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# 1

# Introducing the Galaxy Tab

*The Galaxy Tab is helping to lead the relentless march of tablet computers. Together with the Android operating system it is an ideal choice for anyone who wants their computing as mobile and as flexible as possible. This chapter introduces the Tab 2/3 and its services.*

- 8** About the Galaxy Tab
- 10** About Android
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# About the Galaxy Tab

Tablet computers have taken a firm foothold in our digital lives and one of market leaders is the Galaxy Tab range from Samsung. As with most tablets, there are different models and versions for the Galaxy Tab and, with the world of computing being what it is, there is always a new version just around the corner.

There are a number of options for the Galaxy Tab, including:

- **Tab 2.** This comes in 7-inch and 10-inch models and runs on version 4.1 of the Android operating system
- **Tab 3.** This comes in 7-inch, 8-inch and 10-inch models. The 7-inch version runs on Android 4.1, while the other two models are capable of running Android 4.2

## Don't forget



The Tab 3, 8-inch and 10-inch models, are aimed at the higher end of the tablet market. The differences between Android 4.1 and 4.2 are relatively minor and although the models covered specifically in this book are the Tab 2, 7- and 10-inch, and the Tab 3, 7-inch, most of the content applies to the higher end Tab 3 models too.

In reality, the differences between the Tab 2 and the Tab 3 are relatively minor since the models running Android 4.1 have the same functionality and user interface. The hardware differences for the Tab 2 and the Tab 3 are detailed on pages 12-13, otherwise they will be referred to as the Tab 2/3.

Tablets, like the Galaxy Tab 2/3, are the result of the desire for our computing devices to become smaller and more portable (from desktops, to laptops, to tablets) and the evolution of mobile operating systems, initially introduced for smartphones.

The Galaxy Tab 2/3 is one of the market leaders in the tablet market, and with good reason: it is compact, portable for almost any situation, customizable and powerful enough to perform most everyday computing functions, such as word processing, email, using the web and communicating with social networking sites. In addition, its functionality can be expanded almost endlessly through the inclusion of apps: programs that either come pre-installed or, in the case of the Galaxy Tab 2/3, can be downloaded from either the Samsung Apps Store or the Google Play Store.



...cont'd

## Android on the Tab 2/3

All computers need an operating system to make them work and perform all of the required tasks for the user. For the Tab 2/3 this is the Android operating system. This has been developed through its use on smartphones and is now a significant player in the tablet market. It is used as the operating system on all of Samsung's Galaxy devices, not just the Tab 2/3.

Android is an open source operating system which means that developers and manufacturers can work with the source code to tailor it to their own needs and devices (as long as they meet certain requirements and standards). Samsung have used this to their advantage so that the Tab 2/3 has been customized to have its own individual look and feel. It also uses some of Samsung's own apps and can be used to download content from the Samsung Apps Store, as well as using the Google Play Store, which has a significant range of content, including apps, music, movies, books and games.

## TouchWiz

Like other tablets, the Tab 2/3 is a touchscreen device, which means that its functionality and controls are accessed by tapping or pressing on the screen. The user interface (UI) on the Galaxy Tab 2/3 is what you see on the screen when you want to perform actions such as opening apps. Although everything is powered by Android, the interface itself is called TouchWiz, which is essentially the way that you access items on the screen by tapping, pressing or swiping, on them.

## Getting connected

One of the essential functions of the Tab 2/3 is online connectivity, for accessing the web and also the range of Android services that are connected to the Samsung and Google app stores.

The standard form of online connectivity for the Tab 2/3 is provided by Wi-Fi. This will connect to the Internet via your own Wi-Fi router and service provider in your home, or through a Wi-Fi hotspot if you are traveling with your Tab 2/3. Some versions also have 3G connectivity. This is wireless, mobile, access to the Internet, provided by telecoms companies through either a monthly plan or pay-as-you-go options. This provides access to the Internet without the need for using Wi-Fi.

**Don't forget**



To use the Samsung Apps Store and the Google Play Store, you have to have the respective accounts with Samsung and Google, which are free to create.

# About Android

Android is essentially a mobile computing operating system, i.e. one for mobile devices such as smartphones and tablets.

Android is an open source operating system, which means that the source code is made available to hardware manufacturers and developers so that they can design their devices and apps in conjunction with Android. This has created a large community of Android developers and also means that Android is not tied to one specific device: individual manufacturers can use it (as long as they meet certain specific criteria) which leads to Android being available on a variety of different devices.

## Don't forget



Android is based on the Linux operating system and shares many similarities with it.

Android Inc. was founded in 2003 and the eponymous operating system was initially developed for smartphones. Google quickly saw this as an opportunity to enter the mobile phone and computing market and bought Android in 2005. The first Android-powered smartphone appeared in 2008 and since then it has gone from strength to strength. Android-based smartphones have a majority of the worldwide market and, with the increasing popularity of tablets, it is likely that those running Android will soon experience a similar level of success.

## Updating Android

Since Android is open source and can be used on a variety of different devices, this can sometimes cause delays in updating the operating system on the full range of Android devices. This is because it has to be tailored specifically for each different device: it is not a case of 'one size fits all'. This can lead to delays in the latest version being rolled-out to all compatible devices. The product cycle for new versions is usually six to nine months.

At the time of printing, the Tab 2/3 models in this book use Android 4.1 Jelly Bean.

## Hot tip



Updated versions of Android are named alphabetically after items of confectionery, e.g. 1.5 was Cupcake and 1.6 was Donut; 4.0 was Ice Cream Sandwich and the latest versions, 4.1 and 4.2 are Jelly Bean.

## Android apps

One of the great selling points for the Galaxy Tab 2/3 is the range of apps that is available from the Google Play Store and the Samsung Apps Store. Because Android is open source a lot of these apps are developed by third-party developers. At the time of printing there are approximately 700,000 Android apps on the market. Some are free while others have to be paid for.

## ...cont'd

The built-in apps are the ones that give the initial functionality to your Tab 2/3 and include items such as email, web browser, calendar, memos and maps. They appear as icons on your tablet's Home screen, or in the All Apps area, and are accessed by tapping lightly on them once.

New apps for Android devices are available through the Google Play Store, or from the Samsung Apps Store. They can be downloaded from here and then appear on your Tab 2/3.



Unless specified otherwise, Android apps are self-contained and do not interact with each other. This has reduced the risk of viruses spreading through your Tab 2/3 and also contributes to its memory management. When you switch from one app to another you do not have to close down the original one that you were using. Android keeps it running in the background, but in a state of hibernation so that it is not using up any memory or processing power on your Tab 2/3. However, when you want to use it again it will open up at the point at which you left it. If your Tab 2/3 is running low on memory it will automatically close any open apps to free up more memory. The ones that have been inactive for the longest period of time are the ones that are closed first, until enough memory has been freed up.

### Samsung apps

The Tab 2/3 has a bit of a split-personality when it comes to the apps that it can use: as with other Android devices, it has access to the full range of apps in the Google Play Store. In addition it can also be used to obtain apps from the Samsung Apps Store. This is a move by Samsung to gain more direct control over the apps on their devices and also generate income from the apps that are used.



Apps from either the Google Play Store or the Samsung Apps Store operate in the same way on the Tab 2/3 and it is perfectly possible to install apps that perform the same tasks from both of the stores.

Don't forget



To use the Samsung and Google apps you need a Samsung Account and a Google Account respectively. These are both free to create and also provide access to a range of other services.

# Galaxy Tab 2/3 Specifications

The Galaxy Tab 2 comes in 7- and 10-inch versions, with Android 4.1. The Tab 3, 7-inch version also comes with Android 4.1 and in most respects the 7-inch versions are similar. For all of them, there are standard versions, that come with Wi-Fi connectivity to the Internet, and also 3G versions that have mobile access to the Internet, in addition to Wi-Fi.

## Galaxy Tab 2 (7-inch and 10-inch)

The specifications for the Tab 2 models are:

- **Dimensions:** 193.7mm x 122.4mm x 10.5mm (7-inch)  
175.3mm x 256.6mm x 9.7mm (10-inch)
- **Weight:** 344g (7-inch); 587g (10-inch)
- **Display:** 1024 x 600 (WSVGA) Display Resolution (7-inch);  
1280 x 800 Internal Display Resolution (10-inch)
- **Processor:** 1GHz dual-core TI OMAP 4430 processor
- **Memory:** 1GB of RAM
- **Storage:** 8GB or 16GB. Expandable to 32GB with the micro SD port, which can accommodate up to a 32GB micro SD card for additional storage. This is located on the side of the Tab 2 and can be opened by flicking open the rubber cover
- **Camera:** 3 megapixel rear-facing (on the back of the Tab 2 when you are looking at the screen) camera for taking photos and videos. A 0.3 megapixel front-facing (on the front of the Tab 2, facing you when you are looking at the screen) camera for making video calls
- **Wireless connectivity:** supports Wi-Fi 802.11b/g/n and Bluetooth 3.0
- **Battery:** 4000mAh standard capacity, giving approximately 6–8 hours of average use (7-inch); 7000mAh standard capacity, giving approximately 6–8 hours of average use (10-inch)
- **Operating System:** Android 4.1 Jelly Bean



### Don't forget



Battery usage is usually based on activities such as web browsing, listening to music, playing games and watching videos. To increase battery usage, turn off the Wi-Fi option if you are not browsing the web.

...cont'd

### Galaxy Tab 3 (7-inch)

The specifications for the Tab 3, 7-inch version, are similar to those for the Tab 2 version of the same size. The main differences are that the Tab 3 is lighter, has a slightly faster processor and has a higher resolution front-facing camera.

- **Dimensions:** 111.1mm x 188.0mm x 9.9mm
- **Weight:** 300g
- **Display:** 7-inch WSVGA (1024 x 600, 169 PPI) TFT
- **Processor:** 1.2 GHz Dual Core processor
- **Memory:** 1GB of RAM
- **Storage:** 8GB or 16GB. Expandable to 64GB with the micro SD port, which can accommodate up to a 64GB card. This is located on the side of the Tab 3 and can be opened by flicking open the cover
- **Camera:** 3 megapixel rear-facing (on the back of the Tab 3 when you are looking at the screen) camera for taking photos and videos. A 1.3 megapixel front-facing (on the front of the Tab 3, facing you when you are looking at the screen) camera for making video calls



- **Wireless connectivity:** supports Wi-Fi 802.11b/g/n and Bluetooth 3.0
- **Battery:** 4000mAh standard capacity, giving approximately 6-8 hours of average use
- **Operating System:** Android 4.1 Jelly Bean

Don't forget



The back-facing camera on the Tab 3 is located in the middle of the body. On the Tab 2 it is located in the left-hand corner.

**Don't forget**

When you first turn on your Tab 2/3 you will be taken through the setup process. This enables you to select a default language on your Tab 2/3, setup a Wi-Fi router, set the date and time, create Samsung and Google Accounts and turn on location services. Most of these steps can be skipped and accessed at a later time through the **Settings** app.

**Don't forget**

Flight mode prevents the Tab 2/3 from transmitting any data when on a plane, although it can still remain switched on.

**Don't forget**

The headphone jack for the Tab 2/3 is located along the top of the device's body.

## Buttons and Battery

The buttons for much of the physical functionality of a Tab 2/3 are located around the side of the main body. These can be used to turn it on and off, adjust the volume and attach a USB cable, for charging the battery, or attach a pair of headphones.

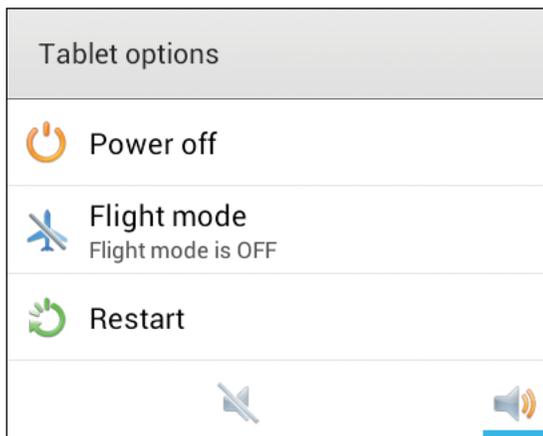
### Turning On and Off

**On/Off** button. This can also be used to put the Tab 2/3 into Sleep mode. Press and hold for a couple of seconds to turn on your Tab 2/3. Press once to put it to sleep or wake it up from sleep mode



**Volume** button. Press at either end to increase or decrease volume

Press and hold on the **On/Off** button to access options for turning off your Tab 2/3, putting it into Flight mode or restarting



...cont'd

**Micro USB port** (this can be used to attach the Tab 2/3 to an adapter for charging, or to a computer for charging or to download content from the Tab 2/3, using the supplied cable)



## Charging the battery

To charge the Tab 2/3's battery:

- 1 Attach the micro USB cable to the Tab 2/3



- 2 Connect the USB cable to the adapter



- 3 Connect the adapter to the mains power. It is best to charge it fully before disconnecting it from the mains power, although it can still be used while it is being charged



### Hot tip



The micro USB port on a Tab 2/3 can be used to connect a HDMI cable, which can then be connected to a HD (High Definition) television so that you can view whatever is on your Tab 2/3 on a large screen.

### Hot tip



To save battery consumption, turn down the screen brightness (**Settings > Device > Display**) and turn off Wi-Fi and Bluetooth if not in use (**Settings > Wireless and networks/Wi-Fi/Bluetooth**).

# Getting a Samsung Account

A Samsung Account can be used to access the full functionality of the Samsung Apps Store and also some of the apps on your Tab 2/3, such as the Hub apps for music, reading, video and games. It also provides online access via the Samsung Account website at [account.samsung.com](http://account.samsung.com)

It is free to set up and obtain a Samsung Account. To do it from your Tab 2/3:

## Don't forget



You can create a Samsung Account when you first set up your Tab 2/3, or you can skip it at this point and set it up later, from the **Settings** app. If you try and access an app that requires a Samsung Account, such as the Music Hub, you will be prompted to set up a Samsung Account.

1 Tap on the **Samsung Apps** button



2 Tap on the **Create new account** button



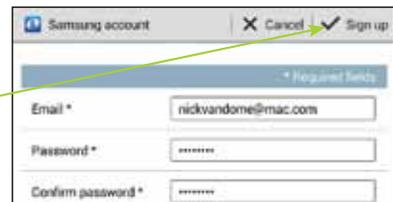
3 Select a country



4 Accept the terms and conditions and tap on the **Agree** button



5 Enter your email address and a password and tap on the **Sign up** button



6 You will be sent a verification email. Click or tap on the **Account Verification** button in the email and follow the steps in the email to finish setting up your account

# Samsung Apps Store

The Samsung Apps Store is an online service that has been developed specifically for Samsung devices, including the Tab 2/3. It can be accessed directly from your Tab 2/3, or it can be accessed online at the website: [apps.samsung.com](http://apps.samsung.com)

If the Samsung Apps Store is accessed from the website, any apps that are bought, or downloaded for free, can be sent directly to your Tab 2/3.

The Samsung Apps Store has a wide range of apps, covering topics from education and lifestyle, to social networking and sports. To download apps from the Samsung Apps Store you need to have a Samsung Account. This is free to create and can be used from your Tab 2/3, or the Apps Store website, to use the content that is available.



The Samsung Apps Store also has apps that can be used to download content from linked services, including music, books and videos. These apps are part of the Hub series, including the Music Hub, Video Hub, Reader's Hub and Game Hub. Content for the Hub apps has to be downloaded with your Tab 2/3, not the Samsung Apps Store website.

Don't forget



Once you have a Samsung Account you can also access the Samsung Apps Store by logging into your account at the website [account.samsung.com](http://account.samsung.com)

Don't forget



Apps for enhancing social networking sites can be downloaded from the Samsung Apps Store, but if you want to download apps for sites such as Facebook and Twitter, this has to be done from the Google Play Store.

# Using the Apps Store

Once you have created a Samsung Account you can then sign in with it to access the full range of content in the Samsung Apps Store. This can either be done from your Tab 2/3 or from the Apps Store website. Obtaining apps is slightly different, depending on which method you use.

## Downloading with the Tab 2/3

### Don't forget



Some of the Android apps are the same in the Samsung Apps Store and the Google Play Store and can be downloaded from either one. However, each store also has a range of their own apps.

- 1 On the Home screen, tap on the **Samsung Apps** button



- 2 Find the app that you want to download and tap on the **Free** button (or the price, if it is a paid-for app)



- 3 Read the permissions and tap on the **Accept and download** button



- 4 Tap on the **Get** button



- 5 The app becomes available on your Tab 2/3. Tap on it to open it



...cont'd

## Downloading with the Apps Store website

Apps can be downloaded from the Samsung Apps Store website and sent directly to your Tab 2/3 (or any other compatible mobile device). To do this you have to also be signed in to your Samsung Account on your Tab 2/3 and also signed in on the Apps Store website. Then you can download apps from the website:

- 1 Sign in to your Samsung Account. On the Homepage, your Tab 2/3 is shown here

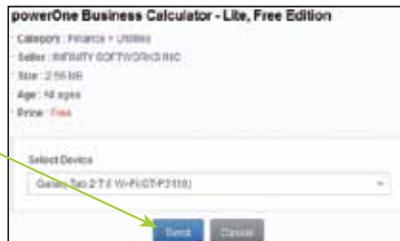


- 2 Locate an app you want and click on it to download it

- 3 Click on the **Send to Device** button



- 4 Check that you are signed in on your Tab 2/3 and click on the **Send** button



- 5 The app becomes available on your Tab 2/3. Tap on it to open it



Don't forget



When you download apps from the Apps Store website they will be available on all of your registered devices, i.e. your Tab 2/3 and any other compatible tablets or smartphones.

**Don't forget**

If you already have a Gmail Account, this will also serve as your Google Account and the login details (email address and password) can be used for both.

**Don't forget**

When you buy anything through your Google Account, such as music, apps or movies, you will have to enter your credit or debit card details and these will be used for future purchases through your Google Account.

**Hot tip**

A new Google Account can also be created within **Settings > Accounts** on your Tab 2/3. Tap on the **Add account** button and tap on the **Google** button. Then enter the required details for the new Google Account (see next page).

## The Google Play Store

Another option for obtaining and using content on your Tab 2/3 is the Google Play Store. This is the default Android online store for content and can be used with all Android devices, unlike the Samsung Apps Store, which is specific to Samsung devices.

To use the Play Store you must have a Google Account, which is similar to accessing the Samsung Apps Store with a Samsung Account. You can access content from the Play Store directly from your Tab 2/3, using the Play Store app. There is also the Google Play website that offers a similar service (see pages 22-23).

A Google Account is created with a Google email address (Gmail) and a password. Once it has been created it will give you access to the Play Store and also the full functionality of the linked apps on your Tab 2/3. These include:

- **Play Store**, for accessing the full range of the Google Play Store apps and content
- **Play Movies**
- **Play Books**
- **Play Magazine**
- **People**, for an online address book

Other apps, such as the Gallery for storing and viewing photos, can be used on their own, but if a Google Account has been set up their content will be backed up automatically.

Some of the benefits of a Google Account include:

- Access from any computer or mobile device with web access, from the page **account.google.com/** Once you have entered your account details you can access the **Products** section, including your Calendar, Gmail and Play Store
- Keep your content synchronized and backed up. With a Google Account, all of your linked data will be automatically synchronized so that it is available for all web-enabled devices and it will also be backed up by the Google servers

It is perfectly reasonable to use content from the Play Store and the Samsung Apps Store.

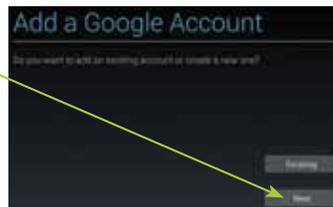
# Creating a Google Account

A new Google Account can be created in the following ways:

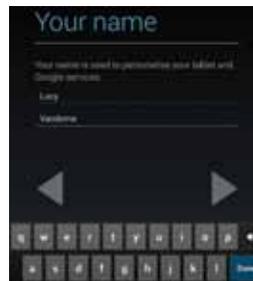
- During the initial setup of your Tab 2/3
- When you first access one of the relevant apps, as shown on the previous page
- From the **Settings > Accounts** option

For each of the above, the process for creating the Google Account is the same:

- 1 On the **Add a Google Account** screen, tap on the **New** button



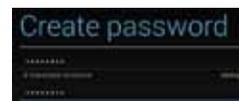
- 2 Enter the first and last name for the new account user and tap on the right-pointing arrow



- 3 Enter a username (this will also become your Gmail address) and tap on the right-pointing arrow



- 4 Create a password for the account and then re-enter it for confirmation



- 5 On the **Finish account** page, check on the required items and tap on the right-pointing arrow to access the authentication screen



Beware



If your chosen username has already been taken you will be prompted to amend it. This can usually be done by adding a sequence of numbers to the end of it, but make sure you remember what they are.

Don't forget



During the account setup process there is also a screen for account recovery, where you can add an answer to a question so that your account details can be retrieved by Google if you forget them.

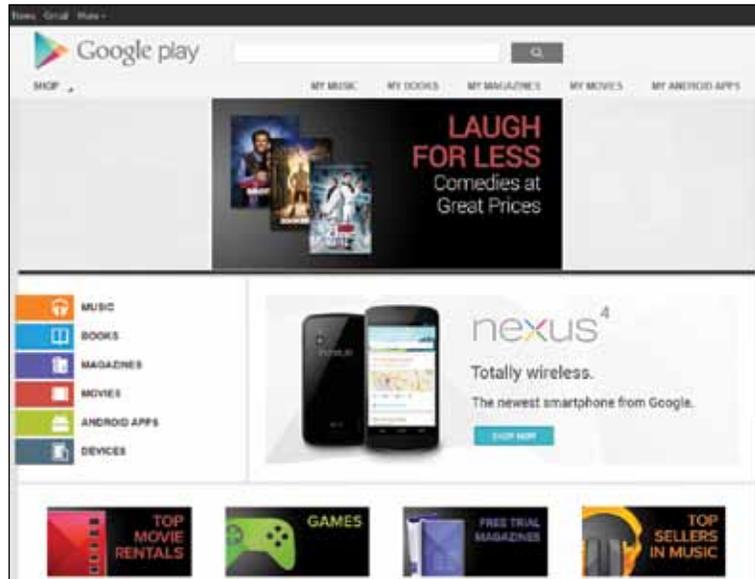
Don't forget



The authentication screen requires an onscreen word to be entered, to avoid fake accounts being created by automated processes.

## Using Google Play Website

The Google Play website is similar to the Samsung Apps Store in that you can use it to download content which is then available on the website and also on your Tab 2/3. It is accessed at the website: [play.google.com](http://play.google.com)



### Hot tip



You can create a new Google Account when you first access the Google Play website, if you do not have one.

You need to have a Google Account in order to log in to the Google Play website. Once you have logged in you can download a variety of content:

- Music
- Books
- Magazines
- Movies
- Apps

Content from Google Play is stored in the cloud so it can then be used on your computer and also your Tab 2/3. If you delete it from your Tab 2/3, either accidentally or on purpose, you can still reinstall it from Google Play. You can also use the content directly on the Google Play website, i.e. you can play music there or read eBooks that you have downloaded.

...cont'd

## Downloading content from Google Play

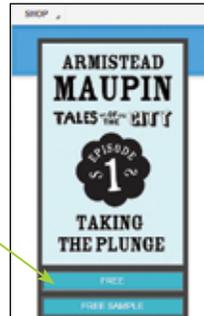
If you have a Google Account registered on your Tab 2/3 it is possible to download music, videos, books and apps directly to it from the Google Play website. To do this:

1 Log in to Google Play with your Google Account details

2 Tap on one of the content buttons



3 Find the item(s) you want to buy and download and click on one of the purchase buttons



4 Review the purchase details  
Tap on the **Continue** button and complete the purchase process



5 Once the item has been purchased it will be available on the Google Play website and also on your Tab 2/3, where you will be able to open it with the appropriate app



Don't forget



You can preview music tracks on the Google Play site before you buy them. Each preview is approximately 90 seconds in length.

**Beware**

When you are buying accessories for your Tab 2/3, make sure that they are compatible with your device in terms of make and model.

**Hot tip**

Another useful accessory is a bluetooth keyboard, which can also double as a cover and a stand for your Tab 2/3.

## Adding Accessories

As with most electrical gadgets, there is a wide range of accessories that can be used with the Tab 2/3. Some of these are more cosmetic, while others provide useful additional functionality. Some to consider are:

- **Docking station.** This can be attached to your Tab 2 and can be used as a stand and for charging your Tab 2/3

- **Stylus pen.** This is a pen with a rubber tip that can be used to write on a Tab 2/3, tap on items to activate them and also swipe between screens or pages



- **Battery charging pack.** This is a mobile unit that can be used to charge your Tab 2/3 when you are away from a mains source of power. The pack is charged initially (indicator lights show how much charge is available) and it can then be plugged into the Tab 2/3 to give it additional power

- **Cover.** This can be used to protect the Tab 2/3 and, in some cases, doubles as a stand for viewing content on the Tab 2/3



- **Screen protector.** If you want to give your Tab 2/3's screen extra protection, these sheets of clear plastic are a good option. Some of them also come with cleaning cloths

- **USB adapter.** This is an adapter that connects to your tablet's micro USB connector so that USB devices can be connected to it. This can include digital cameras, pen drives and card readers for photos

- **Mobile Wi-Fi unit.** This is a unit that can provide Wi-Fi access when you are away from your own Wi-Fi router. They are used with pay-as-you-go SIM cards so you only pay for what you use and do not need to have a long-term contract