

Cyber Monday Deals Week Offers

Valid until 7th of December

Comparison	Tablets side by side	Holiday Deals	Comparison charts	Tablet buying guide	Blog	<input type="text" value="Search..."/>
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Tablet Previews

- Toshiba Encore
- Lenovo Miix 2
- Dell Venue 8 Pro
- New Kindle Fire HDX

- New tablets 2013
- Best tablets 2013

Compare by

- Price
- Battery life
- Display size
- Tablet form
- Operating system

Compare all

- Android tablets
- Windows tablets
- Apple and others
- Tablets for Kids

Compare brand

- Acer
- Amazon
- Apple
- Asus
- Barnes&Noble
- Coby Kyros
- HP
- Lenovo
- Samsung
- Sony
- Toshiba



Tablet PC Buying Guide



Top 7 Tablets

comparestores.net/Tablet
 2013 Bestselling Tablet. Compare Latest Deals & Save Big!

The Samsung Chromebook

2013 Top 5 Tablets

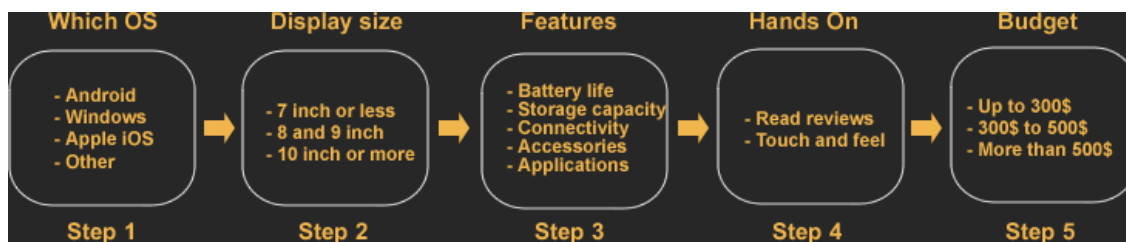
Posted: April 16, 2012

Owning a tablet pc computer is no longer about making a style statement, but it is now a necessity for many who do not like to tug a heavy laptop along or wait until they get back to their desktop computer. But with so many choices available now, how do you decide what is right for you? Do you go with a popular brand or do you buy a tablet that is more suited to your personal needs? Will you let your friends decide your purchase or will you buy a tablet for its features and specifications?

Tablets can be classified in many ways. Based on their operating system, you can classify tablets as those that run the Apple iOS, Google's Android, Windows or Blackberry's OS. While Apple and Blackberry tablets run their own operating system on their tablets, Google's Android is used by almost all tablet manufacturers who do not develop their own operating system. At the moment, few Windows 7 based tablets exist and more are expected to be available when Windows 8 version optimized for tablet pc will be

launched.

Step by step decision



Step 1 - Which Operating System?

OS the Heart of the Tablet PC

While many tech experts may say that the heart of the tablet is its processor, I believe that it is the operating system in a tablet that makes it what it is. Consider the Blackberry Playbook from RIM; when it was launched, it had some of the best tech specs, but was very weak in terms of its **QNX OS** features till the upgrade earlier this year. However, Apple's iPad 1 may have launched with seemingly lowly tech specs, but the ease of use of the **Apple iOS** is among the prime reasons why the device has become a roaring success.

Easy customization of the **Android platform** has enabled several manufacturers get into the tablet space; Samsung, LG, Acer and Sony being some of them. If you like to play around with the interface, change the sound or the icons, Android gives you the most options in terms of customizability. Multitasking features including opening and running multiple apps in the background is something that is available on most tablets these days, but you might want to reconfirm this before you buy the tablet.

One major consideration for most tablet users is its ability to play flash. While it is no secret that you cannot play flash on an iPad, this is not really a limiting factor to millions of customers who have an app for almost every conceivable thing. However, if flash is important for you're browsing and gaming experience, you must consider an Android tablet or a Playbook.

Windows 7 based tablets can be a good choice when connectivity and interoperability with desktop W7 based computers are the prime reason for buying a tablet. The Windows 8 platform that will be launched at the end of 2012 is widely seen as a threat to Apple and Android dominance, considering that Windows is widely adopted by the enterprise.

Step 2 - Size

Is the Tablet Portable Enough?

The weight and **size of the tablet** are a major factor when it comes to tablet portability. Ten inch tablets are pretty much the standard size, but manufacturers have started experimenting with smaller sizes with the **7 inch** being the most popular. **10 inch** tablets may be good as a reader, but 7 inch tablets will fit in easily into your jacket pocket or your hand bag.

In terms of weight, most decent **tablets weigh** around the 500 gram (1.01 lbs) mark, but if you thought that a 50 gram additional weight is not going to make much of a difference, wait till you have held the tablet for about half an hour in the flight. You will realize that these little differences in weight can make a huge difference in the handling comfort and minimize any strain on your palms or joints.

Step 3 - Tablet PC Features

Engine and Battery Power

You guessed it right; this is typically what decides how fast or how efficiently your tablet runs various programs including your regular browsing, watching videos and running your favourite apps. If you have read dual core, quad core, 1.2 Ghz, 1GB Memory and so on, don't worry too much. These are just numbers that tell you how powerful your tablet is in terms of tech specs, something similar to how big your car engine is or how many pistons it has. In simpler words, the bigger the numbers, the better the tablet is in terms of its processing power.

However, there is a down side to higher processing powers on your tablet. It may need more battery juice to keep it running optimally and the tablet may generate more heat as it starts to process more information. A look through the manufacturer rating on the battery power should give you a fair idea of how long the tablet is going to last. You need to look for numbers such as **battery life** in video play back mode and battery life in standby mode. Most tablets give 6+ hours of battery life when in constant use with some going up till 10 hours or more.

How Big is the Storage Space?

This is something which many customers ignore. Just to save a few dollars, you may buy a tablet with a storage space of 16 Giga Bytes. While these may be sufficient for a few hundred photos, some videos, 2 or 3 movies and about 50 apps, you may find that you are struggling with memory space in a few months time. 32 GB and 64 GB tablets are standard memory storage sizes with most manufacturers. However, if you anticipate your need for memory to be even higher, look for a tablet with expandable memory slots, though in most cases, 32 GB or 64 GB tablets will be more than sufficient.

Expansion Slots, USB Slots and Many Other Slots

If you are an avid tablet user, you might like to have slots for every single thing; A slot for a USB, another for the SD Card, Micro HDMI Slots and so on. Depending on your personal needs, see what you are going to use the most. If you have a HD TV, you might most definitely want a HDMI slot out from your tablet that can be connected to your TV to watch the photos or videos you have taken, or stream a movie from the internet. While it is easy to get lost in the multitude of slots, think for a moment as to what you are going to really need. Chances are that you might use only a very few.

Wi-Fi or SIM based?

Do not buy a tablet just because it has a SIM slot. Have you researched on how expensive the browsing plans are on a SIM when you do not have Wi-Fi hot spots available? Does your tablet support 4G LTE? Will it be really useful for you and are these services available in your area? Ask these questions; find out how expensive it will be to go for either of these options. Not doing this research might set you back by a few hundreds of dollars in terms of browsing charges or additional SIM charges or the actual device cost.

Accessories and Safety

A tablet computer is a beautiful device, and most of us would like to keep it absolutely safe. Are there nice covers available that will keep the tablet safe in case of an accidental fall? Are screen guard protectors for the tablet you buy easily available? A keyboard is a very useful tool if you need to get a lot of typing done on your tablet. Does your tablet have any supported keyboard devices? Can docking stations be easily found for your tablet? Can your tablet pc communicate with other Bluetooth devices? While these may seem trivial when you buy the tablet, you will find that all these can become really important as your tablet starts becoming a part of your daily life more and more.

Apps, Apps, Apps

If you thought that more apps means better tablet, you are making a mistake. While this is an important and essential factor, many of the apps available are those which you will never use, not even once. Before you buy a tablet, do some research on the apps that you think will be most important to you. For some, an app like Skype is very important and for some Microsoft Word is a must have. Check if this is available on the tablet you want to buy. If you are into gaming, see if quality gaming apps are available on your tablet.

When you decide for a tablet you get tied to certain operating system (OS) and as a consequence to application store for that particular OS. Take a look what kinds of applications are available in respective application stores. See **iTunes** if you are about to buy Apple based tablet pc or **Google Play** if your tablet will be powered by Android OS.

Step 4 - Try and read before you buy

I love the 'Brand'

You will so often find people who are just so in love with a brand that anything sold by the company is blindly bought by these brand lovers. While, there is nothing wrong in being brand loyal, it is always wise to check the specs and operating details of the tablet you intend to buy. A little research might surprise you as to the range of tablets available at a lower than expected price. You may have other considerations in terms of the ecosystem. If you are a Mac, iPhone or iPod user, then the iPad is a logical buy considering that you may have everything tied to iTunes. Same goes for the Android if you are entrenched into the Android and Google ecosystem. If you own a Blackberry smart phone, a Blackberry playbook is a very good device that can easily link you to the world through the wonders of the bridge feature.

How easy it is to use

This is a decision best taken by playing around with each of the device. If you can find some friends who own tablets, or if you can head over to a store to see the display pieces, you will get a fair idea of the touch and feel of each of these devices. The weight of the device, button positioning, grip and quality of materials used are all indicators of how the device will actually feel in hand while in use. Play around with the software while it is running; see how easy it is to browse through apps, browsers, settings and so on before you take the plunge.

Online Reviews

Get online, read some reviews. While you might need to take some reviews with a pinch of salt, going through about 30+ reviews of a product should give you an idea of how good or bad the tablet is. Do they work as promised, is the manufacturer support good, and are there too many issues with the OS? You will find interesting reviews on your choice of tablet that might just influence your decision.

Step 5 - Budget

How Deep is the Hole in my Pocket?

Most tablet buyers make the purchase an emotional decision rather than a logical and a well thought out one. If you have gone through the points above and followed them, you would have found out by now that the choice of tablets available is plenty, at [prices](#) that are significantly cheaper or different than what you may have estimated.

Depending on your needs of apps, resolution of the screen, quality of camera, ability to play back HD Videos and many other requirements, there is a tablet that fits almost every need. But remember, there is nothing like a perfect tablet, it's a myth in a world where technology is obsolete every few months.

Android Tablets - 77% off



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