

# Reviews

## Toshiba Portégé G810

### In brief

A feature-packed smartphone with finger-friendly design

- Price: £358 Sim-free
- More information: [www.toshiba-mobile.com](http://www.toshiba-mobile.com)

*Spb's Mobile Shell is pre-installed, offering a full finger-friendly interface*

*The flat buttons are unusual but are quite usable*



### WINDOWS MOBILE 6

# Toshiba Portégé G810

## £358

## The latest Toshiba handheld marks the company's first attempt at an iPhone-style touch-friendly device

**The G810 is the third recent Windows Mobile release from Toshiba, and the first to be targeted at the wider consumer market, complete with touch-friendly interface. With the screen and navigation buttons completely flush with the casing, the device has a sleek, clean appearance in line with some of the year's most high-profile phones.**

The design is perhaps not up with the very best. Although the build quality seems pretty good for an all-plastic unit, it is a larger device than it might have been. Width-wise in particular, it is noticeable, making the screen seem smaller than its standard 2.8 inches. The touch-sensitive buttons, illuminated with a bright blue backlight, are more successful than we have seen on other handsets – you'll just need a bit of practice to get used to

the d-pad. The side buttons, for camera, voice recorder and volume, are all well integrated. Only the uncovered microSD card slot is a potential problem.

When you turn on the phone for the first time, Toshiba's customisations spring into action. Whereas most devices will simply install everything whether you want it or not, it's nice to see the G810 giving you a choice of which interface enhancements you require, such as finger scrolling. We would recommend installing every finger-friendly program you can get your hands on so that you don't have to use the stylus – which on the G810 is far and away the worst we have ever seen.

It's not even a proper stylus, but rather a portion of the grey rim of the casing that slides off. It's peculiarly shaped, difficult to hold, and is so lightweight that it buckles when you press it against the screen.

With the design of the device putting the emphasis very much on finger controls, it's no

surprise that Toshiba has packed the G810 with software to assist this. Unlike HTC though, the company hasn't built its own apps but has teamed up with Spb and included a special build of the excellent Mobile Shell (as well as the full screen keyboard) as the main user interface. Considering that many people prefer Mobile Shell to HTC's TouchFLO, this is not a bad move at all – it is powerful and highly customisable and can be used for a good many common tasks without you ever needing to see Windows Mobile at all.

The other software included is a mixed bag. Toshiba's scrolling app is a bit hit and miss. It's a touch slow, and feels more like an animated response to a finger gesture than true, real-time scrolling like that seen on the iPhone or HTC products, and as such is more difficult to use with any great precision. Image To Text, a business card scanner, is as difficult to use successfully as every other program of its kind we have seen. However, the Streaming Media Player is a welcome addition.

### Battery life

Claim N/A

Real-life rated by our tests:

Normal use ■ ■ ■ ■ ■  
GPS ■ ■ ■  
HSDPA ■ ■ ■

The 1530mAh battery is powerful under normal use, although we did find – as so often – that HSDPA connections will cause the power level to drop quickly.

*“It's nice to see the G810 giving you a choice of which interface enhancements you require”*

**Actual size** 110mm height x 58mm width x 14mm depth, weight 120g

*The G810 is slim, but the width makes the screen seem smaller than it is*

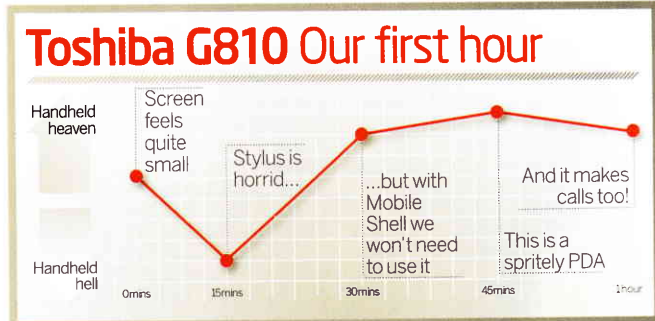


*There is a front camera for video calling*

110mm

58mm

“Performance was hugely impressive, the device as responsive as almost any other WM handset”



The device is equipped with a 3MP camera on the back – it has a flash and auto-focus, but output is generally mediocre, and the lack of travel in the dedicated camera button means you invariably press harder than you need to, blurring the picture in the process unless you're in good light. In addition, the camera software is difficult to use – covered in icons whose functions are not clear.

In a very well specced phone, there is also GPS (with A-GPS support for fast lock-on times), wi-fi and HSDPA for connectivity (but no third-

party web browser), and ample RAM and ROM. Performance was hugely impressive, the device feeling as responsive as almost any other Windows Mobile handset, undergoing any task. Only the battery seemed under par. It got through a day of average use comfortably, so is by no means bad, but that was less than we would have expected from a 1530mAh battery. It may be that Mobile Shell contributes to this issue.

Toshiba's return to the Windows Mobile fold in the last couple of years has seen the company produce devices with good ideas, but hampered by middling execution. There is no doubt that the G810 is its best offering yet. If the design lacks the necessary refinements to put it in direct competition with the best of Apple, HTC and others, its performance and specification certainly do not. And at around £350, it's decent value as well. ●

## Essential feature

The flush screen marks the G810 as a device intended to be used stylus-free. This is helped by the presence of the great Mobile Shell

## Technical specs

Operating system	<b>Windows Mobile 6.1 Professional</b>
Processor	<b>Qualcomm 400MHz</b>
Memory	<b>128MB RAM 256MB ROM</b>
Dimensions	<b>110 x 58 x 14mm</b>
Weight	<b>120g</b>
Display size	<b>2.8</b>
Display resolution	<b>240 x 320</b>
Expansion slot	<b>microSD</b>

## Peer pressure



## Essential verdict

- Performance** 9  
Fast. This PDA is responsive and is aided by some good software
- Design** 7  
A little on the large side, this is in Division 2 of iPhone clones
- Features** 9  
HSDPA, GPS, wi-fi: there's a lot here for demanding users
- Value for money** 8  
Decent mid-range price for a high-end device

Fast performance and plenty of features make for a solid device from Toshiba

**Overall score**

**8**