

Lenovo Yoga Tablet 8

The smaller of Lenovo's two new tablets (the other is the Yoga 10) weighs only 401g, despite a metal body. There is a cylindrical bulge along one side, increasing its thickness from an extremely svelte 4mm at its thinnest edge to 22mm. But not only is the bulge easy to hold onto, it also houses an outsize 6,000mAh battery, the kind you're more likely to find in a laptop, which keeps the Yoga 8 running for considerably longer than just about anything else in its class.

That bulge also holds a large power button in the side that glows when you're low on battery, and a brace of Dolby Digital Plus DS1 stereo speakers that pump out a sound that's better than most tablets.



This month's **New Products**

It also conceals a sturdy fold-out metal kick stand that lets you place the screen at anything between about 40 and 80 degrees.

The tablet has a 1.2GHz quad-core processor, backed by 1GB of RAM. In use, it tends to be a bit on the sluggish side, taking its time when opening apps (Google's Nexus 7 has 1.5GHz and 2GB of RAM).

The eight-inch screen offers a bit-more-than-standard HD resolution of 1,280x800 pixels (189ppi) and it runs Android 4.2 Jelly Bean with a few tweaks. There's no apps section - they all live on your home screens whether you want them to or not, which could become a problem if you like to add lots of new ones from Google Play.

The five-megapixel camera on the back has autofocus, and there's also a 1.6-megapixel camera on the front. There's 16GB of memory on board plus you can add more via microSD card, which slips into a slot behind the kickstand.

Specifications:

Software: Android 4.2 Jelly Bean

Processor: Quad-core 1.2GHz ARM Cortex-A7

Memory slot: No

Display: 8in IPS 1280x800 pixels

Connectivity: Wi-Fi b/g/n, Bluetooth 4.0

Ports: microUSB, 3.5mm headphone jack

Camera: 13 megapixel with autofocus, BSI sensor, LED flash; 2 megapixel front-facing camera

Video playback: MPEG4, H.263, H.264

Audio playback: MP3, WAV, WMA, AAC

Radio: Yes

Battery: Li-Pol 6000 mAh

Size: 213x144x7mm

Weight: 401g

Price: £200



Archos 101 Platinum

French firm Archos has released a mid-range tablet with a powerful processor and decent screen. With a plastic and aluminium casing, it feels sturdy, weighs 636g and is 10mm thick, with a sizeable bezel around the screen.

On the side are buttons for power/sleep and volume, plus mini HDMI output slot, a headphone jack and a dedicated power port. The 10.1-inch screen offers HD resolution of 1,200x800 pixels.



This month's **New Products**

The quad-core processor is backed by a full 2GB Ram and clocked at 1.6GHz, which is quite decent for a low-price tablet running Android 4.2 Jelly Bean.

There is a two-megapixel camera, which would have been better on the front as a webcam for video calls rather than the low-quality VGA version that's actually there. There's 8GB of memory on board but you can add up to another 64GB via microSD.

Specifications:

Price:£199

Software: Android 4.2 Jelly Bean

Processor: Quad-core 1.6GHz A9

Memory slot: Yes

Display:10.1in IPS, 1200x800 pixels

Connectivity:Wi-Fi, Bluetooth

Ports: microUSB, mini HDMI, 3.5mm headphone jack, Archos power port

Camera:2 megapixel; VGA front-facing camera

Video playback:H.264, MPEG-4, AVI, MP4, MOV,3GP, MPG, PS, TS, MKV, FLV

Audio playback:MP3, AAC/AAC+/eAAC+, Vorbis,FLAC, WAV

Radio: No

Battery:Li-IonSize:262x172x10mm

Weight:636g



This month's **New Products**

Microsoft Surface Pro 2

Microsoft has updated both its Windows 8 tablets, and the Pro 2 has processing power now matching a desktop, with improvements which include a big jump in available memory, an update to the operating system and improved keyboards.

The Pro 2 weighs 900g. The two versions with the lower memory count have 4GB RAM but the two larger ones have 8GB RAM. All versions come with a microSD slot in the side allowing you to add a further 64GB. There's also a single full-size USB 3.0 port and a Mini DisplayPort



This month's **New Products**

video output, as well as a proprietary charging port.

The 10.6-inch screen has a full HD resolution of 1,920x1,080 pixels, with wide viewing angles, and a ten-point touch capability.

It runs the latest Windows 8.1 operating system, which further develops the touch-focused OS based around tiles and the ability to slide screens up, down and sideways to access apps and menus.

It's powered by Intel's latest Haswell Core i5 processor, which means the machine boots up quickly. Battery life gives a little over seven hours of continuous use.

It's on sale now for £719 for the 64GB version, £799 for 128GB, and now there are also 256GB (£1,039) and 512GB (£1,439) versions.

Specification:

CPU:4th generation 1.6GHz Intel Core i5

Operating system: Windows 8 Pro

Memory:4GB or 8GB

Display:10.6in ClearType HD (1920x1080 pixels) 10-point multi-touch

Hard Drive:64GB-512GB

Camera:2x 720p HD webcams, front and back

Wireless: Wi-Fi 802.11 a/b/g/n, wireless LAN, Bluetooth 4.0

Ports:Full-size USB 3.0, microSD card slot, 3.5mm headphone jack, HD video out, cover port

Size:275x173x14mm

Weight:900g



This month's **New Products**

Nokia Lumia 521 (MetroPCS)

The Nokia Lumia 521 is a cheap (around \$100) Windows Phone measuring 4.88 by 2.52 inches, and is 0.39 inches thick. The phone is flat-backed, and the matte white polycarbonate case slopes smoothly to form comfortable edges the whole way around.

There are cutouts for the camera in the centre and speaker in the bottom right corner. On the right side is a volume rocker, Power button, and dedicated camera button. On the bottom is a micro USB port, and up top is the headphone jack. You can pop off the entire back (buttons included) to reveal the removable 1,430mAh battery, micro SIM card slot, and microSD card slot.

The 4-inch IPS LCD has 800-by-480 resolution, at 233 pixels per inch. Text is still readable and images are sharper than on the similarly equipped Huawei Vitria, even without Nokia's signature ClearBlack technology for deeper blacks and less ambient light.

The Lumia 521 has a 1GHz dual-core Qualcomm Snapdragon S4 MSM8227 processor as well as 512MB RAM inside the 521, making it slower than the 1.5GHz processors found in the Lumia 925, Lumia 822, and most other Windows Phone 8 devices.

The 521 comes equipped with 8GB of internal storage, with 4.79 GB free for the user, more than double the usual storage found in similarly priced Android devices. The Lumia is able to read microSD cards up to 64GB if you need extra space, but it can't store apps on the SD card, only media files. Media support includes a host of formats, lacking only niche file formats like OGG and FLAC.

There is a 5-megapixel camera, and 720p video records at a consistent 30 frames per second.

