

The BlackBerry Key2: a 2018 Phone with a Physical Keyboard

Written by Alice Marshall
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The BlackBerry Key2 is an unusual device for 2018-- the sequel to the 2017 KeyOne features a full physical keyboard, bringing fond memories of what one thinks of as the traditional BlackBerry device.



As BlackBerry license holder TCL puts it, the goal of the Key2 is to "capture all the traits that have made BlackBerry smartphones iconic, while introducing new innovations and experiences." It features a slimmer design compared to the KeyOne, even as smaller bezels allow for slightly wider keys. Construction is in glass and aluminium, and the 4.5-inch display retains the unusual 1620 x 1080 resolution (making a 3:2 aspect ratio) of the previous model.

Inside the smartphone are a Snapdragon 660 chipset, 6GB RAM, 64/128GB internal storage (expandable via microSD card slot) and a 3500mAh battery TCL claims powers up to 2 full days of use on a single charge. The 12MP rear-facing camera features a dual-camera array, one with f/1.8 aperture and the other with f/2.6 to allow a Portrait mode and faster autofocus. Meanwhile the front-facing 8MP camera has slow-motion and panorama modes, and can record 1080p video at 30fps.

Of course, what makes BlackBerry devices still relevant is the software-- namely a suite of security apps, Dtek, Locker and Power Center. Dtek lets one know if an app is acting strangely, while Locker provides a means to store fingerprint-protected files and private app. Power Center is a charging manager, able to learn user habits and control the battery accordingly.

The Key2 should be shipping now in a choice of two colours, black or gray.

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