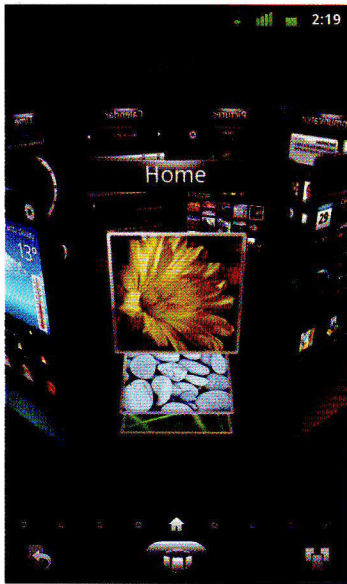


App reviews

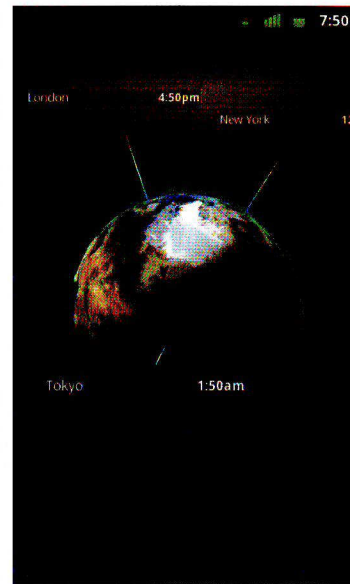
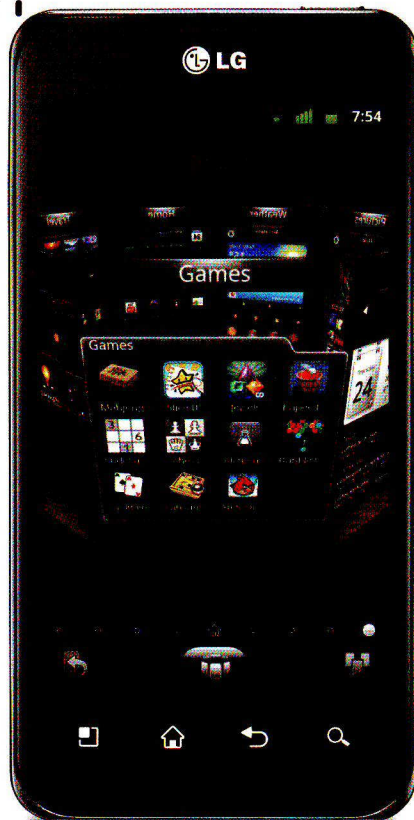
What's new?



3D effects enhance the multiple home screens



Keep an eye on the weather with this widget



The app has plenty of eye-candy for users

ANDROID

SPB Shell 3D £9.18

SPB's popular Mobile Shell app gets rebooted as a full 3D launcher for Android phones

Back in the day SPB produced an app called **Mobile Shell, a replacement skin designed to make platforms like Windows Mobile and Symbian more usable. It was a massive success. In the form of Shell 3D it has now found its way to Android, where the need for UI replacements is less urgent and there are already several good ones in the market available for free.**

So is it worth the premium price tag it comes with? In short, the answer is yes. Shell 3D is one of those rare apps whose benefits reveal themselves in stages. At first there's the eye-candy – 3D effects abound as you swipe around the multiple home screens, all completely smooth with a fast frame rate. Next, there are the SPB widgets which include the usuals like weather and system settings, often resizable, and all powerful. And there is its customisability. Add, remove and

reorganise home screens, group apps into stylishly designed folders, utilise all your widgets in whatever positions you need them. But finally, Shell 3D is all about the functionality. It is fast and responsive, powerful and functional. It takes a little time to set up, but once it's done you can happily leave it as your default app launcher.

There are a few things missing: social networking, support for Live Wallpapers, and the ability to put the same app onto multiple home screens. And if you use HTC Sense you won't have access to the HTC widgets. But serious complaints are few and far between. Shell 3D offers a level of polish not seen in its free rivals, and is the easiest way to completely transform how you use your smartphone.

Verdict
Brilliantly designed, great-looking and extremely powerful

9



Quick hits Five iPhone apps to keep the kids amused

Balloonimals
£1.19



Bizarre game that enables you to make balloon animals by blowing into your iPhone! Once your balloon is inflated just start shaking your iPhone to twist it into shape.



Guitar Hero
£1.79

Live out your dreams as a rock star with this mobile version of the classic air guitar game. The app comes with six free songs, and you can buy loads more from a variety of artists.

Peppa Pig – Happy Mrs Chicken
£1.79



Everyone's favourite porcine character stars in her very own game. The perfect way to keep your pre-school aged kids entertained for awhile.