

LEGAL MANAGEMENT

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Geeking Out on the Galaxy TabPro S

We've been tablet shopping again. This time, what we brought home from the store may surprise you.



BILL & PHIL

*The Bill and Phil Show
Tech News & Reviews*

We have always admired Samsung's tablet computers but have never really taken the plunge, since they always ran the Android operating system. Don't get us wrong — we love Android. We have Android phones and love them. But for a tablet/laptop hybrid device, we really prefer the Microsoft Windows operating system.

So when we found out the newest Samsung tablet, dubbed the Galaxy TabPro S, was going to ship with Windows 10 installed, we put it on our buy list.

We saw the TabPro S at the Consumer Electronics Show back in January. However, at that time Samsung did not reveal the price or ship date. As the release date neared, we were pleasantly surprised when Samsung revealed the \$899 retail price. The fact that this price included a keyboard cover made the TabPro S an even more attractive option. So shortly after the release date, we scoured all Best Buy stores within a 50-mile radius of our office and found one that had four of these tablets in stock. They soon had just three.

It is no secret that Microsoft's breakthrough Surface tablet has been successful, as we are now seeing other manufacturers mimicking the Surface design aesthetic. Samsung has jumped into the fray as well with the TabPro S. It looks a lot like the Surface, with a few distinctions. The most impressive feature for us on the TabPro S is the incredibly sharp and bright 12-inch display. For sure, Samsung has perfected the art of the beautiful display, as can be seen in their successful line of Galaxy S and Note phones. They bring that same screen perfection to this tablet.

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The other distinction of note is that the keyboard cover comes packaged with the tablet for the \$899 price. We paid \$899 for our Surface Pro 4, but then had to fork over another \$130 for the keyboard. Getting a keyboard with our TabPro S for the advertised price made us very happy.

However, our happiness dissipated somewhat after we unpacked the box and began testing our tablet and keyboard. Perhaps we were spoiled by Microsoft's pricey Surface keyboard, but the Galaxy keyboard just did not measure up.

THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE NOISY

First, the positives: We didn't pay extra for it, the keyboard doubles as a tablet cover and it's not horrible. However, the keys are really close together, and there is a little bit of a clicking noise that can be bothersome unless you have some music playing to drown it out.

Because the keyboard is more compact, it does fit better in compact places (like an airline seat tray), but we like our space, especially on keyboards. A particular pet peeve of ours is when certain keyboard keys that we use a lot (like Home, Page Up, Page Down, etc.) can only be accessed via a function key toggle. So count us pretty much bummed that this beautiful tablet has a smallish, less than luxurious keyboard.

While the TabPro S has two viewing angles, we found ourselves missing the unique built-in kickstand on the Surface Pro 4 that allows you to adjust to just about any viewing angle.

Operationally, we have no beef with the TabPro S. For our basic activity of email, word processing, web surfing and the occasional app from the Microsoft app store, the tablet is proficient and speedy. We also have no beef with the battery life (touted to be 10 hours by Samsung). We get a good day of activity on our unit without running out of juice.

It's funny that Samsung did not include a stylus or pen with this tablet, particularly after the wild success of the Galaxy Note phablet with its built-in pen. The Surface has a pen, and now even Apple has a pencil for its iPad Pro series. We expect that Samsung will introduce a pen for the TabPro S at some point, but it is not included when you buy it now.

THE VERDICT

So what is our overall impression of the TabPro S? We really, really like it. If you are looking for the best product in this genre (tablet/laptop hybrid running Windows 10) for the buck, the TabPro S is a great choice. If you have already splurged on the Surface Pro 4, then migrating to the TabPro S would be a step backward, in our view.

Of course, if you are super geeks like us, you will go ahead and buy both.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

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