

LS PICK

Accessories ahoy!

YOU may have just gotten a new smartphone or laptop, but do you know how to enhance the experience of using a state of the art gadget?

Shopping for accessories can be tricky in the sense that not all accessories are essential. You need to understand that not all accessories will match your usage so you might just be pouring money down the drain on useless accessories.

The laptop accessories listed in this article have been chosen based on popular usage, price and performance.

EXTERNAL STORAGE

In this day and age, storage is slowly becoming a precious resource, and this goes double for laptops, which comes with one hard drive and no space to add more should you run out. This is where external hard drives come in. Connected through USB, this gives you an easy way to store content without any hassle.

Transcend StoreJet J25M3 500GB (Tk.4500)

With a 500GB HDD and a rugged build, this will take bumps and crashes a lot better than most of its plastic built competitors. Coupled with USB 3.0, data transfers will be a breeze.

Storage: 500 GB, RPM: 5400

Buffer: 8MB, Interface: USB 2.0/3.0

Transcend J25H3B 1TB (Tk.5700)

This edition features shock resistance that meets the demands of U.S. Military Drop Test standards, so rest assured it'll survive yours. Couple that to its eye catching design, 1TB space, and the fact that this is USB 3.0, means this is a no-brainer choice for anyone.

Storage: 1TB, RPM: 5400, Buffer: 8 MB

Interface: USB 3.0/2.0

Transcend J25H3B 2TB (Tk.9500)

If you're sitting there thinking that 1TB may not be enough but you like that Military drop test approved option, then you are in for a treat as this their 2TB version of that hard drive disk.

Storage: 2 TB, RPM: 5400

Buffer: 8 MB, Interface: USB 2.0/3.0

USB Hub

Depending upon who you ask, this is a godsend accessory for laptop users as laptops ship with a measly number of USB ports, and this is where a USB HUB comes in. It expands 1 USB port into 4 or more depending on the model you buy.

Havit H15 (Tk.500)

This model sports four ports which means it'll expand your one USB out into 4, meaning you can connect more devices than before.

Belkin 7 Port Hub With Cable Management (Tk.2400)

This model sports 7 ports which mean it'll expand your one USB out into 7.

EXTERNAL SPEAKERS

All laptops come with standard issue speakers which are barely audible, so most users have to resort to headphones or dialing the volume bar up to max levels to get any sort of squeak audible. External speakers solve this problem as they sport vastly superior speakers than the stock options.

Microlab B-51 USB(Tk.1000)

With a well-balanced design and a capable output of 4 Watts, this'll blow away any stock laptops with its dual speaker setup.

Logitech Z205 USB (Tk.2200)

The pricier option, but Logitech fans, this is a match made in heaven.

By **S M Intisab Shahriyar**

BUDGET SMART

Tab-ula Rasa

LAPTOPS, like other specimens of the 'modern' tech era, have been reduced to nothing more than bumbling dinosaurs staring up as a giant asteroid plummets to earth, soon to destroy what relevance they once had at the top of the food chain.

If high-powered binoculars or telescopes existed back then, operated by intelligent beings with opposable thumbs, they would've seen a faint outline of a half-eaten apple plastered to the face of the said asteroid.

The tablet of choice for the majority of the people who can afford to pay through their noses happen to be Apple's iPad. Outside the realm of well-off CEOs, business executives, business-owners and their lavish lifestyles, the choices offer so much variation that it can boggle the minds of most people, opposable thumbs and all. To make the categorisation easier and help you find the tablet that suits your needs best, we've rounded up the best tablets available on the market according to what kind of people can make the most of it.

THE AFOREMENTIONED CEOS, BUSINESS EXECUTIVES AND BUSINESS-OWNERS

When it comes to managing several things at once while making a lifestyle statement, it's difficult to look past the indubitable style, usability, and build quality of Apple's iPad and iPad Mini.

Featuring state of the art retina displays and a host of incredible (and incredibly expensive) apps, the iPad allows you to manage accounts, do your book-keeping, type out fast notes, and shoot off emails with incredible ease, combining solid hardware and software. They'll even keep you entertained in business meetings where the money matters are done and the exciting bits are over.

The downside? The cost of buying one and the difficulty in obtaining apps on a non-jailbroken tab. Jailbreaking is also expensive, but you get apps for free, so consider it an investment.

IPAD AIR 2

Starting from USD \$500

9.7 inch, 2,048 x 1,536 pixel retina display

A8X processor

Apple iOS8 OS

16, 64 GB versions

SAMSUNG GALAXY TAB S (10.5)

Starting from USD \$499

10.5 inch, 2560 x 1600 pixel Super AMOLED display

Qualcomm Snapdragon 800 Octacore processor

Android 4.4 KitKat OS

16, 32 GB versions

THE ARTSY TYPES

While a mass-market tablet can never replace a proper graphics tablet in the quality of artwork that can be produced, there are some hyper-sensitive tablets, which can serve quite well in conjuring up rough ideas of layouts, banners, etc. These

tablets will come in handy for marketing executives and graphics designers during the ideation process, allowing their clients to visualise a final product based on the rough. Plus, at the hands of a pro, tabs like Microsoft's latest Surface can come up with images that are mind-blowing in detail and depth.

MICROSOFT SURFACE PRO 3

Starting from USD \$768

12 inch, 2,160 x 1,440 pixel

Intel Core i3 CPU

Windows 8.1 64-bit OS

THE BOOKWORMS

Kindles give most people a momentary pause before they splurge on a tablet that can only be used for reading ebooks. Many would rather prefer buying a tablet that gives them a wide range of usage options, and we couldn't agree more.

A tablet is generally good for reading



depending on how many words in a line can fit onto the screen, so a wider tablet is generally better. Be prepared to carry a backpack or handbag if you want to read on the move, since tabs like the Nexus and the hot new Amazon Fire are quite cumbersome to carry all the time.

GOOGLE NEXUS 9

Starting from USD \$387

8.9-inch 2,048x1,536 pixel IPS display, with 285 pixels per inch

Tegra K1 system on a chip (192-core Kepler GPU and 2.2GHz quad-core A15 processor)

Android 5.0 Lollipop OS

16, 32 GB versions

AMAZON FIRE HDX 8.9

Starting from USD \$394

8.9-inch 2,560x1,600 pixel HD display, with 339 pixels per inch

Qualcomm Snapdragon 805 system-on-chip (Adreno 420 GPU and 2.5GHz quad-core Krait 450 processor)

Fire OS4 Sangria OS

16, 32 64 GB versions

THE GAMERS AND MOVIE WATCHERS

PC gamers hold console gamers in low regard, and tablet gamers aren't even registered as a blip on the "gamer radar". However, it's a growing segment, and as processing power and display hardware continually improves, the games are becoming progressively complex and fun to waste time on.

The properties that define a good tablet for gaming also determine how clear the movie watching experience is, so consider that a bonus. And if you go for the Lenovo Yoga, you get a mini projector, while almost all of them can hook up to a big TV for maximised gaming experience.

NVIDIA SHIELD TABLET

Starting from USD \$300

8-inch 1,920x1,200 pixel IPS display

Tegra K1 system on a chip (192-core Kepler GPU and 2.2GHz quad-core A15 processor)

2 GB RAM

Android 5.0 Lollipop OS

16, 32 GB versions

RAZER EDGE

Starting from USD \$745

10.1 inch 1366x768 pixel IPS display

1.7GHz / Turbo 2.6GHz dual core Intel Core i5 processor

4 GB RAM

Windows 8 OS

64, 128, 256 GB versions

LENOVO YOGA TABLET 2 PRO

Starting from USD \$500

13 inch 2560 x 1440 pixel QHD display, pico projector

1.33-GHz quad-core Intel Atom processor

JBL speakers

Android 4.4.2 KitKat OS

9,600-mAh battery

THE SIZE CONSCIOUS CROWD

Tablets are huge. They refuse to fit in anything other than the Noah's Ark of jeans or handbags. There are smaller tabs out there which compromise some of the usability for a more space-friendly size.

SAMSUNG GALAXY TAB S (8.4-INCH)

Starting from USD \$400

8.4 inch 2,460x1,600 pixel Super AMOLED display

Android 4.4.2 KitKat OS

16, 32 GB versions

DELL VENUE 8 7000

Starting from USD \$399

8.4 inch 1600 x 2560 pixel OLED capacitive touchscreen

Intel Atom Z3580 quad core processor

Android 4.4.2 KitKat OS

16 GB

By **Shaer Reaz**