Battery power bank

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A power bank is a portable battery designed to recharge electronic gadgets when you don"t have access to a regular wall charger. Ranging in size from slim, pocket-sized devices up to larger, high-capacity power...

Think of a power bank as a rechargeable portable battery. They are designed to facilitate the recharging of your devices on the go when you don"t have access to a mains supply or have your regular wall charger with...

Lithium-ion and lithium-polymer: There are two types of batteries used in power banks: lithium-ion batteries and lithium-polymer batteries. The terms describe what the batteries are made with. Both are decent, but...

Portable devices have a Murphy"s law-like ability to run out of power at the least convenient moment: as you step on the bus, right in the middle of an important meeting, or just as you get comfortable on the couch and press Play. Which is why you need the best portable charger handy, to make all those situations a thing of the past.

There are hundreds of portable battery packs, and picking one can be confusing. To help, we've spent years working our way through all of them. This obsession started when Scott Gilbertson lived off-grid in a vintage RV, powered primarily by solar panels. But even if you're not living in an off-grid solar setup, good power banks will come in handy. These are our favorites. Be sure to check out our Best MagSafe Power Banks guide for Apple-specific portable chargers, and our Best Portable Power Stations guide if you need more power.

Updated December 2024: We added portable chargers from Elecom, an honorable mention for Denvix, removed a discontinued model, added specs tables, and updated prices.

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The other reason we like Nimble best is because of its environmental efforts. Batteries are not environmentally benign. They use lithium, cobalt, and other rare metals whose supply chains are environmentally and socially questionable at best. But Nimble's use of bioplastics and plastic-free minimal packaging at least reduces the environmental impact where it can be reduced. This new version uses 90 percent recycled plastic (up 25 percent from the original) and comes in smaller plastic-free packaging. Nimble includes a 3.3-foot USB-C to USB-C cable in the box.

Goal Zero updated its Sherpa line of portable chargers with better wireless charging capabilities: 15 watts, up from 5 watts in the previous model. I tested the Sherpa AC, which features two USB-C ports (60-watt and

100-watt), two USB-A ports, and a 100-watt AC port for those devices that need a pronged plug. It strikes a good balance between power storage (93 watt-hours in my drain test) and weight (2 pounds). It"s enough to charge up my Dell XPS 13 almost twice.

While I love the swirly designs, solid metal bottom, and compact size, it is Gomi"s ethos that really sells these power banks. Handmade by a small indie business in Brighton, UK, from recycled plastic, with power generated by repurposed ebike batteries, Gomi claims at least 50 percent less CO2 emissions than comparable power banks. It looks and feels good, with curved sides, and Gomi promises up to 6-foot drop protection. There"s a power button on the side to light up the four LEDs and show how much of the 10,000-mAh capacity remains.

Both ports can deliver up to 18 watts, and you can charge two devices at once. It takes around four hours to fully charge from dead. There is a two-year warranty with this power bank offering free repairs. Gomi has designed it to be easily repairable, so even out of warranty you can get it fixed for a maximum cost of ?20 ($25) plus shipping. If it should get damaged beyond repair somehow, Gomi will recycle it properly. You also get a braided USB-C to USB-C cable in the box.

Adventurers seeking a power bank that can survive camping in the rain or paddling down a river should check out the Nestout rugged power bank range from Elecom. These thoughtfully designed power banks boast an IP67 rating, have built-in shock absorbers, and are completely dustproof thanks to screw-on caps for the ports. Each power bank has a power button and five LEDs that show remaining power in 20 percent increments.