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What to buy and how to use it

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MOBILE CHOICE

Galaxy S 4 vs HTC One

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**30 TABLETS
REVIEWED
AND RATED**

including **Samsung**
Galaxy Note 8.0

+ Nokia
Lumia 720

ZTE Blade III

Motorola RAZR HD

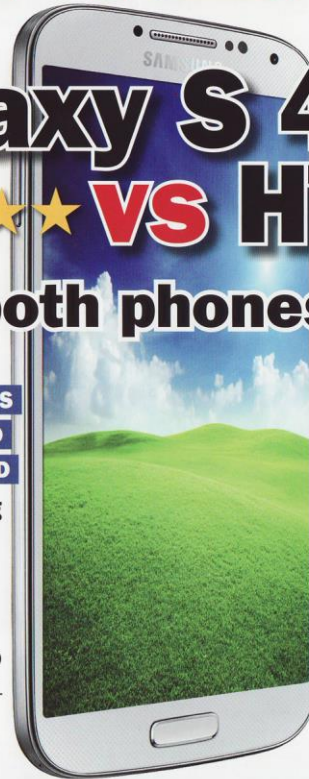
Huawei Ascend W1

TOP 10

Phone features you
can't live without

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Genius
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FEATURE // ACCESSORIES

The hottest earphones, speakers, cases and other gadgets to pimp out your mobile

Exciting add-ons

1 MU USB ADAPTER

If you're sick of lugging bulky mains chargers about with you, the Mu universal USB adapter is going to make you smile. Simply plug your USB charging cable into the Mu, plug the other end into your phone, then slot the Mu into your mains as usual. Doesn't sound like anything special, but the Mu folds up into a tiny pocket-sized square when not in use, taking up almost no space in your bag or case. You can also grab similarly-tiny travel adapters for use in America and Europe, making this a tech-loving traveller's best friend.

www.themu.co.uk • £25

2 ENERGIE CHARGEGENIE

Another portable charger, but this one can be easily used while operating your mobile thanks to the sticky gel pad, which fixes the Chargegenie right to the back of your phone. You then simply plug the built-in micro USB cable into your phone (so this won't work with Apple products) and your device immediately starts charging. You get almost a full recharge per use, and the Chargegenie can be refilled by sticking it into a computer. The handy indicator lights show how much charge remains. We were pleased to see the gel pads can be quickly and easily cleaned, so you can reuse it as much as you want. The only downside is it adds considerable bulk to your phone while in use.

energie4u.co.uk • £20

3 STK GROOVEZ HEADPHONES

We love listening to music but hate trailing cables, so Bluetooth headphones are our best friends. The STK Groovez charge via USB, so hook them up to your PC until they're ready and then activate Bluetooth on your phone or tablet and the two will pair up with just a tap. The Groovez are comfortable to wear, with plenty of padding, and fold up neatly for travel. You get play/pause/skip/volume controls on the outsides, which work fine with most music apps (although Bloom.FM songs wouldn't unpause for some random reason). Sound quality is crisp and clean but voices seem a little weak compared to more expensive headphones, sometimes sounding echoey. For the price, however, the Groovez do the job.

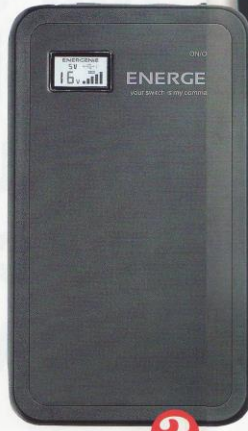
www.amazon.co.uk • £60

4 JABRA REVO WIRELESS - £199

Premium looks, a premium feel and premium performance make these wireless headphones one of the best things to land on our desk in some time. From the mixture of metal, rubber and plastic, to the fact 'left' and 'right' are written on the inside of the cups, it's clear a ton of thought has gone into the Revo wireless headphones. An inbuilt mic means they can be used as a headset, and the sides can be touched to control volume and skip tracks, while they also come with an app that controls Dolby sound and offers various graphic equalisers. Whichever you choose, the bass is super rich. The battery will give you a respectable 12 hours of use, and the Bluetooth range is about 10 meters with no obstacles.

Although these headphones are wireless, they come with a lovely orange fabric cable too, and are also NFC compatible, so just tap them onto your phone and you're ready to go. Jabra might not be one of the first names to pop into your head when you think of high-end personal audio, but that's all going to change if the company carries on like this.

www.jabra.co.uk • £199



5 HIPPIH HIPKEY

If you're paranoid about someone running off with your gear when you're out in public, the hipKey is one way of keeping thieves at bay. This tiny gadget has a number of settings, which alert you to suspect behaviour - for instance, the motion sensor will sound an alarm on both the hipKey and your iPhone if the device is moved, useful for making sure no one tampers with your bag. A proximity alarm alerts you if your phone and hipKey become separated, another useful anti-theft feature, and you can even set up a GPS 'safe zone' around a set location. The hipKey charges via a bundled USB cable and connects effortlessly to your iPhone via Bluetooth.

www.hippih.com • £70

6 MUSICAL FIDELITY EB-50 EARPHONES

The military-grade aluminium casing on these earphones makes them look like mini turbines, and that's fitting because they fire out a powerful sound. If these miniature-metal marvels look heavy, it's because they are, and while that might not be for everyone, the weight makes them feel more substantial than other earphones. The EB-50's come with a generous 11 rubber tip options, nicely presented in a plastic case, so even if you have cavernous earholes, you're catered for.

When it comes to sound, the quality is superclean, so if accuracy is what you're after, these are the earphones for you.

www.musicalfidelity.com • £149.99

7 FREEDOM I-CONNEX BLUETOOTH KEYBOARD

Tablets are really useful for getting work done on the go, but when the on-screen keyboard takes up half your space, progress can be slow. Praise be for keyboard accessories, then, which mean the whole screen can be left free to do something useful.

The Freedom i-Connex is a nifty folding keyboard that will connect to almost any Bluetooth device. It's powered by just two AAA batteries which offers almost 100 hours of use - impressive.

The alphabet keys are almost full-size, however the spacebar is much smaller and doesn't always register. It's not the most attractive of accessories and doesn't feel particularly premium, but it does what it was intended to do without a fuss. The folding gimmick and free tablet stand are big bonuses too.

www.freedominput.com • £49.99

8 EDIFIER PRISMA BT SPEAKERS

These funky Bluetooth speakers look like they've leapt straight out of a sci-fi film, with their sleek white curves and angles. In fact, the amp could almost be a miniature spacecraft. We reckon they'd look great on a shelf at home, and even better, they're simple to set up and connect to your smartphone or tablet (a line-in port also allows you to hook up to a stereo). You can boost the volume up to ear-bleeding levels using the wired controller, which also has a headset port if you'd rather have some privacy (or your neighbours can't stand your taste in music).

www.edifier-international.com • £85

Words Chris Barraclough and Mike Shaw

more overleaf

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www.hippih.com • £70