

## Show

## Gadgets &amp; Games

## Handy tablet

**ViewSonic ViewPad 7**  
PRICE: \$899

REVIEW: CLARENCE CHEN  
sychen@sph.com.sg

THIS is the handiest of three tablet offerings from ViewSonic.

The ViewPad 7, powered by the Android 2.2 OS, is similar to the Samsung Galaxy Tab.

It also works as a smartphone. Which means you can use a normal SIM card and skipping the hassle of having to change to a microSIM card.

My review unit came with an internal memory of 512MB which is really insufficient to do anything much. So you will probably need to make use of the microSD card slot which allows up to 32GB.

Like the Galaxy Tab, the ViewPad 7 has two built-in cameras. The one in front is 0.3-megapixel (compared with the Galaxy Tab's 1.3 megapixel) but it is decent enough for video conferencing on the go. There is also a 3-megapixel auto focus camera on the back.

The back camera seems to work only when a microSD card is inserted. I tried taking photos without inserting one and it was unable to save any photos.

The ViewPad 7 weighs the same as the Galaxy Tab, 380g. But it is thicker and looks bulkier.

And though it works as a smartphone, if you want to make a call in private, you would have to plug in a hands-free headset. Without that, all calls answered on the gadget will be on speakerphone.

The seven-inch LCD multi-touchscreen is responsive but the graphics are not as stunning and crisp as those on the Galaxy Tab.

Still, the ViewPad 7 appears to have all the features that you may need in a tablet-cum-smartphone.

And with it you can also go online shopping at the Android Market and download apps.

**RATING(out of five ticks):** ✓✓✓



Gadget GUY  
Gadget GAT

## Just the right fit

REVIEW: TAN MAE LYNN  
maelynn@sph.com.sg

REMEMBER PDAs – personal digital assistants?

The ViewSonic ViewPad 7 reminded me of one of those gadgets of yesteryear.

One colleague said it looks like a giant iPhone 4, which it does, with its metallic trim.

Though not bad looking, it could have been slimmer. Also, though slightly smaller than the Galaxy Tab, it is thicker, making it less attractive.

Nonetheless, it is still quite handy and lightweight and fits nicely in your hand and in your handbag.

The review set came with a nice black case, which made it look like a leather-bound book.

The ViewPad 7 was simple to use and navigation was easy, as with most Android devices.

But I found the gadget a tad slow in processing tasks. While it was responsive in navigation, launching and downloading seemed slower than with some other tablets on the market.

Its seven-inch screen is not bad for size. But the resolution is noticeably inferior to that of the Galaxy Tab and iPad. Unfortunately, the viewing experience is affected, even if you are simply surfing the web or checking e-mail.

One strange and annoying characteristic of the ViewPad 7 is its screen rotation.

On the review set, the home and applications screens could be viewed only in landscape mode. Menu screens, some applications and web pages could be rotated either way. It was almost as if the developers had forgotten to include the ability to rotate throughout.

All things considered, the ViewPad 7 is a decent albeit less sophisticated device if you're looking to get a tablet.

At \$899 though, you're not going to get that much bang for your buck.

**RATING(out of five ticks):** ✓✓✓✓

## Low-cost Android



**Huawei Ideos S7**  
PRICE: \$499 (excluding GST)

Retailing for just over \$500 (inclusive of GST), the Ideos S7 is one of the more affordable tablets running on the Android 2.1 platform.

The seven-inch tablet, 3G and Wi-Fi-enabled, is just 15.5mm thick and weighs about 500g. It sports all the regular ports for SD cards, micro USB and earphones.

Movie buffs will like the fact that it supports HD (720p) playback.

It also doubles as a smartphone, allowing you to make voice calls and send SMS and MMS messages.

## No sweat linking to phone

**Motorola S10-HD**  
PRICE: \$138

Need to answer the phone while you're on your daily jog? No sweat.

The S10-HD is a Bluetooth stereo headset that lets you listen wirelessly to music and answer calls from your phone.

The earbuds feature a hydrophobic mesh to keep sweat out. Silicone seals and encased speakers also ensure that sweat stays out of the electronics.

So your music and voice calls sound great no matter how hard you work out. Its behind-the-head design also means it sits snug when you're pounding the track.



## Surf from sofa

**Veho Mimi Wireless Keyboard and Air Mouse**  
PRICE: \$179

Couch potatoes who like to surf and e-mail on the TV, check out the Mimi Wireless Keyboard and Air Mouse.

It has a built-in 3-D motion mouse sensor that lets you move the cursor onscreen as you would a regular mouse.

With a wireless range of 12m, the 80-key mini keyboard lets you send e-mails from the comfort of your sofa.

It also acts as a remote control for the media PC to play movies.