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# The Ultimate Guide to buy a Perfect Tablet PC

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# Why a Tablet?

This question often arises, “Why a Tablet PC?” Tablet is rather nothing but a combination of a smart phone and a notebook making a device powerful than a smart phone but least than a notebook. So before choosing a tablet, reconsider your decision whether to go for a tablet pc or laptop. Laptops are powerful but less portable and smart phones are portable but less powerful this is the considering factor between them where as a tablet PC is combined modification which deals same into portability as well as performance.

Tablets are nothing but big smart phones, yes; even some of them come with the same operating systems as of smart phone just modified to support big screens. It does everything that you do on a smart phone (even something extra!) only difference is big user interface making tasks easy to perform and give enough margins for multitasking as well as productivity too.

Here’s what a tablet can basically do,

- MULTIMEDIA
- PRODUCTIVITY
- DEVELOPMENT
- GAMING

Tablets bring better multimedia experience where as portable productivity is what tablets are good for. In the case of development tablets aren’t that powerful as of notebooks while for gaming it built a totally new platform which comes between gaming consoles and pc gaming.

All these work can be better done on laptops but tablets offer new experience of working out which cannot be enjoyed over laptops but the only drawback is its less powerful.

Looking over the performance section tablet PC’s can be compared with net books and today most of the net book using areas are replacing with tablets.

# Types of Tablet PC's

If you fit into the above category then you will need to know more about tablets (their types) for better choice. Considering the form factor and made tablets are classified into three types they are,

- SLATE
- CONVERTIBLE
- RUGGED

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## Slate



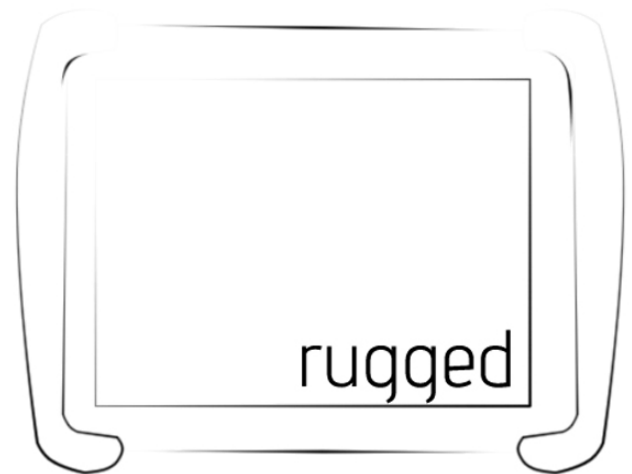
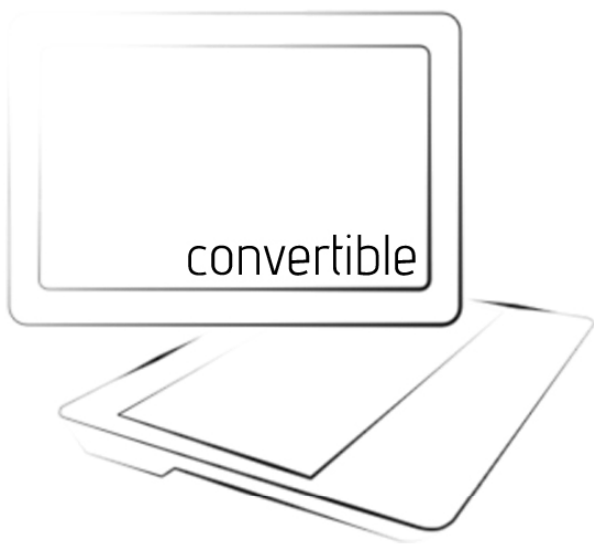
Slate is light, slim, sleek and classy made, it is purely like a physical slate but only thing is it's coupled with some technology. Slate is large makeover of smart phones, earlier people used to consider slate as enlarged version of PDA. However today due to multi-touch smart phones tablets are considered as enlarged version of smart phones rather than PDA. As of today manufacturers are biased towards production of Slate rather than Convertible and Rugged.

Slate is remarked for its portability and user friendly use, all you have to do is just wake it up from its sleep mode and do your tasks. As of today slates are powered by either Android or iOS and many other. Since these operating systems are user friendly it gives better user interface for the users to perform their tasks with an ease. Everything is integrated you don't need to carry any extra hardware like keyboard for typing with it.

# Convertible

Convertible is nothing but a multi touch laptop, only thing is it has some modifications made in its form. As the name states Convertibles are the tablets which allow you to convert between laptop and a tablet on same device. Looking at a convertible tablet it's difficult to distinguish it whether as a tablet or laptop.

Convertibles can be converted into laptops just by turning the screen 180° and then closing it on top of the keyboard with screen facing upwards. Once converted, they look same as a Slate only thing is they are bulky and difficult to carry as compared to slates



## Rugged

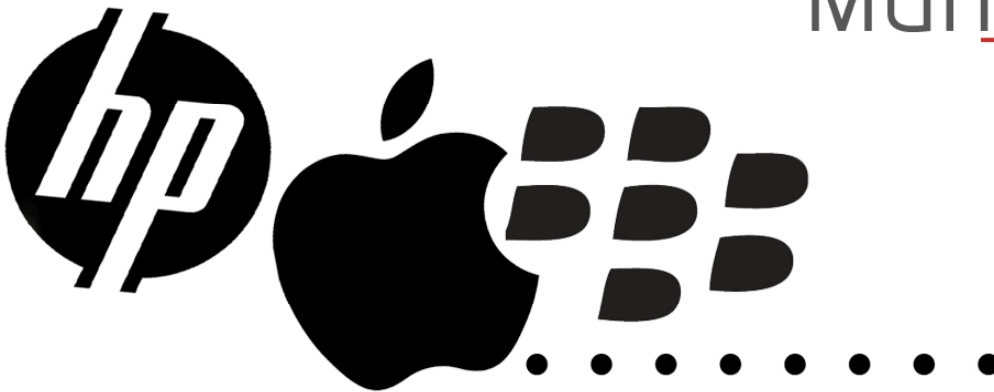
Rugged tablet pc are durable slates, they are same as a slate only thing is very bulky and thick. They are known for their durability and built quality as they aren't built to look slim and good. They are built with shock resistant material which can absorb any sudden shocks and protect the tablet with damage.

As Rugged tablets are not built for normal use they are not participating in today's tablet wars. So let's not consider them in this book.

# Things to be considered while buying a tablet

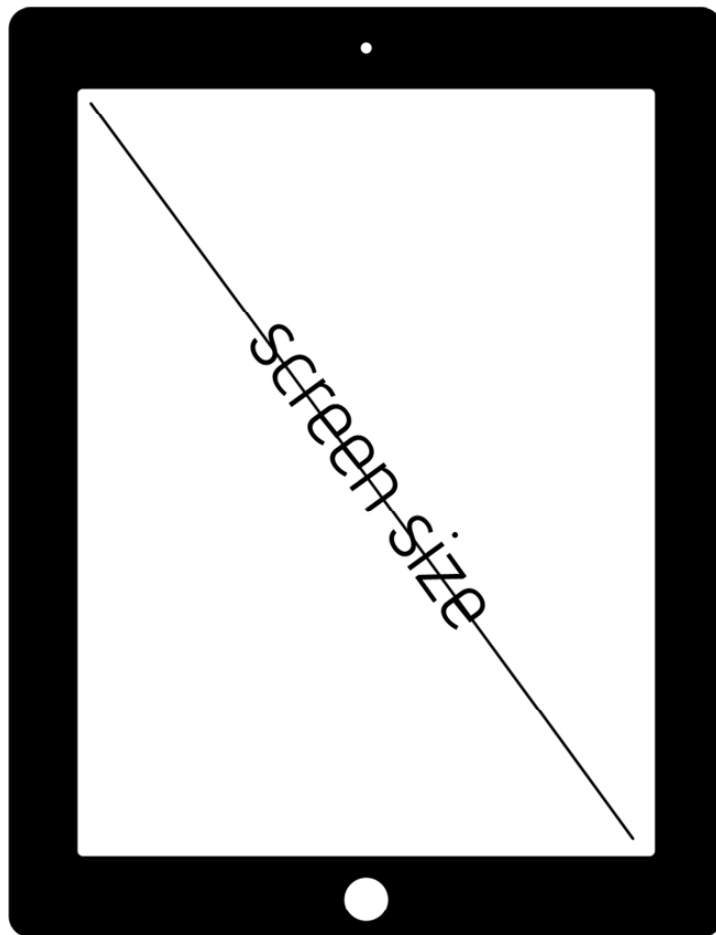
- MANUFACTURER
  - SCREEN SIZE
  - HARDWARE
  - OPERATING SYSTEM
  - FEATURES
  - BATTERY
- 

## Manufacturer



Today almost every computer manufacturer has entered into tablet manufacturing unit. There are big as well as small players in this manufacturing, so while choosing its important to look what brand you are choosing. Choosing a local brand won't provide any good feature as compared to other better brands. Local brand's builds are really pathetic and sometime may go wrong anywhere, mostly complaints arises in case of touch sensitivity. Touch sensitivity declines after some days; this is what people say in case of local brands. Sometime local brands are powered by local operating system which won't provide you any good feature and no application support. That's why going for big brands is must while investing in such good device.

# Screen Size

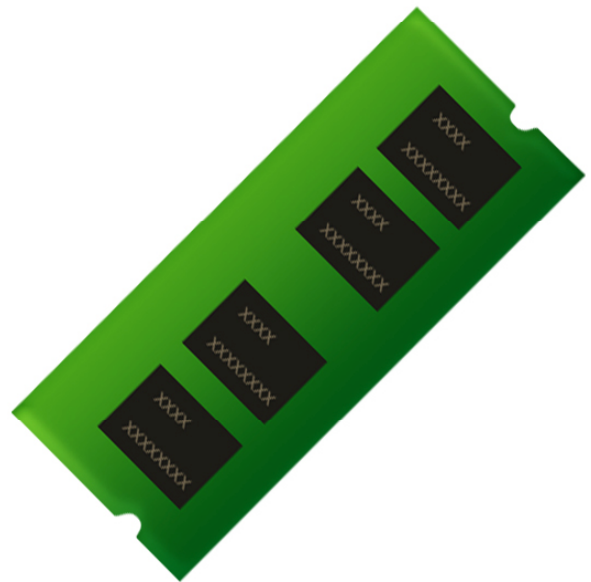


Screen size is the main factor that should be considered while buying a tablet. Depending upon your requirement and use an ideal tablet screen size should be selected. Today tablets ranging from 7inch to 10inch are available in the market. Devices with small screen like 5inch cannot be considered as a tablet rather it is considered as a smart phone. Smaller the size of tablet, better is the portability but unfortunately it doesn't give better output whereas greater the size of tablet, better is the output but portability is less.

10inch tablets are also easy to carry as they are not bigger than an A4 size notebook which students carry daily for their lectures. If you want something really portable than that better choose between 7inch or 8inch tablets. Lot's of 7inch tablets even provide good user interface for the over all work. However if you are a developer or productive user its better to get bigger screen size I recommend 9.7inch or 10.10inch in that case.

# Hardware

Another most important factor while buying a tablet, rather it's the main. Hardware configuration contributes to your tablet performance the most, so along with other stuff like screen size and operating system, hardware should also be given equal importance and it must balance all other things there. So choose your hardware accordingly,



## Processor

Like that of PC processor contributes equally for tablets as well as smart phones for their performance. First generation tablet released in early 2010 were clocked at between 800MHz to 1GHz speed and ran on Single Core power. Year 2011 came up with second generation tablets which are clocked between 1GHz to 1.5GHz and is powered by Dual Core.

While choosing a tablet make sure it's running between 1GHz to 1.5GHz and the most important thing dual core based CPU. Mostly today's all CPU's are dualcore but exception is the HTC Flyer tablet which still has single core but is clocked at 1.5GHz way more than other tablets in the list.

# Hardware

## RAM

Processor and RAM combination determines the multi tasking ability of you tablet. More the available RAM more the margin for multi tasking. All operating systems are RAM hungry and all they need is enough RAM to perform smoothly. Some of the applications require more memory than others and fall into RAM hungry applications. In case of lower memory if your application passes the basic RAM requirement it will surely run smooth but in that case you'll get less extent of multi tasking. Having less RAM, your entire RAM will be used up by heavy apps and very few will be left for other applications to run simultaneously in the background which is called as multi tasking. This is why giving preference for more RAM is necessary for choosing a tablet.

## Display Panel

No one actually does care about Display Panel and yes, it's not that important but should be given some priority at least. It determines the display quality of your device. When ever you compare two devices simultaneously it's always found that one of it is bright and looks fresh as compared other looks dull even though both run on same operating system and is kept on same brightness. That's because of different display panel used, generally all tablets use either LCD or TFT panel today. AMOLED panels are far expensive than LCD's and that's why they are not reached tablets yet. While choosing tablet, LCD or TFT won't make any difference that's why deciding over that is no brainier. But if you are in comparison with AMOLED tablet (yet to come) you should really go with it as it has better backlighting.

# Hardware

## Storage

Storage is totally your personal choice depending on what's your use. Tablets come with varied choice for storage capacity which ranges from 16GB to 64GB, which includes 16GB, 32GB and 64GB. Well, this is internal memory and so should be chosen carefully where ever you don't have external storage memory available. Devices like iPad 2, Blackberry Playbook and HP TouchPad doesn't allow external storage option namely microSD card slot. That's why if you are opting for any of those devices remember your decision is final and there is no other option for more storage, choose carefully!

# Network Connection

Tablets are available in two variants and they are WiFi only and 3G + WiFi, depending upon your location if you are a United States resident you'll get better offers on 3G + WiFi tablet from the carriers available (Verizon and AT&T). 3G + WiFi offer you better speed and internet on the go feature, so you'll not have to hunt for WiFi hotspot area for accessing network on the device. But yes, that's costly and 3G data plans may kill your pocket. As compared, WiFi only variant requires nothing other than a WiFi hotspot with cost of your local broadband. That's why users from other countries where 3G data plans are not so spread should go for WiFi only variant.



## Operating System

Most considering factor while choosing tablet PC's. Today Android 3.0 codenamed Honeycomb has killed all other operating systems in tablet category. Most of the tablets today come with Android 3.0 (Honeycomb) followed by some with Windows 7 and only one tablet at its place with iOS 4 (Soon will be upgraded with 5), WebOS, Blackberry Tablet OS and MeeGo respectively.

Considering your use, Android 3.0 is all rounder! All your tasks including fun factor to productivity can be done over it. Majority of the tablets are powered by Android and that's the plus point of it as compared to other tabs. You can get the same operating system in varied price range. iOS comes the next, tough competitor to Android 3.0 and can do all tasks almost same and some time better than Android. The drawback of iOS is limited availability i.e only on Apple device. So if you want the flavor of iOS then you have to go with iPad 2, no other choice!

# External Features

Tablets are available in two variants and they are WiFi only and 3G + WiFi, Along with Brand, Internal Hardware, Software there is some external features provided by the tablet which includes HDMI out, microSD card slot, Camera. As of today mostly every tablet comes with TV out using micro HDMI port where as some with mini VGA port, since every house is lighted by HDTV its must for sharing moments together.

MicroSD card slot also plays a major role in storage, that's external storage which helps additional storage facility on the same device in case when you need it. More storage is always better, if you have decided over a tablet which provides microSD card slot then better go for minimum internal storage which is recommended for you and what your pocket affords. Later if you need any additional storage, you can splurge over microSD card which is supported up to 32GB.

Camera is need of every tablet today, well, using tablet as photo camera for photography is sheer stupid ness. It's very difficult to hold a tablet in both the hands to take photo as well as video; things turn more difficult when you opt for tablet with bigger screen. Front camera is essential factor in any tablet today especially when you have the 3G version. 3G video calling offers an excellent feature in tablets. Rear camera is generally 5 mega pixels built where as the frontgenerally come with 1.3 mega pixels. For front camera I think 2 mega pixels is good choice to go for. Why?; Camera featuring lower than 2 mega pixels gives low quality video while calling and camera featuring more than 3 mega pixels uses lots of 3G bandwidth which will result in more usage and sometime lags in the call if there is low speed (which will rarely happen in case of 3G).



# Battery

Tablets are available in two variants and they are WiFi only and 3G + WiFi, After choosing the whole tablet, never forget to have a small look over the battery. Depending upon your tablet configuration battery usage is optimized. If you have opted for tablet with heavy configuration like dual core CPU, more RAM battery will be used more. Battery usage also depends on your use of the tablet, if you are heavy user like using 3G or WiFi continuously then the battery drops fast. So in that case you should check the battery and the backup provided by it. Generally tablets are ideally developed for every use and whole hardware is balanced with better battery having good battery life.



# Reviews

# iPad 2

‘ Thing, which started it ,

## Screen Size

iPad 2 has same screen like iPad 1, which is 9.7inch diagonally. It is kind of big size but however is suitable for all the work. 9.7inch is ideal for carrying and hence provides portability; it is even good for watching movies as well as playing games. It's slightly big for reading books though.

## Hardware

iPad 2 is powered by Apple A5 processor chip, clocked at 1GHz same as that of iPad 1 but featuring dual core. That makes the performance twice as its predecessor. A5 has even more powerful graphics, and benchmarks results in it's executive performance over iPad 1 and Motorola Xoom. Apple states it's 9 times faster than the previous and yes! It is. Although it's so powerful it is also low power consumer, providing performance as well as maintaining battery life. The processor is coupled with 512MB of RAM. If compared with the processor's performance the RAM required was at least 1GB of RAM. This lags iPad 2 performance in case of multi tasking. iPad 2 is built up with LCD display panel providing good resolution display but the reflecting glass over the panel makes it unreadable in sunlight.



# iPad 2

iPad 2 is available in three capacities they include 16GB, 32GB and 64GB more is better in case of Apple as there is no chance to increase the capacity later, except some exceptions like WiFi drive. Recently (at WWDC11) Apple launched its all new iCloud service for online storage, that's another way to increase your storage but you have to pay for that.

## Connectivity

iPad 2 comes in two variants which include WiFi only and WiFi + 3G variant. 3G version of iPad 2 is available over Verizon and AT&T in United States. However the prices increase by \$120 for WiFi + 3G variant.

## Operating System

iPad 2 comes in two variants which include WiFi only and WiFi + 3G variant. All Apple devices are powered by Apple's own operating system iOS. One of the most powerful mobile operating system with variety of features which makes your tablet a part of your daily activity which can even replace net books in case. It has got variety of applications in its app store that can suffice your daily needs and ranks top for development of applications.

## External Features

Camera is one of the basic part of tablet's configuration, iPad 2 however lacks in camera performance with just 0.7mp back camera and 0.3mp front camera. The mp of camera states how poor will be the performance of still shots as well as recording. However according to my own hands on reports the video recording quality is pretty impressive as compared to still shots as it records in HD 720p.



# iPad 2

There's no HDMI port on the board, but yes can be made using some converters which readily use the 30pin dock connector for mirroring 1080p output on HDTV's which is supported by all the applications and even the recorded videos from the camera.

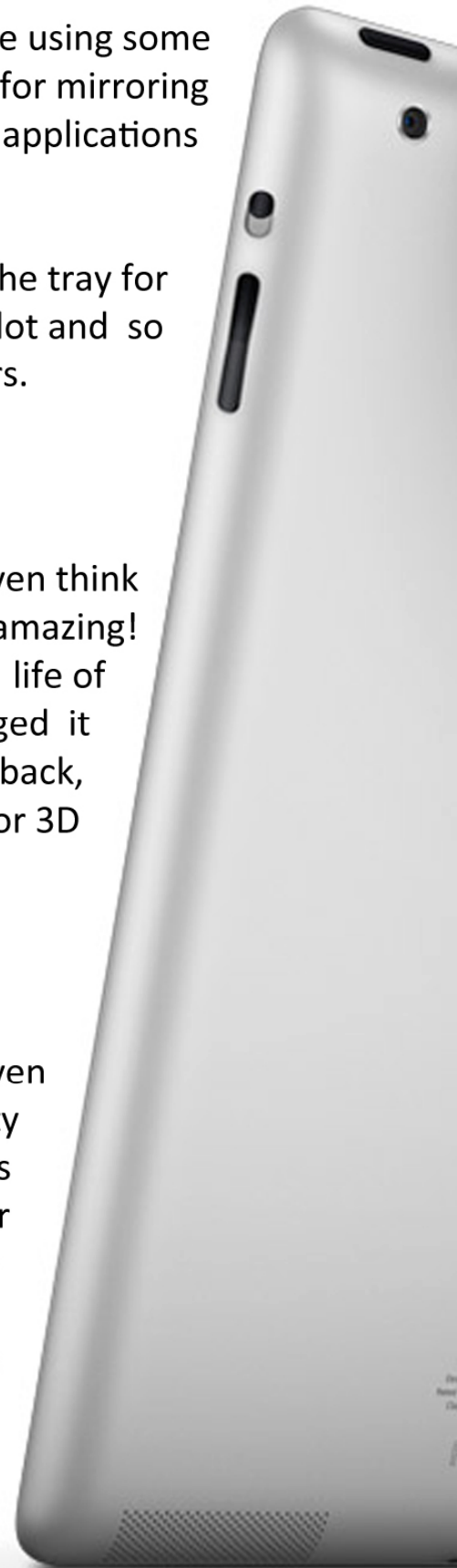
iPad 2 doesn't come with any removable parts (except the tray for micro SIM card) and even no scope for microSD card slot and so your final decision regarding the internal storage matters.

## Battery Life

I'm really impressed with iPad 2's battery life, I didn't even think a device so slim can perform upto this extent. It is just amazing! Considering the size, the way it performs the battery life of iPad 2 is really balanced. When it is completely charged it provides 10hrs for Internet/Wifi, 30hrs for Audio playback, 10hrs for video playback, 11hrs for normal apps, 6hrs for 3D games & 720hrs on standby.

## The Verdict

I'm really impressed with iPad 2's battery life, I didn't even think a device so iPad 2 is just a killer! It performs variety of tasks and delivers really good performance. Its compilation of hardware specification and form factor makes it easy to use and replaces netbooks in every possible situation. Good substitute for a laptop if you are not really into programming. I think jailbreak will be wonders... Apple needs to be more open!



# Samsung GALAXY Tab

6 The successor gives lot more than its predecessor 9

## Screen Size

As the name states, Samsung Galaxy Tab 10.1 has 10.1inch huge screen which is even big as compared to iPad 2. Bigger the screen size is always good but that reduces the portability. It's not the case with Samsung Galaxy Tab 10.1, even if its big, its portable and comparatively only 0.4inch big than iPad 2. It is brighter than the Motorola Xoom and clear like iPad 2. The brightness brings it closer to the LED TV's from Samsung and makes us feel of watching movie on LED TV.

## Hardware

Samsung Galaxy Tab 10.1 is featured with nVidia Tegra 2 CPU with dual core architecture which is clocked at 1GHz speed. The processing unit is supported by 1GB RAM which is up to two times better than that of iPad 2 and which provides better multi tasking which is two times that of the iPad. Display panel includes PLS TFT screen which is way better than the simple LCD but alas no sign of Super AMOLED screens which is seen in Galaxy smart phones by Samsung. I was shocked looking at the display panel, Super AMOLED maker's (Samsung) didn't use the same in their most powerful device. The reason behind it might be the cost control. The 10.1inch screen has stock resolution of 1280 x 800 pixels & can be readily used to watch HD movies.



# Samsung GALAXY Tab

## Storage

Samsung Galaxy Tab 10.1 is available in three capacities they include 16GB, 32GB and 64GB here, you can consider the internal memory upon your budget since there are options to expand the memory later.

## Connectivity

Samsung Galaxy Tab 10.1 comes in two variants which include WiFi only and WiFi + 3G variant. However the prices increase by \$120 for WiFi + 3G variant. For United States users there is also a 4G LTE version of Galaxy Tab 10.1 available on service contract.

## Operating System

Google's Android 3.0 codenamed as Honeycomb is supported by Galaxy Tab 10.1. Being another most powerful mobile operating system, it is likely called as tablet operating system. It's totally different from the Android's that we see in the smart phones, Honeycomb is specially designed for tablets only with no physical buttons and upscaled version the smartphone OS. Supporting variety of features and in some cases its better than iOS.

## External Features

Camera specifications of Galaxy Tab 10.1 is pretty impressive and comes with 8mp of rear camera and 2mp of front camera the still snaps quality is lot better and actually meets the digital camera quality. Bandwidth generated from 2mp camera is easy for 3G to take over and stream through web, video calling thus becomes very good with good clarity as compared to iPad 2.



# Samsung GALAXY Tab

Samsung Galaxy Tab 10.1 is available in three capacities they include 16GB, Video recording is done at 1080p (FullHD) at 24fps as well as 720p. The quality of the videos recorded by Galaxy Tab 10.1 is way better than iPad 2 in all aspects. 1080p on such a big screen turns into sheer reality and when seen on HDTV it's just flawless.

It does not have direct HDMI port but a 30pin optical cable converter used for connecting the tablet to HDTV for 1080p HD output.

Additional good feature includes microSD card slot that makes gradually increase in the memory of your tablet so there's no need to spend over tablets with more internal memory. MicroSD card supports expansion of memory upto 32GB.

## Battery

Battery performance from Galaxy Tab is impressive, atleast I found the same. Once charged it works for day's together on mild usage. On somewhat heavy usage the battery easily worked for whole day. The negative point I found is only the long charging time taken by Galaxy Tab to get completely charged, but once charged it's the monster.

## The Verdict

Camera specifications of Galaxy Tab 10.1 is pretty impressive and comes with Hardware specifications are almost same like iPad 2 and even better in case of cameras. The tab is bit big in size but has light weight than iPad 2 and even the

Motorola Xoom. It is listed among the best honeycomb tablet as compared to its price. The Google Android market however lacks for some quality apps developed for this device, let time travel they will gradually evolve.





“Back with a BOOM!”

## Screen Size

Same as that of Samsung Galaxy Tab 10.1, Motorola Xoom prefers 10.1inch diagonal display. Supporting resolution of 1280x800 pixels, the display is realistic and is another member of 10.1inch family. Ideal things that can be done includes, movie watching, web surfing and reading books. Motorola Xoom is bulky and rugged tablet as compared to others. Being first in the Honeycomb family, Motorola had to suffer from major re-designing done by other manufacturers.

## Hardware

Motorola Xoom is powered with nVidia Tegra 2 CPU with dual core architecture clocked at 1GHz speed with 1GB of memory. Comparing the internals both (Galaxy Tab and Motorola Xoom) has same specifications and, since the CPU as well as RAM is identical the performance might also be identical or

may result in nits. Display panel includes TFT screen at resolution of 1280x800 pixels with 160DPI density on WXGA display which being extremely glossy same like iPad 2 makes outdoor reading impossible unless you have increased the brightness upto its fullest.





## Storage

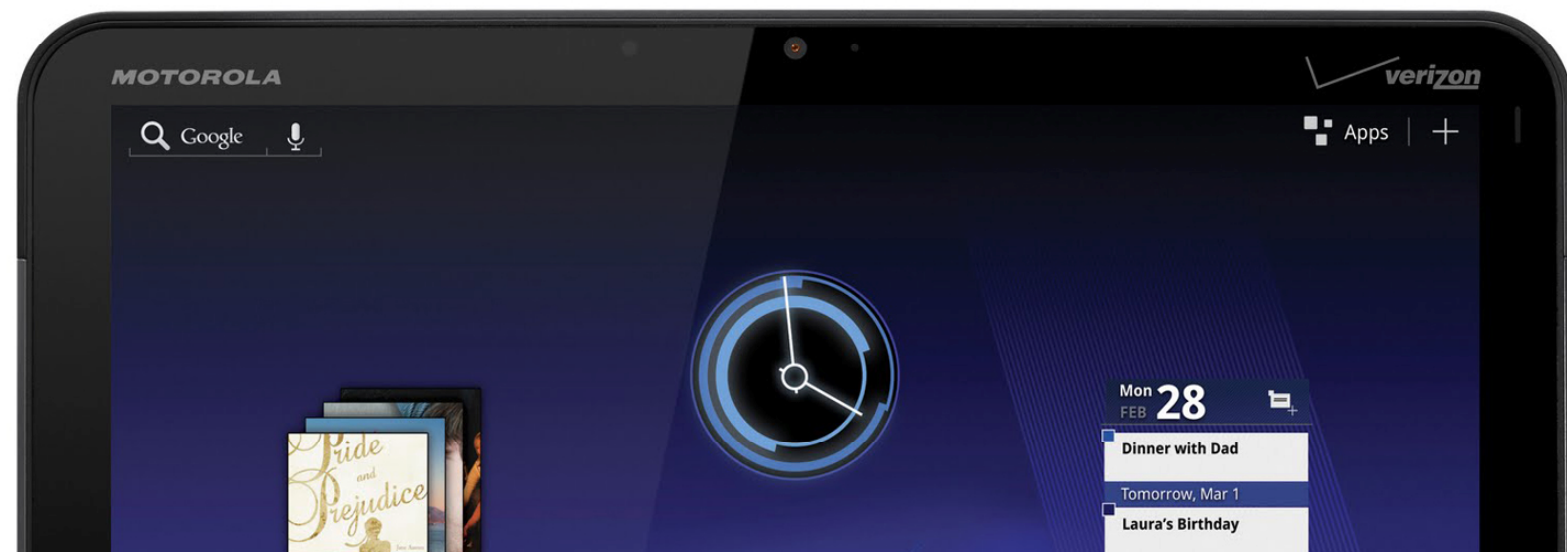
Motorola Xoom is available in three capacities, they include 16GB, 32GB and 64GB here, you can consider the internal memory upon your budget since there are options to expand the memory later.

## Connectivity

Motorla Xoom comes in two variants which include WiFi only and WiFi + 3G variant. However the prices increase by \$120 for WiFi + 3G variant. For United States users there is also a 4G LTE version of Motorola Xoom available on service contract.

## Operating System

Like Galaxy Tab, Xoom is also powered by Google's Android 3.0 codenamed as Honeycomb, the user interface is awesome and kind of soft focused neon. The specialty of Honeycomb is everything software based and that forced Motorola to remove the physical buttons on the Xoom. Everything is just managed using a simple gesture that is what Galaxy Tab also provides. Being first device supporting Android 3.0 (Honeycomb) it had bugs in the raw operating system but recently Motorola rolled out an update which fixed up the bugs found in initial stages.





## External Features

Motorola Xoom varies from Samsung Galaxy Tab 10.1 cameras; the rear camera of Xoom is slightly of lower built and is 5mp where as the front camera still continues to remains same with 2mp. Video recordings are clipped at resolution of 1280x720 that's HD Ready at 30fps.

Motorola Xoom varies from Samsung Galaxy Tab 10.1 cameras; the rear camera An awesome features included in Xoom is the onboard HDMI port supporting HDMI cable version 1.4 for direct HDTV connectivity without any converters transmitting 1080p's without any glitches.

Motorola Xoom varies from Samsung Galaxy Tab 10.1 cameras; the rear camera Additionally it includes microSD card slot (same as that of Galaxy Tab) that makes gradually increase in the memory of your tablet so there's no need to spend over tablets with more internal memory. MicroSD card supports expansion of memory upto 32GB.

## Battery

Sturdy battery life from Xoom too! The battery lasted for approx. 14hrs when I ran some apps, surfed over WiFi as well as playing some videos but on mild level. Heavy surfing and video playback brings down the battery life to 9hrs level.

## The Verdict

Xoom was the first tablet to launch with Honeycomb. The hardware configuration is almost similar to Galaxy Tab 10.1 and even other features and that's why Galaxy Tab 10.1 and Xoom are identical to each other, except when camera is considered. Since the internals are same all that matters are the looks and portability where Galaxy Tab gains an additional point.





## 6 The Business Player 9

### Screen Size

Among these biggies, there's a small player too and is Blackberry Playbook. The screen size is not very big but is medium, featuring 7inch diagonally that makes a perfect tablet screen for reading books and also good for general purpose working and business tasks. The screen size isn't that good for gaming and don't worry Blackberry Playbook doesn't support gaming.



### Hardware

1GHz dual core the Cortex A9 running on TI OMAP 4430 chipset is the business successor which is simultaneously supported by the QNX technology. Blackberry Playbook has got true multi-tasking; even iPad has limitations in its multi tasking functionality and doesn't provide full access to backgrounded apps like desktop. And that's why 1GB

RAM plays major heading role in this task.

The 7inch screen is displayed on TFT panel which looks pretty sweet while work in progress. Reading in sunlight is difficult and is same like iPad 2 but better than Xoom. Like Motorola Xoom and Galaxy Tab, Playbook also doesn't have physical buttons.



## Storage

Like iPad 2, Blackberry Playbook comes only with internal memory and no chances to expand the memory later on. There are 16GB, 32GB or 64GB options; here I'll suggest going for 16GB or 32GB version since applications are not that heavy and no gaming scope. If you are heavily into business and similarly into multimedia 32GB flavor is more than enough.

## Connectivity

It comes in two variants which include WiFi only and WiFi + 3G/4G variant. However the prices increase by \$120 for WiFi + 3G/4G variant. 4G model is not world wide, United States customers only have the option from their service carriers, may be Sprint.

## Operating System

Blackberry Playbook is powered by Blackberry Tablet OS; also called as QNX. It's totally a combination of Palm webOS, Windows 7 and iOS. The gestures are pretty simple and easy to use with iOS flavor in it and responsive user interface. As I already said, its true multitasking tablet, thanks to 1GB RAM and the QNX





## External Features

The rear camera is 5mp which shoots photos at 2592x1944 whereas the front camera exceeds other players here and is 3mp. Since the front camera is better it will deliver better quality images while video calling but simultaneously will eat more of your bandwidth.

HDTV mirroring is made available, thanks to HDMI port made available. Its directly on the board and no converters required however the normal HDMI cable won't work since the supported one is type D (micro HDMI)

Internal memory is the final take because there is no scope for microSD card slot and so your final decision regarding the internal storage matters.

## Battery

Battery performance of Playbook is moderate and not that impressive as I thought. On performing basic tasks, the battery provides almost one and a half day (36 hours, in my case). It's among best battery backup and that's because lack of gaming. Watching videos might decrease the backup a little. Overall, the battery life is good for business tasks and takes 5hrs to get charge completely.

## The Verdict

Business tablet as we never seen before, Blackberry Playbook is pure business made. Its true multi tasking feature is awesome however lacks in quality apps and social networking. Perfect as a business tab, if you need it, go for it.



# HTC Flyer

‘Aey Smartey’



## Screen Size

Listing in 7inch screen size, HTC Flyer is only 7inch the tablet after Playbook. It supports resolution of 1024x600 and so things over the screen look sharp and more active. The viewing angles are same as that of the other 'S' series phones from HTC with more vibrant colors. The glass over the display is glossy but brightness overtakes it and so reading under sunlight is possible unlike other tablets.

## Hardware

HTC Flyer is powered by with 1.5GHz single-core processor; it already has 300MHz more bandwidth than the current tablets. We can see no dual core here, that's shocking! But no worries, being a single core it can handle almost everything smoothly and give approximately equal performance to the dual cores available. Supported with 1GB memory, the performance goes butter

# HTC Flyer

smooth without any glitches or any lags. The screen is lit on LCD panel, which is same as that of the Samsung Galaxy Tab 7.0 (1st Gen tablet). Screen resolution being 1024x600, it is difficult for the tablet to run 720p exactly.

## Storage & Connectivity

It is available in two options 16GB and the 32GB, plus there's margin to expand the storage so do choose according to your needs. The 16GB partition is spitted into 4GB for apps and 9GB for storage space, the later is used up by operating system & the 32GB partition is spitted into 8GB and 20GB for apps and storage respectively.

It comes in two variants which include WiFi only and WiFi + 3G variant. However the prices increase for WiFi + 3G. Yet, the 4G version is not available.

## Operating System

Unlike all other tablets running on Android 3.0, Flyer runs of Android 2.3 (Gingerbread) which isn't totally designed for tablets but is smart phone operating system but still can handle tablet interface very well. Along with Gingerbread, HTC Sense 3.0 acts as an eye candy with its awesome animations running all over the 7inch screen.



# HTC Flyer

## External Features

The tablet features 5mp rear camera and 1.3mp front camera, the rear camera is however decent and good for quick snaps. The camera quality is similar to that of Desire S, but degrades in low lighting as there is no flash for decent pictures. The video recording supports 720p clippings which look good over big screens of PC's or HDTV's but lags auto focus when in progress.

TV out is supported by HDMI on the board, that makes easy mirroring from device to HDTV.

Additionally it includes microSD card slot that makes gradually increase in the memory of your tablet so there's no need to spend over tablets with more internal memory. MicroSD card supports expansion of memory upto 32GB.

## Battery

Battery life of Flyer is impressive. HTC Flyer being non business tablet couldn't be compared with Playbook for its battery backup. When full charged, it worked for almost whole day while doing casual surfing, little bit of videos and small game play session. But continuous video session decreases the battery rapidly.



# HTC Flyer

## The Verdict

HTC Flyer is giant build of HTC EVO (best selling CDMA phones) or HTC Inspire, build is sturdy and overall performance is great. But pocket burner due to its \$700 price on streets. Using it reminds me the Samsung Galaxy Tab 7.0 which I used last year. I actually loved the stylus pen and its function. Gingerbread in Honeycomb era makes no brainier, single core and 7inch display are first generation tablets. Choose accordingly!



It's 3D

## Screen Size

LG Optimus Pad sports 8.9inch diagonally display screen, surfaced with resolution of 1280x768 (15:9 aspect ratio) with 167ppi with pure 3D LCD display panel, first tablet loaded with 3D capabilities. That makes it extra ordinary than others in the market. The screen size is small but however resolution is pretty good that makes everything appear sharp on it giving out good display.

## Hardware

LG Optimus Pad is powered by NVIDIA Tegra 2 and clocked at 1GHz with dual core architecture, and along side is supported with 1GB of RAM. That's the obvious combo with all the tablets these days, nothing great in that! I expected something better from LG Optimus Pad, as I said this is the first tablet ever with

3D Capabilities, and is based on 3D LCD display panel but online reviews says it is not at all 3D capable.



## Storage & Connectivity

There are no storage options available; the only version available is with built in 32GB of storage with no option to install microSD card for later expansion. So in case if you want to buy this one and not enough weight in pocket, you don't have any other options you'll have to get 32GB one unlike others. The 3G version LG Optimus Pad is available from T-Mobile and Rogers, supporting WiFi too.

## Operating System

Honeycomb obviously! LG Optimus Pad runs on Android 3.0 with the entire raw interface made available by Google. Motorola Xoom was first to get this and hence they didn't update the interface with their requirements. But that's not the case with Optimus Pad and still it's with raw interface similar to that of Xoom. LG Optimus 3D (3D Capable phone) has modified interface to support 3D; I think Honeycomb should have been modified similarly to give tough fight to HTC Sense 3.0.



## External Features

Killer camera specifications till now! Camera goes 3D here, and records it 3D. Basically, there are two cameras built on the rear side, the one snaps normal photos at 5mp where the next one use LG's application 3DCamcorder to record 3D tiles. One camera records normal videos at resolution of 1080p at 24fps and the other (3D Camera) records 3D at resolution of 720p at 30fps. The front camera is 2mp same as that of most of the tablets till this on.

3D Capabilities go bigger, thanks to the HDMI port and the cable provided with the tab itself. The HDMI on the board if connected with 3D TV will allow you to see the recorded videos in 3D; of course you should be wearing 3D glasses provided with your TV. The experience of watching 3D on a 3D TV is more awesome than that of the same tablet.

The tablet is only available in 32GB of memory and no microSD card expansion, that's why unlike other tablet you have to sacrifice either on memory or your pocket.



## Battery

Battery life of LG Optimus Pad is moderate, you can say Average. It works for whole day on moderate use including 3D Camera. For emails and browsing and general tasks it goes for two days. It rapidly decreases on use of 3G data services and as usual 3D camera, video playback.



## The Verdict

LG Optimus Pad, isn't what most of the users will over look. The tablet will get popularity due to its 3D capabilities but if compared the LG Optimus 3D performs better than this in 3D section. It's not that powerful as compared to the Xoom and Galaxy Tab 10.1. 3D is future and right now there's no need of 3D camera with such a poor quality. LG failed as there is no future proof guarantee with this one. As the time evolves other tabs will bring better 3D with their camera.



“Yet, another DELL!”

## Screen Size

Dell Streak is another tablet lying in 10.10inch family. Since there are lot's of 10.10inch tablets right now I say 10inch could be ideal for tablet. Current generation tablets are all approximately 10inch where as compared to last year's 7inch. It's all good till the operating system doesn't lag on such a big screen else it becomes just pathetic.

## Hardware

Even the Dell Streak 10 is powered by Nvidia Tegra 2 CPU clocked at 1GHz and alongside with 1GB RAM. And like other Dell Streak's this should also have TFT display panel with capacitive touch screen and supporting screen resolution of 1280 x 800 (WXGA) for widescreen. Screen is made from Gorilla glass (these days all the tablet supports the same) to prevent the display from scratches.





## Storage

Dell Streak 10 Pro is available in 16GB so unlike others you cannot invest in low storage version since you got only one version i.e 16GB

## Connectivity

Dell Streak comes in two variants which include WiFi only and WiFi + 3G variant. However no pricing info is available yet.

## Operating System

Android 3.0 (Honeycomb) is the root, obviously! Tegra 2 without Honeycomb is stupidity. It looks good on such a big screen and provides better app functionality; report says, the tablet however lagged in some time while doing heavy stuffs. However recently it received a minor update and now the same runs on Android 3.1 which fixed lots of bugs and lags for the previous version.

## External Features

Streak 10 offers 5mp rear camera for snapping photos as well as video recording which is same like other Honeycomb tablets today. The front camera for video calling is 2mp which is perfect for balancing the quality and bandwidth. Camera provides secondary features like autofocus and comes with LED Flash. The video recording makes 1080p possible but it even looks good when seen on HDTV.





HDMI out on the board is not available but as soon as the tablet will be launched it will be provided with a dongle that makes HDTV monitoring possible.

Additionally it includes microSD card slot that makes gradually increase in the storage memory of your tablet so 16GB memory works here!. MicroSD card supports expansion of memory upto 32GB.

## Battery

I've not yet tested this device personally but internet says it has robust battery providing battery life of 12hrs once charged. Means you can use the device with working on casual stuffs for whole day.

## The Verdict

Camera specifications of Galaxy Tab 10.1 is pretty impressive and comes with Dell Streak 10 Pro is another good tablet but the availability is really less world wide. Right now it's only available in China so other world will need to wait. It's the same and big version of Streak 7. It's one of the cheapest tablets available after ASUS Eee Pad Transformer. I won't recommend you to buy this as there are better Honeycomb alternatives available.



“Another iPad, Killer!”

## Screen Size

The Touch Pad from HP shows off 9.7inch display after the iPad 2. I will call it as twin to iPad 2 since I found most of the things same between them. Starting with the screen size its 9.7inch, the resolution of 1024 x 768 pixels and 4:3 aspect ratio. Everything being same the picture quality and the contrast which is seen on iPad 2 are also seen on the Touch Pad. The screen is considerably glossy and that makes the display little dull as compared to iPad 2. The resolution and perfect aspect ratio makes it less cramped while reading on it.

## Hardware

It's undoubtedly modernized with the dual core Snapdragon processor clock at 1.2GHz and alongside with 1GB RAM coupled with Adreno graphics processor. This combo adds it in the list of fastest tablets around and Web OS 3.0 handles it all very well. However tests say, it doesn't even reach iPad 2 in multi tasking. Already running with 7 or 8 apps (in multi tasking mode) and addition of one more to it brings lag in the tablet's performance.



It has a TFT panel supporting 16M colors with same IPS technology as that of iPad 2. IPS brought better viewing angles to HP Touch Pad maintaining perfect color balance. Due to glossy glass on the overlay the display is dimmer.



## Storage & Connectivity

Like iPad, HP TouchPad also offers only internal memory and no love for storage expansion. HP TouchPad is available in two options 16GB and 32GB. Like iPad or you can say iOS, HP WebOS 3.0 has not got many apps; that's why investing in 16GB is good enough if you are on strict budget.

TouchPad is available only in WiFi variant, there is no 3G HP TouchPad

## Operating System

As we seen in Palm Pre couple of years ago, HP WebOS 3.0 is the bigger and smarter version of the OS that we have seen on Palm Pre. After iOS and Android its time for WebOS to get some fame from its ability. Those who liked the Palm Pre's interface will surely fall in love at first sight with the user interface of HP WebOS 3.0. There are couples of major modifications in the interface as compared to iOS and Android where task manager is first before the applications. HP WebOS 3.0 is really powerful to handle the hardware specs to cooperate with the applications. Though the amount of applications are not much but the available high-end's are really very good. A new update to the OS is coming up soon which will add number of applications and performance tweaks.



## External Features

There is no rear camera for snapping pics or video recording like the ViewPad 10. The only camera fixed is front camera which is 1.3mp supporting resolution upto 1280 x 1024 pixels featuring video calling. That is the only primary use of the camera provided.

Like other tablets there is no TV or video out feature for HP TouchPad and that's why streaming on HDTV is not possible.

Like that of iPad 2 or Blackberry Playbook there is no scope for microSD Card expansion and that's why 16GB or 32GB is the only option for storage. As it is there aren't much heavy apps developed and that's why as I said 16GB will be good option.

## Battery

Battery performance of HP TouchPad is fairly better. It doesn't meet up his twin brother's (iPad) battery performance at all but still in its own case its lot better. It works up for whole day when 100% charged including working on WiFi for few hours.

## The Verdict

HP TouchPad is tough fight to iPad 2, though it is little weak in the application development section but HP will soon overcome. Investing in HP TouchPad is no brainier, let there be development in applications and it's all good. Again for those people who want video camera for shooting, HP TouchPad is of no use. The pricing being same as iPad 2, it offers more features than HP TouchPad in comparison with price and quality features HP TouchPad didn't impress me.



# *Eee Pad Transformer*

“The Transformable”



## Screen Size

ASUS Eee Pad is 10.10inch monster having resolution of 1280x800 which is surfaced on LCD panel backlit with LED. The screen size is same as that of Samsung Galaxy Tab 10.1 and Motorola Xoom which is ideal for all sorts of work and performs some what same as that of the Galaxy Tab and Xoom.

## Hardware

The system is powered by Nvidia Tegra 2 1GHz dual core processor, which also powers Motorola Xoom as well as some smart phones. Alongside it comes with 1GB of RAM, which is sure for almost all Honeycomb tablets today. Among those stunning things here is the display panel, of course it's LCD but comes with IPS (In-plane switching) technology providing you better viewing angles up to 178°. It's followed with vivid colors allowing you to even look under sunlight. Plus the screen is scratch proof and even the back. That really makes a sturdy feel on hands on.

# *Eee Pad Transformer*

## Storage & Connectivity

It comes with optional 16GB and 32GB of storage but there's an additional extraordinary feature on the tab which appears when it is coupled with the transformer and that's the USB hub. This will allow you to connect external drives for additional storage. Like Apple or you can say unlike Apple, ASUS allows unlimited cloud storage. And obviously, microSD card slot supporting up to 32GB storage. That means you have actually got unlimited storage space.

ASUS Eee Pad Transformer comes in two variants which include WiFi only and WiFi + 3G variant. WiFi + 3G version is not landed anywhere except Italy, USA and UK will soon get it.

## Operating System

Like most of them above ASUS Eee Pad also comes with Android 3.0 well, that was past last month it got an update to 3.1 which is far better and more responsive than 3.0. I made this conclusion after using Motorola Xoom running on 3.0 and ASUS Eee Pad Transformer on 3.1 next to that.



# Eee Pad Transformer

## External Features

Camera is same as most of the tablets today, the rear camera is 5mp while the front camera is 1.2mp. Serious thing is even camera is same as others they didn't match up with the flash and sad thing is there is no flash for the rear camera. The front camera is quite good and can couple up with the video calling quite easily. Video recording supports 720p recording which in turn looks great when seen on HDTV. It comes with mini HDMI port for HDTV connection.

Storage is unlimited! As I covered above after you connect the tablet with KDS (Keyboard Docking Station) you get a way into USB functionality and there's even microSD card slot.

## Battery

The battery performance of the Eee Pad Transformer is average which works for 9hrs while web surfing and doing casual stuff. After the Transformer, even the KDS has the same battery of 24.4 watt like Transformer and that's why you get additional battery backup when it is docked with KDS.

## The Verdict

ASUS entering into tablet's brought an awesome one this time! Hardware is same as that of current generation tablets but the cherry on the cake is Android 3.1. There should have been LED flash with the camera and better battery life. Well, leave the cons let's talk about pros. I personally liked the IPS panel; you can almost see the screen however you want and whichever angle you want.





## Screen Size

Viewsonic Viewpad 10 shows off 10.10inch display screen which includes it in 10.10 family along with Galaxy Tab and Motorola Xoom. It's sported with resolution of 1024 x 600 pixel that makes better viewing in portrait mode with 16:9 aspect ratio. Screen is rather glossy and it is difficult to see darker images in sunlight due to reflective surface.

## Hardware

As per the hardware section it's totally different from the other tablets mentioned above. It's not powered by A4, A5 or Nvidia Tegra2 CPU's but rather is powered by master mind of CPU's the Intel.



# ViewSonic®

Power behind Viewsonic ViewPad lies in hands of Intel with all new single core Intel Pine Trail N455 CPU clocked at highest 1.66GHz. Though single core, the clocks are high or can be said as highest in tablet pc area and thus provide better performance. Other tablet's with A4, A5 or Tegra 2 CPU's doesn't come with the processing power which Intel Pine Trail (Atom N455) has and that makes Intel Pine Trail extra ordinary to run Windows on a tablet PC. The Pine Trail is something similar to what we see in Dell Inspiron Duo (a laptop) and so it is able to run Windows which requires extra processing power than iOS or Android 3.0. It comes with 2GB DDR3 RAM which plays important role while switching the OS and is very much active in Windows than Android 2.2.

Regarding the display panel it has LCD display with LED backlighting the The 10.10inch screen fixed on LCD panel and has 700:1 contrast ratio. Due to lower stock resolution the tablet won't be able to run HD videos neither 720p. The viewing angles are really great it doesn't have IPS panel but the old TN panel which looks worth the new panels.



## Storage & Connectivity

There are two options when it comes to storage which is 16GB and the 32GB. There's additional microSD card slot expansion for additional storage. Internal memory is integrated with SSD's yes (Solid State Drive) unlike other tablets. That means no moving parts, no heating, no vibrations and just speed. Use of SSD surely improves the performance and quick's up the booting in just seconds in Windows. Performance increase can be seen in real with SSD and Windows together functioning.



ViewSonic ViewPad 10 comes in two variants which include WiFi only and WiFi + 3G variant.

## Operating System

World's first tablet featuring dual operating system like PC is what ViewPad 10 identity is. Powered by Android 2.2 as well as Windows 7, ViewPad works as smooth as a laptop. Implementing Windows 7 on a tablet was really good decision and can be only done on ViewSonic ViewPad due to its powerful CPU as compared to other tablets. I won't consider Android here, since its 2.2 (Froyo) not even Gingerbread and leave Honeycomb. The powerful hardware cannot be utilized to its fullest by the Android and that's why Windows is power user here. Android performs same as it performs in Galaxy Tab the performance boosters, I mean the SSD and CPU are no use in Android. Benchmarks results were astonishing and are even better than what an average netbooks score.

## External Features

The camera section is however really poor, unlike other tablets this one doesn't have a rear camera for shooting photos or video recording. This what I liked, holding a tablet in your both hands for recording a video seems to be weird. A tablet is not so perfect for photography department and that's why the decision of not installing the rear camera is welcomed by me. Yes, there is a front camera of 1.2mp which is obviously for video calling but since there is no rear camera the front camera should have been better at least 2mp.

There is a miniVGA port to the side of the tablet that makes it possible to connect external displays (the HDTV's) to it. There are even USB ports on the device, these USB ports work exactly same as they work on PC; thanks to Windows 7. You can connect external storage device and even keyboard or mouse to the tablet using USB's.

There's 16GB or 32GB storage on the board along with that a microSD card slot for additional storage and USB ports that makes everything possible on the go by connecting flash drive or external hard disk drives to it.



## Battery

Battery performance of ViewPad 10 is really very poor. Surfing the web and doing casual stuffs like music, videos and a very little video playback the battery goes down in 3 hours for Windows. The battery backup is however little better for Android since it doesn't boost the device.

## The Verdict

ViewSonic ViewPad 10 is a legendary device; it's rather a powerful netbook than a tablet PC. The hardware used is really very good and reaches PC areas in some cases. Booting Windows 7 along with Android makes it a laptop with tablet features and the cherry on the cake is the touchscreen interface. It's good for them who want to do some heavy stuff on a tablet, want the bling on Android and a tablet which does their job easily.

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