

= LG G2 =

The LG G2 is an Android smartphone developed by LG Electronics . Serving as a successor to 2012 's Optimus G and the 2013 Optimus G Pro phablet , the G2 was unveiled at a press event in New York City on 7 August 2013 , and first released in September 2013 . The G2 is primarily distinguished by software features that LG billed would " learn " from users , a high fidelity sound system designed to produce higher quality audio , a 5 @. @ 2 in (130 mm) 1080p screen with technology that the company claimed would improve energy efficiency and reduce the size of the bezel around it , along with the unique placement of its power and volume keys ? eschewing their typical location on the edge of a smartphone by placing them on the rear below the camera lens .

The device was released to mostly positive reception ; the G2 was universally praised for LG 's efforts to produce a more seamless and compact design , its high performance , the quality of its display and camera , along with its long @-@ lasting battery . Critics were divided on certain aspects of its design , such as its rear button layout , and its plastic chassis ? which was panned for closely resembling recent Samsung Galaxy products and being a regression from the glass @-@ based chassis of the Optimus G. Similarly , while its software and user interface was praised for its usability and large number of customization options , some reviewers felt that the software suffered from feature creep and contained notable usability regressions in comparison to " stock " Android .

Sales of the G2 exceeded LG 's estimates ; in late @-@ December 2013 , a Korean news agency reported that at least 3 million units of the G2 had been sold worldwide .

= = Release = =

The G2 was first unveiled during a press event at New York City 's Jazz at Lincoln Center on 7 August 2013 . LG announced that it would begin to release the G2 globally on over 130 carriers within the next two months , in markets such as South Korea and the United States .

To promote the G2 , LG attempted to hold a city @-@ wide scavenger hunt in Seoul , South Korea ; during a press event at a local park on 9 August 2013 , helium balloons (tying in with its " G in the Cloud " advertising campaign) were released that contained 100 vouchers . After the vouchers were scattered through the city by the deflating balloons , LG planned to give away G2s to those who found the vouchers . While only members of the media were formally invited , the event was disrupted by members of the public who learned about the promotion on the internet . As the balloons were released , attendees attempted to use BB guns and other makeshift tools to retrieve them . The resulting quarrel which broke out over the balloons resulted in 20 injuries ; following the incident , LG apologized and stated that it would pay for the medical treatment of those injured in the event . LG also called off plans to hold similar events in other South Korean cities .

The G2 was first released in the United States by Verizon on 12 September 2013 , and released by AT & T the following day . T @-@ Mobile released the G2 on 25 September , while Sprint released theirs on 8 November 2013 . The G2 was released in Canada on 27 September 2013 , across six national and regional carriers , including Bell , Rogers , SaskTel , Telus , Vidéotron , and Wind Mobile .

= = Specifications = =

= = = Hardware = = =

The G2 's exterior consists of a polycarbonate shell ? unlike its predecessor , which used a glass @-@ based construction . The rear cover is adorned with a subtle pattern resembling carbon fiber . The G2 's volume and power keys are located directly below the camera on the rear of the device . The power button contains an LED lamp , which can be used as a notification light . The positioning of the buttons on the rear deviates from the majority of smartphones , where they are located on the bezel (side edge) of the phone . LG argued that buttons located on the bezel were harder to reach

on larger smartphones , and made it more likely for users to drop their phone when adjusting the volume during a call . As such , the G2 's buttons are instead located where the index finger would normally lie when the phone is held . Alongside the power button , the G2 is also powered on by double @-@ tapping on the screen , and turned off by double @-@ tapping on the status bar or a blank area on the home screen , a feature branded as " KnockOn " . When the phone is off , the volume keys can also be used to launch directly into the camera or QuickMemo applications by holding them down .

The G2 is powered by a 2 @. @ 2.6 & GHz quad @-@ core Snapdragon 800 processor with 2 GB of RAM and support for LTE or LTE Advanced networks where available . The G2 is equipped with a 5 @. @ 2 @-@ inch 1080p IPS display ; to reduce the size of its screen bezel , wiring for touchscreen components is routed both above and below the screen itself . To help conserve battery life , the G2 also implements a panel self @-@ refresh system ; if the display is showing static content , it is refreshed solely from framebuffer memory (referred to as " graphics RAM ") , allowing other display components (such as the GPU) to become idle . LG claimed that this system would allow the screen to use 26 % less power than comparable displays on other smartphones .

The G2 's audio hardware and software is optimized to support 24 @-@ bit / 192 kHz audio ; during LG 's press event , ringtones recorded by the Vienna Boys ' Choir (which are also bundled with the device) were used to demonstrate the high quality audio from its internal speaker . The G2 also includes a 13 @-@ megapixel rear @-@ facing camera with optical image stabilization , and an infrared emitter which allows it to serve as a universal remote with the accompanying QuickRemote app .

The G2 comes with either 16 or 32 GB of non @-@ expandable storage , and includes a non @-@ removable 3000 mAh battery . The Verizon Wireless model of the G2 offers support for Qi wireless charging . Unlike the models released in other countries , South Korean models of the G2 have a removable back cover , a MicroSD card slot for expanded storage , and a removable 2610 mAh battery .

== = Software == =

The G2 ships with Android 4 @. @ 2 @. @ 2 " Jelly Bean " with a custom interface and software . It contains a number of features that are designed to " learn " from users by predicting future actions , and allow for flexibility and customization . The G2 retains features from previous LG models such as the Optimus G and G Pro , including QuickMemo (which allows users to write notes on top of a screenshot) , QuickRemote (a feature which allows the device to serve as a universal remote) , QSlide pop @-@ up apps , and Voice Mate . New features introduced by the G2 include TextLink , which analyzes text messages to detect content such as addresses and times that can be passed to other apps (such as the calendar , a note , or Google Maps) , a pop @-@ up menu of relevant apps triggered when plugging in headphones or a USB cable (Plug & Pop) , the ability to answer a phone call by holding the phone to the user 's head (AnswerMe) , Slide Aside , a multitasking feature which allows users to " slide " away apps onto cards with a three @-@ finger gesture , the Clip Tray (which collects content that had been copied to the clipboard) , and Guest Mode . The G2 uses on @-@ screen buttons ; users can change their background color (which includes black and white options , either solid colored or with a gradient) , customize the order of the buttons , or add additional buttons for opening QuickMemo or the notification shade . The G2 's default music player supports the playback of WAV and FLAC files with 24 @-@ bit / 192 kHz audio .

An update to Android 4 @. @ 4 @. @ 2 " KitKat " was released in South Korea in November 2013 , and for international models in March 2014 . LG touted a " noticeable speed boost " over Jelly Bean , along with battery life improvements , user interface tweaks , and other improvements brought by KitKat . A further update added a new security feature known as " Knock Code " (as introduced by the LG G Pro 2) , which allows users to unlock their device by tapping quadrants of the screen in a sequence .

An update to Android 5 @. @ 0 @. @ 1 " Lollipop " was first released in South Korea in January 2015 . Alongside other internal improvements , it introduces the refreshed " G UI " first introduced by

the LG G3 , which itself received improvements to match the new visual style and features of Lollipop , The update was also released for the international model and the U.S. carrier versions , but will not be released in Canada .

== Model variants ==

Several different model variants of the G2 are sold , with most variants differing only in support for regional network types and bands . However , the South Korean version features a removable (but smaller) battery and a MicroSD slot , while the U.S. Verizon Wireless version includes Qi wireless charging , but has a noticeably different rear cover design with different designs for the buttons and camera , and replaces the solid black option for the button background with a pink pattern option . In January 2014 , in honor of the Chinese New Year , LG released two " limited edition " models of the G2 in selected Asian markets ; available in red or gold colors , the limited edition models featured textured casings instead of the glossier plastic used normally by the G2 .

== Accessories ==

The QuickWindow case accessory for the G2 was unveiled on 30 July 2013 ? prior to the unveiling of the phone itself . The QuickWindow case consists of a plastic shell with a polyurethane flip cover . The cover contains a rounded rectangular window that exposes a portion of the display , allowing a number of functions to be accessed without opening the cover , including notifications , a customizable clock , and a music player .

== Reception ==

== Pre @-@ release ==

While complimenting its performance and other unique features , The Verge believed that LG was trying too hard to compete with the Samsung Galaxy S4 by closely imitating its design , specifications , and emphasis on features instead of differentiating itself through further innovations . TechRadar also praised its performance and display quality , but considered the design of the G2 itself to be " dull " , and believed that while offering many options for advanced users , LG 's skinned version of Android 4 @.@ 2 was too complex for " casual " users (especially noting its notification pull @-@ down , where roughly half the screen is taken up by options) .

== Critical reception ==

The LG G2 was released to mostly positive reception . In December 2013 , the British magazine Stuff named the G2 its 2013 Phone of the Year and Gadget of the Year , reporting that " LG has previously struggled to make an impact on the smartphone market , but the LG G2 is as good as smartphones get in 2013 , and shows the established names how it should be done . "

The G2 was considered by critics to be well @-@ built , but was criticized for replacing the glass @-@ based construction of the Optimus G with a plainer , plastic @-@ based design , drawing comparisons to recent Samsung products . Ars Technica further criticized the Verizon Wireless version for having a cheaper appearance than the international versions , with a plainer rear cover , modified buttons , and a different speaker layout . The G2 's rear buttons were met with equally mixed reception , with most reviewers believing that users would be able to adjust themselves to operate them . Accordingly , the ability to wake the phone by tapping on the screen was considered a more convenient method . The G2 was praised for its high @-@ end hardware , with Engadget describing the device as a " beast " with specifications that " seem familiar to anyone who 's read a flagship Android phone review in the last 12 months " , recognizing that it had become harder for manufacturers to differentiate their flagship products beyond displays and processors . The G2 's

display was praised for its high resolution and color accuracy , along with LG 's efforts to reduce the screen bezel size . The G2 was also praised for having unexpectedly longer battery life than any of its competitors (along with Motorola 's Droid Razr Maxx) . After lasting about 20 hours of " standard " use in its testing , the G2 's battery was considered by Engadget to be " a sign that we 're finally crossing into a world of sensible smartphone batteries . "

LG 's Android interface design received mixed reviews ; TechRadar gave it a positive review , describing it as being " easy enough for novice and expert smartphone users alike " , and noting its dynamic elements and customization features . Its increased customization abilities (including different lock screen and home screen animations , and the ability to change the background and layout of the on @-@ screen navigation buttons) was noted by reviewers . The usefulness of the " Slide Aside " feature was questioned due to the availability of other , more efficient means to switch apps . LG 's software was generally panned for being unpolished in places , suffering from feature creep , and containing too many unneeded visual effects and skeuomorphic elements (the latter having generally fallen out of favor) . The G2 's software was also panned for containing usability digressions in comparison to stock Android , such as the notification tray being taken up by options , not using Android 4 @.@ 2 's updated " Complete action using " menu and behavior , and , despite using on @-@ screen buttons , continued use of the " Menu " key which was officially deprecated by Google in its Android human interface guidelines for Android 4.x (on apps which comply with the HIG , overflow menus are intended to be displayed within the apps themselves . The device 's Menu key is replaced by a " Recent apps " key , and a small " Menu " key appears to the side when needed) .

The G2 's camera was considered good for its class , with its processor contributing to quicker HDR photo processing than its competitors . The Verge remarked that despite LG having " practically stole [n] " Samsung 's camera design and modes , the G2 's camera interface were among the better implementations of Android camera software due to its available options . However , its low @-@ light photos and some of its other modes were panned for not being as good as those of other devices such as the Nokia Lumia 920 and HTC One . In a photography @-@ focused review by Digital Photography Review , the optical image stabilization system was praised for helping maintain good levels of exposure , and well @-@ lit photos were found to have a decent level of detail , noting that its lens was " sharp pretty much all across the frame and free of chromatic aberrations . " However , it was noted that " as the light gets dimmer and in [sic] the ISO starts to increase " , the device began to suffer from " very heavy @-@ handed noise reduction which results in visible softness " , and further noted that " [its] detail starts to suffer as soon as you go higher than base ISO and by ISO 400 most low @-@ contrast detail is gone . " However , in a December 2013 comparison against other recent phones such as the One , Galaxy S4 Zoom , Xperia Z1 , iPhone 5S , and Lumia 1020 by TechRadar , the G2 was named the best cameraphone of the six for " [performing] very well in terms of picture quality , ease of use and functionality , as well as post processing " , although it was panned for not having as many options as its competitors , and for the probability of fingers accidentally getting into landscape shots due to the positioning of the lens .

= = = Sales = = =

In December 2013 , Asia Today reported that 2 @.@ 3 million units of the G2 had been sold since its release in September 2013 , with at least 600 @,@ 000 sold in South Korea alone . These numbers were below LG 's original estimates of 3 million units . However , later in the month , news agency Yonhap reported more positive numbers from analysts , with at least 3 million units sold and 900 @,@ 000 sold in South Korea .