

Tablet Device Reviews



Apple iPad 2 9.7" 16GB iOS Tablet

The iPad 2 is thinner than the original iPad, with a faster processor, dual cameras, and FaceTime video chat. Apple also drummed up some excellent new accessories and apps, like the innovative Smart Cover and the endlessly fun, yet affordable GarageBand music app.
SRP \$499.00

Bottom Line: The clear standout in the ever-widening sea of tablets, the Apple iPad 2 brings a slimmer design, faster processing, dual cameras, and FaceTime video chat to a tablet that already had a leg up on the competition.



Arnova Designed by Archos 7" Android 2.3 Gingerbread 8GB Multimedia Tablet

Model:501868

Do everything better and faster with your new HD multimedia companion. Arnova G2 is a new generation of Android™ based tablets is powered by a super fast 1 GHz processor. This second generation comes with a high responsive Dual Touch resistive screen (800x480) and optimized Android™ 2.3 Gingerbread operating system.
SRP \$149.00



Acer 10.1" Iconia Android 3.2 Honeycomb Tablet (16GB Storage)

Model:A500-10S16U

The Acer Tab A500 Series is a revolutionary new addition to your mobile arsenal with gleaming 10.1" touchscreen and attention grabbing metallic design fueled by top-of-the-line technology and intuitive Android "Honeycomb" OS.
SRP \$349.99

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Bottom Line: Acer's Honeycomb tablet, the Iconia Tab A500, has similar strengths and weaknesses to its direct competitors, but its \$349 price is easier to swallow than some others.



Archos 10.1" Multimedia Internet Tablet

Model:501590

Have the best of the highly desirable Android™ technology, the Archos Internet Tablet. Beyond providing the best Internet and HD multimedia experience, your device is completely customizable with a world of apps to make it your personal tablet.
SRP \$269.99



Asus 10.1" Eee Pad Transformer Android 3.1 Honeycomb Tablet

Model:TF101-A1

The Eee Pad Transformer is designed with an optional removable QWERTY keyboard which allows you to seamlessly transition between tablet and notebook PC mode to enjoy the best of both worlds. The tablet's QWERTY keyboard makes it well suited for content creation.
SRP \$479.99 (Keyboard \$149.99)

Bottom Line: The Asus Eee Pad Transformer TF101 distinguishes itself from the sea of emerging Honeycomb tablets with its aggressive pricing, and an optional accessory that turns it into a virtual notebook.



Asus 10.1" Eee Pad Transformer Prime Android 3.2 Honeycomb Tablet

Model: TF201-C1

Feels like the first laptop-class Android tablet, with its quad-core 1.4GHz processor, clever add-on keyboard dock, and its support for USB storage and console gamepads. This is easily the most impressive Android tablet ever. This is the fastest, most powerful tablet and yes, that includes the iPad 2. The secret

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ingredient is Nvidia's five-core Tegra 3 chipset, including four cores which work together at up to 1.4GHz each and a "companion core" which runs alone and sips power during idle moments.
SRP \$599.00

Bottom Line: The Asus Eee Pad Transformer Prime is the best Honeycomb tablet available.



Barnes & Noble 7" NOOK Tablet

Model:BNTV250

HD videos stream smoothly. Web browsing is lightning-fast. Get books instantly- usually in under 10 seconds. Built for speed, switch between books, movies and games effortlessly. All it takes is a touch. (And a dual core processor & 1 GB of RAM).
SRP \$249.99

Bottom Line: The Barnes & Noble Nook Tablet is the best small tablet for reading books and magazines, but falls short with multimedia.



Coby 7" Kyros™ Android 2.3 Touchscreen Tablet

Model:MID7012

Connect to the world through the touch of a fingertip. The Kyros™ Tablet is a powerful and flexible Internet and Entertainment solution that features a generous 7" screen with intuitive touch screen controls powered by the Android™ 2.3 operating system. Browse the web wirelessly or enjoy media on a sleek and stylish media device.
SRP \$99.99

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Kindle Fire 7" Modified Android 2.3 Tablet eReader

The Kindle Fire is a curious beast with its modified Android 2.3 interface, its integrated iPad-like Amazon ecosystem and of course... a heavily subsidized price.

A brilliant tablet for the price. Access all of Amazon's services, including Amazon Web Services, Prime, Kindle, Instant Video, MP3, and the AppStore, including 100,000 movies and TV shows, 17 million songs, apps, and full-color magazines.

SRP \$199.00

Bottom Line: The first easy-to-use, affordable small-screen tablet, the Amazon Kindle Fire is revolutionary.



Lenovo ThinkPad 16GB Tablet 10.1" Android Honeycomb

Lenovo puts forth a tablet aimed at business users, but it lacks reliability and performance that has made the company's ThinkPad line so successful in the corporate world. The most intriguing aspect of the ThinkPad Tablet is not the tablet itself, but its stylus and keyboard folio accessories, full-sized USB 2.0 port.

SRP \$499.00 (Stylus and keyboard \$140)

Bottom Line: The Lenovo ThinkPad Tablet boasts excellent accessories that can transform the tablet into an on-the-go business machine. But short battery life and some stability issues make it a questionable choice for casual and corporate users alike.



Motorola 32GB Xoom 10" Android 3.1 Honeycomb Tablet

The first Android tablet with Google's tablet-specific Honeycomb OS. Fast. Beautiful and highly responsive touch screen. Flash support. HDMI output for television/computer monitor viewing.

SRP \$499.00

Bottom Line: The Wi-Fi Motorola Xoom is a solid Android tablet with Flash support.

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Pandigital 7" Android™ Multimedia Tablet and Color eReader

Model:R70G100

Read. Surf. Play. The Pandigital Multimedia Novel 7" Android™ Multimedia Tablet and Color eReader will change the way that you curl up with a good book. Kindle-on-board provides over 850,000 books and over 100 magazines and newspapers.

SRP \$149.99



Samsung 16GB 7" Android 3.2 Honeycomb Galaxy Tablet

Model:P6210MAYXAR

Watch and control your favorite TV content, play games and access millions of web pages on the amazingly portable 7" Wi-Fi® Tab. And with a Dual Core 1.2 GHz processor you can unleash the power and speed of Android™ 3.2 Honeycomb operating system.

SRP \$399.99

Bottom Line: The Samsung Galaxy Tab 7.0 Plus is as good as a midrange Honeycomb tablet can get nowadays.



Samsung 16GB 10.1" Android 3.1 Honeycomb Galaxy Tablet

Model:P7510MAYXAB

The Samsung Galaxy Tab with a 10.1" screen redefines high resolution performance. It delivers sharper movies, better game graphics and crystal clear video chats. Android™ 3.1, Honeycomb provides open access to over 200,000 Marketplace Apps.

SRP \$499.99

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Bottom Line: The Wi-Fi-only Samsung Galaxy Tab 10.1 is one of the thinnest Honeycomb tablet available, and it's very capable, but its Touchwiz UI means Android updates are in doubt. Regardless, the Galaxy Tab 10.1 is one of the best Android tablets available right now.



Sony 16GB 9.4" Android Honeycomb Tablet

Model:SGPT111US

All the great things you know from Sony, now in a tablet. With a comfortable design that fits easily in your hand, and a vibrant TruBlack™ display, enjoy a truly optimized tablet that's responsive and intuitive. Access PlayStation® games, Reader™ eBooks, music and new release movies from Music Unlimited and Video Unlimited. Control the living room with built-in universal IR remote control.
SRP \$499.99

Bottom Line: The Android-based Sony Tablet S is good looking and well designed, but it's underpowered, overpriced, and doesn't pull Sony's multimedia services together in a convincing way.



Toshiba 16GB 10.1" Android™ 3.1 Honeycomb Thrive™ Tablet

Model:AT105-T1016

Powered by Android™ 3.1, Honeycomb, this tablet delivers a better way to browse the Web, enjoy e-books and HD videos, play games, listen to music and more. Complete, convenient and customizable, it's everything a tablet can and should be.
SRP \$429.99

Bottom Line: With a removable battery and full USB functionality, the Toshiba Thrive is better outfitted for business than most Honeycomb tablets, but its bulkiness is bound to be a turn-off for some.

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New Tablets Announced at CES 2012

Introducing the Acer Iconia Tab A700



Hot on the heels of the pre-CES announcement of the Acer Iconia Tab A200 comes the big unveil of an even hotter offering, the 10.1-inch Acer Iconia Tab A700. The A700 represents a whole new look for Acer when it's compared with the very first Iconia Tab, the A500, and it's the first tablet announced but surely not the last) with a 1920 by 1200 resolution. By comparison, the Asus Transformer Prime only has 1280 by 800 resolution. Like that recent release from Asus, the Iconia Tab A700 runs a quad-core 1.3-GHz Nvidia Tegra 3, on 1GB of memory.

Clean Home Screen



Note the sharp-looking text and graphics of the home screen widget and the lack of overbearing glare. This tablet features a new design with a minimal air gap between the display and the glass, and that helped mitigate the glare tremendously. The display also has an anti-glare coating, and it uses technology similar to that of an IPS display.

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Sharp Text



This view of a magazine page gives an idea of how sharp the text and images, viewed in Zinio's app, can look with the 1920 by 1200 resolution. That resolution translates to 224 pixels per inch--not quite a "retina" pixel density (the iPhone 4s screen comes in at 326 pixels per inch), but still quite good.

Solid Build, Slimmer Design



The A700 shown today felt good in hand, but it's a bit heavier than I'd like to hold single-handed while reading. It weighs 1.43 pounds, which is less than the A500, but 0.1 to 0.2 more than models like the Samsung Galaxy Tab 10.1 and the Apple iPad 2. The A700, at least, has a reasonably slim profile; it measures 10.24 by 6.85 by 0.39 inches.

Charge Over Micro-USB



Credit to Acer for foregoing a proprietary docking port and instead using a standard micro-USB port for both charging and data transfers.

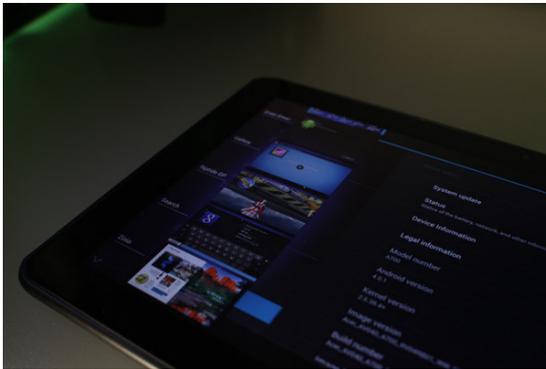
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A700: Ports, Storage, and Connectivity



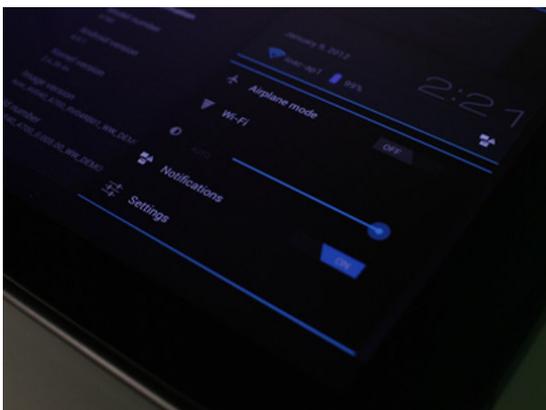
Gone is the full-size USB port that was a boon Iconia Tab A500. Under this easy-to-remove flap, though, are a microSDHC card slot and SIM card slot (yes, a 3G version of the A700 is on the roadmap, but the company made no mention of 4G today). Outside the flap: a micro-HDMI 1.4 port. The tablet supports 802.11 Wi-Fi a/b/g/n, as well as Wi-Fi Direct. Inside, it comes with 32GB or 64GB of storage.

Android 4.01 On-Board



The demo of the A700 had Android 4.01 on-board, but since it won't ship until the second quarter of this year, it may ship with an even newer version of Android 4.x Ice Cream Sandwich. This screen shows the recently accessed apps view.

Android 4.0, The Settings Menu



The settings menu looks a bit cleaner than it did before, but it isn't significantly redesigned from what we saw in Android 3.x (Honeycomb). Again, this is a missed opportunity for Google, which could have learned from some of the custom tweaks that tablet manufacturers made to the OS to improve upon it.

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Apps Menu—Minor Changes



Google did tweak the Apps Menu slightly in Ice Cream Sandwich to make Widgets more accessible via a tab at the top of the screen. The Widgets and home screen customization menu looks different than it did in Honeycomb, but it works the same as it did before.

Curvy Trends



Like other recent tablets such as the Motorola Droid XyBoard tablets, the Acer A700 has a slightly angled curve at its edge.

Expect the Acer A700 to be available in the 2nd quarter, no pricing information at this time.

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Asus Intros 7-Inch Tablet - Promises Hi-Res Display for Transformer Prime



Asus announced two new tablets that will join its U.S. arsenal: One is a higher-resolution variant on the recently released Asus Eee Pad Transformer Prime, while the other is Asus' long-awaited take on a 7-inch tablet.

The original Transformer Prime TF201 is barely a month old, and it received solid reviews for its strong performance and sleek design. Hot on its heels is the Asus Eee Pad Transformer Prime TF700T. This model is due out in the second quarter of

2012, and will complement the existing model; pricing starts at \$599 for the 32GB version, and \$699 for the 64GB version.

Shoppers will be paying a \$100 premium on each of those models to gain the TF700T's high-resolution, 1920-by-1200 resolution Super IPS+ display. That resolution makes it only the second tablet announced that's capable of playing back 1080p video. To be precise, it can handle 1080p MPEG-4/H.264 High Profile, High Bit Rate video decoding and playback. The first tablet announced to support 1080p is Acer's Iconia Tab A700, is expected to market in Q1.

Like the original Transformer Prime, the high-res version has a quad-core 1.3-GHz Nvidia Tegra 3 processor, 8-megapixel rear-facing camera, and 2-megapixel front-facing camera. Everything else remains the same, right down to the dimensions and weight.

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Eee Pad MeMo Debuts



Asus also unveiled its long-rumored, oft-hinted-at 7-inch tablet. The Asus Eee Pad MeMo ME370T is the latest in a line of WXGA 1280 by 800 resolution 7-inch tablets. Already, we have the T-Mobile SpringBoard and the Toshiba Thrive 7" shipping with a high-res display; and on those models, I've found the extra pixels can make a tablet's text and graphics look sharper and more detailed.

Inside, the ME370T runs a 1.2-GHz dual-core Qualcomm 8260 processor, has 1GB of memory, and offers 16GB and 32GB storage options. On paper, this model more than passes muster: It has a 1.2-megapixel front-facing camera, and 5-megapixel rear-facing camera; micro-USB, micro-SDHC card, and micro-HDMI ports; plus there's a SIM card slot for a mobile broadband version. The tablet measures 7.8 by 4.6 by 0.50; and it weighs 0.89 pounds; its dimensions and weight put this tablet right in line with the 7-inch models.