this time around.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
 FEATURES ★★★★★
 USABILITY ★★★★★
 DESIGN ★★★★★



Samsung Galaxy Note Edge

Reviewed: April 2015, price: £610
www.samsung.com/uk

The Samsung Galaxy Note Edge points to an exciting future when we no longer have to accept that a smartphone screen has to be rectangular. As is often the case with a new technology, though, it needs more work. As cool as the edge looks, it serves little purpose, other than to make this a more expensive Note 4. Call us when the screen wraps all the way around, Samsung.

OS Android 4.4.4 KitKat
Processor Quad-core 2.7GHz Krait 450
Screen 5.6-inches
Resolution 1,600 x 2,560 pixels
Memory 3GB RAM
Storage 32/64GB
MicroSD compatible? Yes
Camera 16MP rear-facing,
 3.7MP front-facing
Video 4K @ 60fps
Connectivity 4G
Dimensions 151.3 x 82.4 x 8.3mm
Weight 174g
Battery 3,000 mAh

VERDICT: A worthwhile endeavour – for Samsung's engineers, not the consumer.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
 FEATURES ★★★★★
 USABILITY ★★★★★
 DESIGN ★★★★★



Samsung Galaxy S3 Mini

Reviewed: January 2013, price: £300
www.samsung.com/uk

Something of a misnomer, this is no relation to its bigger brother, the S III, despite the design similarities. The Mini is little more than a shrunk down Galaxy S II. If users want a budget Galaxy, they are better off pursuing that (former) flagship on a budget plan – this is extortionately expensive for what you get.

OS Android 4.1 Jelly Bean
Processor 1GHz dual-core
Screen 4 inches
Resolution 480 x 800 pixels
Memory 1GHz RAM
Storage 8/16GB
MicroSD compatible? Yes
Camera 5MP rear-facing, 0.3MP front-facing
Video 720p
Connectivity 3G
Dimensions: 121.6 x 63 x 9.9mm
Weight 111.5g
Battery 1,500 mAh

VERDICT: A cheeky move by Samsung to pass this off as a premium device. It's not.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
 FEATURES ★★★★★
 USABILITY ★★★★★
 DESIGN ★★★★★





Samsung Galaxy S4

Reviewed: July 2012, price: £550
www.samsung.com/uk

An impressive hardware offering with intriguing new software and camera features but these need to be perfected and integrated into the device as a whole before the S4 can really be called a knock out. While the phone's processor seemed to struggle with games and the design is pretty similar to the S3, this is a solid offering from Samsung in the flagship race.

OS Android 4.2 Jelly Bean
CPU 1.6 GHz quad-core
Screen 5 inches
Resolution 1080 x 1920 pixels
Memory 512MB RAM
Storage 16/32/64GB
MicroSD compatible? Yes
Cameras 13MP front-facing, 2MP front-facing
Video 1080p

Connectivity 4G LTE
Dimensions 136.6 x 69.8 x 7.9mm
Weight 130g
Battery 2,600 mAh

VERDICT: An impressive offering with interesting but not integrated new software.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
FEATURES ★★★★★
USABILITY ★★★★★
DESIGN ★★★★★



Samsung Galaxy S4 Active

Reviewed: November 2013, price: £400
www.samsung.com/uk

The Active S4 is ideal for people looking for a more protected smartphone, although it does make some sacrifices. Its design is too rugged for mainstream appeal and its display and camera aren't great. But it's a great hybrid for an underwater camera and is perfect for adventurous lifestyles.

OS Android 4.2.2 Jelly Bean
Processor 1.9 GHz quad-core
Screen 5 inches
Resolution 1080 x 1920 pixels
Memory 2GB RAM
Storage 16GB
MicroSD compatible? Yes
Camera 8MP rear-facing, 2MP front-facing
Video 1080p

Connectivity 4G LTE
Dimensions 139.7 x 71.3 x 9.1mm
Weight 151g
Battery 2,600 mAh

VERDICT: It may not be quite as good as its big brother, but it certainly has its purpose.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
FEATURES ★★★★★
USABILITY ★★★★★
DESIGN ★★★★★



Samsung Galaxy S5

Reviewed: June 2014, price: £530
www.samsung.com/uk

The thing about Galaxy handsets is that their flaws are often matters of personal opinion. If you don't mind the samey design, plasticky build and irksome user interface, then the Galaxy S5 could be the best smartphone going. It's insanely powerful, has a blinding display and is even waterproof. If you care about substance over style then the Galaxy S5 is as good as it gets.

OS Android 4.4 KitKat
Processor 2.5GHz quad-core
Screen 5.1 inches
Resolution 1920 x 1080 pixels
Memory 2GB RAM
Storage 16/32GB
MicroSD compatible? Yes
Camera 16MP rear-facing, 2MP front-facing
Video 1080p

Connectivity 4G LTE
Dimensions 142mm x 72.5mm x 8.1mm
Weight 145g
Battery 2,800 mAh

VERDICT: Behind a cheap-looking build lies the beastliest smartphone around.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
FEATURES ★★★★★
USABILITY ★★★★★
DESIGN ★★★★★





Samsung Galaxy S6 edge

Reviewed: June 2015, price: £760

www.samsung.com/uk

This is currently one of the best looking smartphones on the market. That dual-curved screen makes the iPhone 6 Plus and HTC One M9 look boring in comparison. An insanely fast camera and superb performance means that the Samsung Galaxy S6 edge isn't just about looks either.

OS Android 5.0 Lollipop
Processor octa-core Samsung Exynos 7420
Screen 5.1-inches
Resolution 1,440 x 2,560
Memory 3GB RAM
Storage 64GB/128GB
MicroSD compatible? No
Camera 16MP rear-facing 5MP front-facing

Video 4K
Connectivity 4G
Dimensions 142.11 x 70.1 x 7mm
Weight 132g
Battery 2,600 mAh

VERDICT: A phone that grabs attention with both its looks and performance.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
 FEATURES ★★★★★
 USABILITY ★★★★★
 DESIGN ★★★★★



Sony Xperia Z1

Reviewed: December 2013, price: £475

www.sonymobile.com

It's a little on the large side, but Sony's latest handset is rock solid, with powerful hardware and a unique design. Fans of the company will be right at home with the software that stores movies, music and games you've bought across other platforms. Add in a great camera and you've got a phone that stops just short of best in class.

OS Android 4.2 Jelly Bean
Processor Snapdragon 800 quad-core 2.2GHz
Screen 1080 x 1920 pixels, 5 inches
Memory 2GB RAM
Storage 16GB expandable up to 64GB via MicroSD
Camera 20.7MP rear-facing, 2MP front-facing

Video 1080p
Wireless Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0
Ports MicroSD, microUSB
Battery 3000mAh
Dimensions 144 x 74 x 8.5mm
Weight 170g

VERDICT: Software makes it great for Sony fans, hardware makes it good for the rest

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
 FEATURES ★★★★★
 USABILITY ★★★★★
 DESIGN ★★★★★



Sony Xperia Z1 Compact

Reviewed: March 2014, price: £449

www.sonymobile.com

If you hate giant displays and don't have the patience for Apple's iOS and its restrictive App Store, the Sony Xperia Z1 Compact is your only choice, and a great one at that. Sony has done well to make a phone with the power to rival the mighty iPhone in an equally small package. In-built Sony-branded apps such as Walkman and PlayStation is an inherent plus, too. Fingers crossed for a KitKat 4.4 upgrade soon.

OS Android 4.3
Processor Qualcomm Snapdragon 800
Screen 4.3-inch HD Triluminos
Resolution 720 x 1,280 pixels
Memory 2GB
Storage 16GB, expandable to 64GB

Camera 20.7MP Exmor RS
Video 720p
Connectivity Wi-Fi, 3G, 4G, Bluetooth 4.0, NFC
Dimensions 127 x 64.9 x 9.5mm
Weight 137g
Battery 2,300 mAh

VERDICT: The most powerful, best looking compact Android available. Simple.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
 FEATURES ★★★★★
 USABILITY ★★★★★
 DESIGN ★★★★★





Sony Xperia Z2

Reviewed: July 2014, price: £579
www.sonymobile.com

The Z2 matches its rivals' power and usability. A lack of design innovation and similar specs might deter Z1 owners from upgrading, though, and the large size might not appeal to fans of smaller devices. That said, superior imaging and a powerful processor and CPU means it excels in the right places.

OS Android 4.4 KitKat
Processor 2.3GHz quad-core
Screen 5.2 inches
Resolution 1080 x 1920 pixels
Memory 3GB RAM
Storage 16GB
MicroSD compatible? Yes
Camera 20.7MP rear-facing, 2.2MP front-facing
Video 720p

Connectivity 4G
Dimensions 146.8 x 73.3 x 8.2mm
Weight 163g
Battery 3,200 mAh

VERDICT: An immaculate smartphone, if only a small step up from its predecessor.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
FEATURES ★★★★★
USABILITY ★★★★★
DESIGN ★★★★★



Sony Xperia Z3

Reviewed: December 2014, price: £549
www.sonymobile.com

We were all a little bit surprised when Sony elected to release a new flagship a matter of months after the Xperia Z2 hit shelves. After reviewing it though, the company's reasoning is obvious. The Z3 is a true flagship as worthy of your attention (and cash) as any other in this Buyer's Guide. The Z3 has premium design, hugely powerful internals and an array of neat features. A very impressive device.

OS Android 4.4 Kit Kat
Processor 2.5GHz quad-core
Screen 5.2 inches
Resolution 1,920 x 1,080 pixels
Memory 3GB RAM
Storage 16GB
MicroSD compatible? Yes, up to 128GB
Camera 20.7MP rear-facing, 2.2MP front-facing

Video 4K
Connectivity 4G
Dimensions 146 x 72 x 7.3mm
Weight 152g
Battery 3,100 mAh

VERDICT: Sony's best full-sized offering yet, although the camera is aging a little now.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
FEATURES ★★★★★
USABILITY ★★★★★
DESIGN ★★★★★



Sony Xperia Z3 Compact

Reviewed: December 14, price: £429
www.sonymobile.com

The Xperia Z3 Compact is indisputably the most powerful compact Android ever made. We can't really slight it for anything, and no other Android phone in its size bracket can come close to matching it. It's remarkable that Sony has managed to squeeze almost the exact same technology from the Z3 into a smaller body. Finally, Android power-users have a valid option in the sub-five inch display category.

OS Android 4.4 Kit Kat
Processor 2.5GHz quad-core
Screen 4.6 inches
Resolution 1,280 x 720 pixels
Memory 2GB RAM
Storage 16GB
MicroSD compatible? Yes, up to 128GB
Camera 20.7MP rear-facing, 2.2MP front-facing

Video 4K
Connectivity 4G
Dimensions 127 x 64.9 x 8.6mm
Weight 129g
Battery 2,600 mAh

VERDICT: The definitive small-sized Android smartphone. The most powerful yet.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
FEATURES ★★★★★
USABILITY ★★★★★
DESIGN ★★★★★





Vodafone Smart 4 Max

Reviewed: July 2015, price: £129.99
www.vodafone.co.uk

If you crave a 6-inch 4G phablet for the equivalent of £2.50 a week over a year the Smart 4 Max is the only game in town. Purists will sneer at its elderly processor, low-res screen and lack of 'Lollipop'. You'll be the one with around £400 more in your bank account. Just bear in mind it can only connect to Vodafone 4G network and you can't remove the Vodafone embedded software.

OS Android 4.4 KitKat
Processor Snapdragon MSM8926
Screen 6-inches
Memory 1GB RAM
Storage 8GB
Camera 13MP
Video Yes
Connectivity 4G
Dimensions 164x83.4x7.9mm

Weight 170g
Battery 3,800 mAh

VERDICT: A great prices makes this worthwhile for first-time buyers.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
FEATURES ★★★★★
USABILITY ★★★★★
DESIGN ★★★★★



Vodafone Smart 4 Power

Reviewed: February 2015, price: £79
www.vodafone.co.uk

The benchmark scores of a £79 phone were never going to impress anyone: the Smart 4 Power is not a handset for playing the latest taxing games on. That said, it's enough to deliver on the advantages of 4G. If instant information rather than instant gratification is what you're after, this phone delivers for the price.

OS Android 4.4 KitKat
Processor 1.3GHz quad-core
Screen 5 inches
Resolution 720 x 1280
Memory 1GB RAM
Storage 4GB
MicroSD compatible? Yes
Camera 5MP rear-facing, VGA front-facing
Video 720p

Connectivity 4G
Dimensions 141 x 71.4 x 9.5mm
Weight 162g
Battery 3,000 mAh

VERDICT: Poor specs distract from what is an ergonomic and capable 4G starter.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
FEATURES ★★★★★
USABILITY ★★★★★
DESIGN ★★★★★



Vodafone Smart Ultra 6

Reviewed: September 2015, price: £125
www.vodafone.co.uk

Packing a fast processor, excellent screen and plenty of battery life, you'll be hard-pressed to find a rival phone which offers quite this much for the money. Even the camera is pretty good, offering full manual controls and a high megapixel count. If you're after a true bargain Android device and are happy to forgo the big brands, this is well worth a look.

OS Android 5.0 Lollipop
Processor 1.5GHz quad-core
Screen 5.5 inches
Resolution 1920 x 1080
Memory 2GB RAM
Storage 16GB
MicroSD compatible? Yes
Camera 13MP rear-facing, 5MP front-facing
Video 1080p 30fps

Connectivity 4G
Dimensions 154 x 77 x 8.4mm
Weight 159g
Battery 3,000 mAh

VERDICT: Excellent specs and great battery life make this seriously good value.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
FEATURES ★★★★★
USABILITY ★★★★★
DESIGN ★★★★★





Wileyfox Swift

Reviewed: November 2015, price: £129
www.wileyfox.com

A good budget handset that struggles to stand out from the crowd, the Wileyfox Swift faces stiff competition from the likes of Motorola. Punch-for-punch, it has features to match similar handsets but the difficulty of being an entirely new brand will make it hard to claw loyal fans away from other devices.

OS Android (Cyanogen 12.1)	Connectivity Dual-SIM, 4G
Processor 1.2GHz quad-core	Dimensions 141.15mm x 71mm x 9.37mm
Screen 5.0 inches	Weight 135g
Resolution 1280 x 720 pixels	Battery 2,500 mAh
Memory 2GB RAM	
Storage 16GB	
MicroSD compatible? Yes	
Camera 13MP rear-facing	
Video 1080p at 30fps	

VERDICT: A solid performer that can't quite make itself stand out from the rest.

PERFORMANCE	★★★★★
FEATURES	★★★★★
USABILITY	★★★★★
DESIGN	★★★★★



YeZZ Andy A5

Reviewed: June 2014, price: £207
www.sayyezz.com

Camera phone fans on a tight budget should definitely seek out the Andy A5 for its affordable price and high-quality camera. If taking photos is not that important to you then you'll probably have seen the uninspired design and bland features a million times before.

OS Android 4.2 (Jelly Bean)	Weight 106g
Processor Quad-core 1.2GHz	Battery 2,000 mAh
Screen 5 inches	
Resolution 540 x 960 pixels	
Memory 512MB RAM	
Camera 13MP rear-facing, 2MP front-facing	
Connectivity 3G, wi-fi	
Dimensions 144.1 x 73.5 x 8.6mm	

VERDICT: A great camera but the rest struggles against more bullish counterparts.

PERFORMANCE	★★★★★
FEATURES	★★★★★
USABILITY	★★★★★
DESIGN	★★★★★



YotaPhone 2

Reviewed: June 2014, price: £549
www.yotaphone.com/gb-en/

The YotaPhone 2 fixes almost all of the original's flaws, and turns the rear E Ink display from an impractical cherry on top, to one of the phone's main ingredients. There's no denying this quirky conversation-starter is for a niche audience, and a rich one at that. We can't wait to see what the YotaPhone 3 will bring – not least a price drop for this model.

OS Android 4.4 KitKat	Video 2.1MP front-facing
Processor Quad-core 2.3GHz Krait 400	Video 1080p
Screen 5 inches	Connectivity 4G
Resolution 1,080 x 1,920 pixels	Dimensions 144 x 69.5 x 8.9mm
Memory 2GB RAM	Weight 145g
Storage 32GB	Battery 2,500 mAh
MicroSD compatible? No	
Camera 8MP rear-facing,	

VERDICT: If you're constantly reading on the go this is the best new smartphone in years.

PERFORMANCE	★★★★★
FEATURES	★★★★★
USABILITY	★★★★★
DESIGN	★★★★★





ZTE Blade Vec 4G

Reviewed: February 2015, price: £153
www.ztedevices.co.uk

Once you've fixed all the software customisations present on the Vec 4G, you're left with a pretty respectable performer for the price. The large, sharp display does a great job of quickly rendering web pages over 4G. Unfortunately, the Vec 4G battery's small capacity and demanding hardware mean you'll often find the phone emptied by the end of the day. It also has storage issues – namely no SD card slot.

OS Android 4.4 KitKat
Processor 1.2GHz quad-core
Screen 5 inches
Resolution 720 x 1280
Memory 1GB RAM
Storage 16GB
MicroSD compatible? No
Camera 8MP rear-facing, 1MP front-facing
Video 1080p
Connectivity 4G
Dimensions 142.3 x 70.4 x 7.8mm
Weight 155g
Battery 2,300 mAh

VERDICT: Solid specs for 4G at a reasonable price, but there are better options out there.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
 FEATURES ★★★★★
 USABILITY ★★★★★
 DESIGN ★★★★★



ZTE Blade V

Reviewed: February 2014, price: £99.99
www.ztedevices.co.uk

A fantastic price makes the ZTE Blade V easy to recommend for first-time buyers. Anyone hoping to get the most out of a smartphone's apps and snaps should look elsewhere, but if you don't want to worry about a phone for the kids being broken or stolen, then this is for you.

OS Android 4.1 Jelly Bean
Processor Snapdragon S4 Play
Screen 480 x 800, 4 inches
Memory 1GB RAM
Storage 4GB
Camera 5MP
Video Yes
Connectivity 3G
Dimensions 126 x 64 x 10.9mm
Weight 130g
Battery 1,800 mAh

VERDICT: A great prices makes this worthwhile for first-time buyers.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
 FEATURES ★★★★★
 USABILITY ★★★★★
 DESIGN ★★★★★



ZTE Blade S6

Reviewed: August 2015 price: £169.99
www.ztedevices.co.uk

The ZTE Blade S6 is definitely more than just a cheap iPhone 6 rip off. A decent camera helps it stand out from the rest of the mid-range crowd, while performance is surprisingly decent for a phone of this price. It's let down by poor build quality and software that lacks certain features. The price is the most attractive, however, and those negatives shouldn't put you off this decent mid-range phone.

OS Android 5.0 Lollipop
Processor Snapdragon 615
Screen 5-inches
Memory 2GB RAM
Storage 16GB
Camera 13MP
Video Yes
Connectivity 4G
Dimensions 144 x 70.7 x 7.7mm
Weight 154g
Battery 2,400 mAh

VERDICT: An affordable phone with surprisingly decent performance.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
 FEATURES ★★★★★
 USABILITY ★★★★★
 DESIGN ★★★★★





Amazon Kindle Fire HD 8.9"

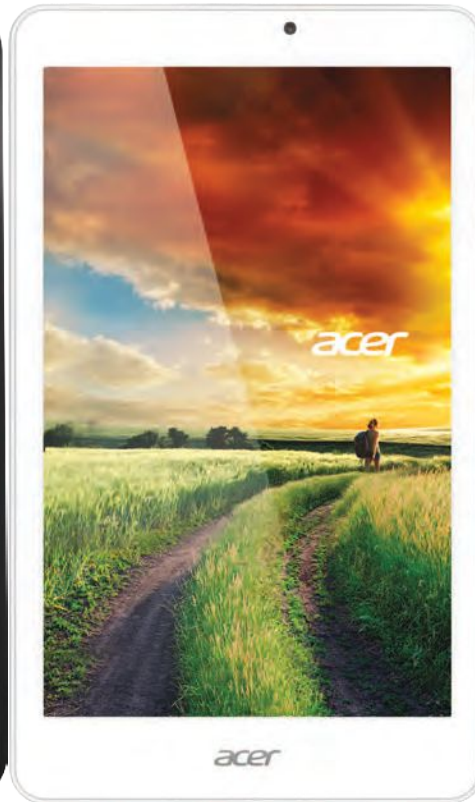
Reviewed: May 2013, price: £229/259
www.amazon.co.uk

A good looking e-reader with tablet capabilities, limited by Amazon's annoying operating system and app eco-system, and an annoyingly slow browser. This device will doubtless be a commercial success, with its branding and ease of use, but for the more serious user there are much better tablets out there.

Dimensions 240 x 164 x 8.8mm	RAM 1GB RAM
OS Customized Android 4.0	Storage 16GB/32GB
Screen 8.9 inch IPS LCD capacitive touchscreen	Cameras front facing 1.3MP with 720p video
Resolution 1920 x 1200, 254 ppi	Wireless 802.11 a/b/g/n, dual-band
Processor TI OMAP 4470 dual-core 1.5 GHz Cortex-A9	Ports USB 2.0, 3.5mm audio jacks, Bluetooth A2DP
GPU PowerVR SGX544	Battery life 10 hours (accurate)

VERDICT: A solid, functional tablet that is limited by its Amazon associations.

PERFORMANCE	★★★★★
FEATURES	★★★★★
USABILITY	★★★★★
DESIGN	★★★★★



Acer Iconia Tab 8

Reviewed: April 2015, price: £140
www.amazon.co.uk

Acer has managed to do what manufacturers of every cheap tablet should aspire to: create a tablet that is priced extremely competitively, but which performs to a standard much higher than you'd expect for its cost. A few compromises have been made along the way, but this is still a budget slab that's well worth considering.

OS Android 4.4 KitKat	2MP front-facing
Processor 1.3GHz quad-core	Video 720p
Screen 8 inches	Connectivity Wi-fi only
Resolution 1,280 x 800 pixels	Dimensions 215 x 130 x 8.5mm
Memory 2GB RAM	Weight 360g
Storage 16GB/32GB	Battery 4,600 mAh
MicroSD compatible? Yes, up to 32GB	
Camera 5MP rear-facing,	

VERDICT: It has a few flaws, but for less than £150 you should look past them.

PERFORMANCE	★★★★★
FEATURES	★★★★★
USABILITY	★★★★★
DESIGN	★★★★★



Advent Vega Tegra Note 7

Reviewed: April 2014, price: £140
www.nvidia.co.uk

It's a contender, alright. Aside from some clunky desing issues, the Advent Vega Tegra Note 7 is a powerful and punchy little machine. If you're after a compact and affordable tablet its speed sets it aside from its rivals as a device that's great for gaming, customising images and browsing the web.

OS Android Jelly Bean 4.3	Weight 320g
Processor Nvidia Tegra 4	Battery 8 hours
Screen 7 inches	
Resolution 1,280 x 800 pixels	
Memory 1GB RAM	
Storage 16GB	
Connectivity Wi-fi, Bluetooth 4.0	
Dimensions 119 x 199 x 9.6mm	

VERDICT: Its speed sets it apart from its competition. A cheap and capable device.

PERFORMANCE	★★★★★
FEATURES	★★★★★
USABILITY	★★★★★
DESIGN	★★★★★





Amazon Kindle Fire HDX

Reviewed: January 2014, price: £199-329
www.amazon.co.uk/kindle

The Kindle Fire HDX is around £100 more than the Fire but the improved screen and processor justifies the extra cost. The real human Help feature will be a boon to tablet newbies; experienced users will regard it as a gimmick. The HDX is a top-rate device – but if you're not a regular Amazon customer you're better off with a Nexus.

OS Amazon customised Android OS, v4.1.2
Screen 1902 x 1200 pixels, 7 inches
Processor Snapdragon 800 2.2GHz quad-core
Memory 2GB RAM
Storage 16/ 32/64GB versions available
Camera 8MP front-facing
Video 720HD
Wireless Wi-fi (optional Vodafone 4G version)
Ports microUSB
Dimensions 131.8 x 66.9 x 9.9mm
Weight 302g

VERDICT: A significant update to the Fire and ideal for Amazon users.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
 FEATURES ★★★★★
 USABILITY ★★★★★
 DESIGN ★★★★★



Apple iPad Mini

Reviewed: December 2012, price: £269
www.apple.com/uk

The iPad Mini represents Apple playing it safe, which is to say: disappointing. This is little more than an iPad 2, with all its limitations – a low-res screen and weak processor power – shrunk down to an odd 7.9-inch size. It is also overpriced, the Google Nexus 7 offers superior performance for £100 less. Despite its luxurious design, you really are paying for little more than 4G support and Apple's App Store. Average.

OS iOS 6.0.1
Screen 7.9-inch LED-backlit IPS LCD
Resolution 768 x 1024 pixels at 162 pixels per inch
Input Capacitive touchscreen
CPU Apple A5 1GHz dual core
GPU PowerVR SGX543MP2
Memory 512MB
Storage 16/32/64GB
Camera 5MP rear facing, 1.2MP front facing
Video 1920x1080 (1080P HD) at 30fps. Video stabilised
Wireless Wi-Fi 802.11 a/b/g/n, dual-band, Bluetooth 4.0
Ports 3.5mm audio jack, Apple Lightning port (USB 2.0)
Size 200 x 134.7 x 7.2mm
Weight 308g

VERDICT: Little more than a shrunken iPad 2 with 4G. Disappointing.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
 FEATURES ★★★★★
 USABILITY ★★★★★
 DESIGN ★★★★★



Apple iPad 3

Reviewed: April 2012, price: £399
www.apple.com/uk

The new iPad boasts the highest-resolution display of any tablet, as well as an improved 5MP camera and better connectivity. Not to mention a high-powered new processor which makes it the most powerful iPad ever, too. Though some may resist the upgrade path, the unrivalled Retina display is a subtle but deeply appealing feature that will become more and more desirable. The new iPad is by far the best tablet around

OS iOS 5
Screen 9.7-inch TFT
Resolution 1536 x 2048 pixels
Input Capacitive touchscreen
Processor 1GHz Cortex-A9
Memory 1GB
Storage 16/32/64GB
Camera 5MP rear-facing, 0.3MP front-facing
Flash No
Video 1080p HD
Wireless 802.11a/b/g/n Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0
Ports 3.5mm audio jack, proprietary Apple connector
Standby time 720 hours
Use time 9 hours
Size 241 x 186 x 9mm
Weight 662g

VERDICT: There's simply no contest – the new iPad is the best tablet in the world.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
 FEATURES ★★★★★
 USABILITY ★★★★★
 DESIGN ★★★★★





Apple iPad 4

Reviewed: January 2013, price: £399
www.apple.com/uk

A rather cheeky move by Apple to release the iPad 4 (or 'iPad with Retina Display') just months after the iPad 3. All it really adds is a new processor (the iPhone 5's A6X) and Apple's new lightning connector. However, this means it remains as the best tablet money can buy – and Apple's App Store and its 300,000 dedicated tablet apps only make the proposition more enticing.

OS iOS 6.0.1, **Screen** 9.7 inch LED
Resolution 1536 x 2048 pixels at 264 ppi pixel density
CPU Apple A6X, Dual-core
GPU PowerVR SGX554MP4,
Memory 1GB RAM
Storage 16/32/64GB storage
Camera 5MP rear facing, 1.2MP front facing
Video 1080P HD at 30fps
Wireless Wi-Fi 802.11 a/b/g/n, Bluetooth 4.0
Cellular 4G, 3G, 2G
Ports Lightning Connector (USB2.0) and 3.5mm audio jack,
Dimensions 241.2 x 185.7 x 9.4mm
Weight 662 g

VERDICT: The best tablet money can buy.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
 FEATURES ★★★★★
 USABILITY ★★★★★
 DESIGN ★★★★★



Archos 79 Platinum

Reviewed: April 2014, price: £150
www.archos.com

With so many budget tablets to choose from the Archos 79 Platinum has no features or unique selling points to attract the consumer in a saturated market. Its hardware is woefully underpowered, its features are bog standard and it is at least £10 too expensive. Its attractive looks are not enough to redeem it. The bottom line is that it should have never been conceived.

OS Android 4.2 Jelly Bean **Weight** 366g
Processor Quad-core A9 **Battery** Lithium Polymer
 1.6GHz
Screen 7.85 inches
Resolution 1024 x 768 pixels
Memory 1GB RAM
Storage 8GB
Camera 2MP rear-facing
Connectivity Wi-fi, Bluetooth
Dimensions 201 x 137 x 8mm

VERDICT: There is no reason you ever would, or should, buy it. Avoid, avoid, avoid.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
 FEATURES ★★★★★
 USABILITY ★★★★★
 DESIGN ★★★★★



Archos 101 XS 2

Reviewed: February 2014, price: £250
www.archos.com

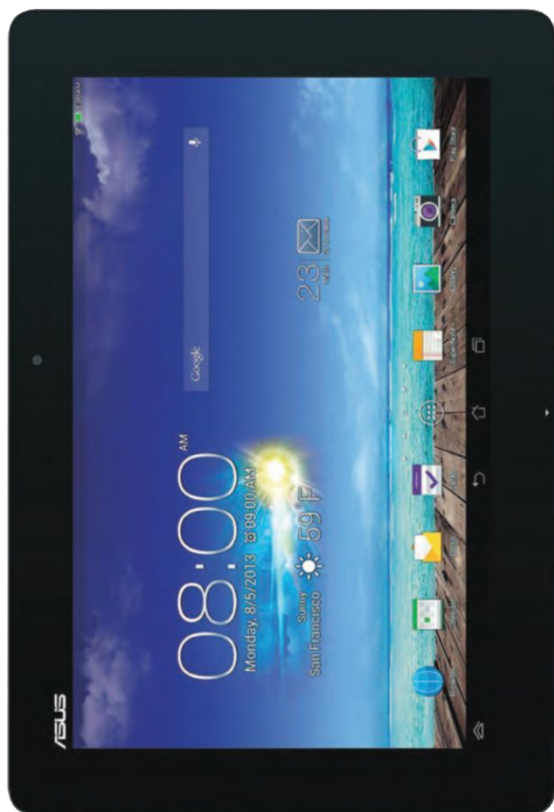
A couple of years ago, the 101 XS would have had us singing Archos' praises, but by today's standards its processing power and screen quality fall short. It might, though, find a home with users limited to spending £250 on a 10-inch tablet

OS Android 4.2.2 **Screen** 10.1-inch/1,280 x 800 pixels
Camera 2MP rear, 2MP front
Video Record/playback
Audio Music player/3.5mm jack
Memory 16GB expandable via MicroSD
Dimensions 273 x 169 x 10.1mm (tablet), 273 x 169 x 5mm (keyboard)
Weight 636g (tablet), 200g (keyboard)

VERDICT: A great price is let down by a poor screen and cheap build.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
 FEATURES ★★★★★
 USABILITY ★★★★★
 DESIGN ★★★★★





Asus Transformer Pad TF701T

Reviewed: February 2014, price: £429
www.asus.com

The Asus Transformer Pad TF701T packs a beautiful screen and the keyboard dock is well thought out. But dated software and the threat of a Google Nexus 10 sequel make this a niche device. Do you really need a keyboard? The iPad mini begs to differ.

OS Android 4.3 (via an over-the-air update)
Screen 10.1 inch/2,560 x 1,600 pixels
Input Capacitive touchscreen
Camera 5MP rear-facing, 1.2MP front-facing
Video Record/playback
Audio Music player/3.5mm jack

Memory 32/64GB
Battery Tablet 31Wh, dock 16Wh

VERDICT: It packs fast hardware but can't compete with the iPad Air or Nexus range

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
 FEATURES ★★★★★
 USABILITY ★★★★★
 DESIGN ★★★★★



Google Nexus 9

Reviewed: February 2015, price: £319
www.google.co.uk/nexus

The Google Nexus 9 is an impressive and welcome return to the tablet market for HTC, and a jewel of a gadget for Android 5.0 to debut on. The size is right, and if you know for sure you want an Android tablet, it's your best bet – it's certainly the best slate HTC has ever made – but for the money we'd still go for the quality build and thriving eco-system of an iPad.

OS Android 5.0 Lollipop
Screen 8.9-inch
Resolution 2048 x 1536 pixels
Processor Tegra K1 2.3GHz
Memory 2GB RAM
Storage 16GB/32GB internal
Camera 8MP rear-facing, 1.6MP front-facing
Flash No
Video 1080p HD

Dimensions 153.68mm x 228.25mm x 7.95mm
Weight 425g
Battery 6,700 mAh

VERDICT: The best tablet on the market – if you insist on Android, that is.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
 FEATURES ★★★★★
 USABILITY ★★★★★
 DESIGN ★★★★★



Google Nexus 10

Reviewed: February 2013, price: £319
www.google.co.uk/nexus

Finally, the Android tablet everyone's been waiting for – except Apple. This is a tablet that can go head to head with the best in the Apple iPad stable – it has a powerful processor, a Retina Display quality screen, the latest version of Android. Along with the Nexus 7, this is the best tablet Android users can buy. The only flaws are an uninspired body, and a dearth of tablet specific apps.

OS Android 4.2 (Jelly Bean)
Dimensions 263.9 x 177.6 x 8.9mm, 603g
Screen 10 inch
Resolution 2560 x 1600 pixels
Input Super PLS TFT capacitive touch-screen
CPU Exynos 5, Dual-core ARM Cortex-A15
RAM 2GB

Cameras 5MP (main), 1.9MP (front)
Wireless Wi-Fi, Bluetooth
NFC Android Beam
Storage 16GB/32GB
Connectivity Micro USB, Micro HDMI, 3.5mm headphone jack
Battery 9,000 mAh

VERDICT: The best Android tablet of 2013 slips behind the iPad only due to apps.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
 FEATURES ★★★★★
 USABILITY ★★★★★
 DESIGN ★★★★★





HP Slate 7

Reviewed: October 2013, price: £125
www.hp.com

The steel frame makes the Slate 7 an impressive sight and its audio uses Beats technology to great effect. The fantastic price will help it to undercut some of its rivals, though the slow processor and low quality camera keep it from besting them elsewhere.

OS Android 4.1 Jelly Bean
Processor Dual-core 1.6 GHz Cortex-A9
Screen 600 x 1024 pixels, 7.0 inches
Memory 1GB RAM
Storage 8GB expandable to 32GB via SD card
Camera 3.15MP pixel rear-facing, VGA front-facing

Video 720p
Dimensions 197.1 x 116.1 x 10.7mm
Weight 372 g
Battery non-removable, 5h media time

VERDICT: Great audio and build, but corners have been cut to keep costs down.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
FEATURES ★★★★★
USABILITY ★★★★★
DESIGN ★★★★★



Lenovo ThinkPad 8

Reviewed: September 2014, price: £424
www.lenovo.com

If you just want a device for general tasks then you can find better alternatives within Lenovo's Yoga range of Android slates, and elsewhere. If you're a fan of Windows and in search of a bulkier device that offers plenty of productivity tools, then the ThinkPad is an (almost) viable option.

OS Windows 8.1
Processor 2.4GHz quad-core
Screen 8.3 inches
Resolution 1200 x 1920 pixels
Memory 2GB RAM
Storage 32GB
MicroSD compatible? Yes
Camera 8MP rear-facing, 2.2MP front-facing

Video 1080p
Connectivity 4G
Dimensions 8.83 x 5.2 x 0.35 inches
Weight 439g

VERDICT: Even with so few Windows tablets available the ThinkPad still fails to stand out.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
FEATURES ★★★★★
USABILITY ★★★★★
DESIGN ★★★★★



Lenovo Miix 2

Reviewed: July 2014, price: £255
www.microsoft.com/surface

With solid performance across the board, frequently usable built-in apps and compact size the Miix 2 is a small but surprisingly versatile slate. Despite the limitations that come with the Windows OS, it performs general tasks well and, for the price, won't let you down. With 3G capability you can even connect to the internet on the move. Overall, it offers plenty of pleasant surprises to combat the weaknesses of its OS.

OS Windows 8.1
Processor 1.3GHz quad-core
Screen 8 inches
Resolution 1280 x 800 pixels
Memory 2GB
Storage 32GB
MicroSD compatible? Yes
Camera 5MP rear-facing, 2MP front-facing
Video 1080p

Connectivity 3G
Dimensions 8.3 x 215.6 x 131mm
Weight 350g
Battery 4,730 mAh

VERDICT: A small but substantial Windows offering that still trails its Android rivals.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
FEATURES ★★★★★
USABILITY ★★★★★
DESIGN ★★★★★





Lenovo Yoga Tablet 2

Reviewed: March 2015, price: £249
www.lenovo.com

Lenovo certainly deserves credit for trying to break the 'black slab' mould. It's an interesting attempt at something different, but unless you have a real need to hang it up from the ceiling or to perch it upright on a train table every day its mediocre internals and display don't represent that much value for money.

OS Android 4.4 KitKat
Processor 1.86GHz quad-core
Screen 10.1inches
Resolution 1920 x 1200 pixels
Memory 2GB RAM
Storage 16GB
MicroSD compatible? Yes, up to 64GB
Camera 8MP rear-facing, 1.6MP front-facing
Video 720p
Connectivity 4G optional
Dimensions 255 x 183 x 7.2mm
Weight 619g
Battery 9,600 mAh

VERDICT: A nice idea, but one we don't fully buy into. Not quite up to scratch.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
FEATURES ★★★★★
USABILITY ★★★★★
DESIGN ★★★★★



Microsoft Surface 2 Pro

Reviewed: February 2014, price: £720
www.microsoft.com/surface

We can't fault Microsoft's ambition for the powerful Surface Pro 2 to become your all-in-one portable work and play device. It's got a great display and solid hardware but a lack of dedicated apps, software compromises and stiff – cheaper – competition make it a tough sell.

OS Windows 8.1
Screen 10.6 inches/1920 x 1080 pixels
Input Capacitive touchscreen
Camera 720p resolution front and rear
Video Record/playback
Audio Music player/3.5mm jack
Memory 64GB/128GB/
256GB/512GB
Battery 48Wh

VERDICT: Price holds back what is an otherwise excellent work/play hybrid.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
FEATURES ★★★★★
USABILITY ★★★★★
DESIGN ★★★★★



Microsoft Surface Pro 3

Reviewed: November 2014, price: £640
www.microsoft.com/surface

From software to hardware and even design, the Surface Pro 3 is a wonderful piece of kit. It's refreshing to come across a tablet with grander ideals than the norm, challenging us to rethink the notion of the medium. For most people this could genuinely replace their laptop. It's just a shame, and an almost inexcusable mistake, that the keyboard which is so integral to its function is sold as an expensive extra.

OS Windows 8.1
Processor 1.5GHz Intel core i3/2.9GHz Intel core i5/3.7GHz Intel core i7
Screen 12 inches
Resolution 2160 x 1440 pixels
Memory 4/8GB RAM
Storage 64GB/128GB/256GB/512GB
MicroSD compatible? Yes, up to 128GB
Camera 5MP rear-facing, 5MP front-facing
Video 1080p
Connectivity Wi-fi only
Dimensions 292.1mm x 201.4mm x 9.1mm
Weight 800g
Battery 42Wh

VERDICT: The first tablet with enough function to conceivably replace a laptop.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
FEATURES ★★★★★
USABILITY ★★★★★
DESIGN ★★★★★





Nokia Lumia 2520

Reviewed: February 2014, price: £399
www.nokia.com

The Windows-run Lumia 2520 is a decent first effort from Nokia – and it's certainly one of the more attractive and solid pieces of tablet hardware on the market. It has a few issues with the weight and a lackluster camera but overall we have no trouble recommending this to Windows 8.1 and Lumia fans.

OS Windows 8.1
Screen 10.1 inches, 1920 x 1080 pixels, 218PPI
Processor Qualcomm Snapdragon 800
Memory 2GB
Camera 6.7MP with Carl Zeiss lens
Audio Music player/3.5mm jack

Dimensions 168 x 267 x 8.9mm, 615g
Battery 8120 mAh

VERDICT: A rock-solid first effort from Nokia in this market with powerful specs.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
FEATURES ★★★★★
USABILITY ★★★★★
DESIGN ★★★★★



Samsung Galaxy Tab 3 Kids

Reviewed: February 2014, price: £250
www.nokia.com

The Tab 3 Kids is surprisingly robust, with a solid camera, great battery, fantastic educational apps and software to suit kids. But the premium design doesn't feel like it was meant to be enjoyed by young users and we'd suggest going with a company that specialises in the market rather than one that's testing it out.

OS Android 4.1
Processor Dual-core 1.2GHz
Screen 600 x 1024 pixels, 7 inches
Memory 1GB RAM
Storage 8GB/16GB, expandable up to 64GB
Camera 3.15MP (back), 1.3MP (front)
Video 720p@30fps

Wireless WiFi, Bluetooth 3.0
Ports micro-USB, MicroSD
Dimensions 188 x 111.1 x 9.9mm
Weight 306g
Battery Li-Ion 4,000 mAh

VERDICT: A little too premium for the market it is aimed at.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
FEATURES ★★★★★
USABILITY ★★★★★
DESIGN ★★★★★



Samsung Galaxy Tab S

Reviewed: October 2014, price: £319
www.samsung.com/uk

While the Tab S may not be a radical departure from other Android tablets, it encompasses everything that is great about a top-notch Samsung product. It's enough to rebuild the Korean giant's brand image, and proof that the company can still surprise us with a fantastic all-round product.

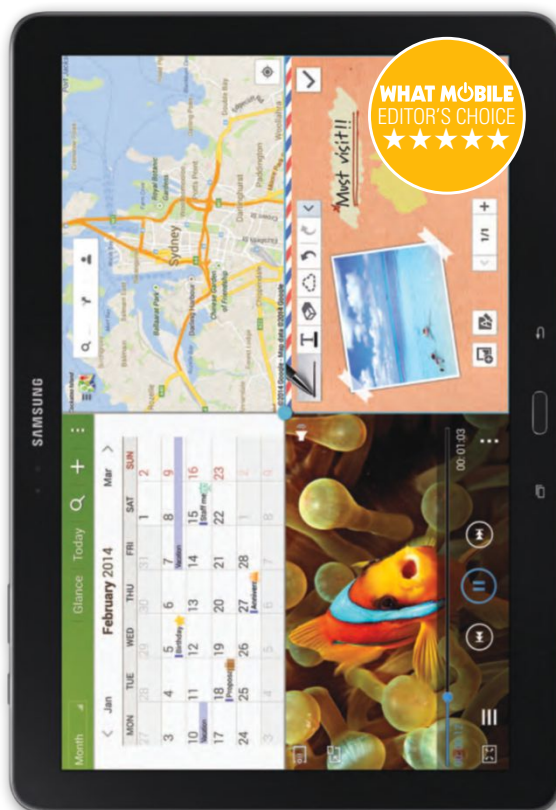
OS Android 4.4 Kit Kat
Processor 2.3GHz quad-core
Screen 8.4 inches
Resolution 2560 x 1600 pixels
Memory 3GB RAM
Storage 16GB, 32GB
MicroSD compatible? Yes
Camera 8MP rear-facing, 2.1MP front-facing
Video 1080p

Connectivity 4G
Dimensions 125.6 x 212.8 x 6.6mm
Weight 294g
Battery 4,900 mAh

VERDICT: Simply put, it's the best Android tablet on the market.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
FEATURES ★★★★★
USABILITY ★★★★★
DESIGN ★★★★★





WHAT MOBILE EDITOR'S CHOICE
★★★★★

Samsung Galaxy Note Pro 12.2

Reviewed: May 2014, price: £649
www.samsung.com/uk

One of the biggest displays ever seen on a tablet – at no detriment to quality. Combine that with solid design and a super powerful processor to run loads of unique applications and the NotePRO 12.2 is arguably the best tablet on the market. It's certainly the best Android slate, although it's definitely priced as such.

OS Android 4.4 KitKat
Processor Octa-core (1.9GHz + 1.3GHz quad)
Screen 12.2 inches
Resolution 2560 x 1600 pixels
Memory 3GB RAM
Storage 32GB/64GB
Camera 8MP rear/2MP front-facing
Video 1,080p Full HD
Connectivity Wi-fi only
Dimensions 295.6 x 204 x 7.95mm
Weight 750g
Battery 9,500 mAh

VERDICT: Big, beautiful, functional and priced to match. Android's finest.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
FEATURES ★★★★★
USABILITY ★★★★★
DESIGN ★★★★★



Sony Xperia Z4 Tablet

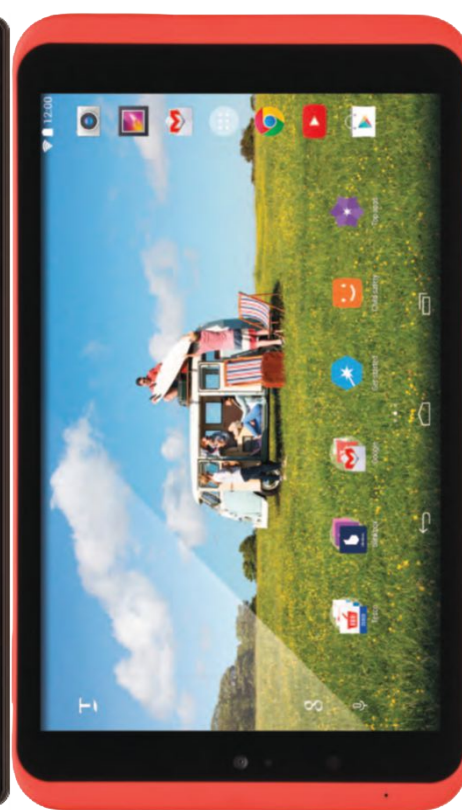
Reviewed: October 2015, price: £499
www.sony.co.uk

The Sony Xperia Z4 is a beautifully engineered tablet with more than enough power to run even the most demanding app smoothly. Unfortunately, while slimline and lightweight, its listed price of £499.00 is surprisingly high for its provided specifications. Powerful but pricey.

OS Android 5.0 (Lollipop)
Processor Octa-core 2.0 GHz Qualcomm Snapdragon 810, 64 bit
Screen 10.1 inches
Resolution 2560 x 1600-pixels
Memory 3GB RAM
Storage 32GB
MicroSD compatible? Yes,
up to 128GB
Camera 8.1MP rear-facing, 5.1MP front-facing
Video 1080p
Connectivity 4G, Wi-Fi
Dimensions 167 x 254 x 6.1 mm
Weight 393g
Battery 6,000 mAh

VERDICT: Beautifully engineered, slimline tablet but pricey considering specification.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
FEATURES ★★★★★
USABILITY ★★★★★
DESIGN ★★★★★



Tesco Hudl 2

Reviewed: January 2015, price: £129
www.tesco.com/direct/hudl

This is no Tesco Value attempt at a tablet. Make no mistake, the Hudl 2 is a fantastic Android slate that's great value for money. Sure, it's not on the cutting edge like Google's Nexus series of devices, but if all you want is a gadget to casually surf the web, watch some films or read a few comics, this device is every bit as capable as an iPad Mini.

OS Android 4.4 KitKat
Processor 1.83GHz quad-core
Screen 8.3 inches
Resolution 1920 x 1200 pixels
Memory 2GB RAM
Storage 16GB
MicroSD compatible? Yes
Camera 5MP rear-facing, 1.2MP front-facing
Video 720p at 30fps
Connectivity Wi-fi
Dimensions 224 x 128 x 9mm
Weight 410g
Battery 4,900 mAh

VERDICT: Don't be fooled – Tesco is now a serious contender in the tablet space.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
FEATURES ★★★★★
USABILITY ★★★★★
DESIGN ★★★★★





Toshiba Excite Pure

Reviewed: February 2014, price: £250
www.toshiba.co.uk

The Toshiba Excite Pure's £250 price is attractive but its display is far too faded. It means apps and the like don't look very good. It might appeal to families looking for a cheap way to keep the kids entertained but little else. Even so, the slow processor and useless apps force us to recommend you look elsewhere.

OS Android v4.2 (Jelly Bean)
Processor Nvidia Tegra 3
Memory 1GB
Storage 16GB
Screen 1280 x 800 pixels, 10.1 inches
Video HD
Audio Stereo
Dimensions 261.6 x 177.8 x 10.2mm

VERDICT: It's got a cheap price tag but the poor display and tech shows why.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
 FEATURES ★★★★★
 USABILITY ★★★★★
 DESIGN ★★★★★



Vodafone Smart Tab 4G

Reviewed: June 2015, price: £125
www.vodafone.co.uk

Attractive, cheap and feature-packed; the Vodafone Smart Tab 4G looks more upmarket than its affordable £125 pricing suggests. It's let down by a slow processor, but that shouldn't put you off what is basically well-designed and ideal family tablet.

OS Android KitKat 4.4
Processor 1.2 GHz Quad-Core
Screen 8.0-inches
Resolution 1280 x 800-pixels
Memory 1GB RAM
Storage 8GB
MicroSD compatible? Yes, up to 64GB
Camera 5MP rear-facing, 2MP front-facing
Connectivity GSM/EDGE/3G/4G/HSPA+/LTE
Dimensions 209 x 128 x 7.99mm
Weight 309g
Battery 4060 mAh

VERDICT: An affordable and easy-to-use tablet that offers something for everyone.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
 FEATURES ★★★★★
 USABILITY ★★★★★
 DESIGN ★★★★★



Vodafone Smart Tab 6

Reviewed: September 2015, price: £150
www.vodafone.co.uk

The Smart Tab 6 is definitely cheap but we'd suggest looking elsewhere for a good budget tablet. The screen isn't that great and performance can't quite keep up with more intensive tasks and games. It has a large battery and the build quality is definitely better than the price suggests, but these points aren't enough to redeem what is an average tablet at best.

OS Android 5.0.2 Lollipop
Processor Quad-core 1.3GHz
Screen 1280 x 800 pixels, 9.6 inches
Memory 1GB RAM
Storage 16GB, expandable up to 32GB
Camera 5MP rear-facing, 2MP front-facing
Video 720p
Wireless WiFi, Bluetooth 4.1
Ports micro-USB, MicroSD
Dimensions 146 x 244 x 7.9mm
Weight 406g
Battery Li-Ion 4,600 mAh

VERDICT: Cheap but not quite good enough to worry the competition.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
 FEATURES ★★★★★
 USABILITY ★★★★★
 DESIGN ★★★★★





Asus ZenWatch

Reviewed: April 2015, price: £204
www.asus.com/uk

The Asus ZenWatch is handsome enough, but fails to stand out from the crowd of Android Wear devices. Google's wearable OS still feels like a solution in search of a problem – unless you have a specific use in mind for its features you may want to hold out for the next generation of devices.

OS Android Wear
Processor Snapdragon 400 1.2GHz
Screen 1.63 inches
Resolution 320 x 320 pixels
Memory 512MB RAM
Storage 4GB
MicroSD compatible? No

Camera N/A
Video N/A
Connectivity Bluetooth 4.0
Dimensions 51 x 39.9 x 9.4mm
Weight 75g
Battery 369mAh

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
FEATURES ★★★★★
USABILITY ★★★★★
DESIGN ★★★★★



Nike+ Fuelband SE

Reviewed: June 2014, price: £89
www.nike.com

The Nike+ FuelBand SE is close to being the perfect sports tracker. It's social capabilities combined with its numerous features to keep you motivated ensure that it will be a permanent mainstay in any gym addict's kit bag. You might not be so keen on wearing it every single day, though, with its appealing design being more clearly tailored to a casual setting. Plus, its lack of waterproofing could be a deal-breaker for some.

OS N/A
Processor N/A
Screen N/A
Resolution N/A

Memory N/A
Storage N/A
Camera N/A

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
FEATURES ★★★★★
USABILITY ★★★★★
DESIGN ★★★★★



Vector Smartwatch

Reviewed: November 2015, price: £80
www.vectorwatch.com

An ambitious attempt to inject some much-needed class into the smartwatch. It's beautiful. But the level of interactivity is minimal and its software lacking. Ultimately, we came away wondering what a Pebble Time with Vector's hardware and battery life might be like. We can only hope this becomes just that, but the company has a long road to travel first.

OS Custom
Storage No
MicroSD compatible? No
Camera No
Video No

Connectivity Bluetooth LE
Dimensions 44 x 44 x 11mm
Weight 142g
Battery 30 days

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
FEATURES ★★★★★
USABILITY ★★★★★
DESIGN ★★★★★



LG G Watch R

Reviewed: May 2015, price: £180.00
www.jawbone.com

The LG G Watch R may be one of the most mature-looking smartwatches yet, but not everyone will find it attractive – or appreciate Android Wear's limitations. The market's set to explode with the advent of the Apple Watch and the Pebble Time. Unless you're desperate for what the LG G Watch R does right now, it's hard to see the value in yet another second-generation Android Wear watch.

OS Android Wear
Processor Snapdragon 400 1.2GHz
Screen 1.3 inches
Resolution 320 x 320 pixels
Memory 512MB RAM
Storage 4GB
MicroSD compatible? No

Camera No
Video No
Connectivity Bluetooth 4.0
Dimensions 46.4 x 53.6 x 9.7mm
Weight 62g
Battery 410mAh

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
FEATURES ★★★★★
USABILITY ★★★★★
DESIGN ★★★★★



Samsung Galaxy Gear 2

Reviewed: June 2014, price: £250
www.samsung.com

The design needs a rethink but the Samsung Galaxy Gear 2 provides decent fitness tracking features and a good music player. Trimming down on other functions, however, would have made for a slimmer and sleeker product. It would be unfair to say this is a needless addition as it packs a lot of functions, but it's an expensive product

Display 1.63-inch Super AMOLED (320 x 320)

Dimensions 36.9 x 58.4 x 10.0mm, 68g

Processor 1GHz dual-core

Memory 512MB + 4GB storage

Battery 300mAh; 2 to 3 days'

average usage

Connectivity Bluetooth 4.0, IR

Water resistance Rated IP67

Camera 2MP, 720p, 30fps video

OS Tizen-based OS

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
FEATURES ★★★★★
USABILITY ★★★★★
DESIGN ★★★★★



Fitbit Flex

Reviewed: August 2014, price: £79.99
www.fitbit.com

Minor niggles aside, the Fitbit Flex is possibly the best fitness wearable on the market. Its features are so diverse, and its app so beautiful and intuitive, that it can be tailored to just about anyone's lifestyle. With interchangeable bands in a variety of colours, and a low price, the Flex is practically a must-buy.

OS N/A
Processor N/A
Screen N/A
Resolution N/A
Memory N/A

Storage N/A
Camera N/A

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
FEATURES ★★★★★
USABILITY ★★★★★
DESIGN ★★★★★



Microsoft Band 2

Reviewed: January 2016, price: £199
http://www.microsoftstore.com/

Microsoft really believes that wearables are the future. It has banked quite heavily on fitness devices with lots of sensors and the Band 2 is its next iteration of this. Retailing at £199, it is by no means cheap but offers more sensors than any other device currently on the market. The main question is, has it solved the issues that plagued the original?

OS Custom Windows Phone OS
Number of sensors 11
Processor N/A
Screen 1.26 x 0.50 inches
Resolution 320 x 128 pixels
Memory N/A

Storage N/A
Connectivity Bluetooth
Dimensions 159 x 78 x 7.3 mm
Weight N/A
Battery 48 hours

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
FEATURES ★★★★★
USABILITY ★★★★★
DESIGN ★★★★★



Samsung Galaxy Gear S2

Reviewed: May 2014, price: £649
www.samsung.com/uk

The Gear S2 Classic is a device you'll definitely wear daily and won't be bored of any time soon. But Samsung needs to make due on its promise of apps to establish itself as king of the wearables. That said, Samsung has provided us with an excellent smartwatch that is arguably the best on the market.

OS Tizen
Processor Exynos 3250
Screen 1.2 inches
Resolution 360 x 360 pixels
Memory 512MB
Storage 4GB

MicroSD compatible? No
Connectivity Wi-Fi
Dimensions 43.6 x 39.9 x 11.4 mm
Weight 42g
Battery 250 mAh

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★
FEATURES ★★★★★
USABILITY ★★★★★
DESIGN ★★★★★



Wearable compatibility guide



LG
G Watch R



Pebble
Watch



Samsung
Gear Live



Sony
Smartwatch 3



Garmin
Vivofit



Archos
Activity Tracker



iPhone
6 / 6 plus



HTC
One M8



Samsung
Galaxy S5



Sony Xperia
Z3 / Z3 Compact



iPhone 6 LCD?
no problem...

fonedoctors.com

020 7403 9111



THIS AD HAS BEEN HAND-MADE... THAT'S HOW WE ROLL!



power to life



The amazing new accessories range, coming soon from **fonedoctors**



love your mobile

SAMSUNG

Galaxy S7 edge | S7

Rethink what a
phone can do



UPGRADE TODAY WITH BUYSMOBILES.NET



Get a great price on your mobile phone upgrade. Save money on the latest mobiles with our amazing offers.



FREE Next Day Delivery



Order up to 9pm



Call for Early Upgrades



Order before 9pm for
FREE Next-Day Delivery*



Talk to an expert
0345 413 6269
Mon-Fri 9am - 5.30pm

buysmobiles.net

*Mon-Fri 9pm, Sunday 2pm. Subject to availability and acceptance. Full terms apply.