

HTC One max Phablet

The HTC One max is a “phablet”-sized phone that boasts top specs and a similar sleek design as its tinier siblings.

Like the HTC One and the HTC One mini before it, the HTC One Max is a good-looking Android device, crafted almost entirely from aluminium, although it has the same plastic rim that distinguishes the HTC One mini from the One. An extremely slim bezel rings the outer edges of the screen, which stretches nearly the full width of the phone, and along the top are two silver slivers with speaker grills.

The One Max has a 5.9-inch screen, which is bigger than the Note 3 (with its 5.7 inches of display), but it weighs nearly 50g more than its Samsung rival, at 217g. The 5.9-inch 1080p display offers a pixel density of 349 ppi, giving natural colours.

Its full dimensions measure up to 165x83x10.3mm, and it has a microSD card slot under the removable back panel. This means you can now expand the storage by up to 64GB, large enough for big media files.

One of the most notable features of the HTC One Max that sets it aside from other HTC phones is the inclusion of a fingerprint scanner, which can be used instead of a PIN number or password to unlock the phone. Up to three different fingers can be linked to the scanner



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and stored in the phone's memory. If the user chooses, these can each be linked to an app that can then be launched immediately from the lock screen. The fingerprint scanner is built into the back of the phone and is activated by sliding your finger in a vertical downwards motion.

The scanner on the One Max doesn't really compare in terms of accuracy and ease of use with the home button sensor on the iPhone 5s.

The One Max has an identical 1.7GHz quad-core Snapdragon 600 processor to the one inside the HTC One, which is accompanied by 2GB of RAM. It ships with the latest version of Android – 4.3 Jelly Bean, but is in fact the first HTC device to run Sense 5.5, a refined version of the phone manufacturer's Android skin.

The One Max comes in two different storage capacities – 16GB and 32GB – with expandable memory and an additional 50GB of free Google Drive storage being offered with the phone.

The One Max has comes with a powerful 3,300mAh battery, which is about the best you can hope for from an Android phablet.

The Dual Shot camera allows you to take a forward-facing photo and normal photo simultaneously, and has a large F2.0 aperture and wide-angle 28mm lens, producing pictures that are crisp and detailed, with very realistic, natural colours. It comes with fun modes to play with, including a panorama mode, HDR and Zoe Camera – which records a three-second video clip and allows you to choose between the 20 frames to find the best photo.

The camera also shoots video at 1080p and is accompanied by a forward-facing 2.1-megapixel snapper for selfies and video calls.



Ricoh Theta

Ricoh's Theta is a new type of camera, one that takes spherical photographs. That's 360 degrees of imaging all around you – floor to ceiling, wall-to-wall, front to back.

There is one button on the face of the device, and that button takes one type of photograph. Set onto either side of the body of the Theta are two ultra-wide camera lenses. These capture images in tandem, and it's this duality that makes the Theta unique.

Pressing the single capture button on the Theta does two things: it captures a roughly 180-degree view of the scene in front of the camera as well as a second view of the area to the rear; it then combines these images, edge-to-edge, to produce a single picture.

The result, viewable on smartphone apps as well as Windows and Mac desktops, is a fully spherical image that can be rotated, panned and spun to view everything.



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Image quality is decent, although it lacks the sharpness one would expect from a good smartphone camera.

The Theta has apps available for iPhone, Android, PC and Mac and Wi-Fi built in so it can wirelessly pull pictures from connected devices. It's powered by an internal lithium ion battery, which can be charged by USB.

Images can be shared from the device to Ricoh's dedicated theta360.com website, where friends can peruse and pan through your spherical photographs. This is particularly helpful as the raw JPEG images the device produces are flat representations of a spherical image, and are not ideal for sharing.

There's no screen on the camera, so images have to be viewed via the Theta iPhone/iPod app. This can also be used as a remote for lining up and capturing shots.

The camera has a shooting distance of 10m to infinity and an automatic ISO range of 100-1600. Packing an internal memory of 4GB, the camera can store around 1,200 images.

It measures 129 x 42 mm x 22.8mm, weighs 95g and is priced at £329.



ViewSonic WPG-370 gateway device

ViewSonic's New WPG-370 allows you to send wirelessly from PCs, tablets and smartphones to any HDMI/VGA display whilst remaining connected to your network.

The WPG-370 provides wireless connectivity for new or existing displays from many devices such as desktop computers, laptops / notebooks, and even tablets and smartphones. Whether the user is projecting from Windows, Mac, iOS or Android, this solution makes it easy to send content wirelessly from preferred devices.

Multiple connectivity options such as HDMI, VGA and optical audio make connecting to almost any TV, projector or display effortless, while convenient features like PC-less media streaming work directly from a USB stick (Media content only). Furthermore, the WPG-370 enables users to wirelessly stream full HD 1080p video and even simpler connectivity with Intel WiDi devices.

For handheld devices, the WPG-370 is Wi-Fi Miracast-ready and supports direct content streaming from Android and iOS Smartphones and tablets with the iMediaShare mobile app. With this third-party app, users can mirror and stream multimedia files such as videos, music and photos for wireless presentation.

Because the WPG-370 connects to your network and acts as a gateway, you can also wirelessly send your material whilst remaining connected to the internet enabling full and smooth interaction when searching for more information or searching for your next movie.

RRP is £149/ € 179 (excluding VAT).



Vivitek Qumi Q7 Projector

The Q7 LED-based portable projector offers a portable, powerful and feature-rich LED projector that delivers unrivalled multimedia capabilities in a slim and svelte design.

It delivers up to 800 ANSI Lumens of brightness with an LED light source that gives it up to 30,000 hours of operation time, enough to view more than 10,000 movies and years of meetings and presentations, with video projections up to 107" (2.7m) diagonally. The brightness coupled with the wide colour range and contrast ratio of 30,000:1 delivers rich black levels, giving the Q7 excellent picture quality.

With a weight of just 1.4kg and with its super-thin design, the Qumi is compatible with a variety of devices, and can easily integrate with digital cameras, laptops, smartphone, tablets and more.



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The Q7 features touch sensitive button controls and 4GB of on-board memory as well as input and output options. It allows for Direct 3D projection via HDMI and also 2D to 3D conversion built-in for standard and Blu-Ray 3D playback.

The Q7 feature set allows the end user to browse the web via the embedded browser or project video, photos or websites over a wireless LAN by using the optional wi-fi USB dongle. The projector can natively display a range of Microsoft Office files and Adobe PDFs, alongside being compatible with a huge selection of different multimedia formats which can be played back via a USB stick. Tablets and smartphones with MHL can even connect directly to the Qumi Q7 to mirror any content directly onto the big screen.

Specification:

- 720p native WXGA (1280x800) resolution
- Up to 800 ANSI Lumens of brightness and a 30,000:1 contrast ratio
- DLP pico chipset from Texas Instruments
- Direct 3D through HDMI, as well as integrated 2D-to-3D content conversion technology
- 1.4kg; Dimensions: 238 x 180 x 40mm
- 30,000+ estimated LED hours of operation
- Connectivity options include: HDMI (x2) including MHL connectivity, VGA-In, Composite Video, Audio-In RCA and USB; 4GB of on-board memory
- Built-in Microsoft Office and Adobe PDF document reader
- 2x 2W stereo sound speaker

