

Samsung Galaxy S20 FE Review: Fan Edition Explained

Description

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Introduction

The **Samsung Galaxy S20 Fan Edition (FE)**, released in October 2020, was designed as a more affordable alternative to the flagship **Galaxy S20** series while retaining many of its premium features. Positioned as a "fan favorite," the S20 FE aimed to deliver a high-end experience without the premium price tag. This review explores the key aspects of the Galaxy S20 FE, including its design, display, performance, camera capabilities, battery life, and overall value proposition.

Design and Build Quality

Aesthetics and Materials

The Galaxy S20 FE features a **refined yet durable design**, blending polycarbonate (plastic) with an aluminum frame. While the use of plastic may not feel as premium as glass, it contributes to the phone's **lightweight and sturdy** construction. The device is available in a variety of vibrant colors, including **Cloud Lavender, Cloud Mint, Cloud Navy, Cloud White, Cloud Red, and Cloud Orange**, catering to different style preferences.

Ergonomics and Durability

The S20 FE measures **159.8 x 74.5 x 8.4mm** and weighs **190g**, making it slightly larger and heavier than the standard S20 but still comfortable to hold. The phone is **IP68-rated**, meaning it is **water and dust-resistant**, a feature typically found in flagship models. The **flat-edge design** improves grip, reducing the risk of accidental drops.

Display: A Flagship-Level Experience

One of the standout features of the Galaxy S20 FE is its **6.5-inch Super AMOLED display** with a **120Hz refresh rate**. The **FHD+ (2400 x 1080) resolution** ensures sharp visuals, while the **HDR10+ certification** enhances color accuracy and contrast. The **120Hz adaptive refresh rate** provides smoother scrolling and gaming experiences, a feature that was previously limited to high-end flagships.

The display is **bright (up to 670 nits)** and offers **excellent outdoor visibility**, making it ideal for media consumption, gaming, and everyday use. The **under-display fingerprint sensor** is fast and reliable, though not as instantaneous as ultrasonic sensors found in more expensive models.

Performance: Powerful Yet Efficient

Processor and Hardware

The Galaxy S20 FE is powered by the **Qualcomm Snapdragon 865** (in the U.S. and some other regions) or **Samsung's Exynos 990** (in Europe and other markets). Both chipsets are **high-performance processors** capable of handling demanding tasks, including **gaming, multitasking, and 5G connectivity**.

- **Snapdragon 865:** Offers better efficiency and slightly superior performance in benchmarks.
- **Exynos 990:** While powerful, it tends to run warmer and may have slightly lower battery efficiency.

RAM and Storage Options

The S20 FE comes with **6GB or 8GB of RAM**, paired with **128GB or 256GB of internal storage**. The **UFS 3.1 storage** ensures fast app loading and data transfer speeds. Additionally, the phone supports **microSD expansion up to 1TB**, a feature missing in many flagship devices.

Software and User Experience

The Galaxy S20 FE launched with **Android 10** and **One UI 2.5**, but it has since received updates to **Android 13 with One UI 5.1**. Samsung's **One UI** provides a **clean, intuitive interface** with useful customization options, including **Dark Mode, Edge Panels, and Samsung DeX** for desktop-like experiences.

The phone also supports **Samsung Knox**, a **secure folder system** for enhanced privacy, and **Samsung Pay** for contactless payments.

Camera System: Versatile and Reliable

Triple Camera Setup

The Galaxy S20 FE features a **triple-camera system** on the rear, consisting of:

1. **12MP Primary Sensor (f/1.8, OIS, Dual Pixel AF)** - Delivers sharp and detailed images with excellent low-light performance.
2. **12MP Ultra-Wide Sensor (f/2.2, 123° FOV)** - Ideal for landscape and group shots.
3. **8MP Telephoto Sensor (f/2.4, 3x Hybrid Optic Zoom, OIS)** - Provides **3x optical zoom** and up to **30x Space Zoom** (digital).

Front Camera

The **32MP front-facing camera (f/2.2)** captures **high-resolution selfies** with good detail and dynamic range. It supports **4K video recording** and features like **Live Focus (portrait mode)** and **Night Mode**.

Video Capabilities

The S20 FE supports **8K video recording at 24fps**, a rare feature in mid-range devices. It also offers **4K at 60fps**, **Super Steady stabilization**, and **HDR10+ recording**, making it a strong contender for videographers.

Camera Performance

- **Daylight Photography:** The primary and ultra-wide cameras produce **vibrant, well-balanced images** with accurate colors.
- **Low-Light Photography:** The **Night Mode** significantly improves low-light shots, though not as dramatically as Google's Night Sight.
- **Zoom Performance:** The **3x optical zoom** is useful for moderate-distance shots, while the **30x digital zoom** is more of a novelty due to noticeable noise.

Overall, the **S20 FE's camera system is impressive for its price**, offering **versatility and reliability** for most users.

Battery Life and Charging

Battery Capacity and Endurance

The Galaxy S20 FE is equipped with a **4,500mAh battery**, a significant upgrade over the standard S20's 4,000mAh cell. This larger battery ensures **all-day usage**, even with heavy tasks like **gaming, streaming, and 5G connectivity**.

- In real-world testing:
- **Moderate use (calls, messaging, social media): 1.5 to 2 days**
 - **Heavy use (gaming, video streaming, 5G): 10-12 hours**

Charging Speeds

The S20 FE supports **25W fast charging**, allowing the battery to reach **50% in about 30 minutes** and a **full charge in around 1 hour and 20 minutes**. It also supports **15W wireless charging** and **4.5W reverse wireless charging**, enabling users to charge other devices like earbuds or smartwatches.

Connectivity and Additional Features

5G and Network Support

The Galaxy S20 FE is a **5G-ready device**, supporting both **sub-6GHz and mmWave** (in select regions). This future-proofs the phone for next-generation networks, though 5G availability varies by carrier and location.

Other Connectivity Features

- **Wi-Fi 6** for faster and more stable wireless connections.
- **Bluetooth 5.0** with **aptX HD** for high-quality audio streaming.
- **NFC** for contactless payments via Samsung Pay.
- **USB-C 3.2** for fast data transfer and charging.

Audio and Speakers

The S20 FE features **stereo speakers** tuned by **AKG**, delivering **loud and clear audio** with good bass response. While not as immersive as dedicated speaker setups, they are **more than adequate** for media consumption and gaming.

Price and Value Proposition

Competitive Pricing

At launch, the Galaxy S20 FE was priced at **\$699**, significantly lower than the **\$999 Galaxy S20**. This made it an **attractive option** for users who wanted flagship features without the premium cost.

Comparison with Competitors

When compared to other mid-range flagships like the **OnePlus 8T** and **Google Pixel 5**, the S20 FE stood out due to its:

- **120Hz AMOLED display**
- **Versatile camera system**
- **5G support**
- **Long-term software updates**

Who Is the Galaxy S20 FE For?

The S20 FE is ideal for:

- **Budget-conscious users** who want flagship features.
 - **Gamers and content creators** who benefit from the **120Hz display and powerful chipset**.
 - **Photography enthusiasts** who need a **reliable triple-camera setup**.
 - **Long-term users** who value **software updates and durability**.
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Pros and Cons

Pros

- **120Hz Super AMOLED display** • Smooth and vibrant visuals.
- **Powerful Snapdragon 865/Exynos 990 chipset** • Handles gaming and multitasking with ease.
- **Versatile triple-camera system** • Great for photography and videography.
- **Large 4,500mAh battery** • All-day endurance.
- **5G support** • Future-proof connectivity.
- **IP68 water and dust resistance** • Durable build.
- **Expandable storage** • microSD support up to 1TB.

Cons

- **Plastic back** • Feels less premium than glass.
- **No official 3.5mm headphone jack** • Requires USB-C or wireless earbuds.
- **Exynos 990 variant runs warmer** • Slightly less efficient than Snapdragon.
- **No charger in the box** • Only a USB-C cable is included.

Final Verdict: A Fan Favorite Worth Considering

The **Samsung Galaxy S20 FE** successfully bridges the gap between flagship and mid-range devices, offering **premium features at a more accessible price**. Its **120Hz AMOLED display, powerful performance, versatile camera system, and long-lasting battery** make it a **strong contender** in the mid-range market.

While it may not have the **glass back or ultrasonic fingerprint sensor** of its more expensive siblings, the **S20 FE delivers exceptional value**, making it a **smart choice** for users who want a **high-end experience without breaking the bank**.

For those seeking a **reliable, future-proof smartphone** with **flagship-like capabilities**, the **Galaxy S20 FE remains a compelling option** even years after its release.

Category

- 1. Uncategorized

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