Samsung won’t let Android tablets die, announces the Galaxy Tab S6

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- The Galaxy Tab S6 with keyboard case.
- The main tablet part.
- The back comes in this blue/gray color…
- The S-Pen snaps into this groove with magnets.
- Both the “Book cover” and “Book Cover Keyboard” have lumps that go over the pen, and you have to pull back the cover to get to it.
- The tablet features four speakers but no headphone jack.
- The keyboard connects with pogo pins.
- There’s an in-screen optical fingerprint reader.
- Of course, you can write stuff with the pen.

Samsung is still not giving up on the Android tablet market. Today the company announced the Samsung Galaxy Tab S6, its latest high-end tablet, for $649.

The Samsung Tab S6 features a 10.5-inch 2560×1600 OLED display, a 2.84GHz Snapdragon 855, and a 7040mAh battery. The base version has 6GB of RAM and 128GB of storage, with a higher tier of 8GB of RAM and 256GB of storage. For cameras, there’s an 8MP front camera, while the rear gets a 13MP main camera and a 5MP wide-angle lens. The device is down to 5.7mm

thick and weighs 420 grams. This is Samsung's first-ever tablet with an in-screen fingerprint reader. Interestingly, it's an optical reader instead of the ultrasonic tech that the Galaxy S10 uses.

Somehow, on a 10-inch tablet, Samsung couldn't find room for a headphone jack. Even Apple, which ditched the headphone jack two years ago, still puts a headphone jack on iPads. Samsung is apparently declaring war on the headphone jack with this round of updates—the Galaxy Note 10, launching next week, is expected to dump the headphone jack, too.

The S-Pen comes with the tablet but doesn't stow away inside the body; instead, a groove on the back of the tablet gives it a spot to magnetically attach to. Of course, don't expect the tablet to sit flat on a table with a big pen attached to the back. As with other newer Samsung devices, the S-Pen now comes with a battery and some Bluetooth functionality, allowing it to do things like work as a remote shutter button for the camera. A new "Air action" gesture system lets you do things like change the camera mode or scroll through pictures with a flick of the pen.

There's also a new "Book Cover Keyboard" for $180 that you can attach to pogo-pins on the bottom of the tablet. This cover features a keyboard and trackpad and will launch a "new and improved" version of Dex, Samsung's desktop interface. The cover doesn't just go around the back of the tablet; there's a spot that covers the pen, too. There's a hinge just below the pen lump, so you can pull back the cover away from the tablet and still get to the pen.

Seeing any company release an Android tablet is always a surprise, as the market is pretty much dead. The only big players you can count on for Android tablets anymore are Samsung and Huawei, and maybe Amazon, if you want to count forked Android. Android tablet tech still might see a resurgence in the coming years, though, thanks to foldable

smartphones, which basically turn into Android tablets when they open up.

Pre-orders for the Galaxy Tab S6 start August 23, and the device ships September 6. Samsung says there will be an LTE version available later.

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