

# Clicks Communicator: the ultimate communication companion

Posted 19h 40m ago by [moocow1452](#)

19

votes

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<https://www.clicksphone.com/communicator>

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– [macleod](#) 19h 35m ago (edited 19h 27m ago) [Link](#)

This won't hold a candle to the brutalist design of my [Unihertz Titan 2](#), but I am not at all sad that more and more of these designs are coming back into vogue. The tactile sensation of a keyboard has been incredible to have back, as it just makes the digital world feel more real. The 1:1 ratio makes you use the phone for utility instead of media scrolling (since reels and their ilk are vertical videos not well suited for the square ratio). Additionally, my spelling abilities have returned since I am physically typing on a tactile keyboard with key edges, so much so that I have entirely disabled autocorrect. Another nice thing is that on the Communicator (nice name, LLAP  ) and the Titan 2 have a CTRL button, so you can use keyboard shortcuts like ctrl+c/x/v to do things that you normally must use the touchscreen for.

Edit: interesting that the homescreen that comes out of the box is Niagara, I was one of their first subscribers and love their homescreen design, even if I do find that Kvaesitso with some tweaks is better for this form factor.

6 votes

– [xethos](#) 17h 16m ago [Link](#) Parent

They almost certainly used Niagara for keyboard shortcuts from the homescreen. When the Zinwa-modded Q25 (new mainboard with Android 14 in a BlackBerry Q20 body) started showing up for the general public, Niagara was found to be one of the few launchers that will work with homescreen keyboard shortcuts out-of-the-box.

1 vote

– [macleod](#) 2h 47m ago [Link](#) Parent

Kvaesitso also supports keyboard shortcuts which has been quite nice. Not sure if the Q25 supports it, but on the Titan 2 we can use those keyboard shortcuts practically anywhere when used in conjunction with a modifier key.

Also, should work on the Q25 but have you tried the [Pastiera keyboard](#)? Originally designed for the Titan, but should work for the Q, great Blackberry Keyboard replacement.

– [1338](#) 18h 17m ago [Link](#)

Sounds interesting and they checked most of the boxes of modern phone grievances (only one that seems to be missing is replaceable battery). But having never heard of the company it feels a bit hard to trust. It seems they previously made a USB keyboard for phones so (assuming there's people who would vouch for those) it's probably not a total scam (or just a reskin/dropship of a Chinese model), but making a phone isn't an easy thing. The weird screen size is bound to lead to compatibility issues and the FAQs indicating this isn't primarily meant to be your primary phone make me cautious.

4 votes

- JXM 18h 8m ago Link Parent

FWIW, the people behind this have launched several successful products under the Clicks name. I know one is a YouTuber who's been around for nearly 20 years reviewing tech (Mr. Mobile) and another is the founder of Crackberry (a famous BlackBerry news site back in the day).

I don't own one of their keyboards, but everyone who does seems to love them.

It definitely doesn't seem like a fly by night operation.

8 votes

- artvandelay 17h 51m ago Link Parent

In the announcement video they explicitly mention that this isn't meant to replace your main phone, just meant to be a communication-focused sidekick to your phone. It sounds weird but given how much people use their phones for things other than communicating, I can see the niche for something focused on just that.

1 vote

- Eji1700 16h 44m ago Link

Watching the video, the mag attached keyboard seems like better product. As someone WAAAAAAAY down the keyboard rabbit hole (40% split 3x5) these are things that I think anyone like me has considered a viable niche. I think there's actually even more clever solutions for power users that might eventually hit mainstream, but this is a very reasonable and attractive product even for a nerd like me.

Having a quick way to use my phone in a better mode (since yes I CAN bust out my 40% can hook it up if i have it on me) for the rare "oh shit things are on fire" work emergency would be nice. I have emergency typed a SQL query on an on screen keyboard. I will kill to never do that again, and to have the knowledge that should I need to I could easily.

I do think that in general on screen typing has stagnated. There are tools that you don't need for a real keyboard that you do need for an on screen they still need to develop (a quick one line above the keyboard that shows current sentence delimited by spaces or whatever to QUICKLY select the word you want would ease so much pain). If those are eventually developed I could see tactile devices going back into the realm of nerds only, but for now I know a lot of people who'd probably buy this.

The communicator...ehhhhhhhhhh.

For 400-500 I don't see this replacing anything in the already saturated tech pack of most people.

The big issue I see, is that a significant portion of my communication is "oh shit let me check that" and then I open some app and then share a link/screenshot/whatever. I'm not sure how this winds up being different.

It does feel like it's well designed and thought out, although I worry how much of that is the app opting in. "oh sure you can quickly triage your messages....if the app supports our API".

I dunno...i'd keep an eye on it personally but wouldn't touch it until I've held or used one. I'm probably the right kind of mess to want this thing, but man I DON'T need another device. Being on the iphone side of the fence, I also worry how well that's going to play with apple.

2 votes

- xethos 16h 40m ago Link

This is very cool, and a year ago I'd be hyped. Currently though, I'm typing this on my Q25 [0,1] - and honestly, I like the Q25 better. I like the BlackBerry keyboard better. I actually like the toolbelt, despite being on the fence when I ordered it. I like that I don't have to use my carrier's imperfect 5G, and can stick to LTE. I enjoy the trackpad, and I adore that replacement backs, screens, keyboards, etc are available and dirt-cheap.

I don't have a fingerprint sensor, but my phone stays on my person 95% of the time anyways. So I set a longer "lock" timeout, and when I set it down I use the long-press 'k' shortcut to lock it - just like BBOS10.

Their LED on the side is neat, but I'm perfectly content with it on the face. And the touch-sensitive keypad is (for me, at least) competing with the trackpad - and the trackpad wins for ease-of-repair, for being cheaper to replace should it die, and for being able to double as a mouse.

My Q25 is physically smaller too, while retaining a headphone jack. And possibly the most damning of all, the Q25 isn't using an IoT SoC. Which, while it is on the 4nm node, IoT SoCs are more likely to assume they're to be plugged in, and care less about power draw.

Not to dissuade anyone, the Communicator looks very cool - I'm glad I got something I'm happier with though.

[0] <https://linkap.us.com/products/q25-pro-full-device>

[1] A modified BlackBerry Q20 / Classic. Externally, still the hardware RIM made ~12 years ago. Internally, an aftermarket mainboard runs Android 14, with a new battery and camera module

2 votes

– guissmo 4h 22m ago Link Parent

Did you need to pay for customs to receive the Q25 in your country?

I'm in the EU and was wondering if I have to take that into account upon purchase.

Same for the Communicator, if anyone knows the answer.

– artvandelay 18h 53m ago Link

Honestly an interesting device overall. Love the design though I wish the screen were slightly taller instead of being a perfect square. Price is slightly below what I expected, thought it'd be closer to \$600.

The other Clicks product they announced also caught my eye. I kind of want to try one though I have to see if I really want to commit \$80 to it. It'd be cool to have a universal Bluetooth keyboard to connect to my phones and my tablet.

1 vote

– DynamoSunshirt 4h 16m ago Link

I have high hopes for this. Form factor is fatter (in depth) than my 13 Mini, but close enough. Camera probably sucks. Security updates promised for 5 years is probably... fine, if the company survives.

Skeptical after the fiasco that was the Minimal Phone (lots of bugs and minimal support after a very delayed launch). But a lot of the Minimal Phone's problems are a result of the e-ink screen -- a small OLED screen is probably a lot easier to support and test.

Honestly, I have no desire to buy anything larger than my 13 mini, so I'll probably keep an eye out for reviews and deals on this over the next year or two. It's unlikely that Apple or any other Android OEM is going to build something that meets my size criteria, so eventually it's either this or a dumb phone. I'm very sad that foldables are likely going to remain the (expensive, unsustainable) hotness in smartphones instead of simply creating big, medium, AND small phones. But capitalism gonna capitalize.

1 vote

– granfdad 4h 12m ago Link

Finally a good idea coming out of Clicks! I always thought their phone cases were pretty contrived, and I'm glad to see them stand behind the philosophy with a custom product, rather than just peddling the gimmick.

Hopefully we'll see some reviews at some point to see how it stacks up against the limited competition. Fingers crossed it supports custom Android ROMs.

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