

LEARNING MADE EASY



# Samsung<sup>®</sup> Galaxy Tabs

for  
**dummies**<sup>®</sup>  
A Wiley Brand



Set up and start using  
your new tablet

Use email and send text  
messages to stay in touch

Play games, watch movies,  
and read books

**Dan Gookin**

Bestselling Author of *Android  
Phones & Tablets For Dummies*



# Samsung<sup>®</sup> Galaxy Tabs

<sup>for</sup>  
**dummies**<sup>®</sup>  
A Wiley Brand





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by Dan Gookin

for  
**dummies**<sup>®</sup>  
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## Samsung® Galaxy Tabs For Dummies®

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# Introduction

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**T**he Samsung Galaxy Tab is an excellent choice for enhancing your 21st century, mobile digital life. The tablet is a remarkable gizmo, one that's capable of doing so much. Samsung packed a lot of potential into the device. One thing they didn't pack were any instructions. Yes, despite its impressive power, the Galaxy Tab can be a confusing, intimidating piece of hardware.

Relax.

You hold in your hand a great resource, companion, and guide to your Galaxy Tab. The purpose here is to help you get the most from your tablet, without scaring the bejeebers out of you.

## About This Book

---

Still reading? Great! So few people bother with the introduction in any book that I'm amazed you bothered to keep going. Honestly, I could write how to turn lead into gold in this paragraph and you'd be one of six people on the planet to ever read it. Count yourself fortunate. And handsome. I mean, why not?

This book is a reference. It's written to help you get the most from your Galactic tablet. Each chapter covers a specific topic, and the sections in each chapter address an issue related to the topic. The overall idea is to show how to do things on the tablet and to help you get the most from it without overwhelming you with information or intimidating you into despair.

Sample sections in this book include

- » Making a home for the tablet
- » Touring the Home screen
- » Typing quickly by using predictive text
- » Placing a Skype phone call
- » Running Facebook on your tablet

- » Recording video
- » Turning lead into gold
- » Find your lost tablet

Did you notice that one of those items is fake? That's because you're still reading the Introduction and I'm proud of you for sticking with it.

This book explains all topics carefully. Everything is cross-referenced. Technical terms and topics, when they come up, are neatly shoved to the side, where they're easily avoided. The idea here isn't to learn anything. This book's philosophy is to help you look it up, figure it out, and get on with your life.

This book follows a few conventions for using a Galaxy Tab. First of all, I refer to your device as the Galaxy Tab or just Tab throughout the book. I might also write *Galaxy tablet* or even, occasionally, *Galactic tablet*. Generally speaking, all the information here applies to the Galaxy Tab S4.

The way you interact with the tablet is by using its *touchscreen*. The device also has some physical buttons, found below the touchscreen. It also features some holes and connectors. All those items are described in Chapter 1. You can touch the screen in various ways, which are explained and named in Chapter 3.

Chapter 4 discusses tablet text input, which involves using an onscreen keyboard. You can also input text by speaking to the tablet, which is also covered in Chapter 4.

This book directs you to do things by following numbered steps. Each step involves a specific activity, such as touching something on the screen; for example:

### 1. Choose Downloads.

This step directs you to touch the text or item labeled *Downloads* on the screen. You might also be told to do this:

### 2. Tap Downloads.



Some On-Off features are activated by using the Master Control icon, similar to what's shown in the margin. When the circle is to the right, the feature is on. You can either tap the icon or slide it a wee bit by dragging your finger on the touchscreen.

# Foolish Assumptions

Even though this book is written with the gentle handholding required by anyone who is just starting out or who is easily intimidated, I've made a few assumptions. For example, I assume that you're a human being and not the emperor of Jupiter. See? You're getting all this comedy gold just from sticking to reading the introduction. (I'm gonna write my mom about this.)

My biggest assumption: You have a Samsung Galaxy tablet, such as the Tab S4. Other Tab model users can get good information from this book, though it doesn't specifically cover those tablet versions.

A Tab that accesses the mobile data (cellular) network is called an LTE Tab, where LTE stands for Long Term Evolution or something. It doesn't matter. The other Tab is known as a Wi-Fi-only tab. Any differences between the two types of Tabs are pointed out in the text.

You don't need a computer to use this book, although having one does let you do certain things. The computer can be a desktop or a laptop, and a PC or a Macintosh. Oh, I suppose it could also be a Linux computer. In any event, I refer to the computer as "a computer" throughout this book. When directions are specific to a PC or a Mac, the book says so.

Finally, this book doesn't assume that you have a Google account, but having one helps. Information is provided in Chapter 2 about setting up a Google account — an extremely important part of using the Galaxy Tab. Having a Google account opens up a slew of useful features, information, and programs that make using your tablet more productive.

## Icons Used in This Book



TIP

This icon flags useful, helpful tips or shortcuts.



REMEMBER

This icon marks a friendly reminder to do something.



WARNING

This icon marks a friendly reminder not to do something.



TECHNICAL  
STUFF

This icon alerts you to overly nerdy information and technical discussions of the topic at hand. Reading the information is optional, though it may win you the Daily Double on *Jeopardy!*

## Beyond the Book

Bonus information for this title can be found online. You can visit the publisher's website to find an online Cheat Sheet. Go to [www.dummies.com](http://www.dummies.com) and type Samsung Galaxy Tabs For Dummies Cheat Sheet into the Search box. Cross your fingers and click the Search button on the web page. The online Cheat Sheet should appear in mere Internet moments.

I also do my own helpful updates, blog posts, and alerts, which are also free but far more engaging. My stuff is updated more frequently than the publisher's website because (last time I checked) I'm not a big corporation. You can find my own information at

[www.wambooli.com](http://www.wambooli.com)

My email address is [dgookin@wambooli.com](mailto:dgookin@wambooli.com). Yes, that's my real address. I reply to all email I get, and you'll get a quick reply if you keep your question short and specific to this book. Although I do enjoy saying "Hi," I cannot answer technical support questions, resolve billing issues, or help you troubleshoot your Galaxy Tab. Thanks for understanding.

Enjoy this book and your Galactic tablet!

## Where to Go from Here

Hey! Thanks for hanging in there. Now I fully expect you to read the entire book, cover to cover, including the loopy ads at the end. *Chihuahuas For Dummies?* Are they serious?

Back to the topic at hand: Start reading! Observe the table of contents and find something that interests you. Or look up your puzzle in the index. When these suggestions don't cut it, just start reading Chapter 1.

# 1

## **A Galaxy at Your Fingertips**

#### **IN THIS PART . . .**

Get started with your Samsung Galaxy Tab.

Work through the Tab setup.

Learn how to operate the tablet.

Discover various parts of the Tab.

Explore DeX and use the S Pen.



- » Unboxing your Galaxy Tab
- » Charging the battery
- » Locating important things
- » Adding or removing a microSD card
- » Getting optional accessories
- » Storing the tablet

## Chapter 1

# Tab Orientation

I thoroughly enjoy getting a new gizmo and opening its box. Expectations build. Joy is released. Then despair descends, like a grand piano pushed out of a third-story window. That's because using any new electronic device, especially something as sophisticated as the Samsung Galaxy Tab, can be frustrating and confusing. You have a lot of ground to cover. To make your journey easier, I offer this gentle introduction.

## Set Up Your Galaxy Tab

Most Galaxy tablets patiently wait in their box for your attention. The exception is the cellular, or LTE, tablet. Because it uses the mobile data signal, the kind people at the Phone Store might have worked through a setup-and-configuration process with you. This step is necessary to get the mobile data network up and running. For non-cellular, or Wi-Fi-only, tablets, the initial configuration and you are awkward strangers on a blind date.

- » Chapter 2 specifically covers the setup process as well as basic on-off procedures.
- » An LTE tablet is one that uses the mobile data network to access the Internet, the same as a smartphone. Yes, you pay monthly for that service.



- » A Wi-Fi-only tablet uses only a Wi-Fi network for Internet access. LTE tablets can also use Wi-Fi for Internet access. See Chapter 17 for information on configuring your tablet for use with a Wi-Fi network.
- » The initial setup of an LTE tablet identifies the device with the mobile data network, giving it a network ID and associating the ID with your cellular bill.

## Opening the box

Liberate your Galaxy Tab from its box by locating and lifting the cardboard tab. Gleeefully remove any plastic sheeting that clings to the device. Check the sides, edges, front, and back. Also check the rear camera lens to ensure that it's not covered with plastic.

In the box's bottom compartment, you may find:

- » **A USB cable:** You can use it to connect the tablet to a computer or a wall charger.
- » **A wall charger:** You'll find a USB connector (hole) on the charger as well as metal prongs for plugging the thing into a wall socket.
- » **The S-Pen:** This digital stylus allows for precise touchscreen input. You can use it instead of your stubby finger to draw images, write text, or manipulate graphical goobers.
- » **Pamphlets with warnings and warranty information:** I find it amazing that the *Getting Started* pamphlet is about 2 percent of the size of the warnings and warranty information. I blame the discrepancy on lawyers, who are obviously better than technology writers at getting work.
- » **The 4G SIM card holder:** For the LTE/cellular tablet, you need a 4G SIM card. The Phone Store employee may have tossed its holder into the box as well. You can throw it out.
- » **Delicious air:** Most of the inside of the box is air, bringing you the yummy odors of the Samsung manufacturing plant in Asia.

Go ahead and free the USB cable and power charger from their clear plastic cocoons. That's because the next step is to charge the tablet's battery, covered in the following section.

- » Refer to Chapter 5 for details on using the S Pen as well as the optional book cover keyboard.



TIP

- » Keep the box for as long as you own your tablet. If you ever need to return the device or ship it somewhere, the original box is the ideal container. You can shove the useless pamphlets and papers back into the box as well.

## Charging the battery

The first thing that I recommend you do with your Galaxy Tab is to give it a full charge. Obey these steps:

1. **Plug one end of the USB cable into the wall adapter.**
2. **Attach the other end of the USB cable to the tablet.**

The cable attaches to the tablet's edge — usually, the bottom edge, though it can be on the side. The USB connector (hole) cannot be mistaken, and the cable plugs in only one way.

3. **Plug the wall adapter into the wall.**

Upon success, you may see a Battery icon on the tablet's touchscreen. The icon gives you an idea of the device's current battery-power level and lets you know that the tablet is functioning properly. Don't be alarmed if the Battery icon fails to appear.

If the Welcome screen appears as you charge the tablet, you can proceed with the initial configuration, which is covered in Chapter 2. Or you can wait and finish reading this chapter first. Or have a cookie. It's always fun to ignore responsibility and have a cookie.



TIP

- » Most tablets come partially charged from the factory. That's no excuse! I recommend giving your tablet a good initial charge. It also helps you to become familiar with the process.
- » The USB cable can also be used to connect the Galaxy Tab to a computer. See Chapter 18 for details.
- » The tablet's battery charges when the tablet is plugged into a computer's USB port, though it's not as effective as charging with a wall socket.
- » The Galaxy Tab does not have a removable, and therefore replaceable, battery.

# Know Your Way around the Galaxy

“Second star to the right and straight on ’till morning” may get Peter Pan to Neverland, but you need more specific directions for navigating your way around the Galaxy Tab.

## Finding things on the tablet

Many interesting and useful items festoon the front, back, and perimeter of your Galaxy Tab. Before going into detail, I must address the issue of which way is up on your tablet.

As far as the touchscreen goes, the image orients itself properly no matter how you hold the tablet. For reference purposes, however, the front-facing camera identifies the top of the device, as illustrated in Figure 1-1.



**FIGURE 1-1:**  
Galaxy Tab  
orientations.

For older Tabs, the physical Home button dwells on the bottom edge, along with navigation buttons stenciled onto the tablet’s bezel.

Now that I’ve clarified which way is up, take a moment to peruse the following list and locate the items mentioned on your tablet.

**Touchscreen display:** The biggest part of the tablet is its touchscreen display, which occupies almost all the territory on the front of the device. The touchscreen display is a see-touch thing: You look at it and also touch it with your fingers to control the tablet. See Chapter 3 for details on touchscreen manipulation.

**Front camera:** The tablet's front-facing camera is centered above the touchscreen. The camera is used for taking self-portraits as well as for video chats. See Chapter 12 for information on using your Galaxy Tab as a camera; Chapter 8 covers video chat.

**Light sensor:** Just next to the front camera is a teensy light sensor. It helps to adjust the brightness level of the touchscreen.



TIP

**Power/USB connector:** The Power/USB jack is typically located on the tablet's bottom edge, though some tabs may stick it on the side. This location is where you attach the USB cable to the tablet.

**Power Lock key:** The Power Lock key is the smaller of two thin buttons on the edge of the device. Press Power Lock to turn on the tablet, to lock it (put it to sleep), to wake it up, and to turn it off. Directions for performing these tasks are found in Chapter 2.

**Volume key:** The tablet's Volume key is found next to the Power Lock key; it's the longer of the two. Press one side of the key to set the volume louder, and press the other side to set the volume lower.

**Headphone jack:** The tablet's largest hole accommodates a standard headphone plug. This is where you connect headphones to the tablet.

**SIM card cover:** This spot is used to access an LTE tablet's SIM card, and it's found only on LTE tablets.

**Media card slot:** Use this slot to add or remove a microSD memory card. See the next section.

**IR Blaster:** This port has a great name but a rather mundane function: It sends an infrared signal to another device, such as a TV, if the tablet has the proper app installed.

**Speaker(s):** Stereo speakers are located on opposite edges on the tablet, though smaller tablets put the speakers on the back.

**Microphone:** A tiny hole on the tablet serves as the device's microphone. The hole's location may not be apparent — it's about the diameter of a pinhead — but it's there. Avoid the temptation to stick anything into that wee li'l hole.

**Rear camera and flash:** The rear camera is found on the back of the tablet. If your Galaxy Tab camera features a flash, the flash LED is found nearby.



- » Be careful not to confuse the SIM card with the removable storage media (microSD) card. They're not the same thing. You'll rarely, if ever, access the SIM card.
- » SIM stands for Subscriber Identity Module. The SIM card is used by your cellular provider to identify your tablet and keep track of the amount of data it accesses. Yep, that's so you can be billed properly. The SIM also gives your cellular tablet a phone number, though that's merely an account number and not something you can dial or send a text message to.

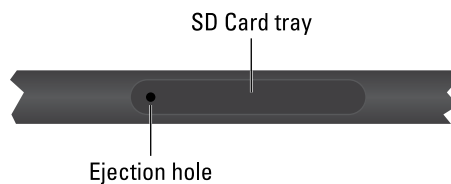
## Inserting and removing a microSD card

Expand your tablet's storage capacity by installing a microSD card. The card stores photos, music, and other information, supplementing the device's internal storage. You can also use the card to exchange files between the tablet and other devices, such as a computer.

The microSD card can be inserted whether the device is on or off. Heed these directions:

### 1. Locate the microSD card hatch on the tablet's edge.

Figure 1-2 illustrates the hatch's appearance, though it may look subtly different on your tablet.



**FIGURE 1-2:**  
The microSD  
card cover.

### 2. Press an unbent paperclip or another “pokey” implement into the hole on the hatch cover.

Upon success, the hatch pops up. Grab the hatch and remove the tray.

Some older tablets feature a hatch with a thumbnail slot instead of a pokey hole. This type of slot cover doesn't come off completely.