



# Should You Upgrade to the iPhone 7?

Everything you need to know to make the right decision quickly.

By Shawn Smith  
The Mobile Pro

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# Introduction

Hello. I'm Shawn Smith, **The Mobile Pro**.

Apple has finally shipped the iPhone 7. But should YOU buy one?

I just spent the past week doing some heavy research on whether I should upgrade or not. (It took me days to figure it out...and I'm an iPhone expert! )

I was thinking, "Man, I wish I could have asked an iPhone expert, to help me make this decision..." So...I'm going to try to do that for you here...

## So, Should You Upgrade?

Yes! (just kidding).

I've broken this guide into a handful of sections, including Key Questions and Answers, to help you make the most informed decision as quickly as possible.

I hope this info helps you as much as it did me, my family, and my friends.

To Your Mobile Freedom,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Shawn". The signature is stylized with a large, looping flourish at the bottom.

Shawn Smith, **The Mobile Pro**

# About The Author

Hello.

I'm Shawn Smith, [The Mobile Pro](#).

I'm the author of the ground-breaking [ebook](#) and online video training course, "*5 Ways to Record Podcast Interviews with an iPhone*"

Since 1994, I have flown over 850,000 miles as a professional musician, keynote speaker, and mobile technology expert at [TheMobilePro.net](#).

I've spoken at many international conferences as the leading authority on Mobile Podcasting.

Since 2006, my wife and I have also hosted over 1,500 missionaries on our annual [mission trips to Guatemala](#), which is where I discovered and mastered Mobile Pro Podcasting - by hosting nightly interviews with our mission teams.

I am also proud to be featured in the upcoming film: [The Messengers: A Podcast Documentary](#).

At [TheMobilePro.net](#), where I'm the Founder and Chief Content Creator, I'm passionate about equipping, training, and inspiring entrepreneurs to create pro-quality content from anywhere in the world.

In October of 2016, I will be launching my signature online video training course - especially for non-techies - that I have been working on for over a year: "*Mobile Pro Podcasting 101 - How to SetUp, Record, Edit, Level, and Publish a Pro-Quality Podcast from Anywhere*".

When not on the road, I live with my lovely wife in South Florida.

# Where to Check for Live Updates of Current iPhone 7 Inventory at Apple Stores

## iPhone 7 Apple Store Inventory

As of this publication, the iPhone 7 Plus is sold out in nearly every Apple Store in the U.S.

To track current stock inventory levels at every Apple Store in the U.S., in real-time, and to search for a store that has your specific iPhone model and configuration, check out this AMAZING site:

<http://www.istocknow.com/live/>

# Order & Shipping Dates of the New iPhone 7

## Ordering Info

The new iPhone 7 can be pre-ordered online at [Apple.com](http://Apple.com) , or thru various mobile phone carriers' websites (i.e. AT&T, Verizon), starting Fri, Sep 9, 2016.

Those who would like order an iPhone 7 in-person, can do so at an Apple Store, mobile carrier retail stores, Best Buy, and Radio Shack starting on Fri, Sep 16th.

## Shipping Info

Pre-orders for the new iPhone 7 will be shipped starting on Fri, Sep 16th.

As of Sep 14th, the Jet Black version of the iPhone 7 and & 7 Plus will ship starting in November. All other iPhone 7 models and colors are showing 2-3 week wait times.

**\*\* Your best chance to get an iPhone 7 in September, is to get to an Apple Store or retail store, several hours before they open on Fri, Sep 16th, and wait in line. (most stores are opening early).**

# Everything you need to have BEFORE you order your iPhone 7

## 1. An active account with a wireless carrier (i.e. Verizon, AT&T)

You can NOT purchase an iPhone 7 at this time, unless you have a current wireless carrier (even if you buy an unlocked iPhone)

## 2. The last 4 digits of the Social Security number of the primary account holder of your current wireless carrier

## 3. The Billing Zip code of your current carrier

If ordering from Apple, they will not ship to a P.O. Box.

fyi...AT&T has a separate address listed under each iPhone in addition to the billing address. Be sure none of the addresses are a P.O. Box. (I had a big problem with this myself that took 2 days to resolve).

## 4. A valid U.S. Credit or Debit Card

# Why I Am Upgrading, What Model and Plan I'm Getting, and Why

## Why am I Upgrading to the iPhone 7?

Four reasons:

1. I'm out of contract with AT&T with my iPhone 6, so I'm eligible to upgrade
2. I want to use the amazing new Dual Camera on the iPhone 7 Plus to shoot Mobile Pro videos for my new online video training courses on how to create pro-quality **podcasts**, **audio books**, **live-streaming videos**, and **mobile video productions**, all within an iPhone or iPad.
3. I want to upgrade to the iPhone 8 in 2017, so I want to take advantage of the Apple Upgrade Program
4. I am **The Mobile Pro** (not The Mobile Amateur) - I should have the latest iOS devices to test out and use with my equipment recommendations for my students of my online courses.

## What Model iPhone 7 am I getting and Why?

**I ordered the iPhone 7 Plus** - Mainly for the new Dual Camera system  
**With 256 Gigs of Memory** - because I plan to shoot a LOT of HD video  
**In Jet Black** - just because it looks stunningly beautiful

## Where Am I Buying my iPhone 7 and Why?

I purchased my iPhone 7 Plus online, thru the Apple Store, with the Apple Upgrade Program.

Why? Two reasons:

1. **I want to upgrade to the iPhone 8 in 2017**. The only way to do this is to purchase through the Apple Upgrade Program, or the AT&T Next program.
2. **I wanted to get the best financial deal** - for more about this topic, see, *"Which is the best financial deal to purchase an iPhone 7?"* under the **Key Questions and Answers** section of this ebook)

## What Carrier am I Using and Why?

For now I am sticking with my current AT&T family plan, mainly because that is what I had before, and I needed a plan at the time of purchase to buy the iPhone 7.

**If I had to do it over again, I would have opened a new Verizon account, and purchased the Verizon version of the iPhone 7** (because it is a true World Phone - meaning you can use it on any network. The AT&T version can NOT be used on Verizon or Sprint carriers).

However, I hope to check with both AT&T and T-Mobile for the best deal available, and switch if possible.

Because my iPhone 7 will only be a GSM phone, I can ONLY use it with AT&T or T-Mobile (not Verizon or Sprint).

# Should You Upgrade to the iPhone 7?

**The Quick Answer:** Yes! You should upgrade!

(just kidding)

I know you probably WANT to, which is why you're here. But SHOULD you?

There are a LOT of factors to consider. Let me try to simplify this for you...

## You SHOULD Upgrade to the iPhone 7 if...

- You want the iPhone 7 AND you are eligible to upgrade (check with your current carrier)
- You are currently enrolled in the Apple Upgrade Program or AT&T Next Program (no reason to wait to upgrade)
- You want the best smartphone camera on the market (iPhone 7 Plus)
- You are unsatisfied with your current iPhone battery life (iPhone 7 lasts 2 hrs longer than iPhone 6S:10-12 hrs, and iPhone 7 Plus lasts 1 hr longer than iPhone 6S Plus: 14-15 hrs)
- If you have an Android phone, and you want to record pro-quality podcasts, audio books, music, or audio recordings (just not possible with Android, and there are MANY more pro audio apps for iOS)

## You Should NOT Upgrade to the iPhone 7 if...

- You are happy with your current smartphone
- You are not eligible to upgrade (i.e. you bought your iPhone 6s under a 2 yr contract - check with your current carrier)
- You want a different look and feel than the iPhone 6s  
(the iPhone 7 and 7 Plus have minor design changes - they are the exact same size & nearly identical look as the iPhone 6 and 6 Plus. The 2017 iPhone 8 is rumored to have a dramatic design change)
- You need the least expensive smartphone on the market
- You need the most water-resistant smartphone on the market  
(The iPhone 7 is rated 7 out of 8 for water resistance, which is excellent. The Samsung series 7 smartphones are rated at 8 out of 8, which is the best on the market)

I realize these don't take into account every scenario, but it should definitely point you in the right direction.

Below are a few more tidbits that may help you make your decision, along with some Key Questions and Answers.

# Tidbits You Might Want to Know Before You Purchase Your iPhone 7

## The iPhone 7 & 7 Plus are the same size as the iPhone 6s & 6s Plus

iPhone 6s cases & accessories will fit the iPhone 7, however the iPhone 7 Plus has a dual camera system, so beware of the camera cut-out - it may not fit.

## AppleCare+ Policy Changes

AppleCare+ costs \$129 for 2 yrs of coverage OR is included in the Apple Upgrade Program

### **New AppleCare+ Costs as of Sep 2016:**

\$29 - Screen Repair (down from \$99)

\$99 - Service fee/incident (up from \$79)

2 Incidents/yr are included in AppleCare+

(\$29 screen repair DOES count as one incident)

Water damage is NOT covered as part of iPhone 7 AppleCare+

[Click here for more about AppleCare+](#)

# iPhone 7 Water & Dust Protection

The iPhone 7 and 7 Plus are Water and Dust Resistant (NOT water-proof, or "swimmer's proof", like the new Apple Watch Series 2).

Apple describes the iPhone 7 and the iPhone 7 Plus as "splash, water, and dust resistant," and it should hold up to accidental drops in the pool, bathtub, or shower or light splashing. It shouldn't be used in high-pressure water conditions, such as in direct shower water, and it shouldn't be kept under water for extended periods of time.

The iPhone 7 has an IP rating of: IP67. Here's what that means:

International Electrotechnical Standards (IP)

IP6x is the highest dust resistance rating, indicating the iPhone 7 is completely protected against dust. (6 out of 6 rating)

IPx7, is the water resistance rating, meaning the iPhone 7 can withstand immersion in water up to one meter (3.3 feet) for 30 minutes, tested in laboratory conditions.

IPx7 is the second-highest rating, below IPx8, which indicates an ability to withstand long periods of immersion under pressure. (Samsung's devices, by the way, are rated at IP68, suggesting better overall water resistance.)

## Apple Removed the Headphone Jack from the iPhone 7. Some have complained they cannot charge the iPhone and listen to music or podcasts at the same time.

Here's 3 solutions for you to solve this problem:

1. [Belkin Lightning Audio + Charge RockStar adaptor](#) (\$39)
2. [Apple iPhone Lightning Dock](#) - (\$39)
3. [Apple Charging Dock](#) - (\$49)

# Apple Discounted the 64GB iPhone SE From \$499 to \$449

For a comparison chart of all the features and details of the entire lineup of Apple iPhones, [Click Here](#).

## Rumors about the 2017 iPhone 8 and Why It's Important For You

Typically Apple has a major design change for their iPhone every 2 years (2016 was due for a new design). However, this year, the iPhone 7 is a minor design change.

The main reason for this, according to industry and financial analyst rumors, is because Apple is planning a dramatic design change for their 10th anniversary iPhone - to be released in 2017.

This may affect whether you want to upgrade to the iPhone 7 this year, or wait to upgrade to the iPhone 8 next year.

The following features are rumored to be included in the iPhone 8:

- OLED Display - Higher resolution, lower power consumption, thinner
- Wrap-around Display
- Wireless Charging (perhaps even from across the room)
- Waterproof
- All Glass enclosure

# Key Questions and Answers

## Which is the best wireless carrier deal?

Honestly, there are just too many variables for me to be able to answer this question here (i.e. data plans, family plans, corporate plans, etc.). However, in my research, most carriers offer very similar service (network speed, plans), and each have their 'perks' they offer.

**There are always exceptions, but in the U.S., the general rule is this:**

T-Mobile and Sprint are generally the least-expensive carrier service 'deals'.

However, Sprint & T-Mobile have the smallest networks, so if you travel a lot domestically, they may not be the best service for you.

Sprint is also not known for the best customer service.

Verizon is known to have the widest coverage in the U.S., especially in rural areas (although it really depends on where you live/travel).

AT&T tends to be the most stable network, with better customer service, but again, it really depends on where you live/travel.

I travel a lot (even in rural areas in the U.S.), and I have had AT&T for over 15 yrs, and I've been more than satisfied with their coverage and service.

Again, network speed and plans are all very competitive at this point, so using the guidelines above, you should check them out, and see which 'perks' are best for you, your family, and your business.

## Should I sell my old iPhone or smartphone to Apple or a 3rd party?

**Short Answer:** Sell it to Apple.

They will almost always give you the best price, and it's just easier - especially if you are purchasing your new iPhone from Apple.

Plus, they will buy your Android phone from you, and make it easy for you to upgrade to a new iPhone.

## What is the difference between an Unlocked iPhone and a SIM-free iPhone?

**An Unlocked iPhone** - is one that needs to be purchased with an attached carrier (and SIM card) at the time of purchase (i.e. AT&T, Verizon). Even though it is unlocked, and may be moved to another network without penalty, you still must provide this carrier information at the time of purchase, regardless of where you buy the iPhone.

**A SIM-free iPhone** - is one that can be purchased from Apple, without needing to provide carrier information.

The SIM-free iPhone 7 is NOT available as of Sep 14, 2016. Generally these iPhones are made available several weeks or months after a new iPhone launch.

The iPhone 7 has no headphone jack. What if I want to charge my iPhone and listen to music or podcasts at the same time with old-school 3.5mm ear buds? Can it be done?

Yes. Here's 3 solutions for you:

1. Belkin Lightning Audio + Charge RockStar adaptor (\$39)
2. Apple iPhone Lightning Dock - (\$39)
3. Apple Charging Dock - (\$49)

I'm a student of The Mobile Pro Podcast system...

Is no headphone jack on the iPhone 7 going to be a problem for me to record podcast episodes on my new iPhone 7?

**Short Answer:** No!

**If you are only recording with 1 mic...** (i.e. Setups 1, 2, 3a in my **ebook**), you will have no problem. Follow this guide:

1. **Setup 1** - No change - just connect the Zoom iQ5 to the Lightning port, as with previous iOS devices
2. **Setup 2** - Use the included 3.5mm headphone-to-lightning adaptor to connect the Rode SmartLav+ mics
3. **Setup 3a** - just connect your headphones in the bottom of the ATR2100 mic.

**If you are recording with 2 or more mics...** (i.e. SetUps 3b, 4 or 5 in my **ebook**), here are 3 solutions for you:

1. Connect your headphones to the Headphone Jack in the back of the ART USB Dual Pre and turn the left dial all the way to the LEFT (computer) - this will give you the exact same listening experience as if you are connected to the iPhone headphone jack.
2. Get an **Apple Charging Dock** (\$39-\$49), connect your Dock to the iPhone, connect your headphones to the Dock, and connect the ART USB Dual Pre to the USB port in the back of the Dock (no wall connection)
3. Get the **Belkin Lightning Audio + Charge RockStar adaptor** (\$39)

## If I want to switch carrier networks, or if I travel overseas a lot, which iPhone 7 should I buy, and where should I buy it from?

**Short Answer:** The unlocked Verizon or Sprint versions of the iPhone 7 (Model A1660 or A1661) have both CDMA and GSM network capability, which will work on any U.S. carrier, and any network in the world.\*\*

You MUST have a Verizon or Sprint account to purchase this version of the iPhone 7 or 7 Plus - from either Apple, or a retail store.

The AT&T or T-Mobile version of the iPhone 7 (Model A1778 or A 1784) will ONLY work on GSM networks - which is most of the world. However, they will NOT work on Verizon or in Japan, fyi.

So if you currently have a Verizon or Sprint account, request to purchase the UNLOCKED Verizon or Sprint version of the iPhone 7.

**All iPhone 7 models sold with Apple Upgrade Program are unlocked, but are NOT NECESSARILY the Verizon/Sprint version of the iPhone 7. You MUST have a Verizon or Sprint account to purchase one at this time.\*\*\***

\*\*fyi... there have been MANY complaints of Sprint locking customer's unlocked iPhones after getting Sprint service, and have much difficulty getting Sprint to unlock them again when they want to switch carriers. Best to just get the iPhone 7 from Verizon, or buy from the Apple Upgrade Program with your Verizon account.

\*\*\*Most iPhone experts are not even aware of this. I spent a day researching on the net, and 4 hrs with Apple Customer Support, to finally get this information. Even the Apple rep needed to check with their manager and colleagues to be sure this info is accurate.

## Which is the best financial deal to purchase an iPhone 7?

- A) Buy the iPhone 7 all at once? (one payment)
- B) Finance it thru a carrier with a 2 yr Contract?
- C) Finance it from Apple thru the Apple Upgrade Program?

**Short Answer: C** - Finance it from Apple thru the Apple Upgrade Program

**Long Answer:** The following advice is from my good friend, and legit financial guru, Joshua Sheats of [Radical Personal Finance Podcast](#):

Listen to the first part of his top-rated financial podcast here:

<https://radicalpersonalfinance.com/374/>

The first 20 min's of this episode are dedicated to the iPhone 7, including why he prefers the Apple Upgrade Program.

In addition to the podcast episode, Joshua generously shared this with me... (reprinted by permission):

**Joshua:** I am currently with Verizon and I chose Verizon, not necessarily because they are the cheapest, but because they have the best network coverage across the United States and I plan to do a good bit of traveling. However, I think all of the big carriers are relatively competitive.

In the past, T-Mobile has always had the best deal, but not the best network.

And yes, as a financial guru, if somebody is going to buy an iPhone (which is the most expensive smart phone to buy), I can't see any reason not to just do it directly with Apple through their upgrade program. At least when you're comparing that to other carriers. And their programs.

**Shawn:** Joshua, is it best to pay it off monthly, or to pay off the loan early all at once?

**Joshua:** Because it's 0% interest loan and you're not getting a deal by paying upfront, it's ideal to make payments instead of paying cash for it. (all at once).

There's never a penalty for paying it off if you need to pay it off in the future but, in the meantime, you can keep your money in the bank and earn interest on it and simply make the payments. That way you have the device and your money still.

Technically, you always want to accelerate any payments that you were going to receive as quickly as possible. And, you want to defer any payments that you have to make for as long as possible into the future.

Generally, you will be charged interest when you borrow money. So, it's in your best interest to calculate the interest cost. But, when they are lending you the money at 0%, you don't have any incentive to go ahead and make the payments early.

**Shawn:** Joshua, if it's a 0% loan, how is Apple making their money, then?

**Joshua:** Where Apple is making their money and why it's not really a good deal, is in the cost of the AppleCare+ program and in the massively high cost of the phone.

Extended warranty programs like AppleCare+ are generally a major profit center for most companies, and although I have never researched it, I would think it's exactly the same for Apple Corporation.

Also, if you think about what the Apple upgrade program actually means, it means that your phone is going to depreciate in value by 50% in one year. That is a stunningly fast depreciation schedule.

So, although you're getting a 0% interest rate loan, those two factors combined to make it very expensive.

If somebody doesn't need the Apple platform, they're very much likely better off buying a cheaper device. But, if somebody has decided to have the up-market experience from Apple, I don't see any reason not to just use their upgrade program.

For the average person, a cheap android device would be far superior financially because they're not going to use the functionality of an iPhone. The only reason I convince myself to go the iPhone route with because you convinced me of the mobile pro podcasting set up!

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Thank you, Joshua Sheats!

Joshua is right, you simply cannot record and produce pro-quality, multi-mic podcasts with an Android device - this can only be done on an iPhone, iPad, or iPod Touch, which is why I recommend them for my podcasting courses.

Joshua can be heard using my recommended [Mobile Pro Podcast SetUps](#) recorded into his iPhone on his two podcasts:

[Listen and subscribe to The Radical Personal Personal Finance Podcast here.](#)

[Listen and subscribe to Encouraging Christian Fathers Podcast here.](#)

(In Encouraging Christian Fathers, Joshua produces his entire show - Record, Edit, Level, and Publish) without a computer, using my proven workflow that I will be teaching in my new upcoming flagship video training course, "[Mobile Pro Podcasting 101](#)"



# Ever Think about Making Your Own Podcast?

Have you ever wanted to share your message with the world?

Podcasting is the most powerful medium to share your hobby, market your product or business, and build a loyal following.

And now, you can learn how to do it quickly and easily, with just your iPhone or iPad - without the expense and complication of a computer. Interested?

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