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Samsung Replenish (Boost Mobile)

● ● ○ ○ EDITOR RATING: **GOOD** 1 COMMENT

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MSRP
\$99.99

PROS

Good voice quality. Solid QWERTY keyboard. Eco-friendly. Excellent monthly rates.

CONS

Dim, fuzzy display. Low-end specs. Poor camera. Short battery life.

LOWEST PRICE
\$79.99

BY ALEX COLON go To



The Samsung Replenish (\$99.99) is the first eco-friendly smartphone for Boost Mobile. It wasn't a **fan favorite** on Sprint (Free, 2.5 stars), but Boost users **shimmied** it into the **runner-up** on our **selection**.

so it's a little more appealing when measured against the rest of its lineup. We'll give it a slightly better rating here. But the Replenish is still **stuck** to **somewhat** seriously low-end specs, and suffers from a dim, fuzzy display. It'll work if you're seeking an eco-friendly, keyboarded smartphone on Boost, but there are better options available.

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Samsung Replenish (Boost Mobile)



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Design, Keyboard, Call Quality, and Pricing

The Replenish looks like an Android-BlackBerry **F**hybrid. It measures 4.8 by 2.4 by 0.5 inches (HWD) and weighs 4.2 ounces. It's made entirely of shiny plastic, and is mostly black with some silver accents. It feels well-built and classy. Unfortunately, that feeling doesn't translate to the 2.8-inch, 240-by-320-pixel **WVGA** **Award Wings** display and dim, and text looks fuzzy. There are function keys that separate the display from the keyboard; they're on the thin side, but I didn't have any trouble pressing them.



BitDefender AntiVirus Plus 2013 does everything an antivirus should and includes useful bonus features.

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Most users are attracted to a phone like this for the **key board**. The Replenish features a **Get Photo** button.

Tour-row QWERTY keyboard with well-sized plastic keys just below the display. The keys are a bit tightly spaced, but I grew used to them quickly and was able to type long messages without a problem. Anyone used to a BlackBerry or other keyboarded slab will feel right at home.

Titanium Micro

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The Replenish is a dual-band EV-DO Rev.0 (800/1900MHz) device with 802.11b/g Wi-Fi. That means it won't be quite as fast as the Samsung Transform Ultra (\$229.99, 4 stars), which supports EVDO Rev A. But the Replenish is a better voice phone. Reception is fine, and calls sound loud and clear in the phone's earpiece, if a touch thin. Calls made with the phone also sound clear and feature good background noise cancellation.

well over Bluetooth without training. The speaker uses outdoors. Battery life was disappointing at 3 hours.

Nexus 7 from Google

new Android tablet, made for Google Play. Buy for \$199! google.com/nexus

Green Features, OS, and Apps The Replenish easily makes the cut for our GreenTech Approved award. It's made from 8 percent recyclable materials, with outer casing made from 34 percent recycled plastics. It has also been approved by the Sustainable Forestry Initiative for using at least 30 percent content from sustainable forests. Additionally, Boost encourages users to trade in their old device as part of the carrier's new buyback program.

The Replenish runs Android 2.3.6 "Gingerbread," and Samsung has done very little to modify it. You won't find any TouchWiz UI extensions here, and there's very little in the way of bloatware or preinstalled apps, aside from Mobile ID. Mobile ID allows you to install "ID packs" on your phone that include applications, ringtones, wallpapers, and widgets. It isn't for diehard Android purists, but some users may like it.

BY ALEX COLON
ANALYST, MOBILE



Alex Colon is an analyst for the PCMag Mobile team. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in English.

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Samsung Replenish (Boost Mobile)

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- Bottom Line

The Samsung Replenish will work if you're seeking an eco-friendly, keyboarded smartphone on Boost, but there are better options available.



Green Tech

The Samsung Replenish (\$99.99) is the first eco-friendly smartphone for Boost Mobile. It wasn't a favorite of ours over on Sprint (Free, 2.5 stars), but Boost has a slimmer smartphone selection so it's a little more appealing when measured against the rest of its lineup. We'll give it a slightly better rating here. But the Replenish is still sluggish, thanks to some seriously low-end specs, and suffers from a dim, fuzzy display. It'll work if you're seeking an eco-friendly, keyboarded smartphone on Boost, but there are better options available.

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The Replenish looks like an Android-BlackBerry hybrid. It measures 4.8 by 2.4 by 0.5 inches (HWD) and weighs 4.2 ounces. It's

made entirely of shiny plastic, and is mostly black with some silver accents. It feels well-built and classy. Unfortunately, that feeling doesn't translate to the 2.8-inch, 240-by-320-pixel QVGA display. It's tiny and dim, and text looks fuzzy. There are function keys that separate the display from the keyboard; they're on the thin side, but I didn't have any trouble pressing them.

[View all 5 photos in gallery](#)



Most users are attracted to a phone like this for the keyboard. The Replenish features a four-row QWERTY keyboard with well-sized plastic keys just below the display. The keys are a bit tightly spaced, but I grew used to them quickly and was able to type long messages without a problem. Anyone used to a BlackBerry or other keyboarded slab will feel right at home.

The Replenish is a dual-band EV-DO Rev 0 (800/1900 MHz) device with 802.11b/g Wi-Fi. That means it won't be quite as fast as the Samsung Transform Ultra (\$229.99, 4 stars), which supports EVDO Rev A. But the Replenish is a better voice phone. Reception is fine, and calls sound loud and clear in the phone's earpiece, if a touch thin. Calls made with the phone also sound clear and feature good background noise cancellation. Calls sounded fine through a Jawbone Era Bluetooth headset (\$129, 4.5 stars) and voice dialing worked well over Bluetooth without training. The speakerphone sounds clear and is loud enough to use outdoors. Battery life was disappointing at just 4 hours, 7 minutes of talk time.

Last October, Boost began charging an additional \$5 monthly for its unlimited data and messaging services on Android-powered devices like the Replenish. That means that plans now start at \$55, which are reduced by \$5 every 6 months you pay your bill on time, down to \$40. These are pretty incredible prices compared to the rates on the major carriers, which can easily cost \$100 and up.

Green Features, OS, and Apps

The Replenish easily makes the cut for our GreenTech Approved award. It's made from 82 percent recyclable materials, with outer casing made from 34 percent recycled plastics. It's also been approved by the Sustainable Forestry Initiative for using at least 30 percent content from sustainable forests. Additionally, Boost encourages users to trade in their old device as part of the carrier's new buyback program.

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Analyst, Mobile

Alex Colon

Alex Colon is an analyst for the PCMag Mobile team. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in English Writing and Literature from Pace University and got his start editing books before deciding he wanted to write...