

## Digital Device Recommendations.

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Full disclosure: There is a good deal of personal opinion in the following. However, my opinions are formed from experience in introducing beginners to digital devices. In my view the biggest contributors to the confusion is the manufacturers themselves. They all want to capture the user's full attention. Some devices come with so much to distract and confuse the user. I personally use Apple products but I tend to recommend Android because the devices are cheaper. But different manufactures implement Android in different ways and I've selected some that are easiest to use right out of the box with less manufacturer bloat and distraction.

**Blackview A60 Pro Smartphone:** This is an excellent smartphone and can be purchased on Amazon at £94.99. The Blackview has very good accessibility options. It is very easy to use and you can start off using it in a very basic fashion. When I first started to recommend these they were £74 but through lockdown they have risen in price. There is an A60 without the "pro" tag that is a lot cheaper but I have yet to try it out. You can watch a short video about this phone here <https://vimeo.com/429990323>

**GiffGaff:** I highly recommend this supplier for smartphone calls, texts and data. They offer a non-contract service but you can set it up on a monthly basis which is much less bother than "topping up". For £6 a month you can have unlimited calls and texts and 500 MB data per month.

*The following tablets provide examples of 3 different sizes. Whatever you choose is really down to personal preference.*

**Lenovo 7 Inch Tablet:** £59.99 from Amazon and other suppliers. This is the smallest option and may not be everyone's cup of tea but if you find a larger device difficult to hold this may be for you.

**Acer Iconia 8 inch Tablet:** This is £119.88 from Amazon, Argos or other suppliers. At 8 inches it's roughly the size of a paperback book although obviously much thinner.

**Lenovo 10 Inch Tablet:** £109.99 from Argos. This is the largest model but great for watching movies or conducting video meetings. Anything that a larger screen size is useful for.

**Bluetooth Keyboards:** You can add a Bluetooth keyboard to any of the above devices making it almost a laptop. There is a model for each size costing roughly £30

**HP 11-v051na Chromebook:** If you fancy a laptop this is a great alternative to a Windows 10 machine. They are secure from viruses and you don't get pestered by updates. These are lightweight uncomplex machines but you can do everything on a Chromebook that you can do on any laptop.

### **Windows To Chromebook**

It is also possible to take a Windows computer and install the Chrome operating system. I have experimented with this and it is very effective. It can give an old and slow machine a new lease of life. It also has the added advantage that a windows machine however small in spec will have a larger hard drive than a traditional Chromebook.

**Samsung Galaxy Tab A 10.1-Inch:** I don't usually recommend Samsung as they don't come under the criteria of "manufacturers who don't fill their products with unnecessary and confusing stuff". However, if a user wants a more powerful device this, at £209.90 could be it. Care should be taken setting it up because in my humble opinion nobody really needs a Samsung account or Samsung Apps. A Google account and the myriad apps available at the Google Play store that comes on every Android device is all anyone needs.

**I DO NOT RECOMMEND AMAZON FIRE TABLETS** – At first this seems a good option as they are relatively cheap but you end up with a machine dedicated to Amazon marketing. It's locked down to Amazon apps and it's a direct line from Amazon to your wallet. They can be jailbroken but who wants the bother.

**XGODY** – This manufacturer offers cheap and cheerful devices usually found new on Ebay. The display is not great but they're OK for a tight budget