

## **Nokia 5800: The Touchy Tube**

With the market being flooded by finger-friendly full-touchscreen mobile phones in the past couple of years, it comes as no surprise that mobile giant Nokia would release its own version as well. While the Nokia 5800 – known more commonly as the Tube – has several hits in a department so new for Nokia, it also has its share of misses, especially when compared to the similar (and wildly popular) iPhone 3G.

### **The Features at Your Fingertips**

As a flagship model, Nokia obviously wanted to throw in a whole bunch of features in here just like when they first released their N-series phones back in 2005. The Tube thus has, among others:

- A massive 3.2" touchscreen display
- The new Symbian S60 5<sup>th</sup> edition operating system
- An adequate 369 MHz CPU with 128MB of SDRAM
- A 3.2MP camera with autofocus and flash

Multimedia is obviously the biggest strength of the Tube's spec sheet. The 3.2MP autofocus camera with its dual-LED flash (and 30fps video recording), the huge screen (perfect for viewing videos, natch), the conspicuously loud speakers at the back, the 3.5mm audio port and the XpressMusic branding all come together in a chubby, ergonomic package.

Connectivity, meanwhile, isn't sacrificed for pure multimedia function, something that Nokia's done before. All things considered, the 5800's share is actually quite generous. Aside from the typical tri-band GSM and 3G capabilities, it also supports HSDPA (for lightning fast browsing speeds), 802.11b/g, UPnP, Bluetooth 2.0 and even GPS.

### **A Touchscreen in Hand...**

While it's not exactly the sexiest touchscreen phone we've seen, the girth of the 5800 makes it easy to hold in hand. Just make sure you leave the plastic-bodied phone behind when you wear those skin-tight jeans. And while the material threatens to make the phone look cheap, Nokia did an exceptional styling job by making the phone look young and more expensive than its mid-range budget usually allows.

The 16:9 display ratio is quite a welcome rarity because it lets you view multimedia the same way you would on your widescreen PC display at home. Actually using the screen, however, isn't as pleasant a story. The resistive display used by Nokia (as opposed to the more common capacitive displays) means that you'll have to do some extra pushing with your fingertips and fingernails – not very comfortable.

Nokia's new S60 OS really looks like it was optimized for the touchscreen interface. It takes everything that people loved about the new S60 and then added huge icons and scrolling options perfect for thumbing through menus. Consistency, however, is a weak spot of this new release; single- and double-press options haven't been uniformly implemented, and the overall experience is far from perfect.

### **For Multimedia Only**

The phone was clearly designed with the needs of a multimedia junkie in mind. If you're the power user type who needs business apps or wide compatibility, you'd be much better off with more 'serious' handsets like the E63. Otherwise, this is a perfectly decent call-and-text phone with a smorgasbord of multimedia features crammed into it.

The features of the Nokia 5800 certainly aren't what you'd expect from a mid-range phone. Older users will remember that the first batch of N-series phones was marketed at the high-end segment. If a new OS with limited 3<sup>rd</sup> party apps and a lack of business features doesn't bother you, the new Nokia Tube is definitely something to covet.