OnePlus One Review

A self-styled “flagship killer”. A Developer’s partner. A Low cost beast.

Most of you might have heard about the Oneplus One. It’s a smartphone, featuring the best of everything at an unbelievably low price, which emerged out of nowhere and has managed to beat many of the tall order smartphone companies.

What is so special about it?

A high quality phone, for a price tag of 22k, runs Cyanogenmod – a modded version of Android which is popular with tinkerers, out of the box. It’s a nexus in everything but the name. It sports a 5.5 inch ~400 PPI screen, driven by 2.5GHz Snapdragon 801 processor and powered by hunky 3100 mAh battery! For such a price tag and such features, it’s a damn good deal.

Design

The moment one would lay his fingers or eyes on the phone, he could tell it’s a high-quality design, almost impossible for such a price tag. The screen is raised slightly over the silver edged body, providing your fingers limitless screen and fun. And it looks good as well. On the back, the beast boasts of a fabric sort of texture. At the time when 30k smartphones feature a glossy-cheap plastic-y back, oneplus one has a strange yet unique back cover. For some, this adds a royal feel to their phone but, some set it down due to fear of getting stained. All in all, this move has been welcomed by the group of smartphone enthusiasts. Besides its silver edges, back and the screen, oneplus one has impressed everyone with the accessories it is sold with. The micro USB cable cloth-coated cables a run for their money and is untanglable! It is one of the most badass micro USB cable I have seen.

Display

The screen is a 1080 x 1920 pixel IPS LCD display, comes with a protection of Corning Gorilla Glass 3, looks great in all scenarios. It still lacks somewhere in the contrast when compared to AMOLED displays, but all in all, its pretty. The brightness is never a problem. The highest brightness setting of the smartphone can tackle sunny days pretty well. And at the bottom of the screen, there are three touchscreen hardware button, one each for ‘Home’, ‘Settings’ and ‘Back’. This is a feature long lost on android devices, and some users might find it unattractive or not useful. Thanks to Cyanogenmod, you can turn them off and switch to software buttons as per your wish!

Camera

Oneplus one boasts of a 13 megapixel rear camera, capable of capturing low light images and recording 4k videos. There’s a dual flash just below the rear camera. The preinstalled camera app on the phone gives the traditional Google camera a run for its money. The front camera is a 5 megapixel camera and is capable of recording full HD videos and capturing amazing selfies. The preinstalled camera, comes with real-time filters.

Battery

The Battery in the oneplus one is a non-removable Li-ion battery with a hunky capacity of 3100 mAh. This is enough to power your smartphone throughout the day inspite of hefty usage. It can provide a screen-on-time of around 7-8 hours once fully charged. The charger of the oneplus one can charge the phone amazingly fast. But there’s a catch. If you use just a random charger, even if it is of Nexus 5, your phone will charge very slowly. But its not the case with the provides charger and a damn good looking charger too.

Operating System

The beast runs on a software designed specifically for the hardware of the phone. The combination of Cyanogenmod and Oneplus has put together awesome hardware and software. It comes out of the box running on modded Android 4.4.x, named as Cyanogenmod 11s, dubbed as cm11s. This cm11s allows its users to customize anything and everything. Users can change their boot animations, their themes, their icons, their navigation bar etc, without the need of rooting or installing separate launchers.

Final Call

With all the above mentioned Hardware and Software capabilities, and that too at such a price tag, the oneplus can give any phone a run for its money. The tagline ‘Flagship killer’ is justified by the specs provides and the price range. For all those looking for a smartphone that would give premium feel, sport all the advanced features, run any game, provide a long battery life and last for a longer time, oneplus one is the solution. Plus, you won’t have to shell out a fortune to buy the device.