



# Samsung Galaxy Note Fan Edition Teardown

Teardown of the refurbished Galaxy Note Fan Edition on July 12, 2017

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## INTRODUCTION

Last year's [Galaxy Note7](#) fanned the flames of our smartphone discontent, but it also fanned the flames of ... well, flames. Now it's back, reincarnated as the **Galaxy Note Fan Edition**. Let's tear it down. Hopefully no flames this time. For more detailed analysis, check out our [Note Fan Edition blog post](#).

Stay up to date with the latest repair news: find us on [Twitter](#), join our inner circle on [Facebook](#), and check out our [Instagram](#).

## TOOLS:

- [Phillips #00 Screwdriver](#) (1)
- [iOpener](#) (1)
- [Halberd Spudger](#) (1)
- [iFixit Opening Picks set of 6](#) (1)
- [Spudger](#) (1)
- [Tweezers](#) (1)
- [Suction Handle](#) (1)

## Step 1 — Samsung Galaxy Note Fan Edition Teardown



- Stop us if you've heard these specs [before](#):

- Curved panel 5.7" Super AMOLED display with  $2560 \times 1440$  resolution (518 ppi) and Gorilla Glass 5
- Exynos 8890 Octa Core processor with 4 GB RAM + Mali-T880 MP12 GPU
- 12-megapixel,  $f/1.7$  rear camera with OIS, dual pixel autofocus, 4K video; 5-megapixel/1080p selfie camera
- 64 GB internal storage, with an additional 256 GB available via MicroSD expansion
- Iris scanner, fingerprint scanner
- S Pen stylus, USB-C, and headphone jack
- IP68 dust and water resistance rating

## Step 2



- Hats off to Samsung for giving new life to at least *some* of these ill-fated Note7 units, rather than consigning them all to the e-waste bin.
  - **(i)** Reportedly only 400,000 Fan Editions are being produced, well shy of the ~4 million phones recalled. Still, something is better than nothing.
- We dust off our Note7 for a quick visual comparison, sticky notes and all.
  - Wait, sticky notes?
  - Yep. Last time we took this apart, we left ourselves a little note or three.

## Step 3



- After finally prying that nasty glass panel off the back of the newest Note (spoiler alert: it's just as bad as [last time](#)), we get a peek at the refurbished hardware.
- At first glance, it seems like nothing has changed. On second glance, there's a subtle difference in the antenna traces.
-  Judging by the "KOR" on our Korea-sourced phone, we're gonna guess it's for compatibility with Korean cellular networks.
- With the antenna assembly peeled away, we finally get a glance at the battery...

## Step 4

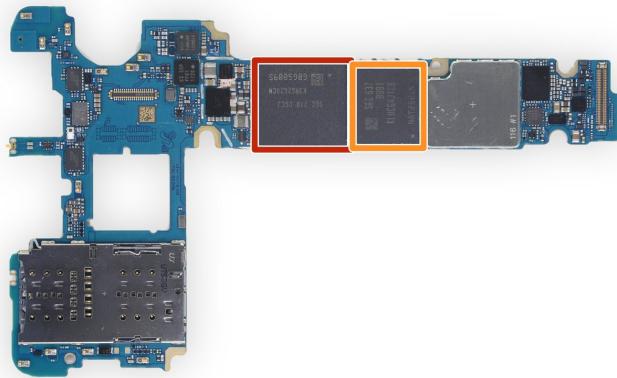


- Baby's got a brand-new battery. This one's dated June 20th, so it's *real* new.
- The capacity is indeed smaller, clocking in at 12.32 Wh compared to the [OG Note7's](#) 13.48 Wh whopper.
- That's still more than the comparably sized [iPhone 7 Plus](#) (with 11.1 Wh), but apparently this ~9% reduction is enough to make the Note safe again.

*(i)* For the data hungry: at 45.4 g the new battery weighs 2.3 grams less, and measures in at 37.4 mm x 97.2 mm x ~5.0 mm compared with the Note7's 37.9 mm x 97.8 mm x 4.9 mm. So it does seem to have lost a bit of mass.

 Let's not lose sight of the fact that Samsung's entire recall fiasco could have been largely avoided if they'd simply designed the Note7 with a removable battery. You know, [like they used to do](#)?

## Step 5



- There were some [rumors](#) that this refurb'd unit would ship with a newer Snapdragon 821 processor versus the Samsung Exynos Octa Core found in the Note7. So we removed the shields over the CPU to take a closer look:
  - Samsung [K3RG2G20CM-CGCJ](#) 4 GB LPDDR4 RAM layered over an Exynos 8890 Octa Core CPU
  - **(i)** No, there're no markings on the RAM to ID the CPU, but the box says Octa Core while the Snapdragon 820/821 have 4 cores. Our best guess is that there is no change.
- Samsung [KLUCG4J1CB-B0B1](#) 64GB UFS 2.0

## Step 6



- The Fan Edition inherits just about everything else from the Note7, including its repairability score.
- That's a wrap! We've given Samsung a hard time for the Note7 fiasco, but credit where credit is due: they owned up to the problem and did the responsible thing.
  - ↗ Here's hoping the rest of the mothballed mobiles see the light of day!
- We wrote a ton about the whole Note7 fiasco, plus some analysis about this refurbished edition, in our [Galaxy Note Fan Edition blog post](#)

## Step 7 — Final Thoughts



- Samsung Galaxy Note Fan Edition Repairability Score: **4 out of 10** (10 is easiest to repair).
  - Many components are modular and can be replaced independently.
  - Improved cable routing means the charging port board can be removed without disassembling the display.
- The battery can be removed without first ousting the motherboard, but tough adhesive and a glued-on rear panel make replacement very difficult.
- Front and back glass make for double the crackability, and strong adhesive on the rear glass makes it very difficult to gain entry into the device.
- Because of the curved screen, replacing the front glass without destroying the display is probably impossible.