

Best Smartphones with Customizable Physical Buttons

Description

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In an era where touchscreens dominate smartphone design, physical buttons remain a cherished feature for many users. They offer tactile feedback, quick access to functions, and enhanced usability—especially in situations where touch controls may be inconvenient. Some smartphones take this a step further by allowing users to **customize physical buttons**, enabling quick access to apps, shortcuts, or system functions.

Whether you're a power user, a gamer, or someone who simply prefers physical controls, this guide highlights the **best smartphones with customizable physical buttons** available in 2024.

Why Choose a Smartphone with Customizable Physical Buttons?

Before diving into the best options, it's worth understanding why customizable buttons are beneficial:

- Enhanced Productivity** — Assign frequently used apps (camera, flashlight, notes) to a dedicated button for one-touch access.
- Gaming Advantage** — Gamers can map controls to physical buttons for better precision in competitive titles.
- Accessibility** — Users with motor impairments can customize buttons for easier navigation.
- Quick Shortcuts** — Launch Google Assistant, screen recording, or split-screen mode without navigating menus.
- Durability & Tactile Feedback** — Physical buttons are less prone to accidental touches and provide satisfying feedback.

Best Smartphones with Customizable Physical Buttons

1. ASUS ROG Phone 8 / 8 Pro — Best for Gamers

Key Features:

— **AirTriggers (Ultrasonic Shoulder Buttons)** — Two pressure-sensitive buttons on the sides that can be fully customized.

â?? **AeroActive Cooler X Accessory** â?? Adds extra programmable buttons for gaming.

â?? **Snapdragon 8 Gen 3** â?? Top-tier performance for gaming and multitasking.

â?? **165Hz AMOLED Display** â?? Smooth visuals for competitive gaming.

â?? **6,000mAh Battery** â?? Long-lasting power for extended gaming sessions.

Customization Options:

â?? Assign **AirTriggers** to in-game controls, macros, or system shortcuts.

â?? **AeroActive Cooler X** adds two extra programmable buttons.

â?? **Armoury Crate** software allows deep customization of button functions.

Best For: Hardcore gamers who want **fully customizable shoulder buttons** and extra programmable keys.

2. Black Shark 5 Pro â?? Best Budget Gaming Phone with Customizable Buttons

Key Features:

â?? **Physical Pop-Up Triggers** â?? Two magnetic pop-up shoulder buttons for gaming.

â?? **Snapdragon 8 Gen 1** â?? Strong performance for gaming and multitasking.

â?? **144Hz AMOLED Display** â?? Smooth visuals with low latency.

â?? **120W Fast Charging** â?? Quick recharge for minimal downtime.

â?? **Dual Liquid Cooling** â?? Prevents overheating during long gaming sessions.

Customization Options:

â?? **Pop-up triggers** can be mapped to in-game actions, macros, or system shortcuts.

â?? **Shark Space** software allows button remapping for different games.

â?? **Pressure-sensitive triggers** provide adjustable sensitivity.

Best For: Gamers on a budget who still want **physical, customizable shoulder buttons**.

3. Sony Xperia 1 V â?? Best for Multimedia & Productivity

Key Features:

â?? **Dedicated Camera & Google Assistant Button** â?? Can be remapped to other functions.

â?? **Snapdragon 8 Gen 2** â?? Powerful performance for multitasking.

â?? **4K 120Hz OLED Display** â?? Stunning visuals for media consumption.

â?? **Triple 48MP Camera System** â?? Professional-grade photography.

â?? **IP68 Water & Dust Resistance** â?? Durable build for outdoor use.

Customization Options:

â?? **Side Sense Button** (previously the Google Assistant button) can be reassigned to:

â?? Launch any app

â?? Open a specific setting

â?? Trigger a shortcut (e.g., screen recording, split-screen)

â?? **Camera Button** can be set to open a different app when long-pressed.

Best For: Professionals and multimedia enthusiasts who want **quick access to apps and shortcuts** without sacrificing premium build quality.

4. Samsung Galaxy Z Flip 5 – Best Foldable with Customizable Side Key

- Key Features:**
- **Side Key (Power Button) Customization** – Can be remapped to launch apps or Bixby.
 - **Snapdragon 8 Gen 2** – Smooth performance for a foldable.
 - **6.7” FHD+ AMOLED Display** – Vibrant and immersive screen.
 - **Flex Mode** – Unique multitasking capabilities when partially folded.
 - **3,700mAh Battery** – Decent battery life for a compact foldable.

- Customization Options:**
- **Side Key (Power Button)** can be set to:
 - Launch **Bixby** (double-press)
 - Open **any app** (long-press)
 - Trigger **Quick Launch Camera** (double-press)
 - **Edge Panel** can be accessed via a swipe gesture for additional shortcuts.

Best For: Users who want a **compact foldable with customizable button shortcuts** for quick access.

5. OnePlus 12 – Best Flagship with Customizable Alert Slider

- Key Features:**
- **Tri-State Alert Slider** – Physical switch for quick profile changes.
 - **Snapdragon 8 Gen 3** – Top-tier performance.
 - **6.82” 2K 120Hz LTPO AMOLED** – Stunning display with adaptive refresh rate.
 - **5,400mAh Battery + 100W Fast Charging** – Rapid charging and long battery life.
 - **Hasselblad-Tuned Triple Camera** – Excellent photography.

- Customization Options:**
- **Alert Slider** can be customized to switch between:
 - **Silent, Vibrate, Ring** (default)
 - **Custom profiles** (e.g., **Work**, **Gaming**, **Sleep**)
 - **Quick app launch** (via third-party apps like **Button Mapper**)
 - **OxygenOS** allows further button remapping via **Settings > Buttons & Gestures**.

Best For: Power users who want **quick profile switching** and potential button remapping via software.

6. RedMagic 9 Pro – Best for Competitive Mobile Gaming

- Key Features:**
- **Built-in Shoulder Triggers (520Hz Touch Sampling)** – Ultra-responsive physical buttons.

â?? **Snapdragon 8 Gen 3** â?? Flagship performance.
â?? **6.8â³ 165Hz AMOLED Display** â?? Smooth visuals for gaming.
â?? **6,500mAh Battery + 65W Fast Charging** â?? Long-lasting power.
â?? **Active Cooling Fan** â?? Prevents thermal throttling.

Customization Options:
â?? **Shoulder Triggers** can be mapped to:
â?? In-game controls (shooting, aiming, jumping)
â?? Macros for complex actions
â?? System shortcuts (screenshot, Google Assistant)
â?? **RedMagic Game Space** allows deep customization of button functions.

Best For: Competitive gamers who need **ultra-responsive, customizable shoulder buttons** for esports.

7. LG V60 ThinQ (Discontinued but Still a Great Option)

Key Features:
â?? **Dual Screen Accessory** â?? Adds a second display with a **customizable button**.
â?? **Snapdragon 865** â?? Still capable for daily use.
â?? **Quad DAC for Audio** â?? Best-in-class sound quality.
â?? **IP68 & MIL-STD-810G** â?? Rugged and durable.
â?? **5,000mAh Battery** â?? Long battery life.

Customization Options:
â?? **Side Button (Power Button)** can be remapped via **Button Mapper** (requires ADB).
â?? **Dual Screenâ³s Button** can be set to launch apps or shortcuts.

Best For: Users who want a **rugged phone with a unique dual-screen setup** and customizable buttons.

How to Customize Physical Buttons on Any Smartphone (Even Without Built-in Options)

If your phone doesnâ³t have built-in button customization, you can still remap buttons using third-party apps:

1. Button Mapper (Android)

- **Features:**
 - Remap **power, volume, and Bixby buttons**.
 - Assign **single, double, and long presses** to different actions.
 - Works with **ADB (no root required)**.
 - **Best For:** Users who want **deep button customization** without rooting.

2. Xposed Framework (Root Required)

- **Features:**
- Advanced button remapping (e.g., **volume buttons to skip tracks**).
- Works with **GravityBox** for additional tweaks.
- **Best For:** Rooted users who want **system-level button control**.

3. MacroDroid (Automation App)

- **Features:**
- Create **custom macros** triggered by button presses.
- Works with **ADB or root** for deeper control.
- **Best For:** Users who want **automated actions** (e.g., launch camera + enable flash).

Final Verdict: Which Smartphone Should You Choose?

Smartphone	Best For	Customization Level	Price Range
ASUS ROG Phone 8	Hardcore gamers	••••• (Ultrasonic buttons + extra triggers)	\$\$\$\$
Black Shark 5 Pro	Budget gamers	••••• (Pop-up triggers)	\$\$\$
Sony Xperia 1 V	Multimedia & productivity	••••• (Side Sense button)	\$\$\$\$
Samsung Galaxy Z Flip 5	Compact foldable users	••••• (Side Key remapping)	\$\$\$\$
OnePlus 12	Power users & quick profile switching	••••• (Alert Slider)	\$\$\$\$
RedMagic 9 Pro	Competitive gamers	••••• (Shoulder triggers)	\$\$\$\$
LG V60 ThinQ	Rugged phone with dual screen	••••• (Side button + Dual Screen button)	\$\$ (Used)

Best Overall: ASUS ROG Phone 8

If you want the most customizable physical buttons, the **ROG Phone 8** is the best choice, thanks to its **ultrasonic AirTriggers** and **AeroActive Cooler X** accessory.

Best for Productivity: Sony Xperia 1 V

For quick app launches and shortcuts, the **Xperia 1 V**'s remappable side button is a great pick.

Best Budget Option: Black Shark 5 Pro

Gamers on a budget will appreciate the **Black Shark 5 Pro**'s pop-up triggers and strong performance.

Best Foldable: Samsung Galaxy Z Flip 5

If you want a **compact foldable with button customization**, the **Z Flip 5's Side Key remapping** is a great feature.

Conclusion

Smartphones with **customizable physical buttons** offer a **tactile, efficient, and personalized** user experience. Whether you're a **gamer, power user, or multimedia enthusiast**, there's a device on this list that fits your needs.

- **Gamers** should look at **ASUS ROG Phone 8, Black Shark 5 Pro, or RedMagic 9 Pro**.
- **Productivity users** will benefit from **Sony Xperia 1 V or OnePlus 12**.
- **Foldable lovers** can opt for the **Samsung Galaxy Z Flip 5**.

If your phone doesn't have built-in button customization, **Button Mapper and MacroDroid** can help bridge the gap. Ultimately, the right choice depends on your **usage habits, budget, and preference for physical controls**.

Category

1. Uncategorized

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