



ONEPLUS 5^T REVIEW

- BY UDAY MAHAJAN



 OnePlus 5^T
A New View





Dated: April 20, 2018

ONEPLUS 5T REVIEW

-by Uday Mahajan

Android has grown a lot over the years and recently manufacturers like Motorola, OnePlus, LG are producing great products like the Moto G Series, Oneplus 5T (OP5T), LG V30 at a great price point. OnePlus, a Shenzhen based Chinese smartphone manufacturer founded by Pete Lau and Carl Pei released its flagship Oneplus 5T on November 21, 2017 in the United States a few months after the launch of Oneplus 5 (OP5).

I was very impressed with specifications of the phone and its price-to-value ratio. OnePlus 5T featured a 18:9 panel, Snapdragon 835, 6GB of RAM and 64GB of storage as standard, and a new secondary camera at the back, all for \$499. Having used the Pixel 2 XL owned by my family member, I feel OP6T was (and may be still is – I expect to see the OP6 soon in May) the second-best Android smartphone available in the android market. I am not going to list the specs. Please refer to <https://www.oneplus.com/5t> for details. I am going to write my unbiased review with pro and cons of the OP5T based on my usage for approximately 5 months.

Here's the summary.

Pros	Cons
Competitive price	No official IP Water Resistance or dust resistance certification
Great AMOLED display and feel.	No expandable storage
Great battery life	Low light camera performance, No optical Zoom.
Dash charging is still the fastest on the market	Not Carrier Friendly
Oxygen OS is awesome	Stereo speakers are not available.
Wonderful performance	It lacks "always-on display" feature.
Insanely Fast Facial Recognition and Fingerprint Sensor	Port supports the USB 2.0 standard (Expecting USB 3.0)
USB Type-C cable, NFC and EIS for Camera supported	No Universal Adapter for Dash Charge.
Bluetooth 5.0, Dual Camera, Snapdragon 835	Case spoils the Matte finish after few months



Dated: April 20, 2018

PRO'S FIRST:

Design & Display: OP5T really felt like the 2017 premium phone with fewer bezels, 6.01 -inch Full HD AMOLED panel with 18:9 aspect ratio, metal body. I really liked the display of the phone. The matte-black back has a smooth, soft touch to it and I love how immersive the display is - the Optic AMOLED panel is vivid, has saturated colors, and sunlight legibility is excellent. Ambient Display is easy on the eyes and brings up an elegant readout of any notification that comes through. The Lava Red OnePlus 5T in particular looks stunning and is one of the best color options around. I like the fact they did not go with QHD (2K) displays as the battery life gets reduced with it. I am also glad the fingerprint scanner was at the back as I feel it's more convenient and results in bigger screen size. OnePlus has appropriately placed fingerprint sensor. I would like to add that the display of OP5T is better than Google Pixel XL according to me.

Software and Overall Performance: Oxygen OS is just a better stock Android. The company's Oxygen OS doesn't mess much with the core of Android, and improves it for the better in a lot of ways. The biggest thing, though, is updates. When it comes to software, you can have the cleanest, most functional skin on top of Android. I think company can be more proactive in pushing updates considering their number of phone models. This phone feels incredibly fast while using it. The speed you need is speed you get with OnePlus 5T. Nevertheless, the Snapdragon 835 and 6-8 GB of RAM gives you blazingly fast performance and battery life. Oxygen OS is the product of listening to fans. Theming and customization are at the core of the experience, but it never compromises Google's vision of the OS. I love being able to toggle on a dark mode, set my accent colors, and toggle every feature in the book.

Camera: Camera and is one of the most important features to consider these days and OnePlus nails it to a certain extent. The OnePlus 5T ships with a dual-camera system on the rear which consists of a primary 16MP sensor and a secondary 20MP sensor. Both are the same focal length and offer an f/1.7 aperture. Although not as great as Google Pixel XL's or Samsung S9's camera quality, I felt OnePlus 5T camera was beyond expectations. The phone has a dual camera arrangement at the back, and OnePlus introduced a new sensor for the secondary sensor that's designed to take better low-light shots, but that doesn't always give out the best picture quality. I am disappointed though they ditched the telephoto camera for a 20-megapixel low-light focus camera. I would love to have that zoom functionality. The phone takes great shots in daylight conditions, but the camera starts to suffer in low-light scenarios. Shots taken on it are clean and pack plenty of detail, but the processing and dynamic range could use some work. 4k video with no optical image stabilization and just electronic image stabilization looks surprisingly awesome.

For this price would say that both the front and the rear cameras produced pictures and videos which were of greater quality than the phones in this price range without any doubt.



Dated: April 20, 2018

Audio: Headphone jack is alive and has great output.

Other Pros: I was really impressed with the Facial recognition. Although it's not as secure as iPhone's Face ID or Samsung's IRIS; it is better than most Android phones and blazingly fast. Dash charging charged my phone 60% in 35 minutes and is really an amazing feature. After some hours of music streaming, a non-excessive usage of email and social media a few of phone calls throughout the day, the 3,300 mAh battery lasted for 1.5 days. The battery life and charging time of the phone is quite epic and impressed me expect the fact that Dash charge required OnePlus 5T chargers only. Consider users forgetting the chargers at home and left with only option to use their friend's fast charger. Individual App lock was awesome; however, it would be great if OnePlus add the facial unlock for the individual AppLocker. Lastly, OnePlus did not force me to buy Bluetooth headphones or use stupid dongle by not removing the headphone jack (Thank you OP5T team). I also liked they gave student discount for the phones attracting students like me who think a lot before investing their money.

CONS: Since it's an awesome phone, this section will be somewhat short. I did not like the fact that OP5T was not Water Resistant, that the phone does not have microSD card slot, is not carrier friendly in the USA unlike my previous phone MotoG3 (2015) which was priced like \$220 when I bought it. I think carrier friendliness gives the users power to change to any carrier of their choice and travel without worry and water resistance gives a new level confidence to the users to operate the phone. Furthermore, with competitors like Motorola, Essential and Google offering universal compatibility with their unlocked phones, it would be great to see OnePlus jump on board and truly make its devices the best value anyone can get. I was satisfied when OnePlus tweeted that their next phone will be water resistant. The camera hardware however was not designed very carefully. The bump was structured in such a way that it led the camera to touch the surface the phone was kept on (if any phone case was not used.) thus damaging the camera. Oxygen OS is incredibly good but waiting a few months for a stable build of the latest OS isn't great. Hopefully, Project Treble support in the OnePlus 6 (since it launches with Oreo out of the box in mid-May) will help remedy that.

Notes specifically for the OnePlus Team: I would love to see the following features in OP6, OP6T (not necessarily in order):

- Stereo speakers,
- Improved camera (compared to other flagships, possibly with AI),
- Water resistance,
- Availability of headphone jack (Please don't follow others in this),
- A less slippery and more curved back, for comfort and convenience,
- Face unlocking improved in low light, secured, and applied to more applications,
- Maybe an in-screen fingerprint scanner,
- Special color editions release with initial launch,
- Promised faster updates to latest Android and security patches (stating with great significance),



Dated: April 20, 2018

- Better case which does not spoil the finish of the phone.

After spending 4-5 months with the OP5T, I still recommend OnePlus 5T and Google Pixel XL to Android lovers non-iOS fans depending on their budget, photography priority respectively.

My Ratings of OnePlus 5T and other competitors: Personally, considering the **specs and value for money** I would rate:

- OnePlus 5T an 8.9/10.
- Pixel 2 XL an 8.9/10.
- iPhone X an 8.6/10
- iPhone 8 Plus an 8.8/10
- Samsung Galaxy S9 Plus an 8.8/10
- LG V30 an 8.3/10
- HUAWEI Mate 10 Pro an 8.5/10
- HUAWEI P20 PRO an 8.7/ 10
- Honor X an 8.8/10
- MotoG6 Plus (Recently Released) and 8.6/10

I am excited for the OP6 and really hope it launches before mid-May as I am looking to gift a phone to my Grandfather on his birthday. I am looking forward to OnePlus 6 & 6T, Pixel 3XL and rumored budget Pixel 3 for markets like India.

I have been following the phone news and what I have seen a lot is a price bump to like \$600 to \$700 in the United States. If that's the case I may as well save a few more dollars and wait for the Pixel 3XL, the best Android phone in the market yet.

I really hope OnePlus does not increase the price significantly as low price compared to other flagships is one of the features which allows them to attract more customers, students and budget market people like in Southeast Asia region. Every new iteration of OnePlus's devices has increased in price by about \$50 and I am hoping this is the case with OnePlus 6 too with a student discount available. I also feel OnePlus 3T needs a successor that competes with budget smartphones like the MotoG6 etc. This will allow OnePlus a more market share in developing countries in Southeast Asia like India.

Being a computer science & engineering student and prospective Computer scientist and developer, I understand what goes into making software and hardware efficient and reliable for customers and realize the importance and role of feedback in the development process. O

ne advantage that OnePlus has over its rivals that it is truly connected to users who care, and the makers also truly care about the constructive feedback. I hope together we can make a great community and shape the OnePlus globally.



Dated: April 20, 2018

I have written my unbiased opinions to my best of ability during the busy course schedule at University of Washington and offered suggestions not necessarily in getting my Hands on the upcoming flagship (although I would love to and will be greatly obliged) but to make this company great seeing the enthusiasm of the team on Social media platforms and the forums. Thank you for reading my thoughts on OnePlus 5T. I hope this was helpful.