

Cell Phone Upgrade Time – Help!

Ok, team, I have Sprint and am due for an upgrade. I have the Samsung Galaxy S2 and have been pretty happy with it, and thought I would just bump up to the S4.

But, I have small hands, and all the Android phones are so BIG - S2 barely fits in my pants pockets (why are women's pants pockets so small?), and I also really like to have the option of one-handed phone operation (as one hand should always be available to either eat or talk).

So, I was thinking of the S4 mini, but, it's 'only' an 8mp camera. I'm not a power user, but I do use my phone camera, and a decent camera would be a requirement.

Phone store dude showed me the Motorola Moto X, which I am very much leaning towards. Any thoughts on the Moto X (I can customize the colors - ooh, caloo! callay!) or other possible contenders for a small-handed person with modest tech requirements?

Can't help you with the hand size issue but keep in mind that Galaxy S5 is coming out on April 11th:

<http://www.cnet.com/news/samsung-galaxy-s5-everything-you-need-to-know-faq/>

Dave Rakowski, Pennsylvania

The downside to the moto x, in my opinion, is that Motorola was just recently sold to lenovo, and I doubt things are going to improve for Motorola as a company at that point either, so product support may be lacking (I have a Motorola droid RAZR maxx myself which needs replacing. I'm waiting for the S5 to be available on Verizon though).

Lesley Hoenig, Michigan

Moto X or Nexus 5 are my two recommendations. I LOVE a lot of the features and whistles in Moto X (Motorola will continue to improve its line of devices). I also love the pure Android experience of Nexus 5. You'll also find that neither device is too much more bulky than S3.

Here are my comments on Moto X:

<http://thedroidlawyer.com/?s=moto+x&submit=Search>

And here are my comments on Nexus 5:

<http://thedroidlawyer.com/2014/02/my-new-device-is-a-nexus-5/>

Jeff Taylor, Oklahoma

What about the new HTC one that just came out last week? Admittedly I haven't done a lot of research on it but it's got nearly identical specs to the galaxy s5 but a little smaller in areas.

<http://www.gizmag.com/galaxy-s5-vs-htc-one-m8-2014/31437/>

Clark Stewart, Mississippi

Two points:

First with respect to the size, I've mentioned in the past that I picked up a refurbished Iphone 4s; one of the reasons is because, frankly, it's small; not that my hands are particularly small but I just don't want/need a huge phone, I want something that is going to fit in my shirt pocket or at least be able to slip into my side pocket in trousers. I've had two clients this week in my office who pulled out these huge, "minitab" sized phones, I don't know what makes or models, but I'm a lawyer and don't want to go around looking like I got a paperback book in my pants. But, of course, that's up to you.

Second, the Megapixel issue, 8MP is not a bad camera by any means; it's sufficient for almost all use by 'casual' users; and increases in megapixels will NOT necessarily translate into "better" or even "sharper" images. This is really technical issue but see here:

<http://kenrockwell.com/tech/mpmyth.htm>

for discussion of what MP really means in practical terms. Point is 8MP is in fact a "decent" camera. It's not 35 MM but the fact is, even back in the heyday of 35 MM, the overwhelming majority of users used Instamatics, 110's, APS and other much "lesser" cameras, and by and large folks were perfectly happy with those snapshots.

The article is a bit dated in terms of what MP size he's discussing, but the analysis is accurate; from a practical viewpoint the difference in a 8 MP camera and a 16 MP camera is minimal; it's about 40% in linear dimensions and 40% increase in the number of pixels in a given line or row is going to be undetectable to the naked eye.

Ronald Jones, Florida

I have a motorla droid razr something or other and I loved it for the first year, it was okay the next 3-4 months and I HATE it now. Battery life lasted about a year and now it won't run anything for longer then 10-15 minutes without killing the battery (and it's not easy to replace the battery in the dang phone)

I could upgrade but we are considering leaving Verizon (because they are taking away our grandfathered unlimited data if we upgrade)

Erin M. Schmidt, Ohio

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Of course - The Droid Lawyer! - why didn't I think of that?! Thank you, Jeffrey Taylor and everyone. Yes, the Nexus 5 was/is also a contender - my youngest son, our resident techie, went with this one (less bloatware) and is happy with it.

As to why not the S5 or the HTC One, I'm going with trailing edge vs. leading edge to keep the cost down, which is also why I'm not considering the iPhone 5S (the ideal size phone). Also, I think the size issue with the S5 and HTC One will be a problem.

So, if the camera in the Moto X is at all an improvement over my S2, I think I will go with it - unless of, of course, I change my mind . . . again. <good grief>

Lisa B. Collins

The Moto Razr is an old phone, and I don't think it's getting any of the new Android OS updates. I like the Razr Maxx or Moto X.

As for the upgrade issue, why don't you just buy an "unlocked" phone (off contract) instead of upgrading? Use a site like Swappa to buy someone's used, but decent, phone, or just buy a compatible phone, like the Moto X, directly from the manufacturer.

Jeff Taylor

I think you'll be pleased with the camera in Moto X, very nice for most users.

S5 is a good phone, but I'm not a big fan of the Samsung interfaces. People also love the HTC One, which is great if HTC will update the OS.

Jeff Taylor

I think my phone has been out right about 2 years (I've had it for about 20 months). I don't think Verizon is going to let us even change phones without a new plan (at least that is what they have been hinting at)

Also we have had lots of problems with refurbished phones. Hubby is on his 3rd referb in 12 months. Last one lasted 3 months and now the screen goes all funky. And I don't want another phone with a "non-removable" battery (which eliminates the moto x)

But between now and the end of my contract, I am making Verizon PAY for getting rid of our unlimited data. I am sucking bandwidth like crazy LOL

Erin M. Schmidt

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You can just get a phone from another vendor (not Verizon) and activate the device on their network. That's how a lot of folks get to keep their grandfather data.

Jeff Taylor

I've been using moto X for awhile and I like it. I think it's an ideal size phone (I had note 2 before and it was just too big for me).

One downside of motor is that no SD card slot available unlike Galaxy phones. Internal memory was not enough and I miss my 32gb card I had with my note 2.

Ryan Kim

I'm on Verizon, and I lost my grandfathered unlimited data when I upgraded recently. Turns out, I almost never used that data plan, since I was so often using wifi somewhere.

We now have a shared data plan for 4 people, with 6GB that we share. It has worked out fine, and more or less what we were paying for data before

Patrick W. Begos, Connecticut

You can't just buy an unlocked phone and activate it on a cdma cell phone provider.

Lesley Hoenig

Yes. As long as the phone is compatible, you can activate it. Did it a number of times with Verizon. Most recently with a Moto X I bought directly from Moto Maker.

Jeff Taylor

I should say that the difficult part is finding a SIM card, when needed.

Jeff Taylor

SoloSez Popular Threads, April 2014

Yeah, but moto x is available on Verizon. I haven't heard of anyone being able to activate a nexus 5 on Verizon.

Lesley Hoenig

That's right. Nexus 5 isn't CDMA. That's why I switched to t mobile

Jeff Taylor
