



## Tech Talk

### Apple's iPhone 7 Release ©

by John McCarthy

Hi and welcome once again to TechTalk brought to you courtesy of Englishwaves.fr. Well, the rumour mill had gone into overdrive for several months, and with the usual pomp, ceremony and fanfare Apple has just pulled out all its stops and unveiled its new iPhone 7 and 7 Plus. We can confirm that the headphone jack has been removed – no surprise there as it was one of the worst-kept secrets in Apple's history. To its credit, Apple is supplying a set of free ear-pods with lightning connector and a free lightning to mini-jack adaptor with each new iPhone, thereby enabling you to continue using your favourite headphones if you so wish. Apple has used the space freed up to add a Taptic Engine and a second speaker to the bottom of the device, which becomes the company's first stereo handset.

The aforementioned Taptic Engine provides a perfectly flush, motionless home button. It does provide feedback when you press it, in the form of a little vibration, creating the illusion that it's going down. This will probably take a little getting used to, but you will of course be able to adjust the force of the feedback and its redesign should add to reliability by removing any potential hardware problems relating to the physical home button.

There have also been improvements to the camera. The iPhone 7 Plus has dual 12-megapixel cameras which add a depth-of-field effect to images. The True Tone flash has also been improved. It's 50% brighter and even more efficient than its predecessor. The retina screens are reputedly 25% brighter with a wider colour gamut, although initial reports would indicate that the difference with the earlier 6S model isn't so noticeable. As for the actual design, the new iPhones are the same size as their predecessors, although they will require new cases as the camera lens on the back is significantly larger than it used to be. Should you purchase silver, gold or rose gold finishes, the 7 is almost a twin of the 6. The old 'space grey' colour, however, has been replaced by two versions of black. The matte version is called black – what else? – with a brushed aluminium effect and shiny black Apple logo. The jet black finish is, in my opinion, the most striking and visually distinctive of the four, although the downside is that it's also a magnet for fingerprints and probably fine micro-abrasions. The company does suggest you buy a case if you're worried, but then nobody will be able to appreciate the intrinsic beauty of your glossy *objet d'art*.

Continuing with the design, this is the first officially water resistant iPhone, but make sure to note that it's not waterPROOF. It's been described as splash, dust and water resistant, which means that it should withstand powerful streams of liquid as well as occasional immersions in up to a meter of water for 30 minutes. Should be plenty of time for accidental drops into baths and toilets. This does not give you carte blanche to take it into a pool or other bodies of water to try to take under-water shots with the improved camera. You'd be better off employing a Go-Pro for such pursuits.

Finally, as with practically all previous iPhone updates, both 7s have faster, more powerful processors – the new Apple quad-core A 10 fusion chip, which is 120 times more powerful than the original iPhone and will also extend battery life through improved power efficiencies. Estimates are that it will deliver, on average, an extra two hours of battery life.

Pre-orders started on the 9<sup>th</sup>, it will be available as from the 16<sup>th</sup> of this month, and as I record this there's already a waiting list of 3 weeks for the black models here in France, although other colours are scheduled for delivery on September the 16<sup>th</sup>. We hope to give you a proper product test review in due course.

That's it for today; join me for some more TechTalk next week on [Englishwaves.fr](http://Englishwaves.fr).