



Samsung Galaxy Note Fan Edition Teardown

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

Written By: Evan Noronha



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)
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Step 1 — Samsung Galaxy Note Fan Edition Teardown



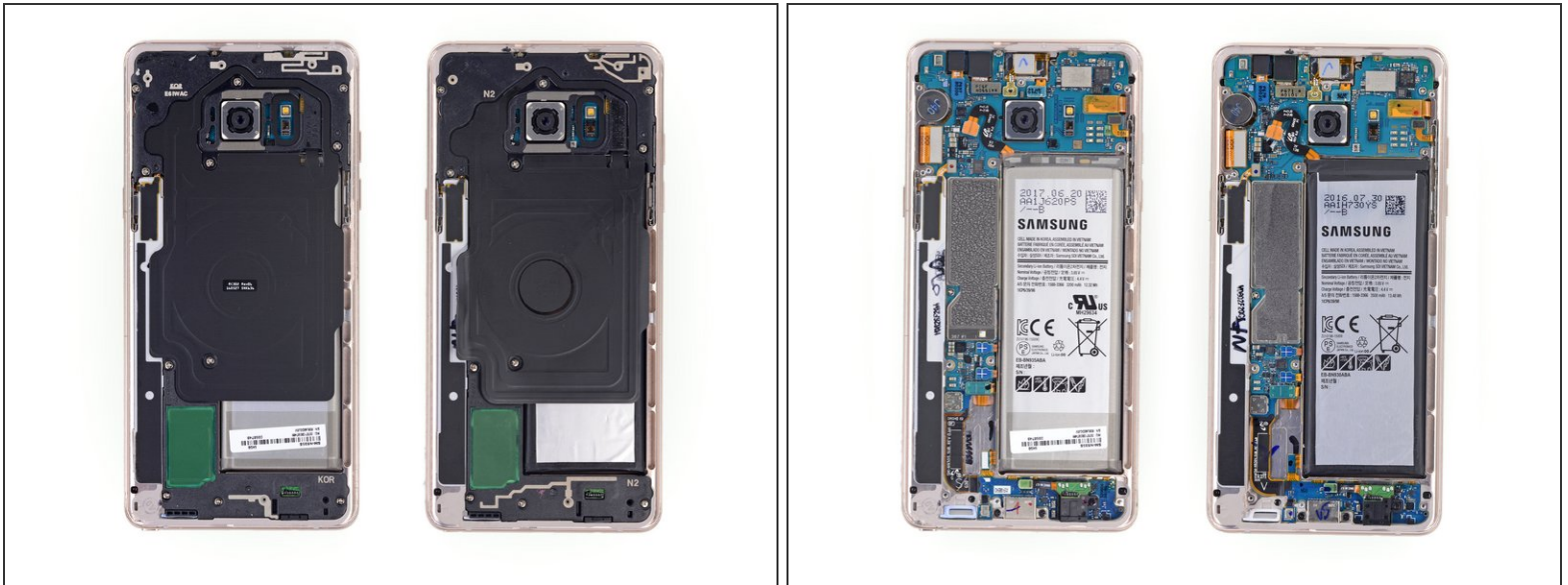
- Stop us if you've heard these specs [before](#):
 - Curved panel 5.7" Super AMOLED display with 2560 × 1440 resolution (518 ppi) and Gorilla Glass 5
 - Exynos 8890 Octa Core processor with 4 GB RAM + Mali-T880 MP12 GPU
 - 12-megapixel, *f*/1.7 rear camera with OIS, dual pixel autofocus, 4K video; 5-megapixel/1080p 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.
- ⓘ 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.
- ① 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

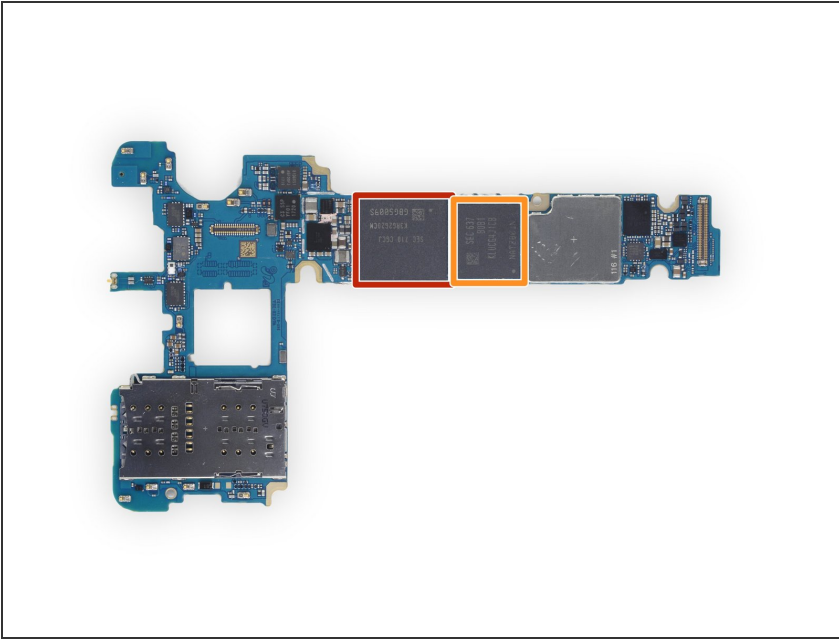


- Baby's got a brand-new battery. This one's dated June 20th, so it's *real* new.
- The capacity is indeed smaller, clocking in at 12.32 Wh compared to the [OG Note7's](#) 13.48 Wh whopper.
- That's still more than the comparably sized [iPhone 7 Plus](#) (with 11.1 Wh), but apparently this ~9% reduction 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-CG CJ](#)
4 GB LPDDR4 RAM layered over an Exynos 8890 Octa Core CPU
- ① 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

REPAIRABILITY SCORE:



- 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.