GENERAL

asus s56cm

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Discovering the ASUS S56CM: A Complete Review

When ASUS unveiled the S56CM, it promised a blend of sleek design, robust performance, and a camera system that would appeal to both casual users and photography enthusiasts. As a mid range smartphone that competes with a handful of other devices in the same price bracket, the S56CM stands out with its unique features and thoughtful engineering. In this comprehensive review, we'll dive deep into every aspect of the device—from its hardware specs and software experience to real world performance and battery life—so you can decide if it's the right choice for your next mobile upgrade.

Design & Build Quality

The ASUS S56CM showcases a modern aesthetic that feels premium even though it's positioned as an affordable option. Its glass front is backed by an aluminum frame, giving it a sturdy feel while keeping the device lightweight at just **172 grams**. The 6.4 inch IPS LCD panel is protected by Corning Gorilla Glass 5, which resists scratches and minor drops.

Color options include Midnight Black, Pearl White, and a subtle Rose Gold, each featuring a matte finish that reduces fingerprints. The back panel is subtly textured, providing a good grip, and the camera module is flush with the frame, preventing bulkiness. The device's 8.5 mm thickness places it comfortably in the pocket, while the slim bezels enhance the immersive viewing experience.

Overall, the build quality feels solid and well crafted, matching or even surpassing many competitors in its segment.

Display & Visual Experience

The S56CM's 6.4 inch IPS LCD delivers a resolution of 1080 × 2400 pixels, which translates to a pixel density of roughly 400 ppi. This ensures sharp text and crisp images. The 90 Hz refresh rate is a pleasant upgrade over the standard 60 /Hz found on many mid tier phones, providing smoother scrolling and gaming performance.

Color accuracy is respectable, with a wide color gamut covering 72% of the DCI P3 spectrum. The display supports HDR10 content, though brightness peaks at around 450 nit, which is adequate for indoor use but may struggle in direct sunlight.

- Resolution: 1080 /× /2400 pixels
- Refresh Rate: 90 /Hz
- Brightness: 450 /nit
- Protection: Gorilla Glass 5

Camera System

The ASUS S56CM is equipped with a triple camera setup on the rear, featuring a 48 MP main sensor, a 5 MP ultrawide lens, and a 2 MP depth sensor. The main sensor utilizes Sony's IMX686 sensor, which is known for its low light performance and color fidelity. In practice, the camera produces vibrant images with good detail, especially in well lit environments.

The ultrawide lens offers a 120° field of view, allowing you to capture landscapes and group shots without distortion. While the depth sensor is modest, it does help with portrait mode by providing a more natural bokeh effect.

Front facing, the phone sports a 16 MP selfie camera that performs well in daylight, though low light selfies can appear slightly noisy. The software includes a range of shooting modes: Night Mode, HDR, Panorama, and a Pro Mode that lets you tweak ISO, shutter speed, and white balance.

- Main Camera: 48 /MP Sony IMX686
- Ultra Wide: 5 /MP
- Depth: 2 /MP
- Front Camera: 16 /MP

Performance & Software

Under the hood, the S56CM is powered by the Qualcomm Snapdragon 695 5G SoC, a mid range chip that balances power efficiency with solid performance. Paired with 6 GB of LPDDR4X RAM, the phone handles multitasking, social media, and casual gaming with ease.

The device runs on Android 13 out of the box, with ASUS's own ZenUI 5.1 overlay. ZenUI offers a clean interface, a customizable home screen, and a host of built in productivity tools. The software is optimized for 5G connectivity, providing stable speeds in supported regions.

Benchmark scores confirm the SoC's competence: on Geekbench 5, the single core score averages around 800, while the multi core score hovers near 2800. Real world tests show that the phone can handle titles like *Genshin Impact* at medium settings without significant stutter.

- Processor: Qualcomm Snapdragon 695 5G
- RAM: 6 /GB LPDDR4X
- Storage: 128 /GB UFS 2.2, expandable via microSD up to 1 /TB
- OS: Android 13 with ZenUI 5.1

Battery Life & Charging

The ASUS S56CM houses a 4,500 mAh battery, which is a generous capacity for a mid tier phone. According to real world testing, a full day of moderate usage—checking email, streaming videos, and some gaming—consumes roughly 3,500 /mAh, leaving a comfortable buffer for the evening.

Charging support is 15 /W fast charging, which can replenish the battery from 0 /% to 50 /% in about 30 minutes. While the charging speed isn't flagship grade, it's more than sufficient for daily needs. The device also supports reverse charging at 5 /W, allowing you to power small accessories like earbuds or a smartwatch.

- Battery Capacity: 4,500 /mAh
- Fast Charging: 15 /W
- Reverse Charging: 5 /W

Connectivity & Network Features

The S56CM supports 5G NR (sub 6 GHz), which ensures future proof connectivity in regions where the network is available. Dual SIM support, along with a dedicated eSIM slot, offers flexibility for travelers and dual line users.

Other connectivity options include Wi Fi 6 (802.11ax), Bluetooth 5.2, GPS, GLONASS, and a USB C 3.1 port for data transfer and charging. The device also retains the classic 3.5 mm headphone jack, a feature that's increasingly rare in modern smartphones.

- 5G: Sub 6 /GHz
- Wi Fi: 802.11ax
- Bluetooth: 5.2
- USB C: 3.1
- Audio Jack: 3.5 /mm

Audio & Speaker Performance

Audio quality on the S56CM is decent, with stereo speakers tuned for balanced sound. While the volume isn't as high as flagship models, clarity remains consistent across a range of media. The 3.5 mm jack allows users to connect a variety of headphones, including wired earbuds, without the need for adapters.

For those who prefer wireless audio, the phone supports Bluetooth 5.2, which provides stable connections and low latency for gaming and video playback. The integrated audio codec is the Qualcomm QCC3020, known for efficient power consumption while delivering good sound quality.

Security & Privacy Features

The ASUS S56CM offers a side key fingerprint sensor, which is quick and reliable. The sensor's placement on the side of the device makes it convenient to access without looking down. Additionally, the phone supports facial recognition via the front camera, offering an extra layer of convenience.

Under the hood, the device runs on a secure boot process and includes a dedicated hardware security module (HSM) for protecting cryptographic keys. ASUS's ZenUI also incorporates a privacy dashboard that lets users manage app permissions and data sharing on a granular level.

Pros & Cons

Pros

- Strong 5G support in a mid range package
- 90 /Hz display for smooth scrolling and gaming
- Triple camera system with a high resolution main sensor
- Large 4,500 /mAh battery with decent fast charging support
- USB C port with 3.1 data transfer speeds
- Retains 3.5 /mm headphone jack for wired audio

Cons

- Charging speed is modest compared to flagship competitors
- Display brightness may struggle in direct sunlight
- Front camera performance drops in low light conditions
- Software may feel slightly heavier due to ZenUI overlays

Comparison with Similar Models

When comparing the ASUS S56CM to its siblings—such as the S56 and the S56M—several distinctions emerge. The S56 offers a slightly larger 6.7 inch screen and a 48 MP main camera, but it lacks 5G support, which can be a

deal breaker for users in 5G enabled markets. The S56M, on the other hand, focuses on a more premium build with a glass back and a 120 Hz display, but it comes with a higher price tag and a lower battery capacity.

In terms of price performance, the S56CM sits comfortably in the middle, offering the best balance of features without breaking the bank. For users who prioritize 5G connectivity and a robust camera system, the S56CM stands out as a compelling option.

User Experience & Practical Tips

Daily use of the ASUS S56CM reveals a phone that's responsive and user friendly. Here are a few tips to maximize your experience:

1. Customize ZenUI: Explore the "Home Settings" to adjust icon sizes, add widgets, and tweak gesture controls.
2. Enable Night Mode: For better battery life and reduced eye strain, activate the night mode in the display settings.
3. Use the Side Key for Quick Actions: Map the side fingerprint sensor to launch your favorite app or camera for instant access.
4. Manage Storage: Regularly check the "Storage" section to clear cached data and free up space, especially if you plan to use the microSD slot.
5. Keep Software Updated: ASUS releases regular updates that patch security vulnerabilities and add new features. Enable auto updates to stay current.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the battery life like on the ASUS S56CM?

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