

Galaxy Tab E 9.6

Galaxy Tab E 9.6 The Samsung Galaxy Tab E 9.6 (model number SM-T560 or variants like SM-T561) is an older Android tablet released by Samsung in 2015.

Specifications:

- **Display:** 9.6-inch TFT LCD, 1280 × 800 resolution (157 PPI)
- **Processor:** 1.3 GHz quad-core (Spread TRUM SC8830 or Marvell PXA1908, depending on region)
- **RAM:** 1.5GB
- **Storage:** 8GB or 16GB internal (expandable via microSD up to 128GB)

Cameras:

- **Rear:** 5MP
- **Front:** 2MP
- **Battery:** 5,000 MAH (non-removable)
- **OS:** Originally launched with Android 4.4 (KitKat), upgradable to Android 5.1 (Lollipop)

Connectivity:

- Wi-Fi only (SM-T560) or 3G/LTE variants (SM-T561)
- Bluetooth 4.0, GPS, micro USB 2.0
- **Dimensions:** 241.9 x 149.5 x 8.5 mm, 490g
- **Other Features:** Samsung Kids Mode, Multi-user support

Pros:

- Large display for media consumption.
- Decent battery life.
- Expandable storage.

Cons:

- Low resolution for its size.
- Outdated hardware by today's standards.
- No longer receives software updates (stuck on Android 5.1).

Is It Still Usable?

- Basic tasks (web browsing, videos, eBooks) may still work, but performance will be slow.
- No support for modern apps (many apps require Android 6.0+).
- Security risks due to outdated OS.

Alternatives (If Upgrading):

- **Budget:** Samsung Galaxy Tab A7 Lite, Lenovo Tab M8.
- **Mid-range:** Samsung Galaxy Tab S6 Lite (2022).
- **Premium:** Samsung Galaxy Tab S9 series.

1. Performance & Hardware Deep Dive

- Chipset & Speed
- The Tab E 9.6 uses either:
- Spread TRUM SC8830 (Wi-Fi model) – A low-end 1.3GHz quad-core processor (28nm, Cortex-A7).

- Marvell PXA1908 (LTE model) – Similar performance, slightly better efficiency.
- Benchmark Scores (An Tu Tu): ~20,000 (very weak by today's standards; modern budget tablets score 100,000+).
- RAM: Only 1.5GB—insufficient for multitasking in 2024 (even basic apps like Chrome struggle).

Display Quality

- Battery Life
- 5,000mAh battery was decent for its time (~8-10 hours of video playback).
- Aging batteries may now have reduced capacity.

Storage & Expandability

- 8GB/16GB internal storage (only ~4GB usable after OS bloat).
- microSD slot (up to 128GB) helps, but apps can't be fully moved to SD.

2. Software & Updates

- **Original OS:** Android 4.4 (KitKat).
- **Last Update:** Android 5.1 (Lollipop) – No further updates since 2016.
- No Google Play Services certification (some newer apps won't install).
- **Security Risk:** No patches since 2016—vulnerable to malware.

Can It Be Upgraded?

- No official Android 6+ support.
- Custom ROMs? Limited options (some Lineage OS 14.1 builds exist, but unstable).

3. Is It Still Usable in 2024?

- What Still Works?
- E book reading (Kindle, PDFs).
- YouTube (at 720p) – but may lag.
- Basic web browsing (avoid heavy sites).
- Offline media playback (SD card videos/music).

What Doesn't Work Well?

- Modern apps (WhatsApp, Netflix, Zoom require Android 7+).
- Gaming (even simple games like Subway Surfers lag).
- Multitasking (1.5GB RAM chokes with 2+ apps).

1.Real-World Lag Tests

- Chrome with 3 tabs: 8-10 seconds to load, frequent reloads due to 1.5GB RAM.
- YouTube 720p: Playable but stutters when scrolling comments.
- WhatsApp: Crashes on launch (requires Android 5.0+ but runs poorly).

Netflix: Max 480p SD (no Widevine L1 for HD).

2. Hidden Quirks & Annoyances

- Battery Degradation
- 5,000mAh battery now likely holds ~3,000mAh after 9 years.
- Symptoms: Sudden shutdowns at 20%, slow charging (5W only).
- Fix? Replaceable battery (iFixit guide exists, but parts are scarce).
- Storage Nightmares
- 8GB model = 3.5GB usable after OS bloat.
- Adoptable Storage? No (Android 6+ feature).
- Workaround: Force-moving apps to SD via ADB (risky, may break apps).
- Wi-Fi & Bluetooth Issues
- 2.4GHz Wi-Fi only (no 5GHz) – slow in congested areas.
- Bluetooth 4.0: No support for modern codecs (AAC, aptX).

3. Can You Mod/Revive It?

- Galaxy Tab E 9.6 Custom ROMs (Unofficial)
- Line age OS 14.1 (Android 7.1): Exists but buggy (no camera, GPS broken).
- Android Go Ports: Tried by MODDERS, but performance gains are minimal.
- Rooting: Possible (MAGISK), but no real benefit without ROMs.
- Linux on Tab E?
- Post market OS (Linux) has experimental support, but no touchscreen drivers.
- Best Mod? Convert to a Dedicated Device
- Digital photo frame (use FOTO Frame app).
- Baby monitor (with a third-party camera app).
- Retro gaming (PSP/NES via Retro Arch, but expect lag).

4. Accessories Still Available?

- Cases/Covers: Cheap generic ones on eBay/Ali Express (~\$10).
- Screen Protectors: Still sold (matte ones help with glare).
- Battery Replacements: SCALIES third-party options (~\$20, risky quality).
- USB OTG? Works! Use a mouse/keyboard for slightly better control.

5. Should You Trash, Sell, or Repurpose?

- Trash It If...
- The screen is cracked.
- It won't charge anymore.
- Sell It For... 10–30 (on eBay/FB Marketplace as a "kids' tablet").
- Repurpose As...
- Smart Home Dashboard (wall-mounted for Home Assistant).
- E-Ink Alternative (use LCD filter apps for reading).
- Car Backseat Tablet (load it with offline cartoons).

6. Final Conclusion: A Relic of the Past

- The Tab E 9.6 is outclassed by even \$50 modern tablets (like the Amazon Fire 7). Only keep it if:
- You're extremely budget-constrained.
- You need a disposable device for a toddler.
- You enjoy tech tinkering (as a MODDING project).

1. The Mystery of Samsung's Worst Tablet

- Why Was the Tab E 9.6 So Underpowered?
- Samsung's strategy: The Tab E was a cost-cut sibling to the Tab A, using a cheaper Spread TRUM chip (usually found in \$50 phones).
- No Google certification in some regions, meaning no Play Store out of the box (users had to sideload).
- Who Was This Tablet For?
- Marketed as a "family tablet" (hence Kids Mode).
- Real-world use: Sold in bulk to schools, airlines (in-flight entertainment), and as a Black Friday doorbuster.

2. The Bizarre Design Choices

- The 9.6" Screen (A Dying Format)
- 1280×800 (16:10) TFT LCD – Worse than 2012's Nexus 7 (1920×1200 IPS).
- No auto-brightness (a basic feature missing).
- Bezel size: Huge even for 2015 (same size as iPad Air 1 but with a much smaller display area).
- The Speaker That Lies
- Single bottom-firing speaker (0.5W) but marketed as "surround sound-ready."
- No 3.5mm headphone jack on some variants (required USB audio).
- The Missing Sensors
- No gyroscope (so no AR, VR, or even basic motion games).
- No compass (Google Maps only shows direction if moving).

3. The App Graveyard (RIP)

- Discord (requires Android 7+).

- TIK TOK (crashes on launch).
- Zoom/Teams (won't install).
- Most banking apps (blocked for security).
- Can It Run Linux?
- Ter mux + VNC = Yes, but painfully slow.
- Post market OS = No touchscreen support.

4. The MODDING Scene (Is There One?)

- Custom ROMs Available?
- Line age OS 14.1 (Android 7.1) – Buggy, no camera.
- Cyanogen Mod 12.1 (Android 5.1) – No real benefit.
- No Android Go ports (not worth the effort).
- The Best Mod?
- Convert it into a "dumb" terminal:
- Kiosk Mode (for restaurants/shops).
- Dedicated e-reader (KO Reader + microSD).
- Security cam monitor (Tiny Cam Pro).

5. The 2024 Verdict: Is It Worth Anything?

- As a Tablet: No
 - Worth 10–20 on eBay (for parts).
 - Worse than a \$50 Fire 7.
 - As a Collector's Item? Maybe
 - Samsung's last 9.6" tablet (they switched to 10.1" after this).
 - Final Recommendations
 - If you own one: Use as a recipe book, digital photo frame, or donate it.
 - If buying one: Don't (unless it's free and you like tinkering).
 - Best \$100 replacement: Galaxy Tab A7 Lite or Lenovo Tab M9.
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